

County Meeting  
October 20, 2022, 6:00pm  
Minutes  
Union County Courthouse

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Lamar Paris at 6:00pm. The Commissioner welcomed everyone to the meeting. The invocation was then given by Pam Hawkins, and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Bill Walker. The minutes from the September 15, 2022 County Meeting were approved as presented.

Commissioner Paris mentioned that Patrick Malone's wife, Kathy Malone, passed away. Mr. Malone has moved out of town now, and he has been a big help in the county in different ways. The Commissioner stated that the county appreciated Kathy and Patrick, and the Children's Memorial they provided at Meeks Park.

First, Commissioner Paris proclaimed October 4, 2022 as Frank and Florence Ford Day here in Union County. William Mercer, County Attorney, read the proclamation and it reads as follows: Frank S. Ford, Jr., a WWII U.S. Army Infantry Scout and his wife, Florence (Flo) M. Ford, a WWII U.S. Army Nurse assigned to an Army hospital for amputees, moved to Union County in 1970 and immediately began to better the lives of both Veterans and civilians of Union County. Frank earned his Doctorate in Theology and combined that with his experience in the financial market, began a "Ministry to Ministers". Frank ministered to local pastors on all areas of church life, focusing on enriching their own Christian experience and understanding of church finances. Flo became heavily involved in improving the lives of Veterans and established the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Chapter 11 and served as its Commander. Ultimately, she and Frank, the Chapter Adjutant, established the North Georgia Honor Guard as part of DAV Chapter 11. As members of the North Georgia Honor Guard, Frank and Flo personally participated in approximately 2,000 military funerals for veterans over a 31-year period. For nearly all these funerals, Flo folded the flag, not wanting to leave this important task to anyone else. Frank and Flo also assisted those already involved in working to get a VA Clinic established here in Union County so veterans would no longer have to drive to Atlanta or Asheville. All of these efforts culminated in the construction of a new VA Clinic in Blairsville. The Fords active involvement in veteran's activities led to a decision to establish a cemetery for service men and women on a portion of their 71-acre Ford Mountain. Mr. Mercer asked citizens to recognize all that the Fords have done to enrich the lives of the Veterans of Union County. This proclamation was presented to Mrs. Ford on October 4, 2022 at the Leon Davenport Veterans Center.

Attorney Mercer read the next proclamation: In 1985 Rotary launched PolioPlus and in 1988 helped establish the Global Polio Eradication Initiative which today includes the World Health Organization, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, UNICEF and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, to immunize the children of the world against polio. Polio cases have dropped by 99.9% since 1988 and the world stands on the threshold of eradicating the disease. Rotary has contributed more than 2.4 billion and countless volunteer hours to protecting nearly 3 billion children in 122 countries. Mr. Mercer then invited Mr. Richard Raborn, Rotary Representative, to come up and speak regarding this initiative.

Mr. Richard Raborn's comments are summarized as follows: Mr. Raborn thanked Commissioner Paris for the Proclamation and then he went on to state that Polio was a very debilitating disease. With over 50,000 children being paralyzed every year. The 1950s were very scary times. American Physician Scientists came up with two different vaccines. The vaccine used in most modern countries is the injectable vaccine, but in most developing countries the oral vaccine is the way to go. It can rapidly get at herd immunity. There is a relatively new oral polio vaccine, one that doesn't change or become a variant. Mr. Raborn said that we live in a world that is very connected. The recent cases in New York came from people that were originally from Pakistan, who went to London and then to New York. Some people had not had their immunizations and so they were susceptible. The United States has been lucky with being very effective in getting rid of polio. Mr. Raborn took care of several patients in his practice as a third generation Florida physician. When polio plus came about in Rotary, Florida led the nation in a lot of the ways in getting out the oral polio vaccine. Rotary has a 100% participation in giving to Polio Plus. It is called Polio Plus because Rotary was doing such a good job with the first world countries and Rotary Clubs were supporting third world countries in their Rotary Clubs that they were able to get this vaccine program going. Then the World Health Organization asked to join with Rotary which allowed them to help distribute other vaccines for children. Mr. Raborn closed by saying it is a great honor that Rotary got involved and did this thing worldwide.

