

## AGENDA

### REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING OF THE GOVERNING AUTHORITY OF WALKER COUNTY, GEORGIA

Walker County Courthouse Annex III, 201 S Main Street  
LaFayette, Georgia 30728

**Date:** Thursday February 27, 2020

**Time:** 6:00 PM

**Call to Order:** Commissioner Whitfield will call the meeting to order

#### Open of the Regular Meeting

**Minutes:** Approval of the minutes from the Regular Scheduled Commissioner's Meeting that was held on February 13, 2020

**Old Business:** Robert Wilson requests a conditional use variance for property located at 5665 Hwy 193 Flintstone, GA 30725. Tax Parcel # 0-506-1-026  
*(Commissioner Whitfield tabled this on January 23, 2020 and asked for Mr. Wilson to work with Planning Office to develop a vegetated buffer for this property.)*

#### New Business:

- I. A Proclamation for Intellectual Developmental Disabilities Awareness
- II. A Proclamation Second Amendment Awareness and Celebration Week
- III. Purchase Order 2020-00000689, Bobcat E85 Excavator for the Public Works Department
- IV. Marion Hutcheson Estate requests a partial rezone from A-1/C to R-2 for property located at 0 Happy Valley Road Rossville GA 30741, Tax Parcel Map 0-102-002 *(First Public Hearing was on February 20, 2020 at the Planning Commission Meeting.)*
- V. ACCG Georgia County Internship Program Grant Agreement

**Adjournment:** Commissioner Whitfield will adjourn the meeting

**Open Discussion:** The business on the Agenda being completed, Commissioner Whitfield will open the floor for general discussion related to Walker County. Speakers are asked to limit their questions and comments to 5 minutes and keep topics related to county business.

*The next regular scheduled Commissioner's Meeting will be held on Thursday, March 12, 2020 at 6:00 PM.*



**Walker County Governmental Authority**  
***Office of the Commissioner***  
**101 South Duke Street, P.O. Box 445**  
**LaFayette, GA 30728**  
**706-638-1437**

**Minutes of the Regular Scheduled Meeting**  
**February 13, 2020**

**I. Call to order**

Commissioner Whitfield called to order the Regular Scheduled Commissioner's Meeting held at Annex III, 201 S. Main Street, Lafayette, Georgia at 6:00 PM on February 13, 2020.

**II. Attendees:**

The following persons were present: Commissioner Shannon Whitfield, Legal & Policy Director David Gottlieb, Economic and Community Development Director Robert Wardlaw, Chief Financial Officer Greg McConnell, Public Relations Director Joe Legge, Public Works Director Carlen Bowers, County Clerk Rebecca Wooden. Other guests signed in at the meeting as well, please see the attached sign in sheet.

**III. Invocation:**

Given by Commissioner Shannon Whitfield

**IV. Pledge:**

United States Flag

**V. Pledge:**

Georgia Flag

**VI. Commissioner Whitfield approved and signed the minutes from the two Public Hearings and the Regular Scheduled Meeting on January 23, 2020**

Commissioner Whitfield explained that we have a fairly large agenda packet tonight. We've got a lot of documents in here and we put several copies in the front but I'm sure they're probably already gone. This information is all on the County website. You can Google search that or you can link to that off of the Face book page, but this entire packet is on the website in its entirety.

## **VII. Old Business**

- I. Robert Wilson requests for conditional use variance for property located at 5665 Highway 193 Flintstone on tax parcel 0-506-1-026 at the last meeting on January the 23rd I tabled this and referred this back to the planning office to develop a vegetation barrier for the property after speaking to the Wilson family here tonight and talking with them. There's still some work that they want us to work with them on with this. And so now you have requested that we table this until the next meeting and we're going to get back together and work out the details correct. Okay. So we're not going to take any action on this. We're just going to table that again tonight and bring that back at the next meeting.

## **VIII. New Business**

- I. Commissioner Whitfield discussed Ordinance O-01-20, chapter six of the County Code of Ordinance to clean up language addressing the County fee schedule for license to sell alcohol. This was the original notice that was put out about making an amendment to that ordinance that encompasses the setback requirements. But as we work through public comment and input from folks, this particular modification to the ordinance is pretty simple. And the fact, the only thing it's a dressing just to clean up the language. The way the licensing and permit was done in the past, and typically this should be done by just a separate fee schedule. So anytime the fee schedule needs to change, that's an easy, simple resolution and you don't have to do a whole ordinance change. And so this is just to clean up that language and to modify that chapter six. So the fee schedule is taking out, but it references this in this ordinance. Is there anything additional to that that needs to be stated? Commissioner Whitfield stated this just also clarifies that the license will not be prorated during the year. During the entire term of our fiscal year, this is October 1st through September 30th. It's the protocol they've been following; we're going to adopt that change tonight.
- II. Commissioner Whitfield explained R-004-20 to Authorize a Referendum to Reduce the Distance Requirements between a Church Building and a bonafide Eating Establishment from 300 feet to 150 feet only for the premise consumption of alcoholic beverages. Part of the public hearing we had last time. We also had in the first draft as far as package sales of alcohol. It was looking for feedback on that. As far as modification there, we have taken that language out and we're not talking about package sales. The ordinance will stay as it is. This is to just address alcohol by the drink at a bonafide restaurant. And there are requirements that a restaurant has to already do as far as square footage, size



of kitchen, percentage of sales that has to be food. And so those requirements are already in place. This would put the question on the ballot to use the voters to make the decision on this. It's a yes or no question, shall the governing authority of Walker County reduced the distance requirement from the front door of a bonafide eating establishment as defined in chapter six and the one per County code ordinance from 300 feet to 200 feet for on premises consumptions of malt beverages, wine and distilled spirits in the unincorporated area of Walker County. If you are in support of that change going from 300 to 115, you would vote yes. If you were against that change, you would vote no. If the vote is no, we don't change anything. If the vote is yes, then we would modify the ordinance to justify the wishes of the voters of Walker County.

Commissioner Whitfield asked if anyone had any comments or questions to come to the podium and state your name and please limit your comments and questions to five minutes.

My name is Eddie Frye. I'm a long time resident of Walker County. Since 1980 I served in the military in the Panama conflict and the first Gulf war. I have been a pastor of Mountain View Baptist church for eight years and I love Walker County. Thank you for the opportunity to speak. As I travel in my job, I have traveled to New Orleans, Florida, Mississippi, Alabama, Tennessee, and Georgia and for the last 24 years that's been my job to get new business and all these little towns all over Georgia, Alabama and all of these different States. I've ate in restaurants, half of them had alcohol, the other half didn't. I was just displeased to hear from the last meeting that is okay for three business owners to take away our rights of the church. There are 134 churches in this County, but just three businesses brought this up. I asked this question when someone is hungry and they can't get food stamps is the county going to pay for them to be fed? If someone needs their rent to be paid will the County pay the rent. If someone needs clothes for someone that doesn't have clothes will the County, buy them clothes. We all know the answer, but just the other day someone come to our church and said, Can you help me pay for my rent? Can you help me pay for my water bill? Can you give me some food? We did. We didn't have a buffer saying, no, I'm not going to talk to you. We want to help the community with the churches help. We help those people today, I want to stand for all the churches to keep that buffer zone to 300 feet. What it's about is what is a right? A business has a right. The church should have the right. Why should we take away from the church if the business had a problem that come to you, what we're sitting here is precedence. If I can get three churches to come together and say, we have a grievance, are you going to put that upon the next election? The answer's no, you're not. This is setting precedence. Mr. Frye stated that he appreciates Commissioner Whitfield returning his call. One thing that I did say was I would take and bring a petition; I just worked on this for 10 days. I've got 636 names and I want to give you, that are the actual copies. What would it take to not put it on the ballot? If you say 3000 petitions, you give me 20 days, I'll do that. You tell me I want to work with you. I want to do what's right for the County. I want to do what's right for each individual resident. There's another thing, we talk about all these different regulations and I get it. I understand where we are and I understand we need money to pay for things. How is this going to better our County. I think it's got face front property that anybody can buy and coming from Chickamauga to here. I know of five that someone could buy and put a

restaurant on. I get what the restaurant has to do. I deal with that daily, but we talk about chicken houses. They got 400 feet. We're trying to take it and a thousand feet. Is a chicken more important than a church? Listen, I love chicken but I love God more.

Mike Nolan was the next in line for comment by thanking Commissioner Whitfield and he appreciates everyone's time and he appreciate what Commissioner Whitfield is doing, but one thing about it I don't know what happened from arithmetic to 300 feet, but our key is what are we looking at for our next generation. I don't want our kids to think this is all about this and what it is.

My name is Tony Jackson. I'm pastor Fairview, South Baptist church and I appreciate you letting me speak. You mentioned on TV last night that you were going to respect the wishes of the majority and put this on the ballot. I've got a question. Where'd you get that majority because I see a majority that says they don't want it on the ballot? As I said, last meeting, there's not a single County around us that's less than 300 feet. Gordon County is a thousand, Whitfield County is 600. Chattanooga is 500 feet and they all have the big restaurants. You talk about last meeting you wanted to reduce government and you wanted to reduce regulations, but yet you got a family here that is struggling with regulations, trying to get a business. So we're talking out of both sides of our mouth on trying to help a business get started. But in the state of Georgia, under the state of Georgia's website, I said this last time under the official code of Georgia current through the 2019 regular session of the Georgia general assembly under alcoholic beverages prohibited acts, it plainly says no persons knowingly and intentionally may sell, or offer to sale any distilled spirits that are within 100 feet of any church building or within 200 feet of any school building, education, building, school grounds, or any college campus that's current through the end of the 2019 general session in the state of Georgia. So how can a County go less than the Georgia law? Commissioner Whitfield asked County Attorney David Gottlieb to answer and his explanation was nothing contained in this code section show prohibit the licensing of the sale or distribution of alcoholic beverages by licensees for the retail sale of alcohol beverages for consumption on the premises only, who shall be subject to regulation as distances from churches, schools and colleges by counties and municipalities. So with all due respect, the statute that you're reading, you read the part that doesn't necessarily the distilled spirits under section B. Okay, this I'm reading refers to malt and wine. Section B starts out with any wine or malt beverages within 100 feet of any school building, school, ground, school, campus. With respect to what you are reading it doesn't necessarily apply. If you read earlier in this statute it is defined by statute as being malt beverages, which is beer line and distilled spirits that are collectively referred to and identified as alcoholic beverages. This is distilled spirit. I'm not in the legislature. I'm just telling you what the law is. I'll be happy to show it to you. It's subsection B. I'm not making it up. I understand what you're saying, but that's a big dispute between what you're saying and what this actually says. I'm not taking sides and I understand. I'm just trying to clarify this one issue. I understand your position and it amazes me, I'll say this and be done. In the last 10 months of you as sole commissioner, this is the most important thing you can come up with to put on the ballot. That amazes me. If we can get three people to say that Walker County to do away with the Economic Development, can we get that on the ballot and let the citizens vote to do away with that? Y'all heard that if we can get three people to say we want to do away with the



Economic Development that cost us thousands of dollars that could be an option. Let's talk about that. Commissioner Whitfield thanked Mr. Jackson.

My name is Michael Peardon and we've been a resident here for close to 40 years. Is there any way we can state what businesses that want this alcohol sales? We talked about the farmhouse restaurant, but we didn't hear the other two that can we publicly announce who the other two are so they don't have to show up like anybody else. They can just call the Commissioner and do what they want to do and they don't have to come and stand before anybody. So they can just call you and do that?. You know the first meeting that was set, why didn't you put that on the ballot for the incorporated areas? What are y'all taking as being bonafide as people that can make these decisions in our County? What you said, you had some phone calls cause last night he was on TV saying that it's your ruling that the majority, who is that majority with all these people standing here and with all these petitions that was turned in, that there was a hundred and now this was right after the last meeting, there was 161 here. Their names was not mentioned because it was illegal. I hope I'm not overstating that. But I did see lamb. But anyway, it's a good service. But anyway, these, these were attempts to say, Hey, we don't want this in our camp. These attempts were denied as 160 something names. They were denied. So my question to you, who is the bonafide people that you're talking about? The majority that you spoke about last night, who are those people?

Robert Wardlaw explained, if you don't mind to read when you talk about the bonafide restaurant needs to be clarified when the language says the distance from a bonafide eating establishment. So if you would read that, that's important for everybody to know what it's not. A bar is not a bonafide eating establishment. A Tavern is not a bonafide eating establishment. Here's the legal description of what a bonafide eating establishment is. It may help with some context of the questions. An establishments main public place selling prepared food for consumption to the public on the premises containing a minimum of 1,200 square feet of heated space devoted to eating and food preparation with a minimum of 25% of any such area to be devoted to kitchen and food preparation area, which arrives at least 51% total annual gross sales from sale here. They are not in here for that purpose. And I'm talking about are in here to voice an honest, heartfelt opinion. And then they say, I want to voice my heartfelt opinion too. And I don't get to make the decision of what goes on a referendum, but I will tell you that it was, I did suggest or agree with the commissioner that the just the only just way when you have good people with different opinions and I'm talking about good in the heartbeat, the people that want this reduction are trying to free up real estate for future possibilities of full service restaurants and I'm not, I wouldn't ask anyone to agree with that. I'm sharing feedback. That's all that I'm doing here. The feedback is, and particularly on the North end of the County where there is great opportunity for its economic expansion. They're saying the real estate opportunities when you make the distance greater, the greater the distance, the less places that are available in commercial areas, the less places are available for establishment of full service restaurants and you know what I mean by that. I'm not going to call the brand names of the restaurants, but you know I'm, because you go to them in Catoosa County right now and Hamilton County, the ones and the ones we all go to. Yes sir. Tony, I understand they have an interstate and we don't. So all I'm saying is there, maybe we can be respectful to those that have the other view. As for my part, I'm requiring them to be respectful of us as church going people. So that's the only thing. I just wanted to point

that out of what the other side of this is saying. And I think from my own personal opinion, the decision to put it to a referendum will clearly in the end demonstrate the wheel of the voters in Walker County.

