

County Meeting
June 17, 2021 6:00pm
Minutes
Union County Courthouse

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Lamar Paris at 6:02 pm. The invocation was given by Patrick Malone and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Bill Walker. The minutes from the May 20, 2021 County Meeting and the June 1, 2021 Called Meeting were approved as presented.

Commissioner Paris asked Ryan McPherson to come up. Mr. McPherson was present to receive a Proclamation designating Union County as a Purple Heart County. Mr. McPherson thanked Commissioner Paris for his willingness to proclaim Union County as a Purple Heart County as this Proclamation will help Union County and Blairsville become a part of the Purple Heart Trail here in the United States. Mr. McPherson went on to say this is another way to recognize those men and women who were wounded in combat and received a Purple Heart. He then provided some statistics regarding how many Purple Hearts had been received in recent wars: 320,000 in World War I, over 1,000,000 in World War II, 118,000 in the Korean War, 351,000 in Vietnam, 600 in the Persian Gulf, 12,000 in Afghanistan, and 35,000 in Iraq. Mr. McPherson's goal is to create awareness and to continue to recognize Purple Heart recipients.

The Commissioner then read the Proclamation as follows:

WHEREAS, The people of the County of Union have great admiration and the utmost gratitude for all the men and women who have selflessly served their country and this community in the Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS, Veterans have paid the high price of freedom by leaving their families and communities and placing themselves in harm's way for the good of all; and

WHEREAS, The contributions and sacrifices of the men and women from Union County who served in the Armed Forces have been vital in maintaining the freedoms and way of life enjoyed by our citizens; and

WHEREAS, Many men and women in uniform have given their lives while serving in the Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS, Many citizens of our community have earned the Purple Heart Medal as a result of being wounded while engaged in combat with an enemy force, construed as a singularly meritorious act of essential service; and

WHEREAS, Union County appreciates the sacrifices our Purple Heart recipients made in defending our freedoms and believe it is important that we acknowledge them for their courage and show them the honor and support they have earned.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Union County Sole Commissioner, Lamar Paris, hereby proclaims Union County as a *Purple Heart County*, honoring the service and

sacrifice of our nation's men and women in uniform who were wounded or killed by the enemy while serving to protect the freedoms enjoyed by all Americans.

Commissioner Paris accepted a Contract between Hayes, James and Associates and Union County for professional design services for concept site plans, preliminary engineering, clearing and grading plans, and land development permitting for the Youth Sports Complex. The cost of this contract is \$18,400 and went into effect on May 20, 2021. This complex will be located near the Farmers Market close to Highway 515.

The Commissioner accepted a Contract between Freeman Gas and Union County for propane services in the amount of \$1.399 per gallon from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022.

Commissioner Paris accepted an Agreement between Gardner, Spencer, Smith, Tench & Jarbeau for design services including schematics, design development, construction documents and construction administration for the addition to the SAFE House in Union County. The cost of this agreement is not to exceed \$10,000 and went into effect on May 28, 2021. This project will include a 750 sq. ft. addition consisting of a meeting room and storage room. An existing area within the facility will also be converted to a playroom.

The Commissioner accepted an Agreement between Gardner, Spencer, Smith, Tench & Jarbeau for design services including schematics, design development, construction documents and construction administration for the addition to the Union County Senior Center. The cost of this agreement is not to exceed \$20,000 and went into effect on May 28, 2021. This project will include a 1,400 sq. ft. addition of new multi-stall restrooms and an exercise equipment room for the senior citizens.

Commissioner Paris accepted an Agreement between Gardner, Spencer, Smith, Tench & Jarbeau for design services including schematics, design development, construction documents and construction administration for the new Union County Public Safety Complex. The cost of this agreement will not exceed \$68,490 and went into effect on May 28, 2021. This project will include an approximately 7,900 sq. ft. fire station with three bays for engines and sleeping and living areas on the north end of Union County.

The Commissioner accepted the Georgia Forestry Commission Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA) Grant in the amount of \$5,000.00 awarded to Union County Fire Department. The Fire Department purchased thirty sections of fire hose, hose adapters and nozzles with this grant funding. Commissioner Paris also took this time to announce that Mason Schuknecht, who is a Union County resident and who has been with the Towns County Sheriff's Office for several years, just accepted a position with Georgia Forestry. He will be covering the northern part of Georgia from I-20 North.

Commissioner Paris accepted a Georgia Department of Natural Resources Grant in the amount of \$1,800,000.00 with a local match of \$600,000 for the construction of a new public target range with a 100-yard rifle range and a 25-yard pistol range along with a support building containing a classroom, administrative office, storage, and public restroom. The effective dates of this grant are April 1, 2021 to September 30, 2023. The county's \$600,000 match can either be in direct funding or in-kind contributions such as labor. This is a project that the county has

been working on for a few years and the Commissioner hopes they are nearing the final stages of pre-construction design and paperwork.

The Commissioner approved Resolution R-2021-06 to open a bank account at United Community Bank for funds received from the American Rescue Plan Act.

Commissioner Paris approved a Business License for Black Bear Cabin located at 139 Lake Ridge in Blairsville, GA. As a reminder this is the only type of Business License issued in Union County for the purpose of collecting the Hotel/Motel Tax.

The Commissioner then updated those in attendance on a few things regarding Union County. The Pavilion tear down and rebuild at the far end of Meeks Park is complete. The pavilion was tripled in size and is now connected to the existing gazebo. The Sorghum Festival will be held this year on the 2nd and 3rd weekends in October. The syrup makers will still be making the syrup but Enotah CASA, Inc., a non-profit, will be helping them with the other parts of the festival, such as vendor booths and the gate on festival days. The Butternut Creek Festival will also be held in mid-July this year at Meeks Park.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:22 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:



Jennifer Mahan, County Clerk

Approved this 15th day of July, 2021



Lamar Paris, Commissioner