Commissioner Paris then thanked Rotary for what they had done with this program and for taking on such an important project. Mr. Raborn was then presented with the Proclamation for World Polio Day.

The Commissioner then accepted an Agreement between Cummins, Inc. and Union County for planned maintenance of the generator located at the Union County 911 Center in the amount of \$1,232.50. (Commissioner Paris mis-stated the contract amount as it is actually \$1,252.30). This contract is effective from November 1, 2022 through October 31, 2023 and covers two service visits, and all maintenance services required, and one maintenance inspection during the agreement period.

Mr. Mercer then went on to state that at the August 4, 2022 County Meeting, Union County awarded four Substance Abuse Grants to local organizations for the purpose is to help treat those with drug or alcohol abuse problems. Those four organizations were Freedom Ministries, New Hope Counseling, Positive Pathways, Inc. and Union County Family Connection. Each were awarded \$5,000, which was the amount they had each applied for and was the maximum they could have applied for. The committee that decides which organizations will receive grant funding made the decision to offer each organization that was awarded a grant additional funding if they could provide a budget showing how they would utilize any additional funding. Based on budgets that were turned in to the committee, the committee is now awarding each organization the following funds.

Freedom Ministries - \$2,500

New Hope Counseling - \$5,000

Positive Pathways, Inc. - \$2,500

Union County Family Connection - \$5,000

William Mercer went on to state that Item 5 on the agenda is the second ordinance reading for the Amplified Sound Ordinance. This constitutes the 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of the Union County

Amplified Sound Ordinance. Attendees were provided a copy of the second draft of the Amplified Sound Ordinance. The only thing that changed since the first reading and the Public Hearing was in paragraph C. Violations, the word offense spelled O F F E N S E and offence spelled O F F E N C E were both used. The second spelling was changed to correspond with the first. At the end of this same sentence a period was inserted to end this sentence and start a new one. Mr. Mercer said that all questions at the Public Hearing were answered and then he read the draft of the Union County Amplified Sound Ordinance as follows:

Sec. 48-04 Amplified Sound.

A. *Restrictions on use of sound amplifying equipment.*

1. No person shall use or cause to be used any sound amplifying device or equipment at any place outdoors in the unincorporated areas of Union County, except in accordance with subsection 2. Sound-amplifying device or equipment means any machine or device for the amplification of the human voice, music, or any other sound. Sound-amplifying equipment shall not include standard automobile radios when used and heard only by the occupants of the vehicle in which the automobile radio is installed. Sound-amplifying equipment, as used in this article, shall not include warning devices or authorized emergency vehicles or horns or other warning devices on any vehicle used only for traffic safety purposes.
2. Sound amplifying devices and equipment:
  - i. Shall be operated in a manner that directs sound, to the extent feasible, toward open unoccupied space and away from any residential area. For the purpose of this article, residential area means any real property that contains a structure or building in which one or more persons reside.
  - ii. Shall not be used outdoors between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m. Sunday through Thursday and not between the hours of 11:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m. Friday and Saturday except when approved by the Sheriff's Office.

B. *Exceptions.* This section shall not be construed to apply to the use of sound amplifying equipment or devices under the following circumstances:

1. Sound amplification equipment or devices used on privately owned property, where the sound produced does not carry beyond the real property line.
2. Radios, stereo systems, televisions and other, similar, audio equipment, when the volume does not exceed the volume of normal conversational speech.
3. Sound amplification equipment or devices used on emergency vehicles or by government employees in connection with any activity undertaken for the protection of the public health or safety.
4. Sound amplification equipment or devices used as a part of an organized school related program, activity, event or parade or other public programs, activities, or events authorized by the Union County Sheriff's Office.
5. The reasonable use of amplifiers or loudspeakers in the course of public addresses which are noncommercial.

