

County Meeting
July 18, 2019
Minutes
Union County Courthouse

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Paris at 6:03 pm. The invocation was given by Pat Malone and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Gary Radcliff. The minutes for the June 20, 2019 County Meeting were approved as presented.

The first item on the Agenda was the Audit Report. Commissioner Paris stated that the State of Georgia requires that each county have an annual financial audit done on all offices within the county government. However, the county must pay for this service. The Commissioner then asked Clay Pilgrim from Rushton and Company, Certified Public Accountants, to come up. Mr. Pilgrim gave the Audit Presentation and gave an unmodified opinion of Union County Finances. The Commissioner then let all attendees know that if they wanted a copy of the Audit it would be available in the office the following day.

Commissioner Paris proclaimed June 29, 2019 as George Berry Day in Union County. George was born in Union County on July 5, 1937, graduated from Union County High School and went on to graduate from Young Harris College in 1957. He was in the Army Reserves and was called to active duty in late 1961 in Atlanta, Georgia. The crisis passed without the need for troops and George applied for and received a job as a tax clerk for the City of Atlanta. He was later transferred to the Finance Department for the City of Atlanta and worked his way up to be the Deputy Director of Finance where he was able to work under Mayor Ivan Allen, Jr. and his energy, talent, and personality got him named as Commissioner of Aviation for the City of Atlanta in 1978. He played a substantial role in the construction of the Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport by helping negotiate projects between minorities, airline, and stakeholders. He was the main architect of the airport. He was then named the Commissioner of the Department of Industry and Trade in 1983 where he was responsible for attracting industry to the State of Georgia. George Berry's contributions to Georgia's aviation and business communities are considered formidable but his dedication to serve and help make Georgia's industry the best it can be are unsurpassed. The Commissioner said the community is proud that his humble beginnings began right here in Union County and the Historical Society recognized his accomplishments a few weeks ago.

The Commissioner proclaimed July 14, 2019 as Glenn and JoAnn Hamby Day in Union County. Glenn Hamby was born on November 30, 1938 and JoAnn Rich Hamby was born April 16, 1944. They were married on September 28, 1962 and have two children, seven grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren. Glenn has been a lifelong member of Shady Grove United Methodist Church and JoAnn has been a member since her marriage to Glenn in 1962. Glenn has always been active and involved in Church activities including heading the Sunday School Department, serving as Chairman of the Church's Administrative Board, and serving on other church committees. Glenn has always had a love for sports which showed by him coaching many of Union County's children in baseball and he has owned the Owltown Baseball Card Shop for many years. JoAnn was a homemaker and seamstress for several years before she went back to school to become a teacher earning her Master's and Specialist's Degree and she taught for 30 years. JoAnn is currently the Church Trustee, a member of the Church's Women's Group, and the Church Historian where she compiled a book detailing the history of Shady Grove United Methodist Church. Glenn and JoAnn Hamby both have a true servant's heart that is

shown by their dedication to their community, Shady Grove United Methodist Church, and the citizens of Union County.

Commissioner Paris proclaimed August 11, 2019 as Blairsville and Union County GA 811 Day. Thousands of times each year, the underground infrastructure in Georgia is damaged by those who do not have underground lines located prior to digging, resulting in service interruption, environmental damage, and threats to public safety. In 2005, the Federal Communications Commission designated 811 as the phone number to provide contractors and homeowners a simple number to contact utility operators to request the location of underground lines at the intended dig site. Damage prevention is a shared responsibility and by using safe digging practices, the contractors and homeowners of Blairsville and Union County can save time and money while helping keep our infrastructure safe and connected. Citizens, contractors and homeowners were encouraged to always call 811 before digging.

Commissioner Paris asked Tom Lighthall to come up to receive the next Proclamation and he then proclaimed August 25, 2019 as Let's Move! Day. Nearly 1 in 3 children in America are overweight or obese, increasing their risk for asthma, type 2 diabetes, heart disease, high blood pressure, sleep problems, depression, and bullying. The Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America has joined some 50 other faith and community organizations in supporting the national initiative to fight the epidemic of childhood obesity by launching Adventists InStep for Life, an initiative to assist Adventist churches, schools and health care organizations in tackling the challenge of childhood obesity. The Blairsville Seventh-day Adventist Church will be participating in the Seventh-day Adventist Church's national Let's Move Day on Sunday, August 25th at Meeks Park between the hours of 2 and 4 p.m. Mr. Lighthall told all in attendance about the upcoming event and invited those with children between the ages of five and fifteen to attend.

The Commissioner appointed Patricia Allen to the Union County Library Board of Trustees for a three-year term to end on June 30, 2022.

Commissioner Paris accepted the Employee Safety Grant from the Association of County Commissioners Georgia (ACCG) in the amount of \$5,000.00 to be used by December 31st, 2019 for purchasing two sets of turnout gear for the Union County Fire Department. Counties who are insured through ACCG for their Worker's Compensation insurance coverage can apply once each year for a grant up to \$5,000 for employee safety related equipment.

The Commissioner accepted a Settlement and Disbursement Statement for a Right of Way purchase between Union County and the Georgia Department of Transportation for Union County property located in Land Lots 269 & 270, 9th District, 1st Section for the widening of Highway 515/76 from Blairsville to Young Harris. The amount of this Right of Way purchase was \$450,000 for 1.264 acres along Highway 515 to the right of the Farmers Market.

Commissioner Paris accepted a Settlement and Disbursement Statement for a Right of Way purchase between Union County and the Georgia Department of Transportation for Union County property located in Land Lot 269, 9th District, 1st Section for the Widening of Highway 515/76 from Blairsville to Young Harris. The amount of this Right of Way purchase was considered a donation of 0.076 acres at the intersection of the Glenn Gooch By-Pass, Highway 515, and Farmers Market Way.

Commissioner Paris approved the Business License for Annette and Richard Divers Rental located at 32 Canal Lake Drive #2. This is the only type of Business License issued by Union County for the purpose of collecting the Hotel/Motel Tax.

The Commissioner stated that there is so much going on right now in the county that it is all they can do to even come close to keeping up. The widening of the curve on Pat Colwell Road to improve safety and visibility is close to being complete. The county is in the middle of completing the parking lot for the new double gymnasium, and they also put in a turn lane for access off of the Glenn Gooch By-Pass. A new pad for future construction at the Fire Station has been completed, along with the new training facility behind the Union County Fire Station. The new sign at the entrance of Meeks Park was completed today and will be used to let people know what activities are going on in the park. The Road Department is in the middle of completing patching of county-maintained roads and will begin resurfacing and paving some other roads. Hopefully this will be completed in the next 45 days. They are also working on striping many miles of county-maintained roads. The Commissioner is hopeful that the Glenn Gooch By-Pass will have the paving completed this week or early next week. This was a project being done by the Georgia Department of Transportation.

The Commissioner also let everyone know that the construction of the double gym has not been started yet but should begin within 30 days as the contractor has been delayed in starting the job. Also, grading has begun for the construction of eight pickleball courts behind the Health Department. Gravel will be applied to the site hopefully next week, and the initial paving of the pad should be done within 45 days.

Commissioner Paris pointed out that Pat Malone was present, and he was supporting Towns and Union Counties by contracting to be in charge of the Complete Count Committee for the 2020 Census. The actual day of counting is April 1, 2020. The Commissioner encouraged everyone to participate in the Census because everything the County does regarding receiving funding and grants is based on the census and the population.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:55.

Respectfully submitted by:



Jennifer Mahan, County Clerk

Approved this 15th day of August, 2019



Lamar Paris, Commissioner