My name is Todd Noblitt. As I stated at the last meeting, I oppose the change. As I've set here, the question that came to my mind is, is it really worth the divisiveness that this is going to cause and is causing for us to have this predominant ballot? That's a big deal. Our County needs unity and in a time when we need you in to tell you what appears to be happening is we're having a division that division is not necessary. All we have to do is leave it where it's at no change in life. There are things that come up and we have to make decisions. And I understand there's a lot of people that are on, I'm not one that would say this is the majority. I think that if we have a vote that probably there's going to be a lot of people that are going to not come to a meeting like this that will support the change. However, these folks in here aren't going to forget that this was put on the ballot and they aren't going to forget the battle that they're going to go through in the next couple of months to try to defend and keep the chain, keep the ordinance where it was at. So all of a sudden, Walker County is losing some of the unity that we've had over some issue that we don't even have to, which has been resolved for years. So all I'm saying is please reconsider putting it on the ballot and let's mend fences and what's all live in Walker County like we should. Thank you.

My name Daniel Haney. I'm just an ordinary citizen. I raise two teenage boys and a five year old daughter and there was a time in my life that I wasn't anything but a sorry drunk and upset and watch this County roll back the tide. I remember in this County when you could not buy alcohol on Sunday today you can. I know that was not under you and I have sang praise to what you've done for our County with the roads and everything else. I think very highly of you till I hear about this right here and the only question that comes to my mind is what the wire we've been having this discussion, what happened to what's right and what's best? Why aren't we having a discussion on extending the distances to provide sanctity to our families in our churches instead of trying to let them know where they seem dark. And to me that does not make sense. I've been on both sides of the fence. I am a God fearing man, but there was a time in my life, nothing but a sorry drunk. And the fact that we're even having this discussion, it makes me sick to my stomach and I'm losing I respect that I have gained for you. Thank you.

My name's Robert Blake Moore. How much money y'all lost to these restaurants, these big chains is what we're trying to attract. They got the money to come down here and pay you and stand before you. They can send a representative and ask for a variance. They're no better than these taxpaying citizens that live right here and Walker County. When way does this can just apply for alcohol licenses. I don't have to send nobody down there. They don't live in our County. They don't care about this County. I ask that you seriously consider not doing this.

My name is Pastor Jeff Brown with Valley view Baptist church. Mr. Whitfield, I supported you. I voted for you. And now if you remember this, but not too long ago, we were in the Hardee's line. You were in front of me and I defended you. There was a man in front of me. They was getting on you about taxes and I said, well, you had to, you know, and I defended you that point. So I've been a supporter of yours for quite a while. I can't support this, but let me just state this real quick. Okay, and I'll be done. I didn't have a speech or anything like that, but gentleman was talking about phone calls, phone



calls. When somebody dies, one, two in the morning, I get phone calls, alcohol related. I've been at four feeders, perform three of them myself that were alcohol related and I'm the one that has to put together the family. I'm the one that's got to put the pieces back together. The pastors are the ones that have to answer that. Not the commissioners. They don't call the commissioner when their kids in the hospital and they've been in a wreck. Going along with that is that the church is a sanctuary for me. It's a place I can go and not have to look left, not have to look right, not have to look forward, and I have to look back and have alcohol. I can't buy my gas without looking at alcohol. I can't take my wife to a nice restaurant for Valentine's day. 95% of them serve alcohol, but what I can do is go to a public place, my local church and not have to worry about alcohol. That's all I'm asking for from you guys is listen, think about the church people. Think about the one sanctuary that we've got left, and that's my church, that we don't have to look outside a few feet away and see alcohol. Just please consider that.

Mr. Whitfield, my name is David Meyers Jr. I'm from Chickamauga, Georgia. My church is your Baptist church. So when I went to God and he helped me to get into church and he allowed me to forget about some of the things that I used to do now when I come out of the church you have people coming out of the restaurant or whatever it is, and they talk or whatever it is now, I see it and the kids see it. Everybody that comes out of church, you see it coming as you're coming out. So, I mean it is a bad impression on the churches. If they know you've got alcohol, across the road because it's not 200 feet if you go property to property. So I'm asking also to, to not to let the alcohol come to the restaurants. I mean I appreciate myself and which we as a small congregation and which it don't matter if there's one or two it still counts. Thank you.

Right quickly, my name is John Albertson and I pastor the Linwood Baptist church. That's been my privilege for the past seven years nearly to do that I can't say how accurate this is, but when I first went there, I did the history of the church and the history of the community. I looked into it from several different sources. Resource in it's my understanding 40 or 50 years ago, that was its own community, its own city is my understanding. They made some decisions as the city and one of which was to bring in no alcohol. When I say the name Linwood Baptist church, there's probably not many people in this room who doesn't know what the word Linwood and the community of Linwood is like today. And here we are several decades later. And if the research I've done is accurate, we can drive a mile over this direction and we will see what the results of easier access to what to what I believe can be clearly stated on the authority of God is not right. And we can see what it has done to a community. And like the gentleman I heard a little while ago, I don't remember who it was, there's not a week that goes by that I don't have three to five calls or door knocks of people who are coming to us asking for help in a variety of different ways. And we do what we can to help them. We do what we can to try to make an impact in their lives. And what I'm afraid of here is this is going to cause our jobs to even be more difficult in this. And I do not fully understand why that we have to put something on the ballot to test the waters of what I think I could prove clearly is not right. And as pastor Brown said just a few moments ago that I don't know if you have or not, maybe you have, but I have stood over the caskets and tried to comfort a family who loved one died walking home after drinking at an establishment here in town. And that's difficult to do. It's very difficult to do. I don't know that there's one person here. There may be folks here that may have a drink. You

may do it socially. You may do it continually. I don't know us between those individuals and God. And I'm not here to beat any of that down, but I don't believe that there's one person who can say and give one good thing that has ever come from drinking beer, alcohol, or anything other than money. And I don't know that's good necessarily, but not one good thing. I've heard a lot of wonderful speeches through the years. The people who stand up after receiving a reward award or some type and they say, I want to thank my mom. I want to thank my dad. I want to thank my wife. But I've never one time heard somebody stand up on a world stage, a national stage, a state stage, a County stage, and say, I want to thank Anheuser Busch for allowing me to be able to receive this award. I would strongly recommend and encourage you if you would. I don't believe I would put this on the ballot. I would really encourage you and very much appreciates it and a great deal of respect would be added for me to you and everybody else involved here if we would avoid going down that road. Hey God bless y'all. Thank you.

My name is Chris Odell, pastor Bethany Baptist church and I actually came and I appreciate you, you've both met with me and taught with me and I appreciate that. And actually I am one of those that asked you to at least I thought we had a loss. I thought you were going to be sad and I said please at least let us vote on it or something. Now I feel like there is a possibility we might be able to sway you, not even put it on the ballot. And that's where I stand on it at this time. When I was 10 years old got convicted my heart and I came to the realization that I was a sinner and I asked Jesus Christ to come into my life in my bedroom out on Garretts Chapel Road. Ever since that moment, God's made a difference in my life and my Bible has been my guideline. There's some things in life that we say, you know what? I need to pray about this thing. There are things that we can ask questions that are alive and say, well, I go to God's word if I had the absolute answer in it. During my time in the recovery program, I studied extensively in God's word on what does it say about alcohol? But I got, I got people throw in my face. Bible says, thou shall not drink. Guess what? It don't. It does not say, thou shalt not drinking those particular words, but there are 132 verses in the Bible that speaks to the negativity of alcohol. There are two verses that God's word that speaks positively about alcohol for medicinal purposes. So by, it's about to die, to ease of all into it. There are some things we just ain't got to pray about. Mr. Wardlaw I think you met me in the back the other last time we were here and expressed to me your Christian faith and I think you said you went to church here next door. Shannon, you've been vocal about yours and I've known you most of our lives. We've been together. Again, I voted for you and I support you and I'm still your friend. We'll go eat lunch sometime after this is over. But there are just some things they got. Pray about God's word. God's will never contradict God's word. That's from the white house to the County house. It'll never contradict God's word. And if you or anybody on your leadership team, if you can take, go back to a time in your life where you accepted Christ as your personal savior. And I hope you have, and it doesn't matter. You could be a member of every church in the County, be baptized. The Bible is your guide and I would challenge you tonight to pray God's leadership. We really don't even have to pray on whether or not we should or shouldn't. It's a no brainer, God's words against it. There's this thing of well, it's all about prosperity and all this. I know that it's going to shock most of y'all, but I know about all the restaurants in this county and frequent them. I go by Greg's a lot and eat breakfast there a lot. They don't serve alcohol to get the parking lots full. I used to go to the Farm House or the Five Point Farm House. I frequented there a lot of times, especially when



it's Melon Patch. It was fairly full. What I'm saying is there are a lot of places that are successful, don't sell alcohol. I've talked to a restaurant owner in Fort Oglethorpe. I won't call names because I don't have his permission to, but he made the statement, he said I'd like to build a restaurant in Lafayette, but the numbers don't support it. It's not about bringing a big name restaurant in here. It's going all of a sudden be the golden goose. Just don't support it. And I know y'all probably know all about that way better than I do, but I drive up down 27 all the time. There are two things that I've noticed. There are a lot of restaurants that do a fine business, don't serve alcohol. And I can't tell you how many spots I've picked out personally that they could build a restaurant that wouldn't affect the church. Brother Brown, I believe put, that's our sanctuary. I don't like going into restaurants to serve as, but I don't go in there and dictate to them what they do. I don't like going in convenience stores and buy my gas, but I don't know of one that you came, but I don't go in there dictate what they do and I don't dictate what they have to do around their stores. I'm asking you as a pastor, I don't want it my front door. I mean with all the compassion I can muster, I don't want it even close to me. I love you guys. I do anything I can for you, but I'm asking you Shannon, please don't put it on the ballot and I appreciate your time.

My name is Mike Brown and I live in Walker County and the way you had it written there, you said if I understood it correctly, it said from the door. Just the one door, the front door, the two front doors from door, the front door, whether it be from the two front doors, from the door of the establishment to the front door, the church. Is that the way it is when you say from the door? It says the governing authority of Walker County reduced the requirement from the front door of the bonafide eating establishment as defined in chapter six, the Walker County code of ordinances from 300 feet to 150 feet for on premise consumptions of malt beverages, wines to seal spirits in the unincorporated areas of Walker County. Okay. When you measure it, 300 feet is from the front, door to the front door. Okay. And I want to say too, I am totally against it. But I just don't believe God expects us to consume. I've never seen anything good did ever come out of this. I don't see how a Christian can vote for it. I just don't understand. I've never been able to understand that. And I've had friends that would vote for things that is totally contradictory to the Bible. And if you study the Bible, I mean, if you really a study and read the Bible, you'll find God. There are just too many things in there that God is against it. As Christians we're spoiled nowadays, you know, we've slipped quite a bit. But I just say that you pray about it. I mean, if you really pray, if you're a praying man and the most people are not, most politicians are not. But I ask that you really pray about it and ask God to give them guidance in what you need to do.

I'm Rick Talent. I'm a local resident tax payer. In fact, my church building last year paid several thousand dollars in taxes because the building is in such a state of disrepair that we cannot conduct services until the city of Lafayette will give us an occupation permit. I can understand the pastor of Linwood Baptist church because the church building that my wife and I bought is on flora street up on top of the Hill, the old Pentecostal church building, my friends I have pastored all over the United States in some of the worst places in evangelizing, some of the worst places in America. And the one thing that's consistent is access to alcohol and drugs. And if you make access to alcohol easier, you're making access to drugs easier. I speak to you as a friend. I supported you. I argued with a lot of people that said that they would rather vote for somebody else, but in this my friend, we cannot agree. This is not for the betterment of this County. This is

for the detriment of this County. The other thing is that I don't know how true this is, so I'll just ask address this here, but I was told that by one person that the people who live inside the city limits of the city of walls full and Lafayette will not be able to vote on his County ordinance. Is that true? Commissioner Whitfield responded, "That's false". Mr. Tallent responded, Okay. Well, I'm glad we got that straightened down because I plan on voting against it.

Commissioner Whitfield explained, yes, there was a misprint in the Chattanooga Times stating what you're referring to. We contacted them and had them to correct that this would be for everyone in Walker County. Regardless if they lived in the city or if they lived in the unincorporated, it would be able to vote. Mr. Tallent stated all you have to do is look at any city that has made or any community that has made access to alcohol easier and you will see the detrimental effect that it has go the Catoosa County, you're not going to build within 300 feet of a church. Look at the regulations in all the adjacent counties. What you're talking about is doing away with what these other counties are still holding true to and yet they've got all these restaurants. The reason why was addressed just to band together, they have the economic base to be able to support higher value restaurants. Walter County does not have the economic base. It is a poor County. Whether we want to admit it or not is a poor County. We're not a wealthy County. Catoosa County is wealthy, Gordon County, Floyd County, they're wealthy. You'll see those larger restaurants, you'll see all that economic development, but we won't have it here until things are happen here to bill Walker County so that the people have the funds to be able to spend in those restaurants. So if you go ahead with this, which you have the authority to do, I believe it's going to be not only a detriment to this County, but I believe it's going to be a black flag waving over your candidacy to be the chairman of the new County commission. We need a County commission. I'm glad we're going to it. And the reason why is because I have said it and I don't mean that disrespectfully, but it's a matter of just the way it is. You are an elected dictator. You can sign that piece of paper and you can do anything you want to and not care about other people like it. You have that authority under the current government. But come January 1st, we're going to have a commission of people. We're going to have representation in government. There was no reason to push this through right now during Las be some behind the scenes reason for pushing this through right now. I had been around them, enough politicians in my lifetime to see political corruption and it smells and always smells like money and this smells like money. Commissioner Whitfield asked Mr. Tallent, Correct me if I'm wrong and I may be wrong, so correct me if I'm wrong, but weren't you one of the ones here last time, that asked why we were not voting on this? Mr. Tallent replied yes. Commissioner Whitfield stated, Okay, thank you. Okay, who's next? Because there are several of you here asked that question and I appreciate Brother Chris for coming forward. He was one of those and I respect you for that.

