**WHITE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**MINUTES OF THE WORK SESSION & CALLED MEETING HELD**

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2024 AT 4:30 P.M.**

On Monday, February 26, 2024 at 4:30 p.m. the White County Board of Commissioners held a Work Session & Called Meeting in the Board Room at the Administration Building. Present for the meeting were: Chairman Travis Turner, Commissioner Terry Goodger, Commissioner Lyn Holcomb, Commissioner Edwin Nix, Commissioner Craig Bryant, County Manager Billy Pittard, and County Clerk Shanda Murphy. Finance Director Jodi Ligon was not present due to a death in her family.

Chairman Turner called the meeting to order.

Chairman Turner read the following statement from the meeting agenda: “In reference to land use agenda item #2 - #5 – Georgia Zoning Procedures Law (O.C.G.A. 36-66-1, et seq.) requires a public hearing be advertised and held prior to any proposed zoning decision with a minimum of 10 minutes (per side) for both proponents and opponents to present data, evidence, and opinion. This requirement was met for the following item at the public hearing held at the Planning Commission Meeting on January 29, 2024. All information presented was then forwarded to the Board of Commissioners”.

Mr. John Sell, Director of Community & Economic Development, presented the land use application filed by David Bristol to redistrict property located at 191 Garland Bristol Road Sautee Nacoochee, Georgia from C-1, Community Commercial District to R-1, Residential Single-Family District. Tax map and parcel 071-116. Total acreage is 2.88. He stated that Mr. Bristol had not realized his property was zoned commercial until he saw a substantial increase in his tax bill and researched the reason for the increase. He said there is no commercial activity on the property, and this had been used for residential purposes in Mr. Bristol’s family for over 100 years. Mr. Sell stated the Planning Commission held a public hearing on the application, there was no opposition to the application, and the Planning Commission made a recommendation to approve the application.
Chairman Turner asked Mr. Bristol if the information Mr. Sell presented was accurate and he confirmed the information was correct.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Bryant, seconded by Commissioner Holcomb there was a unanimous vote to approve the land use application filed by David Bristol to redistrict property located at 191 Garland Bristol Road Sautee Nacoochee, Georgia from C-1, Community Commercial District to R-1, Residential Single-Family District. Tax map and parcel 071-116. Total acreage is 2.88.

Mr. Sell presented the land use application filed by David Bristol to redistrict property located at 0 (next to 191) Garland Bristol Road Sautee Nacoochee, Georgia from C-1, Community Commercial District to R-1, Residential Single-Family District. Tax map and parcel 071-115. Total acreage is 2.10. He stated this application is much the same as the previous application presented. Mr. Bristol had not realized his property was zoned commercial until he saw a substantial increase in his tax bill and researched the reason for the increase. He advised that there is no commercial activity on the property, and this had been used for residential purposes in Mr. Bristol’s family for over 100 years. Mr. Sell stated the Planning Commission held a public hearing on the application, there was no opposition to the application, and the Planning Commission made a recommendation to approve the application. Chairman Turner asked Mr. Bristol if the information Mr. Sell presented was accurate and he confirmed the information was correct.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Bryant, seconded by Commissioner Nix there was a unanimous vote to approve the land use application filed by David Bristol to redistrict property located at 0 (next to 191) Garland Bristol Road Sautee Nacoochee, Georgia from C-1, Community Commercial District to R-1, Residential Single-Family District. Tax map and parcel 071-115. Total acreage is 2.10.

Mr. Sell presented the land use application filed by Keith Parker to redistrict property located at 9545 Duncan Bridge Road Cleveland, Georgia from R-1, Residential Single-Family District to A-1, Agriculture Forestry District. Tax map and parcel 090-045. Total acreage is 20.07. He stated that Mr. Parker planned to have a micro-farm on the property, the Planning Commission held a public hearing on the application, the only comment on the application was the next-door neighbor who spoke in favor of the application, and the Planning Commission made a recommendation to approve the application. Chairman Turner asked Mr. Parker if the information Mr. Sell presented was correct and he acknowledged that the information was correct.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Holcomb, seconded by Commissioner Goodger there was a unanimous vote to approve the land use application filed by Keith Parker to redistrict property located at 9545 Duncan Bridge Road Cleveland, Georgia from R-1, Residential Single-Family District to A-1, Agriculture Forestry District. Tax map and parcel 090-045. Total acreage is 20.07.

