

County Meeting
October 19, 2023, 6:00 pm
Minutes
Union County Courthouse

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Lamar Paris at 6:01 pm. The invocation was given by David Dyer, Fire Chief/EMA Director and Chief Dyer led the Pledge of Allegiance as well. The minutes from the August 22, 2023 County Meeting and the September 21, 2023 County Meeting were approved as presented. Attendees were provided with copies of the minutes.

The first item on the agenda was a Proclamation for Georgia Military Veterans' Hall of Fame Day on November 4, 2023. County Attorney, William Mercer, read the proclamation as follows:

Whereas, Since the founding of Georgia in 1733, over 1,000,000 of its finest citizens have served in the military, to include active duty, reserves and national guard; and

Whereas, The patriotic men and women of Union County have always served to ensure that Union County, Georgia and America are defended and protected; and

Whereas, Georgia currently has 678,304 living veterans of former service to America's military branches; and

Whereas, In 2013 the Georgia Military Veterans' Hall of Fame, Inc. was established to honor and induct annually fifteen Georgians into the nation's premiere military veterans' hall of fame; and

Whereas, Through 2023, 177 Georgians have been inducted, to include one from Union County; and

Whereas, Since establishing an annual "ROTC Scholarship Program," in 2020, the Georgia Military Veterans' Hall of Fame, Inc. has awarded thirty-nine \$4,000 scholarships to Georgia's top thirty-nine senior high school Senior JROTC Cadets, who are enrolled in the ROTC Program at a Georgia four-year university; and

Whereas, We commend the Georgia Military Veterans' Hall of Fame and the 177 inductees and encourage all citizens to educate themselves concerning this effort and get involved in nominating worthy veterans.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved that Lamar Paris, Commissioner of Union County, does further recognize and honor this endeavor and inductees, do hereby proclaim Saturday, November 4, 2023 as the Georgia Military Veterans' Hall of Fame, Inc. Day.

Commissioner Paris stated there was one individual from Union County that has been inducted into the Georgia Military Veterans' Hall of Fame and that was Eric England. He was inducted in 2017.

Commissioner Paris adopted an agreement between Union County and GFL Environmental, LLC for transportation and disposal of solid waste from the Union County Transfer Station in the amount of \$38.00 per ton for the first year, \$39.50 per ton for the second year, and \$41.00 per ton for the third year. This is a \$1.50 increase per year for the next three years. The duration of this agreement is November 18, 2023 through November 18, 2026.

Attendees were provided, as part of the agenda, a list of Business Licenses that were issued in Union County from September 18, 2023 to October 15, 2023 for the purpose of operating a Short-term Rental in Union County. Commissioner Paris approved all Business Licenses contained on the list provided and that list will be made a part of the minutes.

The Commissioner accepted a grant award from Walmart/Sam's Club Facility #3485 to Union County and the Union County Fire Department in the amount of \$3,500 from the Community Grant. The Fire Department applied for this grant and the funding will be used to purchase kitchen items, bathroom items, and cleaning supplies for Fire Station 13 which will be opening on November 17, 2023.

At the August 22, 2023 County Meeting, Union County awarded four Substance Abuse Grants to local organizations whose purposes are 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 organization was 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 as long as they could provide a budget showing how they would utilize any additional funding. Based on budgets that were presented, the committee awarded two organizations additional funds which were provided to the respective organizations on August 30, 2023.

Positive Pathways, Inc. \$2,500
Union County Family Connection - \$7,500

In April of 2018 Union County Government joined the National Opioid Lawsuit against those pharmaceutical companies legally responsible for the wrongful distribution of prescription opiates and the damages caused. Union County Government did not think they would receive any funds, but since there was no out of pocket cost, the county joined the lawsuit. Cason Carter worked for one of the firms handling this suit and he contacted the county about joining the suit initially. Settlements have been reached with some of the major drug companies across the nation and Union County has received funds from participating in this suit. These funds are restricted as to what they can be used on, such as directly supporting organizations that provide drug addiction treatment, starting up new programs in the community related to drug treatment, providing housing for those receiving treatment, etc. So far, Union County has received a total of \$90,686.33 in remediation funding from settlements. Union County decided to make a grant available in a similar fashion to the Substance Abuse Grant with an application, guidelines, and restrictions. A total of \$40,000 was made available to be split evenly between the organizations that were selected. The Substance Abuse Grant Committee reviewed all the applications and determined the organization's eligibility. As a result, two organizations were eligible and received \$20,000 each. The funds were provided to them on August 30, 2023.