Yes. My name is Brian Redding and I'm the assistant pastor and Victor Baptist church in Rossville. And I grew up in a drunker tone and knew how it was not to be allowed to go out at your house on Friday, Saturday night. Did you mind what, let's go outside cause all the drunkards at your house. And I'm glad that God saved me that they did 16 but you know I've pastored teenagers for the last 20 years and I wonder what measures we're sending to our teenagers by doing things like this. You know, we live in a day, an hour where people don't respect churches like they used to. Anyway, we've got security cameras around the churches because we got to protect the churches. I grew up in a



church and little small community where the doors were always open. People would come in and pray and now we got to worry about security cameras. We've got about everything going on because people don't worry about the church. No more. People don't care about God. People don't care about anything about God. And my question is, what are we sending to our teenagers? I have pastored teenagers for 20 years and I've seen teenagers influenced by alcohol, by drugs. They don't want to say its okay, it's not okay. But you know what? Then all of a sudden you see teenagers ended up being 20 and 25 and 30 years old and they look back and say, what did I do with my life? Yeah. And you know, just like these other pastors who said the church is a sanctuary. I work in a church to where we get probably 20 door knocks on that church every day of people that come to that church that are probably drunk. I mean, just high. And you know, we try to love on them. We try to care for them. We have a food bank, we give them food. But I say this we can show them the love of Christ. Boy, our generation, this next generation needs to know that there are some people that stand up for what's truth and we sure don't need this nonsense around churches. I'm telling me we don't need this around churches. We need to take a stand and say, hey, there's still a sanctuary, right? Young people still need to know there's a place that loves them and they shouldn't have to worry about alcohol run around everywhere.

Mr. Ray Burnfin addressed Mr. Whitfield and citizens of Walker County, Georgia. I've been here probably about the last three meetings at this podium to speak. I'm proud of the American system and I'm proud of America and my pride goes beyond Walker County, Georgia, but my concern goes beyond issue of alcohol. A political corruption was mentioned just a couple of minutes ago. I generally, I've been a negative person, a great part of my life and a good bit of my early years and I have adjusted and tried to learn to have a positive attitude, a good attitude toward my community and toward America, but I don't want to tell you this political corruption or much of it, but again, it's at the ballot box. My name is Lee fry. I used to go to school with your daughter. I forgot her name because it's been so long. I went to Gordon Lee, a great school as a teenager and now I'm able to vote that's what you get to do, which I'm so excited for. I'm actually studying history right now and studying government and I was like thinking to myself when I was in high school and since I'm in college now I have to deal with those things of now vaping, smoking, drugs, alcohol. I even myself gave into the addiction. But I got out of it because I had the willpower. So I really think from a teenager, I know there's a lot of old people and I'm just saying from up and coming generation from me to you don't put it on the ballot. Just leave it at where it is. I thank for your time. Thank you for letting me coming up here. I'm so excited to see how government works, I love it. Thank you.

Commissioner Whitfield stated some words of advice. You're more than welcome to come anytime that you can call me old, but you're taking a lot of risks to call a lot of these people old. Oh that's all in fun. It takes a lot for a man, your young age to come up and speak. We appreciate you. Yes sir. Yes sir.

My name is James Sprayberry and I two voted for Mr. Whitfield near his dad and mom way back when I'm a minister. The gospel just celebrated 56 years. She was on the 28th and Marta, my sweet wife, or since 19 six, 1958 and 61 years now God called me to preach as a 23. Oh, I'll tell these. And also minister Diana Walker County jail. I come there twice a month on the second for Thursday night. One thing I usually tell these folks, I appreciate the women one month, the men. One thing I think you Lynn, I try to

tell them all inmates, every time ever service. And that is well enough. The grace of God be right where you, yeah, you're behind bars. I went to Gordon Lee High School; graduated in 1959. Dad moved us back to Chickamauga near where I was born and my high school years I wasted. I thank God follow him. But here's the thing, being a pastor down through the years, I remember one particular night, two or three o'clock in the morning, I got a phone call hospital down in Summerville, Georgia. And the nurse, she said, is you Pastor James Sprayberry? Yes. Do you know she named two young people, two young teenage boys? Long story short, they were involved in a car wreck that night. You know, named one of them is mom and dad. I said yes, they are neighbors; they live right across the road. Well you need to get them down here short as possible. I'll try to be very brief about this story because here's the bottom line. These two young men, members of our church at Grace Baptist Tabernacle, which were organized and built 1968, by the way, it was a result of a split in other church. Bottom line was long story short, it keeps saying that, but one of the boys was dead. The little boy was in Erlanger hospital and she couldn't tell me that one of them was dead. She wanted me to get her, get the boy's parents down there and she only mentioned, there's one particular couple and I thought, well if he's, if one of us at Erlanger, he's probably the worst shape while they're on these parents and found out soon to go down there to the hospital. One of them was killed in that crash just a few months prior to that. One of the boys had just gotten out of the service. He bought a little Volkswagen with a tag on the front that said the devil made me do it. They will forget that night that nurse took young man, his mother's hands in hers and she said, honey, I'm sorry to tell you this Sean didn't make it, he was 17 years old. I believe my memory serves me right. We went back early on that gurney with some, some of the broken glass and all smell of alcohol.

Well gentlemen and citizens of Walker County. My name is Tony Vona, pastor of Shield Baptist Church right next to Jacks. I say that only for the reason that you did open in prayer and so therefore when you did that you allowed the Holy Spirit to enter this place and to you know, do what he's going to do and I'm sure he's going to do it. Statistically, seven years speaking, five languages, a master's degree, a bachelor's degree and everything. But I still had to wait seven years. And when I first moved to Walker County back in 95 96 I couldn't believe what I walked into. I stepped out of a socialist country where alcohol and drugs and everything were prevalent dictated by a few individuals. And I thought what a beautiful place. What an amazing place, these people are incredible. They love the Lord. I thought I was in heaven and I can't believe, brother, that we're standing tonight in 2020 having to argue or having to defend what is something that shouldn't even be on the ballot. Shape that, but all praise and glory goes to the Lord. We shouldn't even have to be having this discussion because of a few individuals that think that they're going to get financially advanced by all this. Now, if it does come to a vote, which I'm assuming it is, although it shouldn't even be on the ballot, I will say this, where does it stop? You want to benefit the community. You want to benefit Walker County? Let's start off with the drink. Fine, but now all of a sudden someone wants a cat house. Sure. Now all of a sudden someone wants a peep show. Now all of a sudden the prostitution down the road, and we all know this. You see, it's a snowball effect. Why? Because I've seen it happen firsthand in the communities that lived in and it has benefited no one but those on the upper level and that's it. Really consider what's going on here, sir. And I know you are and I know you're in a situation where you know you have to pass certain individuals and certain constituents and all



that, but you did open up in prayer, you did open up in prayer and I don't believe for a minute that the good Lord would never condone any of this, any of this. I want to thank you for your time and I know that you've got a lot of decisions to make and I'll be praying for you and I'm praying for Walker County. Yes. And you know what? The Lord Jesus Christ has got to get the honor and the glory with whatever happens and I believe that in the time in which that we're living, I believe in the time that which we're living. We can send a message to other communities and to other areas. That Walker County still is a sanctuary like it was back in 97.

My name is Laura. I know what happened the last time we had the beer situation on the ballot, there weren't enough Christians voted yes. That's right. But problem is when he puts up modal about a lot of people vote for it, have no idea what to vote for. So that's why I asked him, you know, I appreciate your work. You do so don't let it happen. God got to bless you. He blesses over that, blesses him. So I appreciate you what you're doing for the County and I really do, but really read and talk to God about it.

Commissioner Whitfield asked anybody else that would like to speak?

My name is Joseph Smith. I go to Ridgeland High School and I agree full heartedly with the restrictions with the church and the school having to keep it at 300 I think it should be more. But one of the things that I have been thinking a lot on since the past meeting I've been to was the danger of selling alcohol across from schools and churches because, well I think is, I imagine someone who's going through some rough times, tries to draw out dry eye man, like drown it all away with alcohol and they get drunk and they drive up into a parking lot and I, all I can imagine is them hitting either one of my friends who were my family members and then dying from that and I want that to happen to them. I don't want them to have mom, mom, my dad and my sister, anyone because I know that that'll just cause grief to me, I just don't want that to happen.

My name's Tammy and I've been here for several years. Takes a lot for someone to come up and speak. But I am a Christian and as a mother, as a wife, as a warm on a Walker County, I'm asking you not to put this on the ballot at all. I think the majority says they don't want it for many reasons. I understand economic development, but I can leave you with this. There was a candidate who said, if we can take Georgia, we win. We don't want it. Walker County does not want it, so don't lay it on. Take it. So Walker County can win.

My name is Mike Robertson. I go to Valley Baptist, a little nervous, but we took a trip a couple of the thing about month ago. We took the teens down to go snow tubing. We were on the van; we were having a good time. And I was asking some of the teens, what is their worst fear? We're just playing a game. What is their worst fear? And they were given all these things and all this stuff. And they asked me what mine was and I told him I had two of them and this is great. Is what we're doing, what we're voting yes on or no one or what we're putting on a ballot? Is it going to keep somebody else from getting saved? Keeps somebody else from, from going to heaven because I don't want that on me.

My name's David Walker. I'm a one of 10 children. I was 16 year old in 1956 my family received a call that my brother had been in an accident. We went to the hospital, found out that a drunk driver had crossed the center line. Hit him head on. Shannon, have you ever stood and watched your brother die from alcohol? This is what happened to us. Have you ever checked out the Kennedy family? I think it was during the prohibition that

they brought all this liquor into the United States and what it's done to their family, their steel pay in the press. I asked you, please do not put this on the ballot. Thank you.

I'm Debbie Frye, I'm in public education at the moment as a teacher and I see every day my kids come from homes that had been broken up from alcohol. I have to deal with that as a special teacher. I deal with kids who don't have any parents when they're at home because their parents are somewhere else and not taking care of them. And I deal with the heartaches when we get phone calls at school, when we have parents who have been put in jail because had been doing alcohol and they've gotten out and gotten drunk and driving or whatever the case might be. And as a public educator, we have to deal with those needs every single day. And if you put this out there and you put this near a school, we have parents who every day are trying to get their lives back together and if they have to come right past that place to that sales, alcohol, drink, alcohol, whatever the case might be, you are being a stumbling block to our families who we are trying to desperately keep together and keep our kids together. So please do not do this.

My name is Malcolm Milans. I'm a resident of Walker County and I sit under brother Jeff Brown. Shannon, I've never got to thank you for the opportunity that you gave me in 2007 I worked for Shannon for awhile. I was right out of prison and nobody would have me. I was a convicted felon. Shannon gave me a really great chance. I was a drug addict. Alcohol wasn't really my thing of choice, but if I couldn't get drugs, I'd drink. Yeah, nothing good ever came of it for me, but a ruined family imprisonment. Shannon Whitfield, that church that I go to is my sanctuary. You see me come out of a dark time of my life and it didn't end for a long time after that when I started going to Valley view, if they were something like that across the street from it, I'd be right over there today. I'm asking please don't even put it on the ballot, right.

Commissioner Whitfield recessed

Commissioner Whitfield called the meeting to order, Okay. I know we've been here a couple of hours now, but I've always made the pledge that some people come to the public meetings. We'll let people speak and be heard because it is a public forum. It is the time where you can come and address the County government, the County leadership. So I never want anybody to feel left out. They didn't get an opportunity to speak. We still have several more items on our agenda, but is there anybody still feel like they need to speak?

I'll make it real brief. My name is Earl Gross. what bringing that in would be one other things is what I fear is that when you bring, when you bring it down to 150 feet what is going to be next if they just do away with all restrictions at all. And so I just asked God, y'all just consider this and we prayed for y'all for your decision and just let the Lord speak to you and he'll speak through the scriptures too. And so thank you very much.

My name is Kathy Bay and I live in Chickamauga and I'm retired. Alcohol is not something we want to allow to be so close to the church because it shows disrespect. And I think it's the board you're showing disrespect. You know when I worked for my doctors, what I'm going to go into a store and I will lose my temper. I didn't, when I wanted to go somewhere with my children and loose my temper, I didn't, first of all, God, but second of all who I represented and who were you going to represent it and for the first person that has an accident or a kill someone or buy to call you, you want their family to call you and say, Hey Shannon, now you've got three children, got two



daughters and one son, and when you came into office, I was for you. I thought, wow, we're going to get a Christian because I've had kids that's worked for you too. Not my kids, but my friend's children. And they tell me what a good man you was and you can't speak out of two sides of your back. You can't say I'm a Christian in this side, and then go with what's clearly spoken in the Bible. Yeah. You might not have to answer to me or any of these people in here, but just like I had to answer to my employer, I had to answer to my children for what I did. And most of all I had to answer to God and you and you and you. Some of y'all have looked kind of bored and I'm, you know, I'm not really young, elegant speech maker, but let me tell you this, you're going to have to answer to God. If for the first child that's hurt, first child that's killed or man or woman, and I hear about it, I might not be knocking on the door, but I'll be calling you and Shannon, I just can't believe you. I mean, I can't believe you'd even morning on the bell. How much money do you have to have? How much money does it take? I thought we could get a lot more for this County. But y'all are going to be in judgment. I don't know if you're Christians or not, but if I was to Christian, there's no way that I didn't put it down about y'all can listen. I've watched Audi, I was body language. Some of you hit mid listening. Shannon, you've been barely tune and I appreciate that, but good luck.

My name is Ramsey Blackmon and lived in Walker County for several years and I'm proud to say that I live in Walker County. It's a beautiful place. I love it. Raising our family. We go church and Walker County. My son stood up and spoke and I'm real proud that he did that and appreciate the, the time that you give everybody. And you know, my hearts real heavy about this alcohol thing because you know, it's affected my life greatly and I know we're not trying to take alcohol away from people. That's not what's going on the ballot or what you're proposing to put on the ballot. But I'm putting this closer to churches and things like that. It's, it's not good. Nothing good is come of it. When I was a kid, we lived down the road from a package store and nothing good ever happened at the package store down the road. There was always drum going in or coming out and driving down the road. There was a lot of DUIs on the road. It was easy access for my family that drink to go down to the package store and I wouldn't want that and make that, I wouldn't want to make that readily available for someone who was struggling with addiction or alcohol or, or having trouble like this one brother spoke. That's real brave to stand up and to testify to the troubles that alcoholics caused. And I'm proud for people to stand up and I'm, I'm proud for the people in this County who've come together to stand up collectively as a group and say they don't like it. And we prayed that you'd just listened to us. And my plea to you today is take time. I know someone said it earlier, take time to pray about it and I pray that you won't put it on the ballot and don't let this go until after the elections and let's just give you some time to let everybody pray. And you know, I praise God that God has brought different denominations, different churches, different walks of life. She's brought us all together. God's trying to unify his people, not just one church but the church. And I think God's trying to teach us something and show us something in this, no matter which way this goes, whether it goes on the ballot or not, God ultimately will be glorified in some way. All things, all things work for those who love the Lord. And I just pray that you just keep it off the ballot and wait till after elections and let's see what happens then. That's my point.

