

County Meeting
November 18, 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.

The Minutes from the September 16, 2021 County Meeting and the October 21, 2021 County Meeting were approved as presented.

Commissioner Paris then stated that the first item on the agenda would be a short presentation from William Mercer, County Attorney for Union County Government and he would be providing information to the attendees regarding Open Meetings and the procedures for County Meetings. Commissioner Paris said he thought this information would be helpful for everyone to understand the reason for the monthly meeting and the things that have to be done and accomplished during these meetings.

William Mercer then stated, "I'm one of the county attorneys here in Union County. I'm glad everybody showed up. You know there's more people in here than when I usually do civil trials, so it's nice that everybody shows up. I'm just kind of going to go over what a public meeting is in Georgia. The monthly meeting is where the official business, policy or public matter of Union County is formulated, presented, discussed, and/or approved. Each meeting will consist of a multitude of topics for Union County that will be discussed with the public. The public can add up to three topics per meeting to be on the agenda. Everybody will get five minutes a piece for that. If you want to be on the agenda, next time just please call the Commissioner's Office and request that on the Monday prior to the meeting - before noon. After the meeting when the Commissioner adjourns, we will open up a question-and-answer session. Anyone can ask any question they want on the agenda topics. So, if you want to talk about something that is not on the agenda, again - just call the Commissioner's Office. Please request that before noon on the Monday prior to the public meeting. We will put it on the agenda and give you time to talk about it. Then we will discuss all we need to in the question-and-answer session. I have also been told by the clerk that several people have called with questions about the Open Meetings Act. The Open Meetings Act in Georgia can be found in O.C.G.A. 50 14-1-4. A public meeting is a gathering of a quorum of members of the governmental body or an agency in which official business, policy or public matter of the agency is formulated discussed and voted upon. Now what that means is - I think where a lot of people are getting confused -most counties have a Board of Commissioners - usually five, maybe more. There are only eight counties with a Sole Commissioner. We are one of the lucky ones to only have one commissioner, so anytime all those members of that board get together that is going to be considered a public meeting which all the public has to have notice of. Staff meetings between individual Commissioners and department heads is not considered a public meeting. That is a staff meeting for any investigative purposes to determine policy and procedure of how the county should go forward and then that policy and procedure gets put out here for the public to see. Now, if anybody has any questions about the Open Meetings Act, I am going to stick around afterwards. I will be happy to talk to anybody for any length of time after the meeting is done. During the meeting let's everybody be civil; let's keep it decorum. I know everybody will and you know if someone gets rowdy there is a criminal statute for

interrupting public meetings. I know no one's going to do that; let's all just keep it civil. Let's keep everything to the agenda topics. In the question-and-answer sessions, ask any questions you want to. We'll give every answer we can on the topics that are on the agenda.”

Commissioner Paris then asked Dr. James Varnell to come up for the presenting of a Proclamation and then the Commissioner read the Proclamation.

Whereas, Dr. James Varnell was born on December 5, 1942 in Bristol, Virginia and then his family moved to Jacksonville, Florida; and

Whereas, Dr. James Varnell attended Jacksonville University and went on to graduate from the University of Florida with a Bachelor of Science in 1965; and

Whereas, Dr. Varnell married his wife Linda, shortly after his graduation and they went on to welcome three children into their family: Amy, Wendy, and Brian; and

Whereas, Dr. Varnell received his Masters of Science in 1967 and graduated from the University of Florida in 1971 with his Medical Degree; and

Whereas, Dr. Varnell then moved to Baltimore, Maryland where he completed his Medical Internships in 1972 and his Residency in 1974 at Johns Hopkins Hospital; and

Whereas, Dr. Varnell joined the United States Army Medical Corps in 1974 being stationed at Fort Benning in Columbus, Georgia where he served honorably until 1979 when he was discharged from the United States Army Reserves with the rank of Major; and

