

County Meeting

September 19, 2024

Minutes

Union County Courthouse

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Lamar Paris at 6:01pm. The Commissioner welcomed everyone to the meeting. The invocation was given by Fire Chief David Dyer, and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Bill Walker. The minutes from the August 15, 2024, County Meeting were approved as presented, and attendees were provided copies.

Commissioner Paris asked his assistant Jennifer Mahan to come up to the podium and read the first item on the agenda which was a Proclamation declaring September 1<sup>st</sup>, as Micajah Clark Dyer Day and reads as follows: **Whereas**, Micajah Clark Dyer was born on July 13, 1822 and lived and farmed in Union County, Georgia until his death on January 26, 1891; and **Whereas**, Mr. Dyer's only formal education was at a one-room school in the Choestoe community; and **Whereas**, Mr. Dyer is recognized as a true genius because of his many inventions; and **Whereas**, some of Mr. Dyer's inventions were running water in his home, an efficient water-powered gristmill, and a "perpetual motion" machine that could power devices; and **Whereas**, Mr. Dyer's most famous invention was an "apparatus for navigating the air" which he flew over a meadow on his farm in the Choestoe community south of Blairsville; and **Whereas**, Mr. Dyer received a patent on September 1, 1874, for his flying machine that embodied aeronautical principles theretofore not employed in air navigation; **Now Therefore**, I, Lamar Paris, Commissioner of Union County, Georgia in honor of the memory of Micajah Clark Dyer and his ingenious invention at this early date in history do proclaim September 1, 2024, to be **Micajah Clark Dyer day and the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the patent for the "Apparatus for Navigating the Air"** in Union County and do so affix my signature this August 26, 2024.

Jennifer continued to read the next item on the agenda which was a Proclamation declaring Constitution Week, and Constitution Day and reads as follows: **Whereas** The Constitution of the United States of America, the guardian of our liberties, embodies the principles of limited government in a Republic dedicated to rule by law; and **Whereas** The Old Unicoi Trail Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution is a leader in local efforts (1) to emphasize citizens' responsibilities for protecting and defending the Constitution, preserving it for posterity; (2) to inform the people that the Constitution is the basis for America's great heritage and the foundation for our way of life; and (3) to encourage the study of the historical events which led to the framing of the Constitution in September 1787, and its subsequent amendments; and **Whereas** it is fitting and proper to accord official recognition to this magnificent document and its memorable anniversary, and to the patriotic celebrations which will commemorate it; and **Whereas** Public Law 84-915 signed in 1956 guarantees the issuing of a proclamation each year by the President of the United States of America designating September 17<sup>th</sup> through the 23<sup>rd</sup> as **Constitution Week**. **Now, Therefore**, I, Lamar Paris, by virtue of the

authority vested in me as Sole Commissioner of Union County, State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim the week of September 17<sup>th</sup> through the 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024 as **Constitution Week**, and Thursday, September 17<sup>th</sup> as **Constitution Day**, the day the U.S. Constitutional Convention signed the Constitution in 1787 in Philadelphia. I ask the citizens of Union County to read the Constitution and reaffirm their support for the ideals the Framers of the Constitution held in 1787 by vigilantly protecting the rightful liberties it guarantees to us. **In Witness Whereof**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Government of the County of Union, State of Georgia to be affixed.

Jennifer also read the next item on the agenda which was a Proclamation for Constitution Week and reads as follows; **Whereas** the Constitution of the United States the guardian of our liberties, is a product of reflection and choice, embodying the principles of limited government in a republic dedicated to rule by law, not by men; and **Whereas** The Blue Ridge Mountains Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution as a local leader in patriotic , educational and historical efforts marks September 17<sup>th</sup>, Constitution Day, as the anniversary of the drafting of the Constitution of the United States of America by the Constitution Convention; and Whereas It is fitting and proper to accord official recognition to this memorable anniversary, and to the patriotic exercises that will commemorate the occasion; and **Whereas**; Public Law 84-915, guarantees the issue of a proclamation each year by the President of the United States of America designating September 17<sup>th</sup>, through the 23<sup>rd</sup> as Constitution Week; **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, I, Lamar Paris, Sole Commissioner, of Union County, Georgia do hereby proclaim to participate in **CONSTITUTION WEEK** and urge all Union County residents to study the Constitution and to express gratitude for the privileges of American citizenship in our Republic; functioning under the super body of laws – the Constitution of the United States of America. **IN WITNESS THEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of Union County, Georgia to be affixed.

The Commissioner moved onto the next item on the agenda where he approved the Adoption of the Title VI Plan for the Union County Transit System.

Commissioner Paris then approved the next item on the agenda which was the Adoption of the Title VI Plan for Union County Government.