Sir, my name is Ted verbal. I'm pastor at Mission Ridge Baptist Church. I've been living in Walker County since 97. I don't really have anything to add to what the pastors have

said. I'm also I amen what they said, but w I would like to just say this. I know that when the, the gentleman had mentioned something about our system of government and I've putting on the ballot, the voters spoke and our system of government worked when you were elected. So that was part of it there. But the second thing I call into question is this is how reliable the referendum it's going to be, assuming that it went, I know that lot of voters are not informed in terms of what's going to be on the ballot. You've heard tonight and expression of the casualties and the downside of what, what could happen. I mean, everything that has been said, voters will not, some voters will not have vented that will not have considered the consequences of that when, when they vote. And I know that some voters honest and trying to be as aware as they are, they may vote yes and having not actually thought through the issue. So I would ask you first of all, not to put it on, on the ballot, but also consider that I'm not exactly sure that that's either the best way to get the public's opinion on an issue.

My name is Rita and I know I am not a public speaker, but I was hoping somebody else would ask this question and they haven't, we've talked about the distance from the front door to the front door. But my biggest fear and, well, my prayer is that the good Lord will talk to your heart and lay it upon your heart and what to do, put it on the ballot at all. But should that happen? My biggest fear is one of the gentlemen brought it up. Voters are not going to know what they're voting for because of the verbiage of what is in the referendum. You talk about the spa, the footage from the door to door, but it doesn't say door to door from churches or schools. So you're going to have people that will vote yes because they don't understand that that's what you're talking about. That it can be from any building. Okay. So I wanted to ask, is there any way that it could be reworded to say that there are so layman's terms that they would understand and it's not like something being snuck in on people to where they don't understand what they're voting for?

Commissioner Whitfield replied, well, the team worked hard to try to get it in layman's terms as best they could because we didn't want to make it confusing or trickery. It is confusing though. That was something that we took very serious. I mean I didn't see the point that there might be additional from front door. It was breaching a little earlier front door of a bonafide establishment. You could go a step on their side from the front door in the church or just that may include if you do that verbiage that may or may even include churches or schools. Well, it doesn't affect school. Okay. Well the church churches. But people need to understand that that's what they're talking about because I guarantee you, people that I've talked about are like what, you know, and a lot of people are not going to understand it in those terms. So thank you.

My name's Robert Morris. Live in Walker County since 2011. No, it's not good. Yeah, it's almost got me killed by the grace of God. I mean even here, I remember still drunk. Keep a car, no road. I mean, not shake my head and the windows down to, but I mean, I was all over the road on a main highway back in Tennessee. It was about three o'clock in the morning. It makes you do crazy things. So just give you something to think about.

My name is Jerry Young. I've lived in Walker County for 68 years. I went to Vietnam? I should have died over there. But God spared me asking people over drunken liquor where you can get the dope power. I stayed away from it. I want to know what I'm doing, but I know what I know what liquid dig to paper when we had Linwood is our own city. I was a camp someone for 12 years and they tried to get liquor over and we vote it down, but we had a beer package. We had the only beer in Walker County at that



time. Linwood did. I tried to get liquor, but people they are destroyed. Just look at Linwood now. We've got a good town back then we had our own police department and everything. City hall headed out and we let the wrong people get in there and sell beer and it just was drugged down to nothing. The houses just went away. We're getting new things build over now. Hopefully they get the CD back to where it used to be, but you are a Christian, right? You go to church, do you know that you're going to be held accountable for this? You have. God's going to judge you for this. He says, woe to those who put strong drink to man's male. That means the people, it's sales it God's going to judge him. You won't pay for it. Chan, you'd need to not put this on the ballot. You are Christian. I don't see how you put this on value in a Christian. That's what I say. How are you doing? You're going against what God says. If you are Christian and you know God is your, say, you're in your heart. God's going to judge you. He goes on a date with you. Everyone boasts for this. God's going to judge you. Well, y'all going to be judged and if you put this into Lao, you go ahead to answer for it. Please, please reconsider this. Don't put it on the ballot. Don't put this on the ballot. If you get it channeled quick, we'll have days every day. It could be up in your judgment. Think about it, pray about it. If you tell you're Christian and you serve God, he won't let you put that on the ballot. He won't do it. I'm telling you it's a sin. So you need to really think of what you're doing. These people here come mouths different churches because they don't want it in our communities. We know it. Story people, it was steroid families. Liquor is no good for nothing. I don't know, have a good time. Lakers ever done except destroy damage last and killed people.

My name is Kevin Swafford and I'm a resident of Walker County. I live in Roswell, Georgia. I didn't claim to speak either. I'm friends with Brother Jeff Brown at Valley view Baptist church. And I can say from personal experience of course, just like many of you that alcohol has done nothing good in my life. And even though like a brother Marco had mentioned earlier he wasn't much of a drinker. I mean, I was more of a drug user, but I was the same. I would do alcohol if I could. If I couldn't get anything else, I'd spent knots in jail over here because of it, because of my decisions. As a young, a young man and I will, I will say that Jesus Christ has saved me and that we represent the same majority. I don't know about everybody else. I know this may not be a big issue for other people, but for us as Christians, a Bible says, be not drunk with wine wherein is excess, but be filled with the spirit. And those two are directly opposed to each other. Drunkenness and being filled with the Holy spirit of God. So this is a big issue for us. And anybody that's a Christian, I don't recommend. I just say that Christians aren't a drinking the Holy spirit from the word of God. And we need to stand up and speak up for Jesus Christ and do something good for our community. I think that would be a great step in the right direction. And I would fully support that.

I'm Kenneth Wilson. I thank God that I never had that problem. And I thank the Lord that, you know, he inspired me from that. But I look at this and I thank God for these Christian Young people. We got some fine young people, but we've got to some our society now, we teach in our generation. They've got no respect for parents, no respect for teachers, no respect for God's house. You know, they just used to you, we left no words open. Now you've got a lock up, you've got to have cameras, you've got to have security guards, you know, and by not passing this, I think it's showing the young people that we still got some respect for God's house and maybe we can bring some of that back. I preach it.

Commissioner Whitfield stated that he doesn't want anybody to leave out of here. I'm serious about that. I don't want anybody to ever come to meetings saying they didn't get hurt. Yeah. I mean it's only 8:22 PM. But you know, I appreciate you all coming in speaking out, and one of the reasons why I wanted to keep this going as long as it did and the gentleman in the back that us trying to have a little fun, he was probably the first one here about 5:15 I think he said it best. You know, something good could come out of this. And I think part of that is y'all need to get involved. You know, you sit on the sidelines and put me in the front of the line folks. Back in 2016 you could put me in front of the line of not paying attention what's going on in our local government. And then what I figured out what was going on in our local government I was all in because we needed to fix and clean up our County where he's in a financial mess. And we were just going off the financial cliff. And you know, some people say, well these are not easy meetings. The meetings that are not easy are the ones that the chairs are empty. Nobody shows up, you know the saying out of sight, out of mind. And so I think here tonight some of you got out of your comfort zone and I was glad that we could be a part of that to get you out of your comfort zone and not be afraid to do engage and get involved. You know, I get criticized about a lot of things. If you hadn't heard of any of those things, you can always go to Facebook and you'll find that. But you know I spend very, very little time on Facebook because y'all think alcohol's bad.

Facebook's worse. And I'd say that there's been as many homes destroyed over Facebook is there has been alcohol or drugs, you know, and I'm sure I'm going to take some more heat before it's all over. But you know, I knew when I signed up for this many people were saying, why are you signing up to be the sole commissioner? Well because they knew that I wasn't politically correct. And you know some people that I thought were friends, when you get in all of us as elected official, you find out real quick who your friends are because your real friends don't start asking you for stuff and asking you for those political favors. The ones that are truly not your friends are the ones that get mad at you and abandon you because you don't do what they want you to do. And so I've had a fair number of folks and some of you all know them. One in particular that was like this with me in 2016 and they'd been trying to destroy me for the last three years because I would do those political failures because I'm not politically correct. We have focused, we have worked as a team to do everything we can do to get our County back on track. Some people would say this is a very hard decision to make these this decision and many others was not that difficult. One of the hardest decisions is when Robert and I went down to the state Capitol to talk to the state leadership about having to tuck our County back over back in early 2017 but we didn't know if we didn't go and have enough money to make the payroll. And we went down there to prepare them for the worst because we'd already borrowed \$4 million and had lender after lender after lender tell us no, they wouldn't loan us any money because they'd seen us in the media, they read the papers, they'd read the audits.

And so, you know, when I got down there that day, I had about an hour and 15 minute or so presentation to give this leadership of the state and Senator Mullis who had set the meeting up for us, he made the call. He said, commissioner, you've only got about 20 or 30 minutes and these folks have got to go. So I just had to just totally regroup and I made the statement to him, I can do this. And just two or three minutes, I'll tell them who I was, where I was from. And I said, do you want to take your County back on a Monday or a Friday because we're insolvent? They said what? So I told him again, state



trader says, we don't have a plan for this. We don't have a Go To for this. We don't have a fund for this. And he said, surely there's something that can be done. Surely there's an option. There's if you tried everything. And I said, well, I've got a piece of paper right here from Regions bank that says that the Governor will co-sign the loan for \$4 million they'll loan it to us. Now how many of you in the room did not know we were that close to being out of business before or during the election or after the election? Most of you don't. I've seen one or two hands go up because you're not engaged. And you know, and one of the things when I did get elected and we had 50-60 people showing up over at the other office building, I asked people, stay engaged in your local government. Don't stop coming. Stay in gaged, thank you for coming. And I tried to get to every meeting at least 30 minutes early and I'm usually the last one to leave. And so when we were there in front of this state and they said that the Governor would have to sign that. And then they told me the governor didn't have authorization to sign it because the legislators would have to go back in session to authorize the Governor to sign. And so through all of that they said, let's keep working on this. Well another local bank called back and said, we've reconsidered come talk to us. It was First Volunteer Bank. They met with her team, they loaned us \$4 million and all through this, I have seen God's hand working in our camp. But this is one of those topics that the old saying goes, you can make some of the people happy some of the time, but none of the people all the time. There's a lot of truth to that. I had made my decision very, very early on what I was going to do with this action here tonight. And I've could've stopped this a long time ago. I could have stopped this an hour and a half ago. That wasn't a right thing to do. Because I wanted you all to be engaged in your government. Yeah, we've got a very important election coming up. A couple of really important elections coming up and you need to encourage your friends, your neighbors, and our young people to vote. Now, I know many of you here to not don't want this on the ballot cause you're scared to death what's going to happen. Some of you that have talked to me privately that said, Oh, put it on the ballot but told me they knew what would happen. And so as the Sole Commissioner of a County, you know, it's very difficult to make everybody happy all the time. It's just about impossible. And you know it's a big responsibility. And I take very serious to hold this position and our County has been through some dark days and you know it's been amazing what God has done in our County over the last three years. And I'm just tickled that I got to be the worker bee to allow God to work in our community, in our County, you know, to take us from a place where we had a junk status credit rating and I was scrambling to borrow the money to pay the payroll to Moody's, writing us with an credit rating back in August just in three years. But I don't take credit for that because I know that wasn't me doing that. There was a lot of hard people working, doing the right things. A lot of staff members, a lot of other leaders in our County government, a lot of department heads, but also very much know that God was in control. And I feel like that God has probably used this issue of alcohol to bring attention to what we're seeing here tonight. Not necessarily about the issue, but that people need to get involved in their government and people need to be engaged. And you also need to realize that not every person that's elected, even though we all get labeled as a politician, doesn't mean rural on the take. It doesn't mean we're corrupted. And I know that's somewhat, they say out that comes with a territory or that's just politics folks. That's not true. I've had people ask me, well, why are not other people running for the board positions? Why are there other offices in our County that nobody's running? Because people don't want to under the microscope and they don't want to live in a glass house and they don't want be on