Whereas, Dr. Varnell returned to Florida and completed his Cardiology Fellowship in 1979 at the University of Florida in Gainesville, Florida; and

Whereas, After completing his Cardiology Fellowship, Dr. Varnell moved his family to Norfolk, Virginia where he spent the next six years establishing his cardiology career and then returned home to Florida where he continued private practice for 23 years; and

Whereas, In 2008, Dr. Varnell and his wife, Linda, made Union County, Georgia their home and Dr. Varnell joined Northeast Georgia Health System opening a cardiology practice in Blairsville, Georgia; and

Whereas, Dr. James Varnell has provided exemplary medical care to the people in our region during his 13 years of practicing in Union County, and after 46 years of a distinguished career in cardiology, Dr. Varnell plans to retire December 2021.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved that I, Commissioner Lamar Paris, hereby proclaim today November 18th, 2021 as “**Dr. James H. Varnell, Jr. Day**” in said county and express admiration and appreciation for all his contributions made to our community.

The Commissioner then presented a Proclamation for William Clyde Collins Day. The Commissioner had presented the Proclamation to Mr. Collins at his home, but he asked if there was any family present that would like to come up. Alexis Moore stated this was her uncle and she came up for the presentation. Commissioner Paris stated that William Clyde Collins was born on November 7, 1921 in Union County and he just celebrated his 100th Birthday. Mr. Collins married Roma Sue Turner and they

had four children: Bill, Carolyn, Debbie and Carlton. Mr. Collins graduated Union County High School in 1938, completed two years at Young Harris College and began teaching at the age of 18 years old. Clyde went on to serve in the United States Army Air Corps from 1942 to 1946 during World War II and earned the rank of Sargent. After his military service, Clyde went on to attend the University of Georgia earning his BS Degree in Education and then came back to teach in Union County for the next 40 years. Mr. Collins was a teacher, a principal, and a superintendent who also working with TVA on the construction of Nottely Dam and he was instrumental in getting the Head Start program up and running in Union County. Commissioner Paris then proclaimed November 7th 2021 as "William Clyde Collins Sr. Day in Union County and expressed admiration and appreciation for all the contributions made to our community by Mr. Collins over the span of decades.

Commissioner Paris proclaimed November 7, 2021 as Retired Educators Day. More than 140,000 retired educators have devoted their time and talents to public education in our state and have touched the lives of generations of young people, prompting them to become responsible, contributing citizens of our city and county. Retired educators have valuable knowledge and experience and use that in various ways to enrich our quality of life and to help set the direction for education in the future. For sixty-three years, the Georgia Retired Educators Association has dedicated its efforts to improving the welfare of retired educators and the Union County Retired Educators Association, has supported numerous local initiatives, scholarships, informational programs, recognition of outstanding teachers and students, and other resources. Citizens of Georgia and Union County are grateful for the contributions our retired educators have made, and continue to make, to the advancement of our children and their futures, and to the betterment of our community.

The Commissioner adopted the Revised Drug and Alcohol Testing Policy for the Union County Transit System as required by the Georgia Department of Transportation. This same policy was adopted at the April 20, 2021 County Meeting. The Georgia Department of Transportation has recently determined that they left something off of the policy - which was a footer that states what version of the Zero Tolerance Policy this is. So, this revision adds (Zero Tolerance – v. 0421) to the bottom of each page of the policy. These policies are based on federal and state guidelines for testing of safety sensitive employees, specifically the drivers of the transit buses for the Union County Transit System and for personnel that maintain these buses.

Commissioner Paris accepted an Agreement between Union County and iWorQ Systems Software that is utilized for public works tracking in the amount of \$12,000.00 annually with an effective date of October 22nd, 2021. This software is utilized by the Building and Development Office for tracking permits and inspections.

The Commissioner then approved an Agreement between Union County and Caselle Inc. for the accounting software utilized by Union County Government. The cost of this agreement is \$2,117.00 per month for one year. There is no cost increase from the previous year.