Mr. Sell presented the land use application filed by Keith Parker to redistrict property located at 0 (next to 9545) Duncan Bridge Road Cleveland, Georgia from R-1, Residential Single-Family District to C-2, Highway Business District. Tax map and parcel 090-045. Total acreage is 1.00. He stated this represented one acre cut from the 20-acre parcel previously discussed and Mr. Parker wanted to operate a motorcycle salvage shop at this location which is in a commercial corridor. He advised that all parts would be kept inside a building which would be constructed, and most of the business would be done on-line. Mr. Sell said the Planning Commission held a public hearing on the application, there were no comments in favor or in opposition to the request, and the Planning Commission recommended approval of the application with the condition that any subsequent owners be required to seek approval for any planned use through the Planning Commission and Board of Commissioners. Chairman Turner asked Mr. Parker if the information presented was accurate and he confirmed that it was. Commissioner Holcomb asked Mr. Parker what size building he planned to construct, and he said 2,500-3,000 square feet.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Holcomb, seconded by Commissioner Nix there was a unanimous vote to approve the land use application filed by Keith Parker to redistrict property located at 0 (next to 9545) Duncan Bridge Road Cleveland, Georgia from R-1, Residential Single-Family District to C-2, Highway Business District - tax map and parcel 090-045 / total acreage is 1.00 – with the condition that any subsequent owner of the property be required to obtain approval for their specific use prior to engaging in any commercial use on the property.

Mr. Sell stated that the original Bicycle Pedestrian Plan was adopted in 2011 and had been subsequently amended as necessary and the Georgia Mountains Regional Commission had worked to provide the update the Board of Commissioners had received. He stressed that this is a planning document and was a joint plan with the cities of Cleveland and Helen. Mr. Sell advised that the revision contained the addition of a Blueway Paddle Trail Map and that having this Pedestrian Plan had been beneficial for the county in the past for planning and grant opportunities for the trails at Yonah Preserve. Chairman Turner stated that he was in support of adding more trails at Yonah Preserve. Mr. Sell said the document calls for a public meeting to be held on the Plan and following that meeting he could bring the Plan back to the Board for adoption.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Goodger, seconded by Commissioner Holcomb there was a unanimous vote to table adoption of the updated White County Bicycle Pedestrian Plan as a supplement to the White County Comprehensive Plan until after the public meeting was held on the Plan.

Mr. David Murphy, Director of Public Safety, made a presentation of the new mobile capabilities available for emergency responders and how the information interfaced between 911 Communications and the responders in the field (Sheriff’s Office, Fire Services, EMS, and City Police). Mr. Joel Witcher, IT Director, explained that with White County hosting this mobile connectivity to outside agencies, there was a minimum level of cybersecurity that the agencies would be required to maintain to access the system which was addressed in the Intergovernmental Agreements being presented for the City of Cleveland, City of Helen, and White County EMS.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Nix, seconded by Commissioner Goodger there was a unanimous vote to approve the Intergovernmental Agreements (IGA’s) with agencies served by White County E911 for utilization of the mobile data application for the SSI system – including City of Cleveland, City of Helen, and White County EMS.

Mr. Pittard presented a request on behalf of Enotah Judicial Circuit Chief Superior Court Judge Joy Parks for the addition of an employee position for Accountability Court Mental Health Coordinator to be funded by the grant received through the Council of Accountability Court Judges (CACJ). He advised that this is not a new position altogether, however this position had been previously filled by a contract employee and the grant was administered by Union County. He stated that Judge Parks wanted to transition this to an employee position and the grant would now be administered through White County – with the position being fully funded by the grant.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Holcomb, seconded by Commissioner Bryant there was a unanimous vote to approve the addition of an employee position for Accountability Court Mental Health Coordinator to be funded by the grant received through the Council of Accountability Court Judges (CACJ).

Commissioner Bryant asked Director Murphy to explain what was going on with all the brush fires in the county. Mr. Murphy stated that people are going out to burn brush and weather conditions have been such that fire danger has been high. He explained that people are no longer required to obtain a burn permit unless they are doing a commercial burn, however if an individual’s brush fire gets out of control, they are responsible for any damages to neighboring property. He said that the Public Safety Department puts out public messaging when there are high fire danger conditions.

The agenda for the March 4, 2024 Regular Meeting was reviewed.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Nix, seconded by Commissioner Goodger, there was a unanimous vote to adjourn the meeting.

The minutes of the February 26, 2024 Work Session and Called Meeting were approved as stated this 4th day of March, 2024.

**WHITE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

s/ Travis C. Turner

Travis C. Turner, Chairman

s/Terry D. Goodger

Terry D. Goodger, District 1

s/Lyn Holcomb

Lyn Holcomb, District 2

s/Edwin Nix

Edwin Nix, District 3

s/Craig Bryant

Craig Bryant, District 4

s/Shanda Murphy
Shanda Murphy, County Clerk