Facebook. It's true. You know, I have been tried to encourage a few people to run for different positions and they go, no, not with Facebook. And if you'll notice, I very seldom post on Facebook, I get on there and monitor it a little bit and try to keep up with things and you know, keep up with, unfortunately, a lot of times it's keeping up with funerals. Who's passed away, you know, I know that's sad, but that's an easy, quick way of finding out things when you've got a short amount of time. So, you know, we as a County we have a broad opportunity and a bright future ahead of us. But folks, I'm here to tell you a five person board is not going to be the all answer. Yeah, okay. Stay with the Sole Commission is not going to be the answer. There's about seven different forms of government that you can have in Georgia as a County. None of them are perfect. None of them. They both, they all have strengths, they all have weaknesses, but none of them are perfect. What we have now is a sole commission's not perfect, go into a five person board's not perfect. And the easiest way for me to sum that up, the reason it's not perfect is because there's humans involved. Because we're all human, we're all sinners and we're all imperfect. And so it's not going to be perfect. And so we need people that will run and that will stand up. And you know, we live in a free country where we're one of the few that have the privilege and opportunity to be in a free country to be able to run for public office. But most importantly, I think what we've demonstrated here tonight; they should be seen across the world, is that we can come have this conversation, we can assemble it together, we can have a meeting such as this and pray before every meeting. We can allow you to come up here where you're not feeling like you're in fear of your government or over your neighbor and have a candy con conversation about issues in our community then not everybody's going to agree with. But there's a lot of men and women that have sacrificed greatly for that and appreciate you speaking here tonight about your service and thank you for your service. And I know there's many others of you here that have sacrificed greatly and it is a sacrifice for anyone is elected to public office because you do live in a glass house. I know many of you that are pastors, you also live in a glass house and it never stops. Some of you talk about the phones calls, the visits and everything. My phone also is on 24/7. My family also takes the abuse. You know, we went on vacation year before last went to Florida. I thought we were getting away, didn't work out quite that well. Second day I was there, went down to the pool and floated around the pool for about an hour and a half with a guy that ended up talking about the North end and Walker County cause that's where he was from. But you know best and I love people, I love serving you, I love serving this community. I walked away from a very cushion job in a family business to be able to come forward and serve. Because as I said earlier, put me in the front of the line is being guilty because none of us wake up in the mornings and think, you know, I need to go check on my local government. I need to go pull the audit and look at the prior administration to do that. That was an open records request and you had put some money on the time. Well we changed that. We've got about 26 years of audits on our website. I've read every one of them more than once. I know this kind of whacked out and I've also read a lot of our other surrounding communities, financial reports as well cause some of them have done very well financially and have managed well and some of them have not and there's one or two of them that were catching on folks and we're going to be a solid financially sound community because one of my goals has been from day one is to work to lead this County completely out of debt. Well you have people that are questioning those debt numbers. There's rumors and disinformation out there that we really were not \$70 million in debt. They just got to go look at the audit. Y'all



spend grant money every year to get those audits done. If you realize it or not, there are about 70 to \$80,000 a year that you pay. Is tax payers have those audits done to make sure those numbers are correct? The 2016 audit, like just a few thousand dollars of saying that we were \$70 million in debt. Some people still don't believe that, but I don't know how else to convince you that a third party independent company out of another state has come in here and has validated those numbers. It's real through this time, over the last three plus with sacrifice by many in our County for higher taxes, higher fees. We're paying for a lot of those mistakes of the past, but we've also, as a County government, we've talked up the bell. Many of you probably don't know because you don't think or felt a need to go read the audit, but the audit will tell you on about page six I believe it is at the bottom left. The last sentence says that expenses over prior year were down over \$3 million cut expenses over \$3 million in one year. We've paid off somewhere around \$30 million worth of debt. And you know, there's a lot of things in our County government that we still need. We've got 86 structure buildings that this County owns. I don't know that's a big number, but when we say individual structures, some of them are small, some of them are large, but when you look from an insurance, when you're insuring property, there's 86 structures that we insure this County government property folks. But we have tried to make every dollar scream that goes out of that office. This gives me a great opportunity to share some of these other things with y'all here tonight because y'all were here and you showed up and I figured if you've stayed past 8:30 we can have a continued conversation. I know some people had to leave. I know some people have health concerns and other responsibilities and I get that. But I'll also want to say I appreciate our young folks that's come out tonight and have spoke. Yeah, y'all need to pat them on the back. If there's any generation in our country that has pressure on them, it's that generation coming up. It's really important. And you know, they are our future folks. They're the next generation coming up. I don't say this to be boastful and I don't say this to even insinuate anything remotely that I'm perfect. We all have our faults, so don't take this comment the wrong way. But fortunately I've never consumed alcohol in my life. Never had it. I have no doubt, no desire to. It was mentioned earlier that we have three kids. One of those is little Daniel who we adore, who's eight years old that we've had for five years, but he come from a broken home of substance abuse. So we've gone over and above to take a young family member into our home to raise because of substance abuse. So I live that side of it. Yeah. I see that I have been brought up in a home where even when we had convenience stores in our business, my parents refused and sell alcohol in a convenience store. Even when I was on the city council in Chickamauga, they put an alcohol question on the ballot for the council members to vote on. But I didn't feel like at that time it was my decision whether or not it went on the ballot or not, even though I knew I was going to go vote no for it at the ballot, you know? So being in an elected position is not easy and you're always making tough decisions and you know, some people say, you know what you do affects a few people. I look at that one what I do to fix about 70,000 people and every decision that we make, and a lot of times people think, well, he's a sole commissioner. He's the dictator. Folks, I don't operate that way. We go over, we look at, we analyze because no one person has all the answers. We've got a great team of people and everything that we've had here tonight on this agenda, including this question the team has put on here and has tried to do what they feel like the citizens won't done in the community. Again, many of you realize, and the reason you're here because several of you tell me you want it on the ballot, but you know, if

you put it on the ballot, y'all know it's going to pass most likely. But again, I don't make decisions on political. I try to make decisions of what I feel is right and what's in the best interest for everybody. And that may or may not win elections, but I didn't come in and put myself in this position because I was doing it so I could make the most popular. I did it cause I felt like God was calling me to do this. And that's why I as you know, walked away from something that had a lot of security to walk into something I knew was going to get a lot of criticism. I had made my decision on this long before we ever got to this meeting tonight. I did get a little choked up earlier when Michael come up and spoke because I saw where Michael was back when he was in a tough position. And I appreciate him coming forward and speaking. And I was glad I had a little part of that. So you know t's one of those things as we leave here tonight, regardless, there's still a lot of people not going to be happy. But like I said, I had made a decision early on about this topic and that decision was decided even before a lot of you spoke. But again, I'm glad that you did come and speak because I think it helped a lot of view and it helped a lot of you neighbors sitting next to you. And I'm sure there are a lot of people going to watch this video, but it's also going help in many different ways. But one of those ways that's important to me is that you're here again, and I've said this, but that you're active and you're involved in your local government and you've been willing to come forward and stand up for something that you believe in. We've got to stay involved and be active in our government and not that you've got to be the junkie that looks at every audit. I get it, but you need to be involved. So my decision that I made early on was that I'm going to let this issue die and leave it as it is and that the regulations that had been in place had been in place for quite some time and we're just going to leave them as they are. All right, we've got a little bit more business here to handle tonight. A hand was raised to speak by a citizen. Commissioner Whitfield asked, yes sir. Eddie Frye came forward and explained that he knows this is out order. I'll state my name, Eddie Frye because what you've done, I'd like to set something up. There's a lot of pastors here. We all have faults. There's one thing that I know since I've been a pastor, when somebody is praying for me, yes I can get through the hard and I'd like to ask you, could we start a group of pastors maybe once a month that come to pray for you, pray for the County and not only pray, well, we have one Saturday a month. We have people in our churches that can build that can fix stuff and we'd do it for free. Now you say, well you have to deal with things too. And we have budgets and too, but if we can get together as Walker County and we have leaks in our buildings and we can have once one, one Saturday a month to come and fix one roof, that doesn't cost the tax payers opinion except for the supplies. Could we do that to help? Commissioner Whitfield answered, I'm all in on getting together and praying and just to share a little bit more about some of your other elected officials and I'll let them, let it be known if they desire of whom's involved. But there's a group of us, elected officials that do get together right now once a month and pray together and they're here locally at Walker County. And so thank you for that offer and take your vote.

- III.** Resolution R-005-20 to Authorize a Referendum to Impose, Levy and Collect a Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) within Walker County, Conditioned Upon Approval by a Majority of Qualified Voters Residing within



Walker County Voting in a Referendum thereon to be held May 19, 2020; and for other Purposes

- IV. Okay, now the good stuff, Resolution R-005-20 to Authorize a Referendum to Impose, Levy and Collect a Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) within Walker County, Conditioned Upon Approval by a Majority of Qualified Voters Residing within Walker County Voting in a Referendum thereon to be held May 19, 2020; and for other Purposes, conditioned upon approval by the majority of the qualified voters residing within Walker County voting. And a referendum they're on to be held on May 19th, 2020 for those purposes, the T-Splost was put into effect my knowledge. The first was put on the ballot by Roy Parrish. And to my knowledge, it has passed every time since then and has been a very important part of our local economy. Most importantly it takes the pressures off property tax. We have no desire to ever be in a position where we're forced to have to raise property taxes. It's just something that we don't like to do. I didn't like to do it when I had to do it the one time and I said then I hope this is the last time. And so we're not going to go into all the details tonight cause I know it's getting late and it's in the packets. It's online or we're going to be talking about it more. But the SPLOST that we currently have in place expires on September 30th of this year. Well, there's a lot of regulations in the state law of how you have to do that and put it on the ballot. And this particular thing is a decision that only the voters can make. I cannot make this decision. The only decision that I can make on this is to get our cities together, to come to the table to determine, to put it onto the ballot and put a list of projects that the funds would be invested into to make our infrastructure better. It's for an infrastructure improvement into our communities. So the five city councils, which includes Ford over Thor, because there is a small portion of Northwest part of our community that's Walker County, but it's also within the city limits of Fort Oglethorpe. So anytime we do something like this, we have to include, not have to, we do it because they're part of us. We include Fort authority. And so this is a intergovernmental agreement here tonight that has already been signed and executed by all five cities. We are the last ones to get this done. And in the past there has been times that when the cities in the County come together to negotiate and work out the, the allocations of these funds and how they would be invested in what the percentages are, that they ended up in a lot of hard feelings, a lot of bitterness, a lot of hurt, a lot of legal expense and a lot of mediation because of disagreements and lack of unity. We are happy to report to you to not then when we met with the five cities and their leadership and our leadership, we worked this out in about 35 minutes. And that's I think a, a Testament to the strong leadership that we have in our County and our cities as well and everyone coming together in the best interest of our citizens. Again, this is a continuation of a 1 cent sales tax that's been on our, our books in our County for many, many years. And if you look at the infrastructure list, and we'll talk more in the future about this is critical for our County to move forward and to do the things that need to be done to fix a lot of these roofs and, and failing systems that we have that have been neglected over time. So at this time, I'm going to sign this into our minutes to put the SPLOST back on the ballot. And another reason to, we're doing this now with the way it runs out in September. If don't do this in the May election, it's going to expire. We'd be October 1st and so if we waited till November, which some would say is the political thing to do wait till November, then you have a gap and then he can't even be executed and started until April 1st and so to have the continuity that we need and to get this started October one so we don't have a loss in revenue coming in for the S this has to be

done at this time. And we've got one day extra to get this done and that's tomorrow morning. So this how important that this is that we get this done. So we're going to sign this into the rec here and partner with our cities to put the T-Splost back on the ballot. Commissioner Whitfield explained that he has about six copies of this to sign that way. Every city and the County will have an original and they will also be executing originals as well. So we'll be passing these all around. Not only is there the intergovernmental agreement, but we also have the resolution to put the T-Splost on the ballot. This is also shows what the wording will be. It's quite long to meet the state requirements of everything. It's got to be on the ballot. But this next item here is the resolution and I've just executed the intergovernmental agreement. I had those in my stack backwards, but it's all pertaining to the same action item of the T-Splost. For those of you that didn't get an agenda be sure and go online and at least download the pages that have the a T-Splost list on it so you can see how these dollars are intended to be invested over the next six years.

V. Commissioner Whitfield stated this is something we're excited about here. How many of you are in the room here is either a full time or part time farmer? Working in agriculture? Just a few of them. I know that might be a few others here earlier. He read Resolution R-006-20 to Appoint members to a Study Committee on Best Practices for Poultry Houses. So what this is doing is putting an official committee together that will study the concerns and issues around poultry houses, but people that are in this business that are in this industry that make their living for this. Well, you're having a lot of good growth in our County. We're averaging about 125 new single family homes being built in our County on average for the last four years consecutively. And we're already off to a strong start this year. Again, agriculture is the number one industry in our County. It's our heritage. It's also our future. And we've got to protect that. There's a class action lawsuit right now in Dade County over poultry houses. There are 20 residents that have sued a poultry producer in a class action lawsuit, that's neighbor fighting against neighbor. We don't want that to happen. We want to be proactive. We want to put some of the brightest people of our County together to brainstorm, to look at best practices, look at what other counties have done and look at how we protect our agriculture, how we protect our farmers, but also how we grow and make Walker County better and everybody to have their place that they call home. So that's what that committee is about.

VI. Commissioner Whitfield read Resolution R-007-20 to Appoint members to the Walker County Animal Control Board. Our animal control board only meets if there's things that are triggered in our animal control ordinance for them to make it and take action on and have a hearing. Most often that's in and around dog bites are animals that need to be classified as aggressive. And so there's very find out things that they are responsible for and to make the decisions for the welfare of our community. And so what happened and kind of snuck up on us. All of the board members terms had expired December 31st. Fortunately, we've not had a need for a meeting, so we're



playing a little catch up here by about a month and a half to get our board back in place. Allison was a former member, but also most importantly, she was the former director over the animal shelter. And you always want your animal shelter director own this board because they're heavily involved and they know the situations and all of the documentation and keep up waiting from a staff person. Alison is no longer with us. She's been gone for a little while, but she continued to function and be a part of the board. But Emily Sadler since mid last year is our animal shelter director. So we're appointing her on debt board. Dr. Benson is Yvette Merriam. You have to have a veterinarian on the board. And so he's agreed to serve again. And Betty keys for some of you all know her. We know she's just a jewel, just a sweet lady. And we don't want to lose her. So we're really pointing her.

**VII.** All right we have an intergovernmental agreement with Lookout Mountain Judicial Circuit Drug Task Force Intergovernmental Contract. This is one of these things, it's just housekeeping. I'm not going to read all this to you, but in essence, this is just where the cities and Lookout Mountain District Attorney's office and the Walker County Government work together with each other for the Lookout Mountain Judicial Task Force. And so this is just an agreement, reiterating everyone's commitment to continue this and to work in collaboration's for the most efficiently to use tax payer dollars and we're going to execute and approve this.

**VIII.** The last item on our agenda is our Monthly Stats for January 2020. This is a statistical data report that we put out every month and that we also have the four previous years of information.

