

County Meeting
October 18, 2018
Minutes
Union County Courthouse

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Paris at 6:00 pm. The invocation was given by Carol Mckechnie and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Lamar Paris. The minutes from the September 20, 2018 County Meeting and the October 2, 2018 Called Meeting were approved as presented.

There was one item that needed to be addressed that was not on the Agenda. Commissioner Paris approved the appointment of Peggy Brown to the Avita Community Partners Board. Her term on this Board will end on June 30, 2021.

Commissioner Paris then asked Frank Riley to come up. Frank is the Georgia Firewise Liaison for the Chestatee-Chattahoochee RC&D Council. He provided everyone in attendance with a brief update on what the Council does for Union County and the surrounding areas.

The Commissioner proclaimed October 24, 2018 as World Polio Day. Rotary International was founded on February 23, 1905 and is one of the largest non-profit service organizations. In 1985 Rotary launched PolioPlus and spearheaded the Global Polio Eradication Initiative which includes the World Health Organization, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, UNICEF and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, to immunize the children of the world against polio. Polio cases have dropped by 99.9% since 1988 and the world stands on the threshold of eradicating the disease. Rotary has contributed more than 1.8 billion and countless volunteer hours to the protection of more than two billion children in 122 countries. The Commissioner encouraged all citizens to join him and Rotary International in the fight for a polio-free world.

Commissioner Paris accepted an Agreement between Union County and the Georgia Association of Conservation District, Incorporated (GACD) in the amount of \$95,200.00. Union County will be responsible for \$47,600 and the GACD will be responsible for the other \$47,600 during the term of this agreement which is from September 5, 2018 to September 30, 2020. The Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) provides support to land owners to implement conservation practices on eligible land.

The Commissioner approved a Business License for Deitz Rental located at 1954 Murphy Highway and reminded everyone this is the only type of Business License issued in Union County for the purpose of collecting the Hotel/Motel Tax.

Commissioner Paris gave an update on the election. So far, in early voting 2,008 people had voted and 70% of these voters were age 65 or older. SPLOST is on the ballot this time and it is an additional funding source for public safety and capital projects. These needs will not go away, and visitors and citizens alike contribute to these projects through SPLOST. These things would otherwise have to be funded through property tax revenue. The City will receive 8.5% of the SPLOST Funds that would be collected in this SPLOST as long as it passes.

The Commissioner wanted to make everyone aware that this winter the Road Department will be scraping the edges of the road where grass grows taller and there is a build up of dirt and debris which causes water to not drain off the roads properly. Scraping the edges allows the water to drain off the road and is necessary to do even though it can make the roads look bad for a little while. He also let everyone know that the county is still waiting on the permit from Georgia Department of Transportation to complete the new entrance to the Union County Farmers Market.

Commissioner Paris also let attendees know that the county has been working with the USFS and Blue Ridge Mountain EMC to get fiber to the top of Blood Mountain for the purpose of having weather cameras located at the top. BRMEMC is working to extend a cable through the air from the base of the mountain to the top of Blood Mountain. During inclement weather the county needs to know what the roads conditions are at the top of the mountain to be better able to inform the public. The cameras that are up there work good until winter which is when you really need them. GDOT put cameras, a weather station, and a pavement temperature monitors at the top of the mountain, but they will not work properly because the internet connection is not strong enough. Hopefully, once the fiber is in place, this system could be made available to the public for viewing.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:40.

Respectfully submitted by:



Jennifer Mahan, County Clerk

Approved this 26th day of November, 2018



Lamar Paris, Commissioner