

County Meeting
April 20, 2021 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 David Dyer, Fire Chief. The minutes from the March 18, 2021 County Meeting were approved as presented.

The first item on the agenda was a presentation regarding a proposed Recovery Community Organization here in Union County called Positive Pathways. Summer Cress and Shawna Harkins came to the front. Summer Cress stated that Positive Pathways is a Recovery Community Organization. This organization would be a community collaborative to help individuals with their long-time recovery from drug and alcohol addiction. In the future they would like to offer transportation to and from all their meetings and also provide childcare during the meetings. The purpose will be to have all resources for addiction treatment available in one place. Their meetings will begin in May. Ms. Harkins stated that the stigma around addiction causes hardships on people seeking recovery, and they would like to change that impression so people who are in recovery can seek the treatment they need.

Commissioner Paris stated that Reverend Morrison and his wife, Sharon, requested the following Proclamation but were unable to attend the meeting. The Commissioner then asked any pastors or faith leaders present to come up for the presentation of the Proclamation. He proclaimed May 6, 2021 as a Day of Prayer in Union County. The 2021 theme "Lord Pour Out Your Love, Life, and Liberty" is based on 2 Corinthians 3:17 which says, "Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty."

The Commissioner then proclaimed April 11th through April 17th, 2021 as National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week. Dispatchers are the first and most critical contact citizens have with emergency services. When an emergency occurs, the prompt response of law enforcement officers, firefighters and paramedics is critical to the protection of life and the preservation of property. The Union County 911 Center has contributed substantially to these by exhibiting compassion, understanding, and professionalism during the performance of their job. Public Safety Telecommunicators of Union County have contributed substantially to the apprehension of criminals, the suppression of fire, and the treatment of patients. Commissioner Paris asked citizens to join him in honoring the men and women whose diligence and professionalism keep our county and citizens safe.

Commissioner Paris proclaimed April 2021 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, while building the foundations of community. By providing a safe and nurturing environment for our children free of violence, abuse, and neglect, we can ensure that Union County's children will grow to their full potential. The Commissioner urged families and communities to become involved in protecting Union County's and Georgia's children. This Proclamation was signed on the Courthouse steps on March 26, 2021 with representatives from Enotah CASA. Enotah

CASA operates on grants, donations and fundraisers. They provide each child in the court system an advocate to look out for the best interests of the child as they work through the family court system. Two-hundred and ninety-five blue pinwheels were on the historic courthouse lawn for the month of April to represent each child that had been in foster care in the past year.

The Commissioner proclaimed April 2021 as Sexual Assault Awareness Month - calling attention to the fact that sexual violence is widespread and it impacts every person in a community. Everyone must work together to educate the community about preventing sexual violence, supporting survivors, and speaking 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. The Commissioner 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. This Proclamation was signed at the Union County Courthouse on April 1st, 2021 in the presence of SAFE representative, Molly Cousins.

Commissioner Paris proclaimed April 19th, 2021 as Patriot's Day in Union County. The Sons' of the American Revolution are the descendants of the soldiers and seamen who fought in the American Revolution, and they request this proclamation each year. It is appropriate that citizens recognize the importance of April 19, 1775 in our history and remember the sacrifices endured by many Patriots during the years of struggle for American independence. This proclamation was signed on April 19, 2021 on the lawn of the historic courthouse where the Sons of the American Revolution were in full period dress. They also had exhibits for all passersby to stop and view.

The Commissioner also proclaimed April 19, 2021 as Georgia Patriots Day in Union County. On April 19, 1778, three years into the Revolutionary War, three Georgia navy galley ships encountered three British War ships on the Frederica River near St. Simons Island. This was followed by five hours of continuous fighting with the Georgia Patriots capturing the three British war ships. This victory gives Georgians a special reason to recognize April 19, 2021 as a great day in Georgia history. This proclamation was also signed on April 19th, 2021 on the lawn of the historic courthouse with the Sons of the American Revolution.

Commissioner Paris proclaimed April 26, 2021 as Confederate Memorial Day in Union County. The United Daughters of the Confederacy is an organization whose purpose includes honoring the memory of its Confederate ancestors and honoring the service of veterans from all wars as well as active military personnel. Smith's Legion Chapter #2699 was chartered in January of 2014 to carry out the organization's purposes in Union County and in the surrounding area. It has been the practice of Georgia governors since 1984 to proclaim April 26th as Confederate Memorial Day. The Commissioner encouraged all citizens to participate in activities under the leadership of Smith's Legion Chapter #2699 that commemorate and honor our shared history and cultural inheritance.

Commissioner Paris adopted the revised Drug and Alcohol Testing Policy for the Union County Transit System. These policies are based on federal and state guidelines for drug and alcohol testing of safety sensitive employees.