**Adjournment:** The Public Hearing was adjourned at 7:42 PM

**VIII. Public Comment**

{Audio Recording of Public Hearing and comments are on file in  
Commissioner's Office – 19-02-13}

**IX. Commissioner Comments**

{Audio Recording of Commissioner's Hearing comments are on file  
in Commissioner's Office – 19-02-13}

Minutes approved by:

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Shannon K. Whitfield  
Sole Commissioner  
Walker County Georgia

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Date

Minutes prepared by: Walker County Clerk, Rebecca Wooden



Sign In Sheet





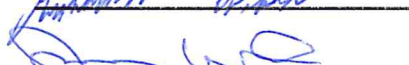
Regular Scheduled Commissioner's Meeting

Walker County Courthouse Annex III, 201 S Main Street

LaFayette, Georgia 30728

February 13, 2020

6:00 PM

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Telephone</u>
		423-762-2715
	Chatt City	423 503-2738
		423-595-6002
		ARS 322 3720
Team		
Tony Jackson	8130LD Pkwy	
Earl Grace	921 Halawa St., Ross	706-866-7750
Tony Jan	178 Hinckley	706 378 5540
Tony Pearce	256 Terry Lane	
Michael Pearce	256 Terry Lane	
Lucretia LeFleur	187 Terry Lane	
Ray LaFleur	187 Terry Lane	
Edna Ann	166 Mark Dr.	706 8200167
Raymond Southard	396 Round Pond Road	
Rachel Southard	396 Round Pond Road	
Raymond Wade Bick	125 Amy Chick	
Linda Hawthorn	2 Wimpseed Road	
Carol Cross	7940 West Cove Rd	423 718 6140
Gary Cross	11	423 20 86306

Sign In Sheet

Regular Scheduled Commissioner's Meeting

Walker County Courthouse Annex III, 201 S Main Street

LaFayette, Georgia 30728

February 13, 2020

6:00 PM

Name

Address

Telephone

PASTOR JEFF BEAUM	1661 GARRETT'S CHAPEL RD CHICKAMAUGA, GA 30702	423-400-7393
Michael Roberson	54 North Victor Flintstone, GA 30725	423-5084683
Roderick Cochran	437 Schmitt Rd Rossville, GA 30741	423-5647637
Chris O'Neal	82 Vandiver Rd Ross, Ga	423-322-4750
Sue O'Neal	2 ALPINE DR, LaFayette Ga	7066380942
BEN PITMAN	5686 Hwy 193 FLINTSTONE GA 30725	423-974-2996
JOE PITMAN	5832 Hwy. 193 FLINTSTONE GA 30725	
Nancy Boston	102 McFarland Rd 30750	423-3645682
Benjamin Beets	679 Jimmie Taylor P. Chickamauga Ga	423-853 4841
Robert Morris	119 Walker Ln. Chickamauga Ga	423-3156415
Richard Hunt	225 apt A LEE AVE CHICKAUGA 30707	423-876-9325
Andrea Anita Carter	13 Muskett Dr Chickamaug 30707	423-876-9325
Errol Carter	13 Muskett Dr Chickamaug 30707	423-876-9325
Bob Chapman	2464 Hwy 337 LaFayette Ga 30728	
Catherine Kemp	Will	
Dobbie Fnye	19 Halesys Cove Chick GA	
Eddie Fnye	19 Halesys Cove Chick	
Lee Fnye	19 Halesys cove chick	



## Sign In Sheet

### Regular Scheduled Commissioner's Meeting

Walker County Courthouse Annex III, 201 S Main Street

LaFayette, Georgia 30728

February 13, 2020

6:00 PM

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Telephone</u>
Sandy Blackman	172 N Forest Rd Chickamauga	423 855 0164
Joseph Smith	172 N Forest Rd Chickamauga	423 580 5562
Ramsay Blackman	172 N Forest Rd Chickamauga	423 <del>055</del> 504 6272
Carrie Conklin	605 MAONDI ST LAFAYETTE	423-262 5678
Regina Pittman	441 Talley Ave Ross, Ga	423-313-0200
Randall Pittman	441 Talley Ave.	423-313-3594
Belinda Brown	1061 Garretts Ch. Rd. Chick	423-504-7900
Pat Brown	310 Walker Hollow Rd 30725	706-500-0000
Nancy Cochran	437 Schmitt Road Roswell GA	423-771-8070
David Weeber	190 BONDS RD, CHICKAMAUGA GA	375-3982
Jeanette Walker	190 Bonds Rd Chick, Ga.	375-3982
Ray Dunn	247 Lisbon Dr Chickamauga GA	375-2573
Roy Dunn	247 Lisbon Drive Chick GA	375-2573
Dave Plemons	125 Hamel Dr. Chickamauga	425 596 5871
Jeremy Nel	905 Euclyne St Lafayette Ga (706)	991 1880
Michael E. Brown	36 Walker Hollow RD - FLINTSTONE, GA.	706-931-2883
Dave Myers	41 Mitchell Rd Chickamauga Ga.	706-325-2714
Pastor Johnny	797 LAIT St Chick	
Michael Millmans	49 Country Ln. Chickamauga	(706) 508-2859
Ted Venville	252 W-12th St Chickamauga	(423) 618-6292

## Sign In Sheet

### Regular Scheduled Commissioner's Meeting

Walker County Courthouse Annex III, 201 S Main Street

LaFayette, Georgia 30728

February 13, 2020

6:00 PM

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Telephone</u>
Retha Earls Nelson	12 1st St. Flintstone	423-322-9800
Bill Mount	99 Mount Dr. Chick GA	423-593-2878
Daniel Hancy	2792 Bronco Rd.	706-996-0092
Ethan Hancy	2792 Bronco Rd.	423-682-1819
Thomas Euckers	6032 Straightgut Rd	423-762-0534
Amy Hall	2163 Kemp Rd	706-996-1839
Mark Hall	.....	.....
Retha Atch	1200 Corinta Rd LaFayette, GA	423-653-0895
Cheri Noblitt	468 Davis Rd Chick GA 30707	423-556-9550
Todd Noblitt	" "	" "
Roy Hambrick	152 Glen Eden Wg. LaFayette	423-413-3408
James Vandyke	297 Kemp Rd LaFayette Ga	423-301-5821
RAL Burufin	3400 Bronco Rd	706-638-5806
A Samuel	1000 Hunt St Ross	706-858-0917
Robert & Cheryl Wilson	872 Sandstone Cr. Dr. Ringo Ga.	423-593-4411
Weldon Brooks	7877 Hwy 136	423-432-257
Rocael Brooks	7873 Hwy 136	423-504-0492
CAVIN SUTFORD	935 Ridgeland Rd Rossville	423-321-4810
Michael Thomas	103 Logwood st chick	



Sign In Sheet

1

Regular Scheduled Commissioner's Meeting

Walker County Courthouse Annex III, 201 S Main Street

LaFayette, Georgia 30728

February 13, 2020

6:00 PM

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Telephone</u>
Tim Chastain	3087 Sweets Chapel Rd	Chick 30727 423-593-6805
Harry [unclear]	nope, Co.	423-763-9018
→ Herb [unclear]	61 Manor Ln Ross GA 30741	423-619-9724
Jean Clark	69 Highland Dr. La.	706-764-1728
Carlin Clark	69 Highland Dr. La.	706-764-1728
Harold Mc Cormick	506 Longview Dr.	423-255-1945
Kita Mc Cormick	200 Longview Dr.	423-237-1626
Carolyn Fricks	102 Dana Lane	706-375-2570
Anton Fricks	102 Dana Lane	706-375-2510
Maulik Shah	5814, Haven Dale Ln.	423-503-2356
Vinod Shah	35 Round Pond Rd	615-719-2727
Ritz Patel	256 Tanglewood Dr	706-971-9202
Mitul Patel	454 Lakeshore Dr	423-505-6192
Sue Chynna	967 Hwy. 151	423-803-1018
Roy Chynna	✓ ✓	423-941-6151
Laurel [unclear]		423-902-0677
James Asher	68 Duvenport Lane Lafayette, GA	706-639-6780
Jan Alvarson	18 N. Steele St.	423-593-2367
Dewayne Brown	1-Prj Task Force	
Corbin Barnes	WC	423-421-6329

Whitney Summey 902 Salem Rd 508-9834

Forest Bluhm 821 Cherokee Trail 240-0085

Joy Owens 3412 Garretts Chapel Rd 375-3979

Tom Owens " " "

Jennifer Haney 2792 Bronco Rd LaFayette 706-996-0376

James Guter 170 Glenwald Cir Rosville 423 260 4446

Alice Guter

Berli Letke

Aendi + Perry Lamb 827 Bradley Ave

Jerry + Kay Anderson PO Box 1321 Lafayette GA 30728

Loretta Lynn Self PO Box 1321 Lafayette GA 30728

Rick Tallent PO Box 223 ~~LA GA~~ 30728

Courtney Blakenere 61 Manor Lane Ross. GA 30721

Madelyn Langston 61 Manor Lane Ross GA



Applicant: Robert Wilson

Conditional Use Variance

Map & Parcel: D-035-026

Rezone from: \_\_\_\_\_ to: \_\_\_\_\_

**PLANNING COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION:**

\_\_\_\_\_ APPROVED AS SUBMITTED

1-16-2020 \_\_\_\_\_ APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS

*that they only operate  
10 hrs a day + 1/2 day  
on Saturdays.*

\_\_\_\_\_ TABLED

\_\_\_\_\_ DENIAL

**COMMISSIONERS FINAL DECISION:**

\_\_\_\_\_ APPROVED AS SUBMITTED

\_\_\_\_\_ APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS

*Shawn K. Campbell*

TABLED January 23, 2020

\_\_\_\_\_ DENIAL

The following disclosure is required of the applicant(s) by Section 36-67A-3 of O.C.G.A. The following is for disclosure purposes only and does not disqualify the petition.

Within the past two years, have you made either campaign contributions totaling \$250.00 or more and/or given gifts having value of \$250.00 or more to a local government official who will be responsible for making a recommendation or decision on the application? YES ( ) NO ( ). If so, then on a separate page, please furnish the following information.

- A) The name of the local government official(s) to whom cash contribution or gift was made.
- B) The dollar amount(s) and date(s) of each campaign made by the applicant to each local government official during the two years immediately preceding the filling of the application: and
- C) An enumeration and description of each gift having a value of \$250.00 or more made by the applicant to each local government official within the past two years:

Signature of Petitioner/Owner:

*Robert Wilson* 10/30/19

OWNER

DATE

PETITIONER

DATE





BY THE COMMISSIONER OF WALKER COUNTY, GEORGIA

**A PROCLAMATION**

**INTELLECTUAL DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES  
AWARENESS MONTH**

**WHEREAS:** Intellectual developmental disability is a condition affecting an estimated 4.6 million American children, adults and their families; and

**WHEREAS:** The most effective weapons for alleviation of the serious problems associated with intellectual developmental disabilities are public knowledge and understanding; and

**WHEREAS:** The potential for citizens with intellectual developmental disabilities to function more independently and productively must be fostered; and

**WHEREAS:** Lookout Mountain Community Services improves the quality of life for the citizens of Walker, Dade, Chattooga and Catoosa counties by providing services to persons with intellectual developmental disabilities and their families; and

**WHEREAS:** The citizens of Walker County are urged to give their full support to efforts enabling people with intellectual developmental disabilities to live productive lives and achieve their potential.

**THEREFORE:** I, Shannon K. Whitfield, Commissioner of Walker County, Georgia, do hereby proclaim March 2020 as Intellectual Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month in Walker County.

Signed and sealed this 27<sup>th</sup> day of February in the year 2020.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Shannon K. Whitfield, Commissioner  
Walker County, Georgia

**ATTEST:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Rebecca Wooden  
Walker County Clerk







BY THE COMMISSIONER OF WALKER COUNTY, GEORGIA

**A PROCLAMATION**

**SECOND AMENDMENT AWARENESS & CELEBRATION WEEK**

**WHEREAS:** The Constitution of the United States of America is the Supreme law of the land and the Second Amendment to the Constitution guarantees to individuals the right to keep and bear arms in a manner that shall not be infringed; and

**WHEREAS:** O.C.G.A § 1-2-6 (a)(9) lists the right to keep and bear arms among the rights of the citizens of the State of Georgia without limitation; and

**WHEREAS:** The Commissioner of Walker County wishes to express his opposition to any law, regulation, or other act that would infringe on the Second Amendment rights of Walker County citizens and calls upon the Georgia Legislature and the United States Congress to preserve, uphold, and protect the rights of all citizens to keep and bear arms under the United States Constitution and to reject any provision, law, or regulation that may infringe on these rights; and

**WHEREAS:** Walker County is rich in generational respect and reverence for these sacred rights, dating back to the formation of the County in 1833. The surrendering of such rights by our citizens only serves to strip away at our time-honored cultural traditions; and

**WHEREAS:** The citizens of Walker County derive economic and social benefit from all safe forms of firearms recreation, hunting and shooting conducted within Walker County; and

**WHEREAS:** There are approximately 8,000 Georgia Weapons Carry License holders in Walker County and countless other residents who own firearms for hunting and the protection of their homes and loved ones;

**THEREFORE:** I, Shannon K. Whitfield, Commissioner of Walker County, proclaim March 1st - 7th Second Amendment Awareness and Celebration Week to recognize the importance this freedom and right have on our community, and to publicly acknowledge and reiterate support for the rights provided by the Second Amendment to the United States Constitution.

Signed and sealed this 27<sup>th</sup> day of February in the year 2020.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Shannon K. Whitfield, Commissioner  
Walker County, Georgia

**ATTEST:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Rebecca Wooden  
Walker County Clerk





Applicant: Marion Hatcheson Estate / Gateway Development

Map & Parcel: 0102-002 Rezone from: C-1 to: R-2

**PLANNING COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION:**

\_\_\_\_\_ APPROVED AS SUBMITTED

\_\_\_\_\_ APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS

\_\_\_\_\_ TABLED

2-20-2020 DENIAL

**COMMISSIONER'S FINAL DECISION:**

\_\_\_\_\_ APPROVED AS SUBMITTED

\_\_\_\_\_ APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS

\_\_\_\_\_ TABLED

\_\_\_\_\_ DENIAL

The following disclosure is required of the applicant(s) by Section 36-67A-3 of O.C.G.A. The following is for disclosure purposes only and does not disqualify the petition.