C. *Violations.* This section shall be enforced by the Union County Sheriff's Office. The Union County Sheriff's Office shall have the discretion to issue a warning in lieu of a citation for the first offense. Any person who uses or causes to be used any sound amplifying equipment or device in violation of the provisions of this section shall be

guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of up to \$500.00 or imprisonment for 30 days or both for a first offense. Any subsequent offense can be punishable by maximum fines and/or jail time as allowed for a misdemeanor under Georgia law. Each incident shall be a separate violation such that multiple violations may occur on the same date. If a person is warned or cited for a violation of this section and corrects the violation but then later, on the same date, uses or causes to be used any sound amplifying equipment or device in violation of the provisions of this section, such person may be cited for a separate violation of this section.

William Mercer turned the meeting back over to Commissioner Paris who stated that the Ordinance will be approved at the next meeting. The Amplified Sound Ordinance will go hand in hand with the short-term rental ordinance that is being worked on. This ordinance will be separate but will coordinate with the short-term rental ordinance.

Due to scheduling conflicts, Commissioner Paris announced the rescheduling of the County Meeting scheduled for December 15, 2022 to Tuesday, December 13, 2022 at 6:00 pm in the Union County Courthouse.

William Mercer went on to discuss item number seven on the Agenda. Back in June a moratorium was placed on the issuing of Business Licenses for short-term rentals. The moratorium did not allow any more Business Licenses for short-term rentals after a 60-day period. The moratorium went into effect on June 16, 2022, and the 180 days started August 16, 2022. After August 16 there were no more Business Licenses allowed. The county was notified of some loopholes and because of those loopholes the county is amending the moratorium to make sure it is covering what it was originally intended to cover. Everything will be the same. The only amendment will be in the last paragraph, and a sentence was added. This sentence says: Further, no new short-term rental properties shall be added under any current Business License starting October 20, 2022 at 7:00 pm until the moratorium is repealed or by the adoption of the new regulations or ordinances. Everything else is staying the same but there is no loophole for property management companies with a license to just keep adding more houses and more houses without having to get another license. While the original stopped any new license, this is now stopping new houses being added to any existing licenses.

Commissioner Paris then adopted this Resolution to amend the Moratorium on Applications for a Business License for Short-Term Rentals that went into effect on August 16, 2022.

Ms. Laurie Brothers requested to be placed on the agenda to speak regarding new election information. Ms. Brothers comments are as follows: Its green. Thank you. My name is Laurie Brothers. I live at 178 Sweetheart Lane. I would like to note our US Constitution the 14<sup>th</sup> amendment, Section 1, second sentence. I have the right to vote and for my vote to count. For anyone unaware we are using Dominion voting machines. There is so much going on, I'm gonna focus on two main issues. When you begin to understand what has happened at the hands of Secretary Raffensperger and others in his circle of influence you begin to understand the fraud and crimes against the citizens of our great state. This is by the Mountain Patriots, this next section, to the Inspector General McAfee. Number 1, Dominion voting machines systems voting machines audited not per as described by the Secretary of State Raffensperger. 5 of the 6

counties identified by the Secretary of State confirmed that no audit occurred in their county. This same evidence proves that the Georgia audit report was fabricated for the Secretary of State by (Provien B/inaudible). Three. A series of fraudulent actions were taken by the Elections Assistants Commission, EAC, to factiously illustrate (Provien Bs/inaudible) accreditation. The evidence of fraud brought to light by our investigation and validated by Monk LaCross' formal complaint illustrates fraud and deception by the Secretary of State, Georgia, (Provien B/inaudible) and the EAC. We now know that the voting system used in Georgia has never been certified. We're reviewing the dominion contract with its exhibits. There are facts of law which notes must be taken as well as notations of law discernable from the two D statement a review of Georgia statutes on the date of signing, which the last was Raffensperger on August 12, 2019. A soft routine and subroutine inside the BMV is needed to compute the translation of the electors entered data into a graphic image. That process is specifically prohibited by Georgia Code. Nowhere in Chapter 2 of Title 21 is there to be permitted any marking on the face of a ballot other than what is authorized. The placement of such an image makes the ballot illegal. Not in compliance with statutes, these provable facts concerning the illegal nature of the equipment and its issuance of an illegal ballot are enough to void the contract. This case, however, goes even further into the accusation of willful and intentional fraud and violation of Georgia code by Raffensperger, his minions, the EAC and Dominion to perpetuate a fraud on the entire population of this state.