New Hope Counseling - \$20,000
Freedom Ministries - \$20,000

The next item was the adoption of the ordinance pertaining to Cryptocurrency and Data Mining. The first reading for this ordinance was held at the June 15, 2023 County Meeting, a Public Hearing was held on July 20, 2023 and the second reading was held at the August 22, 2023 County Meeting. Drafts have been made available to the public via the website and copies have been available in the Commissioner's Office for the duration of this process. Attendees were provided with a copy of the final draft. Commissioner Paris then adopted the final draft of the Cryptocurrency and Data Mining Ordinance. The Commissioner said this was a hard ordinance to deal with and he thanked those that helped determine the best way to handle this. There are a

lot of counties and communities and states doing this in a different way, but Union County felt that with the legal advice received, they are adopting the best possible ordinance on this issue.

The Commissioner adopted Resolution R-2023-30 urging the Governor and General Assembly of Georgia to continue efforts to reform and improve mental health services for the citizens of Georgia. Union County supports efforts designed to provide every citizen in need to have accessible, affordable, and adequate mental health services. Union County is grateful for the efforts of Georgia's executive, legislative and judicial branches in working towards mental health reform in recent years but also recognizes that there is still a tremendous amount of work for the citizens of Union County and other citizens across Georgia to receive adequate healthcare for mental health and substance abuse disorders. This resolution will be sent to the Georgia Senate and the Georgia House of Representatives urging the Governor and General Assembly to continue efforts in the 2024 Session of the Georgia General Assembly to enhance Georgia citizens' access to vital mental health services, including the provision of state budgetary funding for additional behavioral health crisis centers across the state, additional support units, and other resources to assist those with mental health and substance abuse disorders. Union County was asked, along with all other counties, by the Association of County Commissioners of Georgia, so that all counties could work toward the same thing. One of the big problems in the state is dealing with mental health. This is to help more inform everyone on the best way to deal with persons with mental health issues, including helping deputies better deal with people with mental health issues.

Commissioner Paris commented that the Sorghum Festival Parade was a huge hit and a huge success especially since a week prior to parade day there was not even going to be a parade. He thanked the Chamber of Commerce who worked with a lot of other groups to get the parade ready and going, which resulted in a super parade.

The Commissioner provided attendees with information related to the Recreation Department. Youth football has about three more games and then the playoffs. There is a 1st grade team, a 2nd grade team, a 3rd grade team, a 4th grade team, a 5th grade team and a 6th grade team. There are a total of 141 football players from the 1st grade to the 6th grade participating in youth football through the Recreation Department. There are 121 cheerleaders, and they are go getters. Commissioner Paris stated it is amazing to see this many kids participating in sports. Youth basketball is about to start in another 30 to 45 days. The Commissioner gave information for comparison on how the Recreation Department has grown. Two years ago, there were thirty teams for basketball and this year the Recreation Department thinks there could be up to sixty teams. Youth sports have exploded in the county. Fannin County only has 30 teams this year for basketball. The Recreation Department has done so much and has got so many kids involved in sports. For fall and winter sports, including basketball, wrestling, volleyball, and football, there will be around 400 kids participating.

The Commissioner briefly went over the ongoing projects. Fire Station 13 was mentioned earlier in the meeting. The new Voting Facility should be opening in early December. The grading is done for the new multi-purpose gym next to the voting facility. The gym will be used for basketball, volleyball, exercise programs, and square dancing. It will also be wired to be used for voting purposes. There is a new machine for recycling at the Transfer Station that will be elaborated on at next month's meeting. Commissioner Paris went on to state that Union County has one of the best recycling programs and recycling facilities in this part of Georgia and maybe the one of the best for counties of similar size. The crew at the Transfer Station has made great

strides in recycling and the county will be working on promoting recycling more in the next few months to remind everyone of how important recycling is. The Commissioner provided some history on landfills in Georgia stating that about 15-20 years ago all the landfills across the state were filling up, and it is about to reach that point again in Georgia. It was at this time that regulations were changed across the state. The Union County landfill reached capacity about thirty years ago and then a lot of the other landfills started filling up. Mega landfills were then opened in different areas of the state. There is one in Banks County, one around Atlanta, and one over toward Rome, but these are starting to fill up also. They are not full yet, but they are filling up quickly. Commissioner Paris stated it is critical that citizens remember to participate in recycling. He closed by saying that it has been noticed that there is a significantly less amount of trash that the county is having to pick up since the opening of the recycling centers.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:29 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