Commissioner Paris approved an Agreement between Union County and GovOS for management of short-term rentals in Union County. The amount of the contract is \$48,219.30 annually with an effective date of November 5, 2021. This company will provide short-term rental discovery, short-term rental identification, ad listings and property reconciliation, data reporting, online registration, and payment integration. The cost of this service will be covered, in part, by the Union County Chamber of Commerce along with an increase in the cost of Business Licenses for short-term rentals to cover the

remaining cost. The services this company will be providing are currently handled by staff in the Commissioner's Office and staff in the Tax Commissioner's Office.

The Commissioner approved Resolution R-2021-11 authorizing the filing of the application with the Georgia Department of Transportation and United States Department of Transportation for a grant for public transportation assistance under Title 49 U.S.C., Section 5311. This is for the grant Union County receives each year for the Union County Transit System.

Commissioner Paris approved Resolution R-2021-12 appointing Gavin King as the Floodplain Administrator for Union County as required by Chapter 34, Article III, Section 34-71 of the Union County Code of Ordinances. Gavin King has been employed in the Building Inspection and Development Office for over 16 years and has all the required training to perform the duties required as the Floodplain Administrator. Gavin will also be taking on the role of Chief Building Inspector, as the long time Chief Building Inspector, Randy Day, will be leaving the employment of Union County Government.

The Commissioner approved Resolution R-2021-13 to open a separate bank account for the Union County Transfer Station. Union County has taken over the operations of the commercial side of the Transfer Station that was formerly operated by Waste Management and a separate checking account must be established for the funds paid into and paid out for the Transfer Station.

Commissioner Paris approved the following Business Licenses. As a reminder, Union County only issues a Business License for the purpose of collecting the Hotel/Motel Tax.

Hartley & Richards Consulting
905 Garrett Circle
Renegade Storage, Inc.
706 Cozy Cove Road
Sliding Rock Cabins
221 W. Reece Creek Road
Cozy Cabin
541 Cozy Cove Road

Laurie Brothers requested to be placed on the Agenda to speak regarding vaccines and TSPLOST. Ms. Brothers stated, "I'm all disorganized here. Rearrange some things. Thank you for having me. To God be all glory and I want to thank my lord Jesus Christ in advance for what he is going to do. Um, my verse uh for over two years now is Exodus 23:8 and thou shalt take no gift for the gift blinded the wise and for worth the words of the righteous. Listen to the wisdom of our founding father of the United States Benjamin Rush. Unless we put medical freedom into the constitution the time will come when medicine will organize into an undercover dictatorship to restrict the art of healing to one class of men and deny equal privileges to others. The constitution of the Republic should make a special privilege for medical freedoms as well as religious freedom. Here at Union General, our heroes of last year will be unemployed in December - just in time for Christmas if they don't get the job. We are already shorthanded. I encourage you Mr. Paris to use your influence to encourage the hospital to stop this madness immediately. I missed not doing so earlier but I do want to put you on notice and I'll bring that tomorrow to you. As I speak there is an international team of lawyers and medical experts seeking to charge the CDC the WHO and others with crimes against humanity. The protocol for the PCR test given by the CDC was knowingly set to a level that guaranteed 100% false positives or false negatives so there is no pandemic. This is all about getting people to get the shot - a fraudulent experimental shot. It is in

