

WHITE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES OF THE CALLED MEETING HELD

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 2015 AT 8:00 A.M.

On Wednesday, March 11, 2015 at 8:00 a.m. the White County Board of Commissioners held a Called Meeting in the Board Room at the White County Administration Building. The purpose of the Called Meeting was to consider the appeal filed on a denial of an alcohol license by the Alcohol Beverage Commission and to consider entering into Executive Session in order to discuss potential litigation. Present at the meeting were: Chairman Travis Turner, Commissioner Terry Goodger, Commissioner Lyn Holcomb, Commissioner Edwin Nix, Commissioner Craig Bryant, County Manager Michael Melton, County Attorney Bill House, and County Clerk Shanda Murphy.

Chairman Turner called the meeting to order.

Mr. Tom O'Bryant, Director of Community & Economic Development, presented information to the Board regarding the appeal of the denial by the White County Alcohol Beverage Commission of a Retail Package Alcohol License filed by Billy G. and Sherri E. Stephens on behalf of Nana's Farmer's Market, LLC. He stated that the ABC had denied the application at their hearing on March 6, 2015 based on violations of the county sign ordinance, history / nature of complaints against the business, and the history of multiple 911 calls to the business regarding various disputes.

Ms. Sherri Stephens spoke on behalf of Nana's Farmer's Market LLC. She stated they had gone to great lengths to complete the application. She submitted several letters and petitions in support of the business obtaining an alcohol license. These documents were placed in the meeting file by the County Clerk. She stated that their business is based on customer service, but explained that they have had issues with angry customers who had to be asked to leave their property on occasion. Ms. Stephens expressed their desire to provide a convenience for the residents and tourists in the northern end of the County as well as provide additional tax revenue for the County.

Ms. Sherri Wooten, 443 Myra Branch Road Helen, GA 30545, spoke in support of Mr. and Ms. Stephens being granted an alcohol license for Nana's Farmer's Market, LLC.

Commissioner Bryant made a motion to grant the appeal being made of the denial by the White County Alcohol Beverage Commission of a Retail Package Alcohol License filed by Billy G. and Sherri E. Stephens on behalf of Nana's Farmer's Market, LLC – there was no second to this motion, therefore the motion died for a lack of a second.

Commissioner Holcomb made a motion to uphold the denial by the White County Alcohol Beverage Commission of a Retail Package Alcohol License filed by Billy G. and Sherri E. Stephens on behalf of Nana's Farmer's Market, LLC – Commissioner Goodger seconded the

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motion for discussion. Commissioner Goodger asked Mr. O’Bryant about reasons for and the process of license revocation if there were violations. Following discussion Commissioner Goodger withdrew his second.

With the motion previously made by Commissioner Holcomb still standing, Chairman Turner seconded the motion to uphold the denial by the White County Alcohol Beverage Commission of a Retail Package Alcohol License filed by Billy G. and Sherri E. Stephens on behalf of Nana’s Farmer’s Market, LLC. Commissioner Nix vote in favor of this motion and Commissioner Goodger and Commissioner Bryant opposed the motion. The motion to uphold the denial by the White County Alcohol Beverage Commission of a Retail Package Alcohol License filed by Billy G. and Sherri E. Stephens on behalf of Nana’s Farmer’s Market, LLC passed by a 3-2 vote.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Holcomb, seconded by Commissioner Goodger there was a unanimous vote to enter into Executive Session in order to discuss potential litigation.

-See the Following Closed Meeting Affidavit-

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Nix, seconded by Commissioner Holcomb there was a unanimous vote to exit Executive Session.

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

The minutes of the March 11, 2015 Called Meeting are hereby approved as stated this 30th day of March, 2015.

WHITE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

s/Travis C. Turner
Travis C. Turner, Chairman

s/Terry D. Goodger
Terry D. Goodger, District 1

s/Lyn Holcomb
Lyn Holcomb, District 2

s/Edwin Nix
Edwin Nix, District 3

s/Craig Bryant
Craig Bryant, District 4

s/Shanda Murphy
Shanda Murphy, County Clerk