

County Meeting
August 19, 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 Bill Walker. The minutes from the July 15, 2021 County Meeting were unavailable due to the length of the meeting and the time it is taking to transcribe everything that was presented, discussed and all questions that were asked during the meeting. Jennifer Mahan, the County Clerk, responsible for these minutes had also been out with a sick child for seven days which delayed the process even further. These minutes will be available at the September County Meeting. The minutes from the July 20, 2021 Called Meeting were approved as presented.

Commissioner Paris then stated that in 2010 when the alcohol referendum was passed, he made the commitment to set aside up to \$50,000 each year from alcohol license fees and tax receipts to put back into the community for the purpose of helping to combat the alcohol and drug abuse problems that already existed in Union County. Roughly half of these funds are distributed each year in the form of grants that interested organizations can apply for. There is a completely independent committee set up to review the applications and award the grants. The committee has done an excellent job and the Commissioner thanked them for the time they spent selecting the recipients. Commissioner Paris had no input into which organizations received the grants nor how much they received. The Commissioner then awarded Substance Abuse Grants to the following organizations: Change in our World, Inc - \$5,000, Freedom Ministries - \$5,000, New Hope Counseling - \$5,000, Positive Pathways, Inc. - \$5,000, Union County Family Connection - \$5,000. Upon acceptance of each of their awards, each organization briefly explained how their organization helps fight substance abuse.

Commissioner Paris approved an Agreement between Union County and Legacy Link for the required local share during FY-2022 in the amount of \$95,000. This is the amount Union County has committed in local funds to operate the Senior Center from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022. The Senior Center is a huge asset to our community that provides numerous services and activities to the Senior Citizens including exercise programs, quilting, crafts, games, and the Meals on Wheels Program. They also provide transportation to and from the center as well as trips to the grocery store and drug store for those senior citizens who are no longer able to drive. The Director, Kathy Hill, and the employees and volunteers do an amazing job, and the county is proud of their service and dedication to the Senior Citizens in the community.

The Commissioner approved an Agreement between Union County and the Georgia Department of Transportation for grant funding in the amount of \$92,204.00 for the period of July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022. Funding in the amount of \$46,102.00 will be provided by GDOT and Union County will contribute a match of \$46,102.00. This funding is for the Union County's 5311 Transit System.

Commissioner Paris accepted a Lease Agreement between Medlink, Georgia, Inc. and Union County for the use of office space located at 56 Firewater Lane, Suches, Georgia 30572 in the amount of \$100.00 per month. The duration of this lease will be from August 3, 2021 until December 31, 2024. This is for the medical clinic in Suches, Georgia. The initial plan is that

they will be open one day per week, possibly two, in order to provide medical care and services to the community of Suches.

The Commissioner approved Resolution R-2021-09 requesting the calling of an election to impose a county wide one percent Transportation Special Purpose Local Option Sales and Use Tax. The date of this election is November 2nd, 2021. He stated this is very important to our community for the purpose of improving the safety and infrastructure of our highways, signs and roads. It is also necessary to help further reduce the property taxes of Union County citizens. It is anticipated that the millage rate will be reduced because of the county wide revaluation. In addition, should the TSPLOST be passed in November, it is estimated that property taxes could be further reduced another million dollars. This would be due to the ability to shift Road Department payroll and equipment from the general budget which is funded by property taxes, to being funded by TSPLOST.

Commissioner Paris approved the following eight Business Licenses, and he reminded all attendees that Union County only issues a Business License for the purpose of collecting the Hotel/Motel Tax.

Harris Rental - 338 Moon Ridge

Sunrise Grocery - 73 & 95 Litton Way

Duello Rental - 116 April Lane

Griffiths Enterprises, Inc. - 127 Berry Reister Drive

Gutierrez Rental - 279 Walnut Road

Stay a While Rentals - 53 Coosa Run

Twin Creeks Getaway in the Mountains - 23 Sunset Ridge

Ron Cernohous Rental - 89 Black Oak Drive

McKee Rental - 56 Fire Stoke Ct.

Lake Front Cottage - 209 Mountain View Lane

Vargas Rental - 173 Moss Cove Road

Commissioner Paris then expressed concern regarding the spread of the Covid-19 DeltaVariant and the number of residents that are now suffering from Covid-19 in Union County. Union General Hospital is at capacity with ICU patients. The Commissioner also asked for those who have not had their vaccine to consider getting one for the protection of themselves, their children and families.

The Commissioner then went on to state that he had attended the first of several meetings that will be involved with planning for the future of Union County. This was a four-hour meeting to

discuss a lot of different issues including; housing, commercial, industrial, government services, public infrastructure, public facilities, government policies, planning, land use, taxes, public relations, political considerations. This is the outline the county is going to be using going forward for community involvement and they will be involving community members as this process continues over the next year.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:42 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:



Jennifer Mahan, County Clerk

Approved this 16th day of September, 2021



Lamar Paris, Commissioner