violation of all 10 Nuremberg Codes which I have right here which carry the penalty of death for those who violate them. For the week ending November 5th, total death according to the [inaudible] website additionally reported um 388 more deaths and the injuries in one week were 22,550. I um ran across this today. Isaiah 45:18 for thus saith the lord that created the heavens. God himself that formed the earth and made it. He hath established it. He created it not in a vain. He formed it to be inhabited not depopulated. I am the lord and there is no one else. Thankfully, let me get this one in first. John 1:5 -6. This then is the message which we have heard of him and declare unto you that God is light and in him is no darkness at all if we say that we have fellowship with him and walk in darkness we lie and do not the truth. Thankfully T-SPLOST did not pass. Mr. Paris had much to say about it in the new North Georgia News and at one point said quote it's a tough issue because it's hard for the general public to know and understand the details of why it's so important. Well Mr. Paris, I was somewhat insulted by that statement, but with that being said, I do plan to make a point of understanding those details, and I pray others will join me in holding the county accountable for where our tax dollars are being spent. For starters, thanks Pam for showing me on the website the reports listing SPLOST projects in the current expenditures. Uh, I understand SPLOST 3 is done SPLOST 4 commenced in 2015, and it's anticipated to come to an end shortly of their spending. Question: When did the tax collecting start for SPLOST four and five, and when will the tax rate drop? I understand the state of Georgia has a 4% tax now. We here in Blairsville have taxed ourselves another additional three percent. I need to find out what makes up that three percent and when our taxes will go down when these SPLOSTS are over. Transfer station is a sore topic these days with SPLOST supposed to eliminate our garbage fees. I thought so looking at the reports SPLOST 3 was budgeted to spend \$833,000 they spent \$97,625. According to reports, SPLOST 4 budgeted \$280,989 and through last year October, only \$129,739's been spent, so Pam tells me the updated report will be coming out soon. And just on another note exciting news Tuesday the Supreme Court of the United States will finally be handed the lawsuit with the 2020 election evidence from Mike Lindell along with 37 AG's. Also, voter.ga requested images from all counties in Georgia 74 out of 159 counties were unable to produce the original file images. I believe that Union County was one of those who are unable to produce them. I really just have to double check on that fact. I'm not 100% sure on that and I thank you very much."

Cindy Vandereedt requested to be on the Agenda to speak regarding TSPLOST. Ms. Vandereedt stated, "Okay, so thank you for allowing me to speak. Um, in the article on the front page of the North Georgia News dated November 10, 2021, it was clear that the citizens of Union County spoke loud and clear and voted down TSPLOST even though only a quarter of the county voted. It was a resounding no at the previous Commissioner's meetings the citizens in attendance made it clear that we were not for T-SPLOST, but Mr. Paris said it's a tough issue because it's hard for the general public to know and understand the details of why it's so important. I disagree with that statement. I believe the citizens of Union County are very smart and we fully understand what T-SPLOST is about. There have been several articles in the paper where open records requests were obtained and the monies are not always going where they said they are going to be spent. By law, the projects would need to be specifically identified and in some cases on level one projects they should not be abandoned or changed and the monies then spent elsewhere. So as citizens, these are our taxpayer dollars and we would like to see truth and honesty and not be threatened if T-SPLOST does not pass that you're going to then raise our property taxes. Um it was pretty much said you'll get the money one way or the other. Mr. Paris said he was planning to cut property taxes with the passing of T-SPLOST which would have freed up from the general fund the considerable cost of the county to operate the roads department- though that was no longer in the cards. Then you went on to say as the economy remains up, you don't anticipate raising our

taxes. Part of the reason T-SPLOST was voted down is because the economy is far from being up. The only things that are up are the price of - is the gas prices, meat, eggs, and all the essentials that people need to live on. You said you may put T-SPLOST back on the ballot in May of 2022. At the rate our country is going in, by next May, we're going to be in worse shape than we are now. So with property reassessment you were adamant at one of the meetings that we needed to wait until the assessment was done because you said our taxes would not necessarily go up. That was not the case as most of us saw. They did. My property taxes doubled. You then said if we can sell it to the public ahead of time and let them understand it. All I have to say about that is that I think that the citizens of this county fully understand that. We're not stupid. We understand what's being done with T-SPLOST so I don't agree with that statement at all. And lastly, why did T-SPLOST fail? The article in the newspaper said it best. On top of people simply not wanting an increase at the cash register, many factors went into the defeat including a string of publicly unpopular moves by Commissioner Paris in the last couple years. The pair of real estate purchases in 2020 during the pandemic as an example, and I'll quote the article that was in the newspaper. The Hill property for future development from former Union General Hospital CEO Mike Gowder, who is currently in prison for prescription drug fraud, the old Georgia boot factory property on which Mr. Paris hopes to one day build a new Union County Sheriff's Office and jail. This county can't survive on future hopes and dreams. Part of the problem that I see is that one person is making all the decisions with no input from those of us that are footing the bill. I think it's time for Union County to bring a vote on a Board of Commissioners instead of a Sole Commissioner."