Commissioner Paris approved the next item, which was the approval of the following Business License:

**New Union County Short-term Rental Licensees  
August 12, 2024 – September 15, 2024**

**BOOKWORM'S  
RIVERFRONT  
HIDEAWAY, LLC**  
137 By The River  
Suches, GA 30572

**HICKORY REAL ESTATE  
HOLDINGS  
LLC**  
838 Sweetbay Dr  
Blairsville, GA 30512

**CAGNINA, DON & PAM**  
352 Highland Trace  
Blairsville, GA 30512  
**CARRINGTON, KRISTIN**  
72 Greenbriar Dr  
Blairsville, GA 30512

**HIDDEN RETREAT, LLC**  
573 Ridgecrest Dr  
Blairsville, GA 30512  
**MAURICE, JEROME**  
1243 Forest Dr  
Blairsville, GA 30512

**CLARK, DANNY**  
46 Angel Hart Lane  
Blairsville, GA 30512

**TOUPS, LOUIS &  
CAROLYN**  
895 Fisher Field Rd  
Blairsville, GA 30512

**CRUZ, ANA MARGARITA**  
769 Voylestown Rd  
Morganton, GA 30560  
**EDWARDS, MARK**  
160 Emerald Pond Dr  
Blairsville, GA 30512

**TRANQUILITY LLC**  
1251 Stephens Rd  
Blairsville, GA 30512

Everyone was provided with a copy of the list of Business Licenses that were issued in Union County from August 12th, 2024, to September 15th, 2024, for the purpose of operating a short-term rental within Union County. The Commissioner approved all Business Licenses contained on the list provided.

The Commissioner presented the next item on the agenda which was the Agreement between Cummins Sales and Service and Union County for a planned maintenance agreement in the amount of \$748.33 with an effective date of July 1, 2024, to November 1, 2024. This agreement covers one inspection of the generators at 911 Dispatch during this time.

Commissioner Paris approved the next item, which was the Agreement between Cummins Sales and Service and Union County for a planned maintenance agreement in the amount of \$1,565.53 with an effective date of November 1, 2024, through October 31, 2025. This agreement covers two service visits, one full maintenance service, and one maintenance inspection.

The Commissioner approved the agreement between Mobile Communications America, Inc. and Union County to maintain the radios, repeaters, and consoles in the Union County 911 Dispatch Center. This agreement has an effective date of August 1, 2024, through July 31, 2025 in the amount of \$4,788 for the duration of the agreement.

The next item the Commissioner approved was an agreement between AT&T and Union County for a Master Service Agreement for the call answering equipment at 911 Dispatch. This includes phones, servers, backup phones, computers and 24-hour Tech Support. This is a monthly contract for \$1,813 per month. The service agreement will be in effect until cancelled upon the completion of the new Union County 911 Center, which we hope to be able to bid out in the next 60 days.

The Commissioner accepted an agreement between Union County and Paymentech, LLC, also known as Chase Merchant Services, for the processing of credit card transactions at the Transfer Station. The program will interface with the County's accounting software. There is no cost associated with this agreement.

The Commissioner accepted an agreement between Tech Assurance and Union County for a maintenance agreement and supply cost program for the Union County Tax Commissioner's Office and the Union County Tax Assessor's Office. This agreement provides that Union County purchases supplies for the printers from Tech Assurance at a discounted rate and that the maintenance of the printers is provided at no cost.

The Commissioner adopted Resolution R-2024-12 authorizing the filing of an application with the Department of Transportation, United States of America, and Georgia Department of Transportation for a grant under Title 49 U.S.C., Section 5311. Which is for our county transportation system that comes through GDOT.

The Commissioner accepted the following roads into the county-maintained road system:

Loftis Mtn. Road – 2,500 linear feet from the intersection with Bradley Road

Loftis Mtn. Way – Entire Road

Loftis Lane – Entire Road

The Commissioner asked Adam Payne to come up and speak regarding the Mountain Shelter Humane Society. He discussed the challenges they are facing with abandoned animals. They are focusing on spreading awareness within the community. Invited everyone to start following their social media pages for information about the shelter.

The Commissioner introduced Robert Mawyer, who spoke regarding the professionalism of the Fire Department and Emergency Medical Services.

Commissioner Paris thanked Mr. Mawyer for speaking and invited Jennifer Mahan to come up to the podium to explain HB-581 bill that will be on the ballot for this election.

Jennifer explained she has done a lot of research on HB-581, and you will have to vote on this item in the upcoming election. You will have a homestead exemption, your home will still be assessed, but your taxes cannot increase more than the Consumer Price Index. Jennifer invited anyone that would like to ask questions after the meeting, she would be available.

Commissioner Paris came back to the podium and explained that homes still must be assessed, and everyone gets a \$2,000.00 homestead exemption, then your taxes are calculated against 40%

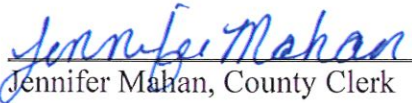
of your assessment. This will set a cap that will hopefully help keep your property taxes in line and not increase so much.

The Commissioner went over the roads that have been resurfaced so far this year, with a goal of hopefully 8 miles this year. The company that is paving is pushing hard and will try to get finished before the snow starts falling. We will be doing 142 miles of striping since we have the funding from SPLOST. We should be finished in about 30 days.

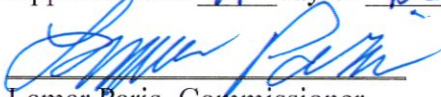
The new 911 center will hopefully be able to go out to bid in about 60 days. This is so deserving, especially since the buildings are in need of repair. Recycling will be getting a new compactor that should make everything in your home able to recycle except for Styrofoam.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:39 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

  
Jennifer Mahan, County Clerk

Approved this 19<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2024

  
Lamar Paris, Commissioner



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