Commissioner Paris' comments regarding items of interest in the county are summarized as follows. The grading of Fire Station 13 began last week, and construction on the building should start soon. The Commissioner stated that while at the Transfer Station on Deep South Farm Road he was amazed that employees thanked him for the equipment and manpower they have to get their jobs done. People have also told him they can't believe how nice the facility is, and it is nice, as nice as trash can be. He gave credit to the employees of the Transfer Station and all the hard work they do. Commissioner Paris noted there is a new Convenience Center next to Fire Station 4 off of Ivylog. It has been open for about two weeks and is doing well. More people are starting to use it and it saves them from having to come into town to the Transfer Station on Deep South Farm Road. It was noted that new compactors were going in this facility as well once delivered.

Commissioner Paris spoke briefly about the Short-term Rental Ordinance. He said they tried to have it ready for this meeting, but it was just not quite ready. It should certainly be ready for the 1<sup>st</sup> Reading at the next County Meeting. The Commissioner said Union County is working with several counties in our area since some of them either have an ordinance for short-term rentals, are working on creating one, or would like to update theirs. They are all trying to work together to make sure the counties have an ordinance that works for them, and it is the best ordinance possible. The Commissioner mentioned that some people have said they have a rental property, and no one should be able to tell them what to do with their property. Commissioner Paris said the response to this is that this ordinance is not being done to try and hurt anyone's property. If we all treat our neighbors as we want them to treat us, then there should not be a problem. Going forward each owner will be responsible for their rental as opposed to giving it off to the online rental companies if anyone complained about their rental. Then the owner was in some other state. We will make sure that the owner can still let these online companies manage their property, but if they don't do what needs to be done, ultimately it will be the responsibility of the property owner to be sure what is happening on their property is not adversely affecting adjacent property owners.

Commissioner Paris then announced a new program that the Union County Recreation Department is starting. The Rog as he is referred to on Facebook works for the Recreation Department has recently started a fishing program for kids to teach them how to fish in the streams and lakes around Union County. He is working with DNR to find the best places and take the kids to stocked areas. The Rog announced this week that he was starting a hiking program for adults. The Commissioner said if you want to see things in the county some people don't get to see, like waterfalls, old homesteads, and other areas you should sign up. The first hiking trip is scheduled for November 9<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Paris added that The Rog is a great guy and is appreciated.

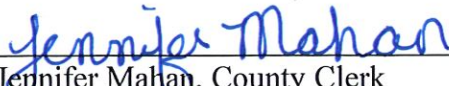
Commissioner Paris then reminded everyone of the GDOT Meeting on the widening 19/129 North was taking place in the Union County Sports Center right then and if anyone wanted to attend, they should be able to go by after the County Meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to give the public an idea of their most recent plans for widening the Murphy Highway, but they were talking about an eight-year construction time frame. The Commissioner added that his brother-in-law said the first meeting about this highway was in 1962, so they have been working on it for a while. The county has requested a large copy of the plans so they can be kept in the Commissioner's Office for the public to come and look at if they need or want to.

The Commissioner stated that the county is in the middle of designing the roundabout at the intersection of Pat Haralson and Deep South Farm Road. The new medical facility is almost complete, and they have a new parking lot. The county is trying to work with GDOT, who has already made a commitment of one million dollars and working with the hospital. The plan still has to be sent to utility companies so they can make a plan because water, fiber and sewer all go through this particular intersection. The Commissioner said he is hoping they will give the county a good price.

In closing the Commissioner said the Sorghum Festival was a great success. The first weekend was the biggest and best, as always. There were great crowds, and you could see people from all different areas in attendance. Next month Enotah CASA, who helps put on the festival, will be coming to the meeting to explain the details of their organization and what the funds go to.

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

Respectfully submitted by:

  
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Jennifer Mahan, County Clerk

Approved this 17<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2022

  
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Lamar Paris, Commissioner