Alexis Moore requested to be on the Agenda to speak regarding integrity and trust in government. Ms. Moore stated, "Um so on my way here actually I was meaning to be a little early and I couldn't find my keys which is not something that normally happens for me. I mean like 30 minutes tearing my place apart and uh and then I thought it's the script. I wrote this script and it's like please God help me find my keys. I'll ditch the script you don't like the script. The thing is I don't do real well with scripts because it's contrived. You know I'm a feeling person. That's why I want to get up here and speak about integrity. That's something that you feel. Um so I'm just going to ditch this and I'm going to go off the cuff here and thankfully Cindy covered some of the things that helps with what I'm going to say. Um, so something that I've observed, a theme over the last few years in politics I'm noticing um, as a behavior specialist, is noticing that our political leaders are displaying the same behaviors that I would expect to find in an emotional abuser and narcissist. What I mean by that is gaslighting, scapegoating, isolating dissenting voices, um silencing people. You know a lot of us have noticed this over the last few years so I have found this um correlation to be a very interesting tool for me because I know that someone standing in integrity is not going to also have the characteristics of an emotional abuser. So uh so I find it really easy to use that as a measure for uh whether or not a political leader is deserving of my trust. So that's been really helpful and very eye-opening over the last few years. So I just kind of used my intro there, but I'm gonna now leave the page so uh a couple of those things that I've noticed unfortunately. So when I first met you uh Mr. Commissioner Paris I told you that I had been asking around and I had heard a lot of rumors - bad bad things okay - and I told you that to me those are only rumors. That I'm aware that people are not trusting their government and I'm going to chalk it up to that for now - that I'm going to be diligently coming to meetings and checking to see because the only thing I care about is whether or not I feel you're with integrity. And I talk with you about trust at every meeting. I say it every single time so that's all I care about. To me, the most important job that that our Sole Commissioner has is to be standing in integrity first and foremost. It's the most important job. Second is to hear what we have to say because we are the checks and balances. We are the only checks and balances - the citizens are. We are also um a public servant works for us. We pay the salary of our Sole

Commissioner. So hearing what we have to say is the second most important thing because you are then to implement the things that are our concerns. So that's where I started noticing some behaviors that um that I'm finding these traits also in our Sole Commissioner. I'm finding gaslighting. Cindy thankfully gave a whole bunch of examples of the gaslighting. We are intelligent creatures. Uh, we might not have all of the details, but we're trying. We're coming, and we're figuring it out. Um, I uh I remember the last meeting a woman stood up and asked about how are we supposed to know where the SPLOST funds are going... if it can be changed legally and the instant response from our Sole Commissioner was to say that he was offended that she would ask after everything he did to get her road paved. That's a non-answer that is actually publicly shaming and discrediting the person asking the question. See, I've been noticing these behaviors. I've been noticing a lot of these behaviors. So when I went back in trying to learn what the heck SPLOST is um I saw some videos from about 10 years ago where I discovered that there was a citizen of Union County that was asking questions. She was filing records requests and she was taking her findings and filing complaints and whether or not her findings were true that was a lot of work and a lot of money that went into that. And she was behaving as the only checks and balances that our Sole Commissioner has. So his response what I would expect as a response to that by someone standing in integrity is to simply stand up share the facts and let them speak for themselves because the truth does not mind being questioned ever, but instead what I found is two videos online uh Justin Turner I think it is Justin Turner anyway... anyway, the videos are online and I found that 30 minutes in both county meetings and on record in front of her peers he called this woman the b word that actually used the word I wouldn't use it. Um, he called the man helping her a scumbag. He said that they are misfits that do not belong and basically that if you know anyone that goes along with it also is part of them and doesn't belong and I have to say I'm standing up here right now to protect my fellow citizens that are asking questions. I'm standing up here right now to say that we are the checks and balances and we need to be safe. We need to know that we are not going to be just destroyed publicly in our small community by asking questions and I know that by simply shining a light on the behavior it no longer has power. So if we see that happening, we now know what it is. Okay, and I'm not here to attack you, I'm just here to share what I've discovered because I find it concerning. Thank you." [Applause]