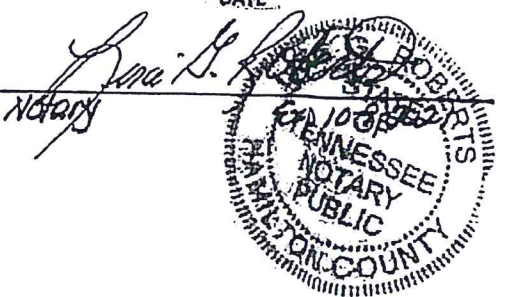
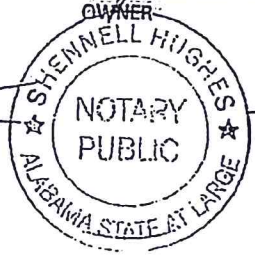
Within the past two years, have you made either campaign contributions totalling \$250.00 or more and/or given gifts having value of \$250.00 or more to a local government official who will be responsible for making a recommendation or decision on the application? YES ( ) NO (X). If so, then on a separate page, please furnish the following information:

- A) The name of the local government official(s) to whom cash contribution or gift was made:
- B) The dollar amount(s) and date(s) of each campaign made by the applicant to each local government official during the two years immediately preceding the filing of the application; and
- C) An enumeration and description of each gift having a value of \$250.00 or more made by the applicant to each local government official within the past two years:

Signature of Petitioner / Owner:

[Signature] 1-14-2020 John W. Beard, Executor 1/14/2020  
PETITIONER DATE OWNER DATE

[Signature]  
Notary - Exp. 1/28/23







4288 Bonny Oaks Drive  
 (Near Hwy 153 & Hwy 58)  
 Chattanooga, TN 37406  
 Phone (423) 698-4679  
 Fax (423) 698-5258

No. **12124**

QUOTE       ORDER

SOLD TO: Walker County Rd Department  
Carlton Bowers

SHIP TO: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ SALESMAN'S NAME Ryan 590 DATE 2/25/2020

QTY.	DESCRIPTION	ITEM NO.	SERIAL NO.	SALE PRICE
1	E-85R Excavator			\$108,506 <sup>00</sup>
				↳-39,062.167
				\$69,443.84
1	Engcon TiltRotator w/Grapple			\$35,926 <sup>00</sup>
				↳-7,823.407
				\$29,102.60
1	QSC quick Coupler Hose Kit	\$2,790.00	↳-837.007	\$1,953.00
1	51" grading bucket	\$1,910.00	↳-449.337	\$1,460.67
1	27.5 Digging bucket	\$1,600.00	↳-376.407	\$1,223.60
1	Trapezoid Hitch bucket	\$1,755.00	↳-307.127	\$1,447.88
1	Clam Shell Grapple	\$8,540.00	↳-2009.037	\$6,530.97

Financing Through  
 Months: \_\_\_\_\_ Interest Rate: \_\_\_\_\_ Estimated Payment: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Credit Pending: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Denied \_\_\_\_\_  
 Trade Information:  
 Make \_\_\_\_\_ Model \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_ Hours \_\_\_\_\_  
 Attachments: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Financed Through: \_\_\_\_\_ Unencumbered: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Warranty: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Initial: \_\_\_\_\_ Special Pricing: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Manufacturer's Standard Coverage \_\_\_\_\_

SALE PRICE:	\$111,189.56
TRADE VALUE:	
SUB TOTAL:	
TAXES:	
PAYOFF:	
INSURANCE:	
<b>U.C.C. FEES:</b>	

# **ACCG** Civic Affairs Foundation

## **GEORGIA COUNTY INTERNSHIP PROGRAM GRANT AGREEMENT**

This **AGREEMENT** is made and entered into by and between the **ASSOCIATION COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF GEORGIA CIVIC AFFAIRS FOUNDATION, INC.**, (the “**FOUNDATION**”), having its principal office at 191 Peachtree Street, Suite 700, Atlanta, Georgia, 30303, and Walker County (“**COUNTY**”), having its principal office at 101 S Duke Street . In exchange for valuable consideration, the parties agree as follows. LaFayette, GA 30728

### **I. GENERAL TERMS.**

#### **A. Agreement Term:**

This Agreement shall be effective as of the last date of execution by the parties. Pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 36-10-1, approval by the COUNTY’S governing authority and entry on the COUNTY’S minutes is necessary before the parties may execute. Evidence thereof shall be provided to the Foundation from the **COUNTY** Clerk’s Office as requested and incorporated into this Agreement.

#### **B. Purpose of Agreement:**

The **FOUNDATION** is providing grant funding through the Georgia County Internship Program pursuant to the grant award letter (“Grant Award Letter”) (**Exhibit A**) to reimburse certain costs to the **COUNTY** to employ interns to complete projects as described in the county grant application (“County Grant Application”) (**Exhibit B**) from May 1, 2020 until September 1, 2020. This Agreement provides the terms and conditions under which the **COUNTY** may receive reimbursement from the **FOUNDATION**.

### **II. REIMBURSEMENT TO COUNTY.**

In exchange for the **COUNTY** hiring the intern(s) to perform projects as described in the approved County Grant Application and to learn about the operations of county government, the **FOUNDATION** shall provide reimbursement to the **COUNTY** as follows:

#### **A. Use of Grant Funds.**

##### **1. Amount of Reimbursement**



# ACCG Civic Affairs Foundation

- a. **Hourly Rate.** The FOUNDATION shall reimburse the COUNTY for the cost of wages at the rate of \$12.00 per hour for each hour worked up to 200 hours, for a maximum reimbursement of \$2,400.00 for wages per intern, per internship, unless the COUNTY has agreed to pay a percentage of the costs as described within the County Grant Application.

The COUNTY may pay the intern at a higher rate than \$12.00 per hour at its own expense as provided for in their approved County Grant Application or as established at a later time by the COUNTY. In either case, the COUNTY shall be responsible for payment for all the costs above the reimbursed hourly rate of \$12.00 per hour, including workers' compensation and FICA.

- b. **Workers' Compensation.** The FOUNDATION shall reimburse the COUNTY for a portion of the cost to cover the intern under the COUNTY'S workers' compensation plan in the Foundation's sole discretion up to a maximum reimbursement rate of up to \$24.00 per intern, per internship.
- c. **FICA.** The FOUNDATION shall reimburse the COUNTY for a portion of the cost of paying Federal Insurance Contributions Act (FICA) in the Foundation's sole discretion at a maximum reimbursement of up to \$183.60 per intern, per internship.

2. **Additional Compensation for Intern.** The COUNTY may pay the intern(s) in an amount greater than \$12.00 per hour or allow the intern(s) to work more than 200 hours during the grant period. However, the COUNTY will not be entitled to additional grant reimbursement for wages, workers' compensation, FICA or any other employment costs for the additional wages or hours.

### III. Obligations of COUNTY:

- A. **Use of Grant Funds.** Grant reimbursement is limited to the actual amount of wages paid and approved employment costs for up to 200 hours of actual work performed by a qualified intern, from May 1, 2020 to September 1, 2020, for the Foundation approved internship project as described within the attached County Grant Application.
- B. **Compensation.** The COUNTY shall pay interns funded in whole or in part by this grant a minimum of \$12.00 per hour for each hour suffered or permitted to be worked by the intern.
- C. **Internship Requirements.** All interns must have on site supervision, be provided with work projects as provided in the approved County Grant Application submitted by the COUNTY and be afforded the opportunity to learn about the operations of county government.
- D. **Required Information: Proof of Payment of Intern and Reporting Requirements.** Upon completion of the internship, the COUNTY shall provide the following information

# ACCG Civic Affairs Foundation

to the **FOUNDATION**: (1) copy of the offer letter provided to the intern upon hire; (2) employment verification, including the E-Verify usage and acknowledgement form (E-Verify Usage and Acknowledgement Form”) (**Exhibit C**); (3) proof of payment for each payment period for every intern receiving funding through this Agreement; (4) signed and completed reimbursement form (“Reimbursement Form”) (**Exhibit D**); and (5) completed Intern Evaluation Form (**Exhibit E**). All required information shall be submitted by the COUNTY and received by the FOUNDATION by September 25, 2020 in order to be eligible to receive grant reimbursement.

- E. Hiring of Intern.** In order to be eligible to receive the reimbursement provided for in Paragraph A of Section II of this Agreement, the **COUNTY** must hire an intern who is an undergraduate student, graduate student, recent college graduate, or a high school student 16 years of age or older who is dually enrolled in a college program, as an employee to perform the projects as provided for in the approved County Grant Application. The **COUNTY** may not hire an intern as an independent contractor for reimbursement under this Agreement. The intern hired must be willing and agreeable to having certain information shared about them and their internship pursuant to this Agreement. The COUNTY must submit to the FOUNDATION no later than July 15, 2020: ); intern consent form (“Intern Consent Form”)(**Exhibit F**); the intern information form (“Intern Information Form” (**Exhibit G**); and an intern photograph.
- F. Tax Withholdings.** The **COUNTY** is responsible for withholding all applicable state and federal income taxes on an intern’s earnings.
- G. Nondiscrimination in Employment Practices.** The **COUNTY** agrees to comply with federal and state laws, rules and regulations, relative to nondiscrimination in employment practices because of political affiliation, religion, race, color, sex, disability, age over 40 years, national origin or any other protected class as provided by law. Nondiscrimination in employment practices is applicable to employees, applicants for employment, promotions, demotions, dismissal and other elements affecting employment/employees.
- H. Compliance with Applicable Provisions of Federal and State Laws and Regulations.** The **COUNTY** agrees to comply with all applicable federal and state laws, including, but not limited to:
- 1. The Americans with Disabilities Act.** The **COUNTY** agrees to comply with all applicable provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and any relevant federal and state laws, rules and regulations regarding employment practices toward individuals with disabilities and the availability/accessibility of programs, activities, or services for clients with disabilities.
  - 2. Fair Labor Standards Act**
  - 3. Georgia Security and Immigration Compliance Act.** The **COUNTY** agrees to comply with all of the E-Verify usage and hiring requirements as provided for in O.C.G.A. § 13-10-91(a).



# ACCG Civic Affairs Foundation

- I. **Duty to Notify FOUNDATION.** It shall be the duty of the COUNTY to notify the FOUNDATION if an intern quits or is terminated by the COUNTY within five (5) days of separation.
- J. **Nepotism.** If the COUNTY has a nepotism policy for new hires, that policy shall apply to the hire and engagement of any intern reimbursed in whole or in part through this grant. In the absence of such a policy, the COUNTY shall refrain from hiring interns who are closely related by blood or marriage to COUNTY employees or officials who have a hiring or supervisory role over the intern. The COUNTY shall apply its personnel policies on dating in the workplace to any intern hired through this grant. If the COUNTY fails to follow these requirements, the COUNTY will not receive grant funding for any of the interns who have been involved in any of the aforementioned activities at the sole discretion of the FOUNDATION.
- K. **Campaign and Other Impermissible Activities.** Interns hired through the Georgia County Internship Program and paid through grant funding are not permitted to work on campaigns for elections of commissioners or for any other elected official as part of their work with the COUNTY. Interns are further not permitted to run personal errands for COUNTY officials and staff or work on projects that are unrelated to county government. If the COUNTY fails to follow these requirements, they will not receive grant funding for any of the interns who have been involved in any of the aforementioned activities at the sole discretion of the FOUNDATION.

## IV. CONTRACT MODIFICATION

No amendment, modification, or alteration of this AGREEMENT shall be valid or effective unless such modification is made in writing and signed by both parties.

## V. TERMINATION

This Agreement may be terminated in the following circumstances:

- A. **Due to default or for cause.** The FOUNDATION may terminate this AGREEMENT at any time if the COUNTY fails to perform any of its obligations under this AGREEMENT and fails to cure any breach within 10 days of a notice of breach and intention to terminate by the FOUNDATION. The COUNTY shall be required to submit all required information not later than 20 days after the date of written notice of termination. The COUNTY shall not receive any grant reimbursement for costs incurred after the date of termination or in the event a breach occurred that could not be satisfied.
- B. **Due to Early Separation of Intern.** Should the intern funded by this grant be separated from the COUNTY'S employment prior to the expiration of their internship period, this AGREEMENT shall terminate within 20 days of the separation unless another undergraduate student, graduate student, recent graduate, or a high school student 16 years

# **ACCG** Civic Affairs Foundation

of age or older who is dually enrolled in a college program, is hired to continue and complete the approved internship within the grant period and at least 100 hours are remaining of the internship.

- C. **Natural Termination.** Unless otherwise terminated, this Agreement shall terminate December 31, 2020.
- D. **Survival.** The following sections shall survive termination for any reason of this Agreement: Access to Records, Records Retention, and Investigation; Hold Harmless; Program Publicity and COUNTY Participation;

## **VI. Access to Records, Records Retention, and Investigation**

- A. The **FOUNDATION** shall have access to any pertinent books, documents, papers, and records of the **COUNTY** for the purpose of making audit examinations, excerpts, and transcripts. The **COUNTY** shall retain all records related to this grant for seven years from submission of the required information. If any litigation, claim, or audit is started before the expiration of the seven-year period, the records shall be retained until all litigation, claims, or audit findings involving the records have been resolved.
- B. The **COUNTY** agrees that the **FOUNDATION** has the authority to investigate any allegation of misconduct made by the **COUNTY** pertaining to this Agreement. The **COUNTY** agrees to cooperate fully in such investigations by providing the **FOUNDATION** reasonable access to its records and any other resources as necessary to investigate the allegation.

## **VII. Hold Harmless**

To the extent permitted by law, the **COUNTY** agrees to hold harmless the **FOUNDATION**, Association County Commissioners of Georgia, their employees and agents for any claim growing out of any action performed by the **COUNTY**, its agents or employees under any provision of this contract.

## **VIII. Program Publicity and COUNTY Participation**

- A. The **COUNTY** agrees to allow preplanned site visits from the **FOUNDATION** for the purpose of interviewing the intern(s) and supervisor, taking photographs, video, or audio, and reviewing projects that have been assigned. The **COUNTY** further agrees that any photographs or information obtained during such site visits may be used to promote the Georgia County Internship Program and **FOUNDATION**, which may include, but is not limited to, usage through websites, social networking sites, brochures, press releases, and other forms of media.



# **ACCG** Civic Affairs Foundation

- B. The **COUNTY** further agrees that any promotional information by the **COUNTY** regarding the Georgia County Internship Program must be preapproved by the **FOUNDATION**.
- C. The **COUNTY** additionally agrees that any research, study, review, or analysis relative to the Georgia County Internship Program, or internship, conducted by or on behalf of the **COUNTY** must be reviewed and approved by the **FOUNDATION**.

## **XI. Miscellaneous Provisions**

- A. The intern is an employee of the county. At no time shall the intern be considered an employee or independent contractor of the **FOUNDATION**, or the Association County Commissioners of Georgia.
- B. Neither the **FOUNDATION** nor any of its employees, agents, or subcontractors shall be considered a partner, employee, or agent of the **COUNTY**.
- C. Neither party to this **AGREEMENT** shall have the authority to bind the other party.

This **AGREEMENT** is executed and shall be controlled by the laws of the State of Georgia.