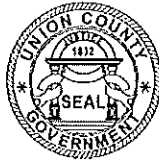


Jennifer Mahan, County Clerk

Approved this 16th day of November, 2023



Lamar Paris, Commissioner



Union County Short-term Rental Licensees
Sept 18-Oct 15, 2023

626 GROUP LLC
1388 Highland Trace
Blairsville GA 30512

BEACH RUNNER PROPERTIES, LLC
449 Mountain Creek Road
Blairsville GA 30512

Emily Costello
2839 Helton Creek Road
Blairsville GA 30512

EQUITY TRUST COMPANY CUSTODIAN FBO
BARBARA DRANGLE ROTH IRA 50%
RUSSELL WENG IRA
5 Rebel Ridge Rd
Blairsville GA 30512

FLACK RYAN ARTHUR & CHARLES MANGUM
314 Wild Ridge Road
Blairsville GA 30512

GIBSON THOMAS W & MARTHA J
42 COPPERHEAD PKWY
Blairsville, GA 30512

GOODRICH MARK & SABRINA RENEE
136 HONEYBELL LN
Blairsville, GA 3051230512

GUST MICHELE
1206 CINDY COVE RD
BLAIRSVILLE GA 30512

BARBER FREEMAN & CHRIS
265 WILSON LN
BLAIRSVILLE GA 30512

DYER RONALD D
225 MAYBERRY LN
BLAIRSVILLE GA 30512

ENGLAND DAVID SCOTT
451 Hourihan Rd
Blairsville GA 30512

FINANCIAL U, INC
58 Cottage Drive
BLAIRSVILLE GA 30512

GIBSON THOMAS W & MARTHA J
18 COPPERHEAD CT
Blairsville, GA 30512

GLOVER JOHN CLAY JR & ULLA
47 Surles Ridge Ln
Blairsville, GA 3051230512

GSH INVESTMENTS LLC
40 Angel Hart Ln
Blairsville GA 30512

HAYDEN, GARRY & OLGA
983 BRUCE MOUNTAIN RD
MORGANTON GA 30560



HIGHLAND PARK POA INC
3140 KIUTUESTIA CREEK RD
BLAIRSVILLE GA 30512

Janet Wright and Ramee Wright
437 Sheepstomp Rd.
Blairsville GA 30512

KOLODY MICHAEL & MARY LOU TRUST
540 Bruce Mountain Road
Morganton GA 30560

Lanakayla, LLC
67 Lakeshore Drive S
Blairsville GA 30512

Mark & Shannon Watkins
51 Boundless Trail
Morganton GA 30560

MILLER MARK WHITE & ROCHELLE DENEEN
26 COTTAGE CREEK WAY
Blairsville GA 30512

MUNSON SYLVIA FARRIS/AMANDA M
FARRIS &
7 SPLIT ROCK TRL
Morganton GA 30560

NOENS BENNY & JULIETTE
39 LADYBUG LN
BLAIRSVILLE GA 30512

POWELL DAVID J & BLAIR E
38 Jessie Dr
Blairsville GA 30512

Richard Heysek and Catherine Ann Perez
74 Clay Drive
Blairsville GA 30512

SCHROEDER CHARLES E
22 COPPERHEAD COVE
BLAIRSVILLE GA 30512

HUFFSTETLER SANDY A
336 Deaver Cove Road
Blairsville GA 30512

Joe and Mary Petrone
550 High Country Lane
Morganton GA 30560

Ladybug Lane Tourist Accom
366 Paradise Rd
BLAIRSVILLE GA 30512

LOPEZ VICTOR M & MARGO R
12 Glenn Elliot Rd
Suches GA 30572

MCADAMS KIM
25 Woodland Hills
Blairsville GA 30512

MINCHELLA MARK A & PENNY L
707 DOCKERY CREEK RD
YOUNG HARRIS GA 30582

NGUYEN KEVIN T & TIA T
394 Jock Branch Rd
Blairsville GA 30512

O'Neal Bryon
248 Northwoods Circle
Blairsville GA 30512

R&R Retreat... Volker Rental
258 Franklin Dr
Blairsville GA 30512

RICHARD INC OF BREVARD
308 Mystic Ridge
Blairsville GA 32501

Steve and Jackie Spina
668 Scouts Ridge Road
Morganton GA 30560



Steve and Jackie Spina
714 Scouts Ridge Rd.
Morganton GA 30560

THOMPSON MARTIN WILLIAM & DONNA
JEAN
195 Chapman Ford Rd
Blairsville GA 30512

Willard and Lisa Arbour
72 Blackbear Ridge
Suches GA 30572

TAPANES CATALINA R AND JORGE
98 PINNACLE COURT
BLAIRSVILLE GA 30512

Tiny Homes (TA)
347 OLD MILL RD
SUCHES GA 30572