Diana Barton requested to be on the Agenda to speak regarding a property purchase. Ms. Barton, "Hi, I'm Diana Barton I'm too loud; I have a very loud voice. Um, today I'd like to address a property purchase we made on 1159 Riverbend Farm which has been brought up. It was 3.8 acres and a home and we purchased that in 2020 or the county did. Um, I want to give a little background on 8/1/2014 Jackie Lance Hill as a life estate sold this parcel to Gowder. On 1/3/20, Gowder sold the property to BLK, LLC which the member running BLK LLC is W. C. Nelson, Jr. They sold it for \$450,000. Gowder did to uh BLK six months later BLK, LLC under the member owner W. C. Nelson Jr. sold it to Union County, this property, for \$750,000 - three quarters of a million dollars um that meant BLK in six months - six months and like 18 days made \$300,000 dollars off of Union County. Now this is a life estate and I'm just going to give you a little background of a life estate. Um in a life estate, we cannot touch that property until the person who owns the life estate passes. So um Jackie Lance Hill has the life estate so until she passes on the property is of no value to Union County. We cannot do anything with it, and I'm getting off my script a little bit. This life estate is supposed to maintain the property, maintain insurance on the property, and pay the taxes, but for some reason we have this piece of property as tax exempt. Under the life estate again with her having to pay the taxes, we have to protect ourselves because this is 3.82 acres, and it has a very large house on it and 3.82 acres is not valued at \$750,000. So realistically, we need to hold insurance on this property because if they fail to hold insurance on it and that particular property burns to the ground we have 3.82 acres of burned property. So what we need to do oh and the

other thing is with a life estate um Jackie Lance Hill is allowed to lease or rent that property. So she can actually rent it out or lease that property for as long as she's alive and collect rents and leases on this piece of property. We get no benefit of that. Some questions we as a community should be asking why would our county pay \$300,000 more for this parcel in six months. This parcel was purchased in um - let's see it was in June I believe of 2020. That was right when the housing department the houses were just barely starting to creep up. There's no reason for us to have paid that type of price for that property. Another question we should ask our government was - was there an appraisal done before we purchased that property? I've asked for uh public records, and so far I've gotten nothing on that one. And the other big question is why would we buy a life estate? How many of you in this audience would buy a life estate not knowing when that person may pass away and you'll be able to use that property. You may pass before that property loses the life estate. Again, do we carry property and do we carry liability on that parcel? Um, we could be held liable if there's an accident on that property. So, those are some things we as a community should be looking at and asking our government. Um, the big thing, why aren't they paying taxes on this property? Okay, then we come to the part of the agenda there was a called meeting on um I'm gonna go back to my notes here. There was a called meeting on this on a June, let's see, June 17th at 4 pm a call meeting requires 24 hours notice. Um, at that called meeting - that was when it was mentioned - that we were going to buy that um property and I'm going to read you this. This is the called meeting. The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Lamar Paris at 4pm. The Commissioner accepted a real estate purchase agreement between Union County and BLK, LLC for the purchase of 3.82 acres and a home located on lots such and such for 750 thousand dollars. Um Commissioner Paris said the purchase contract was being done at the last minute because sometimes property purchases cannot be planned. This particular contract needed to be in place so Union County could have the opportunity to purchase the property this Friday. When has any of you bought a house and closed on a piece of property and you know like 24 hours? So, we have some concerns about."