## **XII. CONTRACT EXHIBIT INCLUSION:**

This contract includes the following exhibits, which are attached and incorporated herein by reference:

Exhibit A	Grant Award Letter
Exhibit B	County Grant Application
Exhibit C	E-Verify Usage and Acknowledgement Form
Exhibit D	Reimbursement Form
Exhibit E	Intern Evaluation Form
Exhibit F	Intern Consent Form
Exhibit G	Intern Information Form

**COUNTY:**

**ASSOCIATION COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF  
GEORGIA CIVIC AFFAIRS FOUNDATION, INC:**

**WALKER**

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# ACCG Civic Affairs Foundation

Shannon K. Whitfield

Dave Wills

Printed Name

Title: Sole Commissioner

Title: Secretary-Treasurer

This \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2020

This \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 202\_\_

## COUNTY CLERK CERTIFICATION:

The undersigned Clerk of the governing authority of County, DOES HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing pages of typewritten matter constitute a true and correct copy of the resolution adopted on authorizing resolution date: \_\_\_\_\_ by the governing authority of County in a meeting that was properly advertised and open to the public, and that the original of said authorizing resolution appears of record in the minute book of the governing authority of County, which is in my custody and control.

WITNESS my hand and the official seal of the governing authority of County.

(SEAL)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk



# ACCG Civic Affairs Foundation

February 14, 2020

Mr. Joe Legge  
101 South Duke Street  
P. O. Box 445  
LaFayette, GA 30728

Dear Mr. Legge:

I am pleased to inform you that Walker County has been awarded a Georgia County Internship Program (GCIP) grant from the Association County Commissioners of Georgia Civic Affairs Foundation ("ACCG Civic Affairs Foundation") contingent upon the parties entering into the terms and conditions of the Georgia County Internship Program Grant Agreement (the "Agreement") that this grant award letter is incorporated hereto. A grant contract package is enclosed for you to complete and return. Upon proper completion of such as solely determined by the ACCG Civic Affairs Foundation, this grant is awarded for the 2020 summer program in the amount of **\$2,607.60** for the **Legal** intern project to cover **one** internship. The grant provided must be used to fund costs associated with the intern's salary, FICA, and worker's compensation as specified in the Agreement.

Please contact Michele NeSmith at [mnesmith@accg.org](mailto:mnesmith@accg.org) or at 404-522-5022 if you need assistance with grant requirements or in publicizing the proposed internship position. While the ACCG Civic Affairs Foundation will post this position through their website and help to publicize it through other channels, it is the responsibility of the County to recruit, interview and hire the intern. In the event the County is unable to hire a summer intern for the project description provided, the grant award designated for this purpose will be rescinded in full.

Congratulations and thank you for participating in the GCIP 2020 grant program.

Sincerely,



Dave Wills  
Association County Commissioners of Georgia Civic Affairs Foundation Secretary-Treasurer

cc: Commissioner Shannon Whitfield  
David Gottlieb  
Rebecca Wooden



## Georgia County Internship Program Grant Application Summer 2020

Applicants should read the entire GCIP Application Packet prior to completing this form.

This application has three sections. Section I requires the applicant to indicate the grant category for the application. Section II requires the applicant to provide answers to a series of questions and Section III requires a detailed description of the internship project being proposed, the need it addresses, and the expected benefits to the county. More information on how to complete the application can be found in the GCIP Application Process and Guidelines document.

The application deadline for the 2020 GCIP grant program is Monday, January 6, 2020

Applications should be sent to **Michele NeSmith** at the Foundation via email to [mnesmith@accg.org](mailto:mnesmith@accg.org) or by mail to:

**ACCG Civic Affairs Foundation  
191 Peachtree Street NE, Suite 700  
Atlanta, GA 30303**

Please note that factors that influence consideration include but are not limited to the type of project submitted, the overall impact and benefit to the county of the project(s) proposed, the ability to partially fund the internship position(s), collaboration with other counties, regional commissions, colleges/universities, and/or non-profits, and the number of interns requested.

**Reminder: Interns should be currently enrolled in college as undergraduate or graduate students, or have recently graduated from college within one year of the grant period. High school students 16 years of age or older who are dually enrolled in a college or university are eligible. General high school students who have not yet begun college are not eligible. Interns cannot work more than 200 total hours during the grant period. The county and the intern can decide how many hours the intern works per week and the total number of weeks worked. It is recommended that the minimum hours worked per week be no less than 15 hours.**





**Section I: Grant Category**

Select (X) the grant category for this application.

General GCIP Grant	X
Verizon Rural Grant (55,000 or less population with no previous GCIP Participation)	
Kundell Environmental Grant	
Garner Health and Human Services Grant	

**Section II: General Grant Information**

County Name:	Walker
County E-Verify Number:	119896
Number of Interns Requested:	One (1)

Are you submitting an application that includes a partner?		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
List partners:			
Is your partner a nonprofit, college or university?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
List contribution level	___ \$500 (25%) ___ Other		
<i>(Partners can include other counties, regional commissions, colleges/universities, and/or non-profit organizations. Partnerships with colleges/universities, and/or non-profit organizations must include at least a 25% funding contribution from those entities. )</i>			

Name of Grant Coordinator or other Primary Contact:	Joe Legge		
County:	Walker		
Department:	Governing Body		
Position:	Public Relations Director		
Address:	101 South Duke Street (PO Box 445) LaFayette, GA 30728		
Email:	j.legge@walkerga.us	Phone:	706-638-1437



Is the county providing partial funding of the amount needed to fund the internship? (Total cost of the internship is \$2400 plus FICA and WC supplement)		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
What amount?	\$:		
<b>OR</b>			
Is the county providing additional funding? (on top of the grant amount)		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
What amount?	\$:		
Who will be the supervisor for the intern?			
<input type="checkbox"/> Same as grant coordinator or other primary county contact			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other			
Name:	David Gottlieb		
Department:	Law		
Position:	Legal & Policy Director		
Address:	101 South Duke Street (PO Box 445) LaFayette, GA 30728		
Email:	d.gottlieb@walkerga.us	Phone:	706-638-1437
Has this individual previously supervised interns?		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

Is adequate space available to support an intern?		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Is adequate equipment available (computer, software programs, etc.) for the intern to complete the proposed project(s)?		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Will outside technical assistance be required for the intern to complete the project?		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If Yes, who will provide it:	Walker County IT Department		
Has your county previously had an intern?		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Has your county ever had an intern in this field?		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Has your county previously received a Georgia County Internship Program (GCIP) grant for interns?		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Is there a college or university located in your county?		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is there a technical college located in your county?		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
What special skills should the intern have to be able to complete the project, such as knowledge of certain types of software, experience using certain types of equipment, etc.? (Note this is for a student so years of work in a certain field should not be included.)			
Interest in law and public policy. Interest in mechanics of local government. Ability to organize documents pertaining to legal cases and policy matters. Excellent listening and reading comprehension. Ability to work with others of differing opinions.			
Will any special training be provided to the intern?		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If Yes, please describe:	Intern will be taught basic legal procedure and administrative practices applicable to small law firms. Intern will observe court proceedings and meetings of the local governing authority and learn the role of in house counsel.		





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### **Section III: Project Description and Intern Position Title**

#### **Project Information**

Internship position title:	Law Department Intern
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**In the gray space below, please FULLY describe the internship position being proposed, the need it addresses, the benefits to the county, and the necessary intern qualifications. The space will expand when you start to type. Include no more than 1-2 additional pages to describe the internship.** More information can be found in the GCIP Application Process and Guidelines document

The intern will work directly with the in-house attorney for Walker County. The intern will be “hands on” in the development of various legal documents for all departments of the county, including but not limited to, the drafting of policies for the county, and drafting complaints for blighted properties. The intern will also work with the county economic and community development director, and the public relations director. In addition, the intern will likely have interaction with the county constitutional officers.

Blighted properties are a major concern in Walker County. We recently launched a “Clean & Lien” initiative, with a goal of removing old buildings that are falling down and pose a hazard to society. This involves a lengthy legal process to either have the property owner come into compliance on their own or receive a court order granting the county authority to tear it down and place a lien on the property to cover that expense.

The county is also undergoing a complete code review with Municode. This intern would provide another set of eyes to review current code, alert officials to potential conflicts, and have the ability to recommend changes that would benefit the population before an updated code book is adopted.

The intern will be involved and attend a wide variety of governmental meetings, including commissioner meetings, planning commission meetings, and development authority meetings. The intern will also attend court trials concerning blighted



properties and other county ordinance violations. The intern will not be relegated to only one or a few areas of county government, nor will the intern be a “gopher”.

The necessary attributes of the intern will require good comprehension, listening, and verbal skills.

The county attorney is also the county policy director. He is in-house, and therefore he is dedicated solely to the county’s issues. The county attorney will be available to assist and supervise the intern at all times.

An intern would be a great asset to Walker County. It is a rural county with limited financial resources. The county has only one attorney and no paralegals or other legal support staff. However, the county has the same wide array of legal issues as other counties that need to be addressed.

**For questions, email [mnesmith@accg.org](mailto:mnesmith@accg.org) or call (404)522-5022 ext. 195**

The Georgia County Internship Program is offered by the ACCG Civic Affairs Foundation thanks to the generosity and support of our donors and supporters. The Foundation is a nonprofit 501 (c) (3) organization. For more information, visit [www.civicaffairs.org](http://www.civicaffairs.org).





**Georgia County Internship Program (GCIP) E-Verify Usage and Acknowledgement Form**

Georgia law through O.C.G.A. §13-10-91(a) requires all counties to use E-Verify to verify the employment eligibility of all newly hired employees. All intern participants in the GCIP must be verified through this process by the county when they are hired. Failure to complete this process will result in the forfeiture of grant funds by the ACCG Civic Affairs Foundation to the county.

The following information should be prepared by the Human Resources Director or person for your county who processes new employees to verify that the county did use E-Verify to verify the employment eligibility of interns hired through the GCIP. This form is to be submitted along with a copy of the offer letter to complete the proof of hire grant requirement. The county should not submit the E-Verify confirmation issued by USCIS, I9 form, or other sensitive information such as copies of a driver’s license, passport, or social security card to satisfy this requirement.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, acknowledge that \_\_\_\_\_ County used the E-Verify program to verify the employment eligibility of \_\_\_\_\_, GCIP summer intern, on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2020.

\_\_\_\_\_  
County Position

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
E-Verify Number

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of E-Verify Authorization



## Georgia County Internship Program (GCIP) Grant Reimbursement Request Form

Grant reimbursements will be mailed to the County before the end of the contract period, upon proper completion and submission of all required information and obligations pursuant to this Agreement.

County Requesting Reimbursement: \_\_\_\_\_

Requested By: \_\_\_\_\_

### Intern Information

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Department Hired: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Hours Worked: \_\_\_\_\_

Cost of Wages: \_\_\_\_\_

Cost of FICA: \_\_\_\_\_

Cost of Worker's Compensation: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Amount of Reimbursement Requested: \_\_\_\_\_

For illustrative purposes, the County may request up to the maximum reimbursement amount of \$2607.60 as follows and pursuant to the Agreement. Where any conflict arises between this exhibit and the terms and conditions of the Agreement, the terms and conditions shall control.

Intern wages are paid through the grant at a rate of \$12.00 per hour for each hour worked up to 200 hours, for a maximum reimbursement of \$2,400.00 for wages per intern, per internship, unless the **COUNTY** has agreed to pay a percentage of the costs as described within the County Grant Application.

Reimbursement for Worker's Compensation may be requested at a rate of \$1 per \$100 salary for a maximum reimbursement of \$24.00.

Reimbursement for FICA may be requested at a rate of .0765% multiplied by salary for a maximum reimbursement of \$183.60.

All interns are required to be covered under the County's Workers Compensation Plan. The funds provided for Workers Compensation and for FICA must be used for those purposes. Any wages paid at a rate higher than \$12 per hour shall be paid by the county as well as the cost of FICA and Worker's Compensation associated with wages above that rate.



I, \_\_\_\_\_, swear and attest that the information provided in this request is accurate to the best of my knowledge. I further understand that I am required to submit proof of payment by submitting pay stubs and any additional documentation that confirms the funds were properly administered by **September 25, 2020**.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Georgia County Internship Program (GCIP) Intern Evaluation Form**

*Please answer the following questions thoroughly to help the GCIP learn about the details of your internship. When completed, submit to Michele NeSmith at [mnesmith@accg.org](mailto:mnesmith@accg.org).*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

County: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Before this internship, were you familiar with county government operations?
  
2. What have you learned about county government from your internship?
  
3. What were your major internship responsibilities as you understood them? Please specify.
  
4. What do you believe were your most significant successes during the internship? Please specify.
  
5. What was the favorite part of your internship?
  
6. What specific skills, experiences or knowledge did you gain during the internship? Do you believe these will be useful in helping you meet your future career goals and, if so, how?
  
7. What advice would give your peers who are considering a county internship?
  
8. Based on your internship, would you consider a career in county government?





**Georgia County Internship Program (GCIP)**

**INTERN CONSENT FORM**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, authorize the Association County Commissioners of Georgia Civic Affairs Foundation, Inc., and \_\_\_\_\_ County to use my name, college or university, year in school, major, terms of employment, image, audio, video, quotations, internship evaluation, interviews and any other pertinent information related to my internship in the Georgia County Internship Program for reporting, promotional, and data collection and analysis purposes, which may include, but is not limited to social networking sites, website, brochures, publications, press releases, videos, photographs and other forms of print and digital media.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Intern

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

# ACCG Civic Affairs Foundation

GEORGIA COUNTY INTERNSHIP PROGRAM INTERN INFORMATION FORM		
<b>COUNTY INFORMATION</b>		
Name of Supervisor:	Title:	
County:	Department:	
Street Address:		
City:	State:	ZIP Code:
Phone Number:	Email Address:	
<b>INTERNSHIP POSITION INFORMATION</b>		
Full Name of Intern (Hired):		
Street Address:		
City:	State:	ZIP Code:
Phone Number:	Personal Email address:	
College/University Student Attends:	Program or Major:	Expected Year of Graduation:
Post Graduation Plans:		
Intern Position Title:	Department:	
Start Date:	End Date:	Hours Worked Per Week:
<b>SIGNATURES</b>		
Signature of County Supervisor:		Date:
Signature of Hired Intern:		Date:

*This form must be completed in full for each intern the county has hired who is being paid through Georgia County Internship Program grant funds. No funding will be granted without this form.*