

County Meeting
April 19, 2018
Minutes
Union County Courthouse

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Paris at 6:00 pm. The invocation was given by Marty Duncan and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Bill Walker. The minutes from the March 15, 2018 County Meeting were approved as read.

Commissioner Paris asked Mayor, Jim Conley and Sharon Morrison, with the National Day of Prayer to come to the front. The Commissioner stated that The National Day of Prayer is an opportunity for Americans of all faiths to join in united prayer. He proclaimed May 3, 2018 as a Day of Prayer in Union County. The 2018 theme "Unity" is based on Ephesians 4:3 which says, "Making every effort to keep the unity of the spirit through the bond of peace." Mrs. Morrison then gave an explanation of the National Day of Prayer and Mayor Conley thanked the Morrisons for the dedication to the cause.

Commissioner Paris introduced the next Proclamation by stating that he was designating April as Parkinson's Disease Awareness Month. The Blairsville area Parkinson's Disease Support Group is an affiliate of the Georgia Chapter of the American Parkinson Disease Association, and the Leader of the affiliate, Peggy Deyton, was present to accept the Proclamation on behalf of the Members of the Blairsville area affiliate. As Peggy approached the front the Commissioner acknowledged Chuck and Brenda Esposito who had been faithful supporters and leaders of the Parkinson group for several years. They recently had to move out of Suches due to his declining health from this awful disease. He and Brenda have had many faithful followers of the support group in Suches and their past efforts are appreciated. Commissioner Paris let everyone know that Peggy had been his Executive Assistant for nearly 12 years and has been retired for 3 years. The Commissioner then signed the Proclamation and Peggy gave the attendees of the meeting information on Parkinson's Disease, the symptoms, the lack of knowledge regarding the cause, and the progress that has been made in the research regarding Parkinson's Disease.

Commissioner Paris asked if a representative from LifeLink was present to receive the Proclamation, but there was not. He then proclaimed the month of April 2018 as Donate Life Month. More than 121,000 men, women, and children await life-saving or life-enhancing organ transplants, with 5,590 residing in Georgia. A new patient is added to the national waiting list for an organ transplant every 10 minutes and 22 people die daily due to the lack of available organs. Donating life through organ, eye, and tissue donation is the ultimate act of generosity and kindness we can perform. LifeLink of Georgia is a non-profit, community service organization dedicated to the recovery of high quality organs and tissues for transplantation therapy. The Commissioner asked that everyone join him in honoring all those who made the decision to give the gift of life and encouraged all residents to take action and sign up on Georgia's Donor Registry. His niece was the recipient of a liver 22 years ago this past May, and Peggy Deyton was a kidney recipient in 2011.

The Commissioner asked Jennifer Addington to come up to receive the next Proclamation. Commissioner Paris then proclaimed the week of May 13-19, 2018 as Food Allergy Awareness Week in Union County. Food allergies are a growing public health concern with an estimated 15

million people in the United States having food allergies. Eight foods account for most food-allergic reactions: milk, eggs, peanuts, tree nuts, wheat, soy, fish, and shellfish. Strict avoidance of food allergens and early recognition of allergic reactions are important measures to prevent serious health consequences, including anaphylaxis which could result in death. Food allergies result in more than 200,000 ambulatory care visits a year involving children under the age of 18. There is no cure for food allergies and the people with food allergies increases every year. The Commissioner encouraged our community to increase their awareness of causes and symptoms of food allergies and anaphylaxis.

Commissioner Paris proclaimed April 2018 as Child Abuse Prevention Month. Children are the key to the future success, prosperity, and quality of life in Union County. They are our most valuable resource, but also our most vulnerable. Child abuse and neglect can be prevented by supporting and strengthening families, thus preventing the far-reaching effects of maltreatment. This provides the opportunity for children to develop healthy, trusting family bonds, and consequently, building the foundations of community. By providing a safe and nurturing environment for our children, free of violence, abuse and neglect, we can ensure that Union County Georgia's children will grow to their full potential. CASA, which stands for Court Appointed Special Advocates, did a sobering display on the lawn of the Historic Courthouse. The display consists of 291 blue pinwheels which represents the number of children in our district who had to be removed from the home due to abuse or neglect this past year. This proclamation was signed on the Square with Mayor, Jim Conley and CASA representatives on April 3, 2018.

The Commissioner proclaimed April 2018 as Confederate History and Heritage Month and April 26, 2018 as Confederate Memorial Day. The United Daughters of the Confederacy is an organization whose purposes include honoring the memory of its Confederate ancestors and honoring the service of veterans from all wars, as well as active duty military personnel. Smith's Legion Chapter #2699 was chartered in January 2014 to carry out the organization's purposes in Union County and surrounding area. It has been the practice of Georgia governors since 1984 to proclaim April 26th as Confederate Memorial Day. The Commissioner encouraged all citizens to participate in programs, displays, and activities that commemorate and honor our shared history and cultural inheritance under the leadership of Smith's Legion Chapter #2699. He also encouraged citizens to increase their knowledge of the role played by the Confederate States of America in our country's history. This proclamation was signed and presented on April 4, 2018.

Commissioner Paris approved an Agreement between Union County and CHA Consulting, Inc. to provide design services for the new access road for the Youth Ball Field Complex and the Farmers Market at the intersection of Highway 76 and the Glenn Gooch Bypass. The cost of this agreement is not to exceed \$44,513.00 and has an effective date of March 23, 2018.

The Commissioner approved an Agreement between Union County and AMR Business Products, Inc. dba DECA for remote software maintenance and services for system failures for the recording equipment located at 911 Dispatch. The cost of this agreement is \$2,834.00 and the duration is March 12, 2018 to March 11, 2019.

Commissioner Paris approved an Agreement for Indigent Defense Services between the Public Defender Office of the Enotah Judicial Circuit and Union County, Lumpkin County, White

County, and Towns County. The cost to Union County is \$95,563.00 for FY 2017-2018 which is from July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018.

The Commissioner approved an Agreement between Union County and Air Methods Corporation for emergency air medical transportation services for the County's citizens and their Household Members from June 1, 2018 to May 31, 2019. The amount of this agreement is \$57,320.00 and the County is only responsible for half of that amount. Commissioner Paris thanked everyone involved with this decision, especially Air Methods and Union General Hospital, without who's assistance this program to assist the citizens would not be possible.

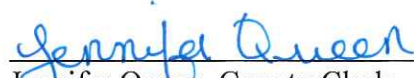
Commissioner Paris approved an Agreement between Union County and Legacy Link for the required local share during FY-2019 in the amount of \$95,000. These funds are used by the Area Agency on Aging as match to draw down the federal and state monies for administration, coordination, information and referral, employment and training of older workers and volunteer programs. This program is provided through the Union County Senior Center, the Director Kathy Hill and the employees and volunteers of which everyone is appreciative of their service to the community, including the highly successful Meals on Wheels program.

The Commissioner accepted the Accountability Courts Grant for Family Drug Court in the amount of \$30,000. This is an additional grant for the Family Drug Court in addition to the one that was received in June of 2017.

Commissioner Paris approved the City of Blairsville's request for annexation of property in Union County along the southern edge of Butternut Creek Golf Course. The purpose is for the City to extend the city limits from the current location on Pat Haralson Drive along the Golf Course and Pat Haralson Drive to the end of the Golf Course Property. This will allow the City of Blairsville to extend utilities to adjacent properties.


There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:45.

Respectfully submitted by:



Jennifer Queen, County Clerk

Approved this 17th day of May, 2018



Lamar Paris, Commissioner