

County Meeting
February 25, 2020 6:00pm
Minutes
Union County Courthouse

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Lamar Paris at 6:00 pm.

The invocation was given by Patrick Malone and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Bill Walker. The minutes from the January 16, 2020 County Meeting and the January 21, 2020 Called Meeting were approved as presented.

The first item on the Agenda was a presentation on the upcoming 2020 Census presented by Patrick Malone. Patrick is the head of the Complete Count Committee for Towns and Union Counties and the cities within these counties. There is a Complete Count Committee for each of the 159 counties in Georgia. Mr. Malone stated that the first Census was conducted in 1790; and the Census is important for congressional seats and the distribution of federal funds to states and counties. The Federal Government gives approximately \$2,000 per person, per year, in federal funds to the State of Georgia so it is very important that each person is counted. There are approximately 80 federal programs where funding is determined by the population of the area. This is the first time that the Census can be completed primarily online from your home computer. The Census is available in 40 different languages and contains only four general questions. Number one, how many people are living or staying with you as of April 1st. Then it will ask if there are any additional people and if you own or rent your home. The census also asks for a phone number that they only use if there is a question about one of your responses. The phone number is not retained after that initial period. Residents will be asked to provide names, gender, ages, birthdates, race, and the individuals relationship to the head of household. This information is kept for 72 years. Postcards with the census website and a personal identifying number will be mailed out starting on March 12th. There will also be a phone number you can call if you prefer to not do it online. Residents who have not responded by the end of March, will get a paper form in the mail. Residents who haven't responded by the end of April, will get a home visit by a census worker. They will come up to six times to try and reach residents to ensure everyone is counted.

Commissioner Paris asked the representative from the Navy Seabees to come forward to accept a Proclamation on behalf of the Navy Seabees. The Commissioner then proclaimed March 5, 2020 as United States Navy Seabee's 78th Birthday. In December of 1941, following the attack on Pearl Harbor and the United States' entrance into World War II, Admiral Ben Moreell was authorized to establish the "Naval Construction Battalions" on March 5, 1942. The earliest Seabees were recruited from civilian construction trades and placed under the leadership of the Naval Civil Engineer Corps with an emphasis on experience and skill. The Seabees construction projects were all completed while fending off enemy forces alongside Marine, Army and Navy Colleagues. For 78 years the Seabees have repeatedly demonstrated their skills as fighters and builders, building and fighting for freedom, and in peace time being Good Will Ambassadors all while living by the Seabee motto "Can Do!" All citizens were asked to join in recognizing the service, skill and determination the Seabees have shown their country and its citizens.

Commissioner Paris then asked Millie Baxter, Jacob Taylor, and the Taylor Family to come forward to accept a Proclamation. Millie from 911 Dispatch briefly described that 11-year-old, Jacob Taylor, saved his mother's life by calling 911 when she was unresponsive. He did an amazing job by knowing what information to give during the 911 call. Commissioner Paris then proclaimed February 25th, 2020 as Jacob Taylor Day. On February 11th, 2020 Jacob found his mother unresponsive in their home. Jacob remained calm and immediately called 911. He provided them with his name and address and gave the details of his mother's condition to the dispatcher. He advised the dispatcher that his mother was a Type I Diabetic and he even knew to tell them her insulin dosage. He was able to remain calm and he handled the situation while looking after his younger sister who was also in the home at the time of the incident. Commissioner Paris stated that Jacob did a great job and that the community should be very proud of him.

The Commissioner proclaimed Friday, February 21st, 2020 as Arbor Day. A tree was planted at the Old Blairsville Cemetery to commemorate the 148th Anniversary of Arbor Day and the 26th year in Union County. This is all in cooperation with the Georgia Forestry Commission, The City of Blairsville, the Blairsville Garden Club, and the Union County Commissioner's Office. Commissioner Paris thanked all that had a part in the celebration of Arbor Day.

The Commissioner approved a Contract Addendum between Union County Government and Advanced Disposal Service North Georgia, LLC. This Addendum will extend the existing contract until December 31, 2020.

Commissioner Paris accepted an Accountability Court Grant for the Enotah Family Drug Treatment Court in the amount of \$10,000. This is an additional grant for the current grant cycle. The grant period is from October 1, 2019 to September 29, 2020.

The Commissioner approved the Rural Fire Defense Cooperative Lease Agreement and Memorandum of Understanding between Union County and the Georgia Forestry Commission to provide closest possible cooperation on mutual objectives and clarify the purpose and responsibilities of each organization regarding wildland fires. This agreement outlines the terms and conditions for certain fire apparatus and firefighting equipment that is on loan to Union County through the Rural Fire Defense Program. This equipment is used by Union County Fire Department for fighting wildfires in conjunction with Georgia Forestry Commission. This agreement and MOU also explains the procedures that will be utilized by Union County Fire Department and Georgia Forestry Commission during these wildfire incidents.

Commissioner Paris then announced the rescheduling of the Thursday, March 19th, 2020 County Meeting to Tuesday, March 24th, 2020. The meeting will still be at 6:00pm in the Union County Courthouse.

The Commissioner approved the following two Business Licenses noting that these were the only types of Business Licenses issued in Union County for the purpose of collecting the Hotel/Motel Tax:

Michael Rizner Rental located at 570 Ridge Road

Kennedy Creek Resort located at 79 High Valley Road

Commissioner Paris let attendees know there is an article in the paper on the new Double Gym this week. The gym will hopefully be completed by September of this year.

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

Respectfully submitted by:



Jennifer Mahan, County Clerk

Approved this 21st day of May, 2020



Lamar Paris, Commissioner