

County Meeting
November 16, 2017
Minutes
Union County Courthouse

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Paris at 6:00 pm. The invocation was given by Jack McKechnie and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Bill Royce. The minutes from the October 19, 2017 County Meeting were approved as read.

The Commissioner proclaimed October 24, 2017 as World Polio Day. Rotary International was founded on February 23, 1905 and is one of the largest non-profit service organizations. In 1985 Rotary launched PolioPlus and spearheaded the Global Polio Eradication Initiative which includes the World Health Organization, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, UNICEF and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, to immunize the children of the world against polio. Polio cases have dropped by 99.9% since 1988 and the world stands on the threshold of eradicating the disease. Rotary has contributed more than 1.7 billion dollars and countless volunteer hours to the protection of more than two billion children in 122 countries. The Commissioner encouraged all citizens to join Rotary International in the fight for a polio-free world.

Commissioner Paris approved a Notice of Award and Contract to Stahlman-England Irrigation, Inc. for the Butternut Creek Golf Course Irrigation Upgrades in the amount of \$636,000.00. Once all requirements are met the County will issue the Notice to Proceed. This is a necessary upgrade since the last irrigation system was put in about 30 years ago. The County received two other bids for the project. One was from Green Tee out of Paducah, Kentucky. Their bid was \$625,860 but this DID NOT include any materials. The other was from Duinick, Inc. from Prinsburg, MN in the amount of \$1,018,300.

The Commissioner approved an Agreement between Union County and the Georgia Department of Transportation in the amount of \$30,960.00 for the period of July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018. This is for partial funding (50%) of our transit system. As you may know, the county has two buses that were purchased with Federal Grants administered by the State of Georgia. This transportation is provided to the general public, but is also available for those who have no transportation. For many people this is the only way they can get to and from the grocery store, doctor's office or drug store. The total cost of operation is \$61,920 with the Georgia Department of Transportation amount being \$30,960 and the County's portion being \$30,960.

Commissioner Paris accepted a Contract based on the proposal between Union County and Paragon Consulting Group, Inc. to provide pavement condition assessment on all County roads within Union County. The amount of the contract is \$75,000. The Commissioner stated that the County has always done an excellent job of maintaining our county roads, but they felt like having a professional assessment of the roads so that they could more closely prioritize their maintenance and construction was necessary.

The Commissioner accepted a Limited Warranty Deed between Union County and the Development Authority of Union County for the purchase and transfer of 0.860 acres known as Tract 2 and 0.924 acres known as Tract 3 for a total of 1.784 acres. The total cost is \$33,344.40.

Back in the early years of Commissioner Paris taking office, in checking on some deed records for the fire station and the property around the fire station, he made a startling discovery. Many years prior to his taking office, when the fire truck bays were constructed, the back corner of the building was built on the property of an owner from New York. The Commissioner contacted them about the county being able to purchase a small piece of property from them to clear up the survey. They would not comply. He knew that if necessary someday he could condemn this small triangle, but in the meantime, he just let it sit for about five years. After this five years Commissioner Paris again contacted the company and they still refused to sell any of the property. They were the owners of the building on the Glenn Gooch By-pass that used to be called the Plastics Plant.

Fortunately, after all these years, last year, a local company, Corrugated Replacements, purchased the building and property from the company out of New York. Corrugated Replacements has been so willing to work with the County and the Commissioner appreciates them allowing the county to purchase this amount of property, which includes not only the small triangle encompassing our fire station, but also additional property located behind there that the County had been using for years. In return, Corrugated Replacements purchased additional property from the Union County Development Authority including a new 8,000 square foot building, plus an adjacent two acres for future expansion.

Commissioner Paris approved the 2018 Schedule of County Meetings. The meetings are still scheduled for the third Thursday of each month. Usually there are about two a year that the Commissioner ends up having to reschedule because of conflicts with other meetings or events.

The Commissioner approved Business Licenses for the following businesses:

Mountain Escapes Property Management, Inc. located at 319 Chicory Drive East
Mountain View Bed & Breakfast located at 261 Trackrock Gap Road

This is the only type of Business License issued in Union County for the purpose of collecting the Hotel/Motel Tax.

The Commissioner said the county has been hard at work on the Budget. The County operates on a calendar year and they have to have some idea of the Budget for 2018 by July of 2017 because the millage rate must be set around this time. This allows property tax bills to be sent out early enough to give people time to pay prior to the December 20th due date. Setting the millage rate and the budget that early in the year makes it difficult on the County because there are always unforeseen expenses that can occur from July to December each year. The actual Budget is not approved until the December County Meeting though.

Commissioner Paris also gave a brief update on the Walmart entrance changes that are taking place. Individuals can no longer make a left turn out of the lower exit at Walmart to cross the median. This is now blocked off by concrete barriers and people wanting to exit here have to go right and go to the red light where they will make a U-turn back to Blairsville. The Georgia Department of Transportation is also redoing the red light at the Kiutuestia Creek Road Intersection. This will include new turn arrows and a widening of the intersection to allow room for tractor trailers to make a U-Turn back to Blairsville if they use the lower exit. There will also be signage placed to encourage people to use the upper exit from Walmart.

The Commissioner also gave a brief description of the preliminary plans for the Davenport Property that the county purchased a while back that is adjacent to the Farmers Market. The county is looking at possibly constructing 8 and under ballfields to be utilized for T-ball and coaches pitch, a gym, and pickleball courts.

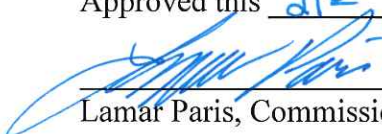
There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:35.

Respectfully submitted by:



Jennifer Queen, County Clerk

Approved this 21st day of December, 2017



Lamar Paris, Commissioner