County Attorney Mercer interjected that Ms. Barton's five minutes was up. Ms. Barton requested additional time to speak, and Mr. Mercer declined. Ms. Barton then stated that if anybody would like to see the rest of this about the open meeting, I'll be real happy to meet you afterwards." [Applause]

Commissioner Paris then stated, "Okay, obviously we don't have time to address all these many issues. I am going to make just a couple of comments. Some of my friends, uh maybe not too many in here, they'll be scrunching in their seats probably, saying, what is he gonna say. Basically, the same thing that we said during the T-SPLOST. That we are taking the high road and every time somebody come up with something either mis true, misrepresenting, or not correct, we made that determination that we were not going to go to the paper for every letter the editor, every comment, every crappy if you don't like the word - I'm sorry - every crappy email that I got from people that were mean. Everybody has been kind and that's the way we want to keep it, but I am going to make just a few comments. Number one, I was born, raised, lived, went to school in Union County. I've been in office here going on 21 years and anybody that knows me in Union County knows that these things that are being said are not accurate or they are misrepresenting the facts. Sometimes the people are doing it intentionally; most times I think they're doing it because of the lack of the proper information. Just like this lady that was just up here {interjected by Ms. Barton, "My name is Diana Barton} and I know I will get crucified tomorrow. I've never heard of W.C. Nelson having anything whatsoever to do with this property. So, I don't know where that came from. I don't know that it's just one; it's just a typical example of how information - misinformation - is out there all over the place. And, I know a lot of you people are fairly new to the county. I don't, I can't, get up here in just a few minutes and respond to these things, but I can tell you a

lot of them are misrepresentations. If somebody had a real interest, including you ma'am, and this is not anything negative about you, but I'm saying this about everybody that spoke tonight all you've got to do is come to my office. Either write down on paper what your particular question is or your questions, come there, and we'll be glad to give you a response to it because these things need responses. But I'm not going to go out and spend all the time responding to every little thing except to tell you that it's a sad day in Union County that a lot of these things and even your comments (I appreciate you - have nothing against you), but I think your comments are misled as well. I think you just - it's not intentional I don't think. I think you're a very nice person, I just think you don't know the facts and so when you don't know the facts and then you try to say well why didn't you tell us the facts as a Commissioner it doesn't matter if you're a commission board or a sole Commissioner you've got a huge huge difficult job to do and you can't go to the public every time you've got a decision to make. That's what we are elected for is to make those decisions; to make the hard decisions; and that's what I do. That's what I've done this whole time I've been in office. If you find anybody out there that knows me that thinks I'm a crook, that thinks I'm dishonest, I'm telling you that knows me, let me know. You know we try to do what's best, and every decision we make we try to do what's best for the citizens of Union County. We try to do it in the cheapest and the best method. We have the best hospital; we have the best school system; we have the best recreation department, fire department, sheriff's department - you can just go on and on about the things that we have in Union County. That's why you people moved here. You didn't move here to come to a county that had nothing - that had terrible services - that had terrible roads. You came here because you like Union County. There was something here that you like or why did you come. So, all I'm asking now is, if you have a question or a concern about anything that you either got up here and spoke about tonight, or thought about what was going on, all you have to do is come to my office. The preferred method would be just to write down your question then we'll give you the response as long as it's something that we can and have that information available. Anyway, that's all. I think that's all I'm going to say about that. I appreciate everybody coming tonight. Uh, I'm going to take a few questions. I'm not going to take any because we've been here a long time. If you've already been up here, we are not going to take these questions from those that have already been up here. We're going to try to save them for those that have not had a chance to ask questions."

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:54 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:



Jennifer Mahan, County Clerk

Approved this 16th day of December, 2021



Lamar Paris, Commissioner