

County Meeting
January 17, 2019
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 Boy Scout member Parker. The minutes from the November 08, 2018 Called Meeting, December 20, 2018 County Meeting and December 27, 2018 Called Meeting were approved as presented.

The Commissioner welcomed Sid Turner with the Sons of the American Revolution to come forward to present Tim Schroeder with a Fire Safety award representing the Fire Department and Dustin Lee with the award representing the EMS.

Commissioner Paris then officially appointed William Stone, a business representative to the Union County Board of Health for a five-year term to start on January 01, 2019 and end on December 31, 2024.

Commissioner Paris then officially re-appointed Dr. Elizabeth Wiles, a medical position to the Union County Board of Health for a five-year term to start to start on January 01, 2019 and end on December 31, 2024.

The Commissioner accepted the Amendment to the health services agreement between Union County and CorrectHealth Union, LLC effective January 01, 2019 to December 31, 2019. The Commissioner explained the contract price to provide healthcare services to our jail inmates increased from a monthly amount of \$12,279.84 to \$12,648.245 for a total annual amount of \$151,778.86. This will provide for a 3.0% increase as outlined in our contract partly based on the Consumer Price Index.

The Commissioner accepted the Warranty Deed between Union County and W. C. Nelson, for the tract of land lying in Land Lot 305, 9th District, 1st Section of Union County, Georgia containing .48 acres, with an address of Shoe Factory Road. The property had a value of \$20,000.00. The county was given gift equity of \$10,000.00 from the seller making the total purchase price of \$10,000.00. This property will be used as the entrance to the training center for Fire Station #1.

The Commissioner accepted a Grant awarded to Union County Fire Department from Walmart in the amount of \$3,000.00. This grant will be used for the purchase of an AED (Automatic External Defibrillator), and we are proud to accept this grant.

The Commissioner accepted a Grant awarded to the Union County Fire Department from Vulcan Materials, in the amount of \$2,500.00. This grant will be used to purchase CPR mannequins, 4 adult and 4 child size to aid in training. We are proud to accept this grant.

Commissioner Paris approved business license for Suches Vacation Rentals located at 868 Johnny Gap Rd., and Wil-Wat Son located at 26 Red Bird Dr.; these licenses were originally issued in February and March respectively. In year-end closing it was realized they were not included in the County meeting. We are rectifying that oversight.

The Commissioner reminded everyone in attendance that this is the only type of Business License issued in Union County for the purpose of collecting the Hotel/Motel Tax.

The Commissioner then went on to explain this has been an extremely busy time of the year. We have gone directly from finalizing our 2019 budget, to already have two meetings with our auditors who will be auditing our 2018 actual budget expenses and revenue. This requires all elected officials and county facility managers to meet with the auditors and explain their individual operations. The audit process will continue over the next five months with the final audit being presented at the end of June of this year.

Second, we are very proud to announce that we have finally received our road access permit from GDOT for the new Farmers Market access road which will run from Hwy 515 E and the Glenn Gooch Bypass, directly across the road at the signal intersection. We hope to begin construction in early Spring, assuming it dries up, and hopefully be ready for the Farmers Market opening in May 2019.

We will soon begin construction of the new Meeks Park Pavilion that will be similar to the Byron Herbert Reece Pavilion and will be the largest pavilion in the park. It will be located above the Sorghum Festival field and will be accessed via the road to the pool. Our pavilions receive so much use and are booked all summer, so it will be nice to have an additional pavilion available for rent by the public. This facility will have a fireplace as well as a deck with a nice view of the Nottley River. We are very excited about this construction project. As usual, anything we build in Meeks Park will be high quality and something else that our community can be proud of.

We have dodged several snow and ice bullets so far this year on our roads and are appreciative of each time we are able to save on manpower and salt supplies. However, we know that our luck will probably not hold out the entire winter. Our Road Dept is well prepared and we will continue to do our best if and when bad winter weather strikes.

All of these projects are being funded by SPLOST sales tax dollars and we will report more at the next meeting. We still have an amphitheater, double gym and Farmers Market additions including a young (8 & under) ballfield complex in the future two to three years. However, the double gym and pickle ball courts are the next on our agenda, again, all funded with SPLOST sales tax dollars.

EMC has completed their project with the county on placing a fiber optic cable from just above Vogel to Neal's Gap. Long term, this will be a life saver for the county. We are working with GDOT, the owners of Mountain Crossing shop, and BRMEMC to finalize this project. It may take a few weeks to have everything completed, but we hope to have some significant data to utilize this year if needed.

I cannot thank BRMEMC, Director Jeremy Nelms and their employees for the job they worked on spanning the cable with the first time use of a drone to assist the long distant stretch over the valley. We will have more on this in the future.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:32.

Respectfully submitted by:

Jill C. Gooch, Deputy County Clerk

Approved this ____ day of _____, _____

Lamar Paris, Commissioner