

County Meeting
September 17, 2020 6:00 pm
Minutes
Union County Courthouse

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Lamar Paris at 6:02 pm.

The invocation was given by Patrick Malone and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by David Dyer, Fire Chief. The Minutes from the August 20, 2020 County Meeting, the August 27, 2020 Called Meeting, the August 31, 2020 Called Meeting and the September 4, 2020 Called Meeting were approved as presented.

Marlene Hadden was present to speak about water and air quality in Union County. This is a summary of Ms. Hadden's comments. Ms. Hadden stated that she let Mr. Lively of the Lake Nottely Improvement Association and Ms. Jeanne Craft of the Friends of Lake Nottely know that she would be speaking about water quality at this meeting in case they would like to be placed on the Agenda to speak as well. Ms. Hadden said that she is currently conceding the issue of clean air due to the fact there is over 70% forest lands in Union County and there is no pollution problem with the air at this time. She went on to say that citizens should not have to fight for clean water. They should not have to fight to maintain and protect the quality of water that Union County currently has. EPA, Corps of Engineers, TVA, EDPA, whoever, are overburdened and are guided by standards and criteria of what is and can be allowed in our water. These are the same standards, criteria and guidelines that allows the present drinking water in metropolitan Atlanta. If reports were held up with what is in their water next to what is in our water, there would be no comparison. Their current standard of water reflects exactly what and why citizens want to try to protect and maintain the current quality of water. Ms. Hadden stated that their treated water flows into the Chattahoochee River subjecting those downstream to the consequences, which are so bad they have resulted in 20 years of lawsuits with Alabama and Florida that are still not settled. These criteria and standards are what a lot of citizens of Union County do not fully trust to help us maintain and protect the current quality of water. Here in Union County there is a higher standard of good clean water and it should be kept that way. As seen in a recent situation about the water, being reactive is not the way to deal with this situation. It spawns distrust, makes people angry, worried and even scared about their water. Being proactive fosters all of us coming together to try and maintain and protect our present quality of water. She asked Commissioner Paris to help the citizens help the county to be proactive to try and maintain and protect our current good quality water.

Commissioner Paris then asked Ms. Hadden to stay up front and he presented her with a Proclamation. He stated that Union County government was drug into the leachate issue by others, when it was not a county issue nor anything the county could solve. The Mayor and City Council controlled the issue and although there was no evidence that the City did anything wrong or polluted Lake Nottely in the least, they none the less voted to not process any more leachate now or in the future. So, it is a moot case.

The Commissioner then read the Proclamation for all those in attendance and then presented it to Ms. Hadden. The Proclamation read as follows:

Whereas, Citizens of Union County have shown great concern regarding the water quality of rivers, lakes, and streams within Union County; and

Whereas, the rivers, streams, and Lake Nottely are invaluable to recreation and tourism in Union County; and

Whereas, Lake Nottely specifically is an asset for Union County and its citizens; and

Whereas, Union County Government and its citizens must join together to protect and maintain the water quality of bodies of water in Union County and the surrounding areas; and

Whereas, Union County Government commits to maintain and protect the water quality of our area including Lake Nottely, to the extent that Union County Government and the Union County Commissioner has the authority and resources to do so.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved that I, Lamar Paris, Commissioner of Union County, hereby proclaim, October 1st, 2020 as “**Environmental Awareness Day**” in said county.

Commissioner Paris proclaimed September 2020 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 the 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 young people are heard by all. By providing safe and guided environments for our young people, free of judgement, alcohol and drugs it can be ensured 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 the county, state, and nation.

The Commissioner accepted an Accountability Courts Grant for the Enotah Adult Felony Drug Courts Medically Assisted Treatment in the amount of \$30,832.00. The Grant period is from August 1, 2020 to July 31, 2021.

Commissioner Paris then accepted the following three Business Licenses.

Discovery Real Estate located at 415 Happy Hollow Circle
Cabin Rentals of Georgia located at 287 Scouts Overlook
Above the Clouds Hostel located at 1487 State Highway 60

The Commissioner then let everyone in attendance know that the Union County Road Department will be paving the Deavertown Boat Ramp. The ramp and road will be completely closed to allow the surface treatment to set up from September 21st through October 2nd. The Sheriff’s Department, TVA and DNR will all be patrolling the area to protect the new paving for the parking lot.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:



Jennifer Mahan, County Clerk

Approved this 15th day of October, 2020



Lamar Paris, Commissioner