

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
OF THE BEN HILL COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
HELD ON **October 7th, AT 6:00 PM** IN THE
BEN HILL COUNTY COMMISSIONER MEETING ROOM LOCATED
AT 321 DEWEY MCGLARMRY ROAD.

Those present for the meeting were as follows:

Hal Wiley	Chairman
Daniel Cowan	Commissioner
John Mooney	Commissioner
Bennie Calloway	Commissioner
Hampton Raulerson	County Manager
Pamela D. Turner	County Clerk

Vice-Chair Hope Harmon via telecom

Call to Order

Chairman Hal Wiley called the meeting to order

Commissioner Bennie Calloway gave the invocation.

Everyone gave the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of the Agenda/Agenda Changes

Commissioner John Mooney made a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Daniel Cowan seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner John Mooney, Commissioner Daniel Cowan, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, Vice-Chair Hope Harmon and Chairman Hal Wiley, all voting for the motion.

Acceptance of Prior Minutes

Commissioner John Mooney made a motion to approve the Regular Monthly Meeting minutes that was held on September 2nd, 2025. Commissioner Daniel Cowan seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner John Mooney, Commissioner Daniel Cowan, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, Vice-Chair Hope Harmon and Chairman Hal Wiley all voting for the motion.

Commissioner John Mooney made a motion to close Regular monthly meeting to enter into Public Hearing to discuss Amendment of the Ben Hill County Code of Ordinance and Rezoning Application. Commissioner Daniel Cowan seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner John Mooney, Commissioner Daniel Cowan, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, Vice-Chair Hope Harmon and Chairman Hal Wiley all voting on the motion.

Public Hearing

- Text Amendment to Ben Hill County Code of Ordinance the Allowance to certain fowl (Chicken, quail, etc.) in residential zoning in the unincorporated portions of Ben Hill County where this was previously not allowed.

Building and zoning Administrator Jake Hughes stated that Ben Hill County presently has no ordinances related to residential keeping of poultry, fowl and or chicken. Therefore, Ben Hill County, Georgia is amended in the manner set forth in “Exhibit A” by adding Sec 10-1. As follows:

**ORDINANCE 2025 -
Exhibit A**

Chapter 10 - ANIMALS

ARTICLE I. - IN GENERAL

Sec. 10-1. -Residential Keeping of Fowl

Fowl

For purposes of this ordinance, fowl shall mean any domesticated bird kept for eggs, meat, feathers, show, or as pets, including but not limited to chickens, ducks, turkeys, quail, and pigeons.

Permitted Zoning Districts

The keeping of fowl is permitted in all zoning districts. Nothing herein shall abrogate any prohibitions or restrictions contained in private neighborhood covenants or any other property restrictions, such covenants or restrictions not being subject to investigation or enforcement by Ben Hill County.

Noncommercial Use Only

Unless and except as otherwise permitted in the ordinances, fowl, fowl products /or fowl by-products shall not be sold on the property.

Applicability

This section applies only to residential zoning districts (R-R, R-1, R-22, M-R, R-15, R-9, R-6, and R-6-M).

Number and Type of Fowl Allowed

- a. No more than ten (10) total fowl are allowed per parcel.
- b. Roosters and any other crowing fowl are prohibited.
- c. Guinea and peacocks are prohibited.

Enclosures

- a. A fowl enclosure must be provided for roosting and protection. Said structures shall be situated in the rear yard. Fowl must at all times be kept within a fenced or enclosed area and no person shall fail to prevent his or her fowl from straying from the property of the owner or keeper, or going upon the property of any other person, or upon any public rights-of-way.
- b. All fowl enclosures must be maintained in a structurally sound and sanitary condition at all times.
- c. All fowl enclosures must be located at least seventy-five (75) feet from any occupied building, except the dwelling unit of the owner.
- d. All fowl enclosures must have all sides enclosed including a top and be of sufficient height and strength to prevent the fowl from escaping confinement.
- e. Structures greater than 25 square feet will be considered an accessory structure and shall comply with the standards of the Zoning Ordinance of Ben Hill County, Georgia.
- f. Fences shall comply with the standards of the Zoning Ordinance of Ben Hill County, Georgia.

- J. Burke Batten of Arising Industries
Rezone 189 Ed Ward Rd. from GF (General Farming to WLI (Wholesale Light Industrial)

Building and Zoning Administrator Jake Hughes stated, Planning and Zoning Commission approved the petition by John Batten of Airing Industries, Inc. for rezoning of the listed property parcel GF zone to WLI zone. The purpose of the rezoning is for the expansion of Arising Industries, Inc. existing business on the south side of the road.

Mr. Hughes recommends approval of the petition by John Batten of Arising Industries Inc. to rezone the listed property from GF zone to WLI zone. There is no evidence that this rezoning will negatively impact or cause excessive or burdensome use of existing streets, transportation facilities, utilities, or school.

Public Comment

O.D Netter 207 E. Jessamine Street, Fitzgerald GA. made a recommendation that the Board approves the rezoning application for J. Batten of Arising Industries Inc.

Commissioner Bennie Calloway made a motion to close the Public Hearing to enter the Regular Monthly Meeting. Commissioner John Mooney