

County Meeting
September 21, 2017
Minutes
Union County Courthouse

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Paris at 6:00 pm. The invocation was given by Pat Malone and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by the Union County Sheriff's Deputies. The minutes from the August 17, 2017 County Meeting were approved as read.

Commissioner Paris asked Allyson McGraw to come to the front. He then stated that Allyson was born in LaGrange, Georgia and she and her husband, Charlie, moved to Blairsville in 1984 where they opened Appalachian Locksmith. Allyson was employed until her retirement in 1996 by the University of Georgia as a Family and Consumer Science Agent in Union County and she had a profound impact on many lives, both young and old. Allyson, often referred to as "The 4H Lady", inspired countless youth in school classrooms, helping with CPA and DPA Projects, regional and state competitions, 4-H Camps, Adopt a Highway Clean-up Projects, and she even prepared 2,000 helium balloons to release for the opening ceremony of Highway 515. Over the years Allyson has taught many different classes and presented programs on a variety of different subjects to the community and she has been an instrumental volunteer in many professional and civic organizations. Some of these organizations were Pilot International, American Cancer Society, American Heart Association, Habitat for Humanity Women's Build, Community Council at Georgia Mount Research and Education Center, Enotah CASA and the Retired Educators Association. We all know Allyson from her involvement and dedication to Relay for Life each year. Allyson is known for her smile, her contagious enthusiasm, her can do attitude, her compassion and kindness for people and animals, and her comfort, support, and encouragement to anyone in need.

The Commissioner then proclaimed Saturday, September 23, 2017 as "Allyson McGraw Day and asked all citizens to join in recognizing her service to the community with the thousands of volunteer hours she has donated, and her unselfish dedication, unending compassion and her willingness to help in any situation.

Commissioner Paris then asked Deputy David McGregor to come to the front and he then read the Proclamation which proclaimed September 21, 2017 as "David McGregor Appreciation Day" for over 50 years in public service. Deputy McGregor was then presented with a plaque.

The Commissioner proclaimed Constitution Week as being September 17th through September 23rd, 2017 with Sunday, September 17th, being Constitution Day. On this day in 1787 the U.S. Constitutional Convention signed the Constitution of the United States of America. With this Proclamation, the county gave official recognition to this document and the anniversary of its signing. Commissioner Paris asked the citizens of Union County to reaffirm the ideals the Framers of the Constitution had in 1787 by vigilantly protecting the freedoms guaranteed to us through this guardian of our liberties.

Commissioner Paris proclaimed September 22, 2017 as National Surgical Technologist Day. For over 60 years, surgical technology has grown to meet the ever-increasing demand for well-educated, highly-skilled and versatile surgical technologists. Over 90,000 surgical technologists

nationwide are an integral part of the surgical team committed to providing the highest quality of surgical care to patients and surgical technologists are responsible for the application of sterile and aseptic techniques in the operating room, ensuring that equipment functions properly and facilitating safe and effective conduct during invasive surgical procedures. Commissioner Paris urged all citizens to join in acknowledging the important role of surgical technologists in the care and recovery of their patients.

The Commissioner officially conducted the 2nd reading of the revised Union County Alcohol Ordinance. The ordinance is not actually read, but it is a ceremonial requirement. However, the ordinance revisions are available if anyone would like to see them or obtain a copy. There have been no changes since the 1st reading at the August 17th County Meeting or since the Public Hearing that was held on September 7th.

Commissioner Paris accepted the revisions to the Union County Alcohol Ordinance as presented to him by the Alcohol Board.

The Commissioner accepted a Lease Agreement between William Lee Wood and Carol L. Wood and Union County for the use of a 5-acre tract of land located in Land Lot 251, 9th District, 1st Section of Union County to be used for a shooting range. There is no cost to Union County for this Lease Agreement.

Commissioner Paris accepted a Lease Agreement between Joel Miller, Trustee of the Colwell Children's Trust, and Union County for ingress and egress along or about that road from Highway 325 to the shooting range located just off of the highway. Said access will cross that tract or parcel of land being described in Deed Book 864, Page 300-301. There is no cost to Union County for this Lease Agreement.

The Commissioner accepted an Agreement for the purchase, sale, and exchange of Real Property between Charles Jenkins, Edgar Jenkins, Marilyn Thomasson, Kenneth Jenkins, and Patricia Chambers and Union County. The Real Property is located in Land Lot 269, 9th District, 1st Section of Union County. The Jenkins agree to transfer to Union County Tract 3 and Tract 4 totaling 1.13 acres and Union County agrees to transfer to the Jenkins Tract 2 which totals 1.02 acres along with \$35,000 in additional compensation.

Commissioner Paris approved Resolution R-2017-13 adopting the Records Retention Schedules for Local Government Records established by the Secretary of State's Office. These revisions became effective on April 5, 2017. These schedules establish the length of time local governments must maintain records of its agencies and departments.

The Commissioner accepted Lee Harkins Road into the County Maintained Road System. The property owners have given Right of Way. This roadway is only 425 feet long with six houses.

Commissioner Paris said the County was proud to have the unveiling of the Native American Monument of a Stickball Player in Meeks Park as part of the We Are Still Here celebration. There was a ceremony to welcome back home to Georgia three Native American Tribes. These tribes were moved to Oklahoma on the Trail of Tears in the 1800s. The Commissioner really appreciated several of the tribes and chiefs attending from Oklahoma. The unveiling of the beautiful monument was to symbolize and acknowledge that at one time, these mountains were

inhabited by the Indians. Some of their ancestors still reside here and they are welcome to visit their ancestor's birthplace here anytime.

The County is finishing up surface treatment paving for the year and continue to finish pot hole work along with some additional asphalt paving. The Commissioner said he had planned on having a paving list for the meeting, but it has been such a hectic time he will try and have it for the next County Meeting.

Commissioner Paris said the County had several trees down and significant power outages during Hurricane Irma but, we escaped what could have been a much worse impact. Most of the damage occurred in the Choestoe, Trackrock, Owltown, and Suches areas. The Commissioner extended a special thanks to all the first responders, volunteers, county employees, Colwell Detention Center Detainees and Officers, GDOT and, of course, the Blue Ridge Mountain EMC.

Commissioner Paris said there are still many thousands of people that have been negatively impacted by the succession of hurricanes along with the earthquake in Mexico, so everyone keep these folks in your prayers.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:50.

Respectfully submitted by:



Jennifer Queen, County Clerk

Approved this 19th day of October, 2017



Lamar Paris, Commissioner