The Commissioner accepted an Intergovernmental Agreement between the Georgia Department of Natural Resources and Union County for the construction of a target shooting range located approximately nine miles southeast of Blairsville on Highway 180. Union County agrees to contribute \$600,000 through direct funding or in-kind services, and the Georgia Department of Natural Resources agrees to reimburse Union County up to, but not to exceed, \$1,800,000 of the approved construction costs through federal funds. This agreement was entered on the 29th day of March 2021 for a term up to 50 years.

Commissioner Paris explained the following Agenda item as it was a complicated situation. A local attorney was working on closing statements and deeds for an individual who was purchasing multiple lots in Ivy Log Estates and some adjoining property. Upon the survey being completed by Cleveland and Cox Land Surveying it was discovered that when the property that later became Ivy Log Estates was surveyed years ago the pins were misplaced south of one of the land lot lines causing the survey to not be accurate. This occurred when Union County sold this land to Richard Bell in December of 1996. This misplacing of the pins left a small gap between these two parcels of land that should have been conveyed to Richard Bell and should have become part of the lot in Ivy Log Estates. Since one individual has purchased the lot in Ivy Log Estates and the adjoining 50 acre parcel, this mistake from 1996 has left a 0.258 acre land locked gap between the two pieces of property that technically is still owned by Union County. Union County, Assistant County Attorney, William Mercer has reviewed all plats and surveys and agrees this property should be declared surplus property. Union County wishes to remedy this situation by declaring this 0.258 acres as surplus property and conveying this acreage to the purchaser of the two parcels, Selena Pittman Henderson.

The Commissioner then accept the Quitclaim Deed dated April 20, 2021 between Union County, Georgia and Selena Pittman Henderson for all that tract of land lying in the 9th district, 1st section, Land Lot 62 of Union County, Georgia and being Tract 2, containing 0.258 acres more or less. This property is surplus property and is being quitclaimed to Selena Pittman Henderson from Union County based on the information provided.

Commissioner Paris accepted a Lease Agreement between Union County and Sears Hometown Store for the lease of small storage building located at 296 Shoe Factory Road. The lease is a monthly lease in the amount of \$100.00 per month. This property was previously under lease prior to Union County purchasing the property, and we were legally advised that it was appropriate to continue the lease as is.

The Commissioner approved Resolution (R-2021-05) to open an Office of the Treasury Account for the purpose of receiving SPLOST V collections from the State of Georgia. SPLOST 5 proceeds will begin being available for the county sometime in May 2021.

Commissioner Paris completed the 1st Reading of the proposed removal of Chapter 82, Article II of the Union County Code of Ordinances, referred to as the Speed Zone Ordinance. Each year the Georgia Department of Transportation provides Union County with what they refer to as the Speed Zone Ordinance. It lists out what speed limits should be posted on each of the state highways that go through Union County. Union County must approve this and send a signed copy back to GDOT. Union County goes one step further each year when this document is received and actually checks each speed limit sign that is posted to make sure they are marked in accordance with the document provided by GDOT. This process must be done for Union County

Law Enforcement to use radar to check the speed of vehicles on these state highways. The reason for the removal of this from the Union County Code of Ordinances is that it is not actually a Union County Ordinance. Originally in 1992, the administration of Union County thought that it was a Union County Ordinance. GDOT and the County Attorney have both advised Union County that this is not anything that should be in the Code of Ordinances of Union County. The speed zones on state highways are not set by Union County Government, and based on the fact GDOT can change these speed zones each year, it is not something that should have ever been placed in the local Code of Ordinances. Therefore, based on the recommendation from GDOT and confirmed by the County Attorney, Union County plans to remove this section from the Code of Ordinances of Union County. A Public Hearing will be held on May 6, 2021, at 5:30 pm in the Courthouse. The second reading and official adoption will be at the May 20, 2021 County Meeting.

The Commissioner completed the 1st Reading of the proposed new section of the Union County Code of Ordinances pertaining to Minimum Development Standards for Multi-Family Dwellings. Attendees were provided with a copy of the proposed ordinance. As more and more apartment complexes are being built here in Union County it was determined there needed to be specific rules and regulations for their construction. This was due to the impact they would have on county roads and also the impact they could potentially have on emergency services - specifically on the Fire Department. The proposed addition to the ordinance defines a multi-family dwelling, sets maximum structural heights, minimum building setbacks, building accessibility, buffers, road and entrance requirements, and determines the location of fire hydrants. A Public Hearing will be held on May 6, 2021, at 5:30 pm in the Courthouse. The second reading and official adoption will be at the May 20, 2021 County Meeting.

Commissioner Paris approved the following three Business Licenses.

Williamson Rental
347 Dowd Road
668 Arrowood Landing
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Crash Rad Properties, Inc.
22 Angel Heart Lane

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:36 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:



Jennifer Mahan, County Clerk

Approved this 20th day of May, 2021



Lamar Paris, Commissioner