

Called Meeting  
November 9, 2023, 4:00pm  
Minutes  
Union County Courthouse

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Lamar Paris at 4:03 pm.

The Commissioner stated that the purpose of the meeting was for Union County to conduct the 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of two ordinance revisions and one proposed new ordinance. Those ordinances are as follows:

1. Proposed revisions to Chapter 10, Article III, Section 10-80(A)(2) addressing Temporary Special Event Licenses for the sale of alcohol.
2. Proposed revisions to Chapter 38, Article III, Section 38-51 addressing Tattoo and Body Piercing Establishments.
3. Proposed new ordinance regarding Commercial Firing Range Facilities.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Reading of the three ordinances was conducted at the September 21st, 2023 County Meeting and a Public Hearing was held on October 19, 2023. The Commissioner stated that County Attorney, William Mercer and Renee Deibert would be providing information on the ordinances and answering any questions.

William Mercer stated this was the second reading of the three ordinance changes that Commissioner Paris had announced related to alcohol, tattoo and body piercing and for firing ranges. Attorney Mercer stated the ordinance revisions had been read multiple times, and he was not going to read all of them. Everyone was provided with a copy of each ordinance where all the changes that had been made since the last meeting were in red. He opened the meeting up to questions or statements about any of the three ordinances after announcing that there would be a Called Meeting on November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 5:00pm where all three of the ordinances would be adopted. The first publication notice that is required by the State of Georgia started November 8, 2023 and it has to be published for three consecutive weeks. November 30<sup>th</sup> was the first available day to hold the Called Meeting after the advertisement had run the required weeks.

**Question:** Obviously, my question is about the firing range, pistol firing range, there on 180. That is not a commercial entity, is it not?

**Attorney Mercer:** All I can tell you about that place, is that a deed is in a private person's name. The GDOT right of way that each person has to sign to get a driveway, was all marked that it was used for personal residential property. There are specific things on those forms that say if it is commercial, you have to disclose it is commercial right then. Because there are different requirements for each. If they have changed it, I don't know. What we can see from the actual government documents that could be obtained, it seems like it is a private place. Anyone can have their own private whatever, as far as guns are concerned, in Georgia. If they decide to start charging, then they would be stopped by the moratorium that went in to place back in September. Then they would have to be evaluated once the ordinance actually gets put

in, to see if they are in compliance with the ordinance. If it is a private place, there are state laws that say where you can shoot and stuff like that, depending on your proximity to a public highway.

**Follow Up Question:** I have had conversations with the Sheriff on this. In fact, the last time after they fired all day long Saturday and I live very close, I live within a quarter of a mile. And all I heard all day long was shooting. From 10 o'clock to 6 o'clock at night. Couldn't do anything. So, the following week, I called the Sheriff, and he called me back. We had a conversation. I stated that you had originally given me the Georgia Law about the 150 feet and that you can't see anybody shooting. I explained to the Sheriff, that when I drove by, because the highway is higher than his facility that I could actually see the individuals firing the pistols into the targets. Long before this when I talked to the sheriff the first time, he told me that if this ever happened...

**Attorney Mercer:** Do you have a question or statement about the ordinance, not individuals?

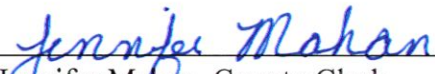
**Follow Up Question:** About the ordinance or about the rules?

**Attorney Mercer:** If you have a question about some individual part of the ordinance you would like to ask, or statement about the ordinance that you think may need to be changed, this is the forum for that. When we are in a Called Meeting we have to stick to the agenda. If you have any personal complaints after the meeting, I am perfectly happy to hear them. You can always email them to the Commissioner's Office. We have plenty of time after this, talk to the Commissioner himself, he is here.

Attorney William Mercer closed by summarizing that the second reading of the Alcohol Ordinance, the Tattoo and Body Piercing Ordinance, and the Commercial Firing Range Ordinance had been completed. The Called Meeting to adopt all three will be on November 30<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm. The first publication started on November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023 as required by Georgia Law and will run for the next three weeks. Mr. Mercer asked if there were any other questions, and there were none.

Commissioner Paris officially adjourned the Public Hearing at 4:10pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

  
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Jennifer Mahan, County Clerk

Approved this 16<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2023

  
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Lamar Paris, Commissioner