

County Meeting
May 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 Bill Walker. The minutes from the April 20, 2021 County Meeting were approved as presented.

Commissioner Paris proclaimed the month of April 2021 as Donate Life Month. More than 110,000 men, women, and children await lifesaving or life-enhancing organ transplants, with 4,400 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 attendees join in honoring all those who have made the decision to give the gift of life and encouraged all residents to take action and sign up on Georgia's Donor Registry. The request for this proclamation was received late from LifeLink of Georgia, so Union County was late in the approval. Even though late, it is still a very important Proclamation.

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, 2021 to May 31, 2022. The amount of this agreement is not to exceed \$76,765.00 and the county will only be responsible for half that amount while Union General Hospital will be responsible for the other half. This is the local emergency helicopter service provided to residents whether full or part time and is paid for with property tax funds.

Commissioner Paris approved an Agreement between Union County and Jeff Burks for computer consulting services from June 1, 2021 to June 1, 2022. The amount of this agreement is \$5,100 per month for IT services and \$2,000 per month for maintaining the security cameras. This cost includes two employees on site. This agreement will automatically renew for a like period unless either party terminates at least ten days prior to the expiration of the current term. The county has approximately 160 cameras.

The Commissioner accepted an Agreement between Union County Government and The Beatty Team for consultation services related to lobbying and monitoring representation in the State of Georgia with an effective date of May 6, 2021 and a contract end date of May 5, 2022. The amount of this agreement is \$25,000 to be invoiced at \$2,083.33 per month for the duration of the 12-month agreement. Members of this firm have worked with the county for several years and have recently established a new firm for the purpose of assisting counties full time. With the number of potential grants and potential revenue enhancements this is a very reasonable number for the potential outcome.

Commissioner Paris accepted a Memorandum of Understanding between Union County Government and LexisNexis Coplogic Solutions, Inc. to provide online accident report services to citizens who are involved in motor vehicle accidents for a small fee to the requestor in Union

County. There is no fee to the County for this service, but it hopefully will prevent other county departments from having to come up with this info, for example the Sheriff's Office.

The Commissioner approved a Lease Amendment between Union County and the State Properties Commission for the Department of Driver Services, for the address of 149 Chase Drive, Blairsville, GA 30512 containing 1,440 square feet of rentable office space. This Lease Amendment has an effective date of July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022 in the amount of \$1.00 annually. The original lease was dated July 5, 2018 and contained the option to extend the lease for additional periods of one year each. This facility is known as the Driver's License Services facility located just in front of the Union County Health Dept off Glenn Gooch Bypass.

Apache Bend has been a county-maintained road up to the creek that runs through a culvert and under the road. The culvert has deteriorated to the point of having to be replaced. The property owners in the area came to the county asking for the remaining portion of the road to be accepted as county maintained. Upon investigation to see if this would be possible it was determined that 60 feet of right of way already existed to just past the second entrance of Conley Creek Circle. It was decided that there would be no problem accepting the remaining portion into the county-maintained road system as long as the property owners helped bear the cost of bringing the road up to county specifications, which included replacing the culvert. Homeowners purchased the culvert, and the culvert will be replaced by the Union County Road Department, which will bring it up to county specifications. Commissioner Paris accepted Apache Bend into the county-maintained road system from the stream that runs under the road to just past the second entrance/exit of Conley Creek Circle.

The Commissioner then completed the 2nd 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. Attendees were provided with a copy of what is sent out by the Georgia Department of Transportation. Union County has to approve this and send a signed copy back to GDOT. Union County goes one step further each year and checks the speed limit signs making sure they are marked in accordance with the document provided by GDOT. This process has to be done in order 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 a Union County Ordinance, but back in 1992 the administration of Union County decided that it was. GDOT and the County Attorney have both advised Union County Government 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 our Code of Ordinances. Therefore, based on the recommendation from GDOT and confirmed by the County Attorney, Union County plans on removing this section from the Code of Ordinances of Union County. The official adoption of this Ordinance will be at a Called Meeting on June 1, 2021 at 5pm in the Union County Courthouse.

Commissioner Paris then completed the 2nd Reading of the proposed new section of the Union County Code of Ordinances pertaining to Minimum Development Standards for Multi-Family Dwellings. All 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 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 the location of fire hydrants. The official adoption of this Ordinance will be at a Called Meeting on June 1, 2021 at 5pm in the Union County Courthouse.

Commissioner Paris approved the Business License for Fadi Investments, LLC located at 21 Settlers Trail, Blairsville. As a reminder to all, Union County only issues a Business License for a hotel/motel or residential short term rental type business for the purpose of collecting the Hotel/Motel Tax.

Commissioner Paris stated that the most common topic of discussion right now is our graduating Seniors. He is very proud of all of all of them and the Union County School System.

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

Respectfully submitted by:



Jennifer Mahan, County Clerk

Approved this 17th day of June, 2021



Lamar Paris, Commissioner