

County Meeting
May 21, 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 February 25, 2020 County Meeting, the March 3, 2020 Called Meeting and the March 26, 2020 Called Meeting were approved as presented.

Commissioner Paris proclaimed the month of April 2020 as Donate Life Month. More than 113,000 men, women, and children await lifesaving or life-enhancing organ transplants, with 4,900 residing in Georgia. A new patient is added to the national waiting list for an organ transplant every 10 minutes and 22 people die daily due to the lack of available organs. Donating life through organ, eye, and tissue donation is the ultimate act of generosity and kindness we can perform. LifeLink of Georgia is the non-profit, community service organization dedicated to the recovery of high-quality organs and tissues for transplantation therapy. The Commissioner asked everyone to join him in honoring all those who made the decision to give the gift of life and to encourage all residents to take action and sign up on Georgia's Donor Registry.

The Commissioner proclaimed April 2020 as Sexual Assault Awareness Month calling attention to the fact that sexual violence is widespread and impacts every person in our community. Citizens must work together to educate our community about sexual violence prevention, to support survivors, and to speak out against harmful attitudes and actions. The first step is increasing education, awareness, and community involvement. Union County strongly supports the efforts of national, state and local partners. Commissioner Paris asked every citizen to actively engage in public and private efforts, including conversations about what sexual violence is, how to prevent it, how to help survivors connect with services, and how every segment of our society can work together to better address sexual violence.

Commissioner Paris proclaimed April 2020 as Child Abuse Prevention Month. Children are the key to the future success, prosperity, and quality of life in Union County. They are our most valuable resource, but also our most vulnerable. Child abuse and neglect can be prevented by supporting and strengthening families, thus preventing the far-reaching effects of maltreatment. This provides the opportunity for children to develop healthy, trusting family bonds, and consequently, building the foundations of community. By providing a safe and nurturing environment for our children, free of violence, abuse and neglect, it can be ensured that Union County's children will grow to their full potential. Families and the community were urged to become involved in protecting Union County's and Georgia's children.

The Commissioner accepted a Warranty Deed to transfer 0.89 acres more or less of surplus property from Union County Government to the Union County Development Authority. The property is located in Land Lot 273, 9th District, 1st Section of Union County. This is the Old

Fort Sorghum Property located on Young Harris Street next to the Pat Haralson Memorial Civic Center.

Commissioner Paris adopted the Union County Pandemic Plan for County Employees effective March 11, 2020. As COVID-19 started spreading through Georgia, the county knew there would eventually be some cases here. Union County created and implemented a policy for employees regarding what they should do if they developed symptoms for the safety of all other employees and the public. Each employee was provided a copy back on March 11 when the policy went into effect.

The Commissioner approved an Agreement between Union County and Air Methods Corporation for emergency air medical transportation services for the County's citizens and their household members from June 1, 2020 to May 31, 2021. The amount of this agreement is not to exceed \$76,765.00 and the county will only be responsible for half that amount.

Commissioner Paris approved an Agreement between Union County and the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service for a Special Use Permit that covers 15 acres in Land Lot 212, District 16, Section 1 in Union County for the construction, operation and maintenance of the Union County Gun Range. The duration of this agreement will be for 20 years, expiring on December 31, 2039. The land use fee associated with this agreement was waived by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service. The proposed gun range will be located on Highway 180 before getting to Brasstown Bald.

The Commissioner approved an Agreement between Union County and the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service for a Temporary Special Use Permit to perform geotechnical boring on National Forest System lands. The sample site is the proposed Union County Gun Range. The purpose of this permit is to allow soil testing to obtain information on the physical properties of soil and rocks within the proposed site location and is valid from April 20, 2020 to July 31, 2020 and will not be extended. The fee for this Temporary Special Use Permit has been waived by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service.

Commissioner Paris approved an Intergovernmental Agreement between Union County and the Georgia Department of Natural Resources for the reimbursement to Union County of approved costs for construction drawings and cost estimates for the Union County Gun Range in the amount not to exceed \$90,000. Union County agrees to contribute matching funds in an amount not to exceed \$30,000 and the agreement was effective January 24, 2020.

The Commissioner approved a Contract between Union County Government and Breedlove Land Planning in the amount of \$99,500.00 for the site planning and engineering to construct the Union County Gun Range. This contract went into effect on March 23, 2020. They have already began working on site planning.

Commissioner Paris accepted Accountability Courts Supplemental State Funds for Enotah Family Treatment Court in the amount of \$5,600. The grant period is from April 13, 2020 to June 30, 2020. This is additional grant funding passed down from the state to this division of the Accountability Courts here in the Enotah Judicial Circuit.

The Commissioner accepted a Service Agreement between Union County and Onsolve, LLC for CodeRED On-Demand Notification Services in the amount of \$10,341.56 for the initial term of one year and 245 days which will be from May 1, 2020 to December 31, 2021. The following term will be from January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022 and the cost will be \$6,875.00. Fire Chief, David Dyer then explained to attendees that this new service would replace the one currently being used to the Union County Alert System. No action will need to be taken to stay on the list, but users can access new services through CodeRED if they wish to.

Commissioner Paris then let all attendees know that the following appointment to the Union County Board of Elections were presented to him by the two political parties. By state law, he must approve them via an Affidavit in a public meeting. The Affidavits are then presented to the Clerk of Court who records them with the Secretary of State's Office. Commissioner Paris made everyone aware that he does not choose the people on the Board of Elections, he just completes the process of their appointment by their respective parties.

Commissioner Paris then confirmed the following appointments.

- Merrill Prime to the Union County Board of Elections for the term of January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2023.
- Bill Parker to the Union County Board of Elections for the term of January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2023.
- Elizabeth Stevens to the Union County Board of Elections for the term of January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2023.
- Linda Hall to the Union County Board of Elections for the term of March 30, 2020 to December 31, 2023. Linda Hall is filling the remaining term vacated by Merrill Prime on March 30, 2020.

The Commissioner reminded attendees that the County is playing catch up. This is why Merrill Prime was reappointed and then his replacement was appointed at the same meeting.

Commissioner Paris stated that the following Resolutions are reappointing members to the Union County Development Authority Board. Some of these appointments are retroactive but this will get the Board appointments current moving forward.

The Commissioner approved Resolution R-2020-07 re-appointing Mike Kiernan to the Board of Directors of the Union County Development Authority for the term of March 5, 2018 to March 4, 2022.

Commissioner Paris approved Resolution R-2020-08 re-appointing Scott Carter to the Board of Directors of the Union County Development Authority for the term of March 5, 2018 to March 4, 2022.

The Commissioner approved Resolution R-2020-09 re-appointing Gene Windham to the Board of Directors of the Union County Development Authority for the term of March 5, 2018 to March 4, 2022.

Commissioner Paris approved Resolution R-2020-10 re-appointing Bill McGlamery to the Board of Directors of the Union County Development authority for the term of December 31, 2016 to December 30, 2020.

The Commissioner approved Resolution R-2020-11 re-appointing Rick Davenport to the Board of Directors of the Union County Development authority for the term of December 31, 2017 to December 30, 2021.

Commissioner Paris approved Resolution R-2020-12 re-appointing Tsali Bentley to the Board of Directors of the Union County Development authority for the term of March 6, 2020 to March 5, 2024.

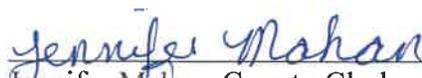
The Commissioner approved three Business Licenses.

Haight House, LLC - 62 Piney Point Landing
As for Me and My House - LLC, 654 Bruce Mtn. Rd
Jeremy Zung Rental - 35 Lake Breeze Lane

Commissioner Paris gave a quick update on COVID-19 here in Union County. On April 29th there were 34 cases in Union County and on May 19th there were 37 cases. The Commissioner said that there was currently only one active case in the Hospital. He urged everyone to continue to be cautious. The Commissioner then gave updates on some of the projects that the County is working on. Work is continuing on the double gym and hopefully it will be complete in the next couple of months. The Pickleball Courts should be complete within 30 days. The Off-Leash Dog Park should also be complete within 30 days.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:43pm.

Respectfully submitted by:


Jennifer Mahan, County Clerk

Approved this 18th day of June, 2020


Lamar Paris, Commissioner