

County Meeting  
September 20, 2018  
Minutes  
Union County Courthouse

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Paris at 6:00 pm. The invocation was given by Jack McKechnie and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Bill Royce. The minutes from the August 16, 2018 County Meeting and the September 12, 2018 Called Meeting were approved as presented.

The Commissioner proclaimed Constitution Week as being September 17<sup>th</sup> through September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2017 with September 17<sup>th</sup>, 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, we are giving official recognition to this document and the anniversary of its signing. All citizens of Union County were asked 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 the week of October 21<sup>st</sup> through 27<sup>th</sup>, 2018 as friends of the Libraries week in Blairsville, Georgia of Union County. Friends of the Union County Library of Georgia raise money that enables our library to move from good to great by providing resources for additional programming, much needed equipment, support for children's summer reading, and special events throughout the year. The Friends of the Union County Library understand the critical importance of well-funded libraries and advocate to ensure that our library gets the resources it needs to provide a wide variety of services to all ages including access to print and electronic materials, along with expert assistance in research, readers' advisory and children's services. The Friends gift of their time and commitment to the library sets an example for all in how volunteerism leads to positive civic engagement and the betterment of our community. Citizens are urged to join the Friends of the Library and thank them for all they do to make our library and community better.

The Commissioner proclaimed September 2018 as Suicide Prevention Month. Young people are key to Union County, Georgia's future success, prosperity, and quality of life. Young people have a right to opportunities to discover themselves and their purpose in environments that allow them to create relationships, find wholeness, and strengthen others. Suicide among our young people can be prevented through awareness and an increase in the value of the individual life. An emphasis on relationship building is necessary in suicide awareness and prevention, thus allowing young people to grow into successful, contributing members of our community. Effectively intervening in the lives of our young people is a shared responsibility and Union County's citizens must work together so that the voices of our young people are heard by all. By providing safe and guided environments for our young people, free of judgement, alcohol and drugs we can ensure that Union County's young people have the opportunity to grow into their full potential as the next generation of leaders, workforce, and parents who consequently secure the future of our county, state, and nation.

Commissioner Paris proclaimed September 2018 as National Recovery Month in Union County. Behavioral health is an essential part of one's overall wellness and the prevention of substance

use disorder works, treatment is effective, and people recover in our area and around the nation. We must encourage relatives and friends of people with mental and substance use disorders to implement preventive measures, recognize the signs of a problem and guide those in need to appropriate treatment and recovery support services. I call upon the people of this county to observe this month with appropriate programs, activities, and ceremonies to support this year's Recovery Month theme, *Join the Voices for Recovery: Invest in Health, Home, Purpose, and Community*.

The Commissioner accepted a Contract for propane services between Union County and Freeman Gas for \$1.19 per gallon from September 1, 2018 to August 31, 2019. This was a negotiated price between bid periods.

Commissioner Paris accepted a Lease Agreement between the 9<sup>th</sup> District Opportunity and Union County for the use of office space located at 185 Welborn Street, Suite 8 in the Pat Haralson Memorial Civic Center in the amount of \$230.00 per month. The duration of this lease will be from October 1, 2018 to September 30, 2019. This is a federal/state agency that not only handles our local food bank, but provide Rent and Utility Crisis Assistance, emergency food assistance, Family Development Counseling, income management, Education referral service, and Transportation assistance.

The Commissioner approved an Agreement between Union County and the Georgia Department of Transportation in the amount of \$31,734.00 for the period of July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019. This is for partial funding (50%) of our transit system. As you may know, the county has two buses that were purchased with Federal Grants administered by the State of Georgia. This transportation is provided to the general public and for many people this is the only way they can get to and from the grocery store, doctor's office and drug store. The total cost of operation is \$63,468 with the Georgia Department of Transportation amount being \$31,734 and the County's portion being \$31,734.

Commissioner Lamar Paris of Union County requested that the City of Blairsville annex county property in and around the Union County School System totaling 86.12 acres. The school system has started its own police force. The city is the authorizing agency and has requested that Union County agree to annex property from the county to the city for the purpose of the city maintaining a contingent property extension from the City Limits, including all of the Union County School System property. The only property owned by the County that is being included in this annexation is that of the Union County Health Department.

The Commissioner approved the following three Business Licenses issued to:

Raytan, LLC located at 44 Miller Cove Branch Road  
Stephen Murphy Rental located at 92 Bob Ensley Drive  
Blue Sky Cabin Rentals, LLC located at 332 Cavender Ridge Road

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

Respectfully submitted by:

Jennifer Mahan  
Jennifer Mahan, County Clerk

Approved this 18<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2018

Lamar Paris  
Lamar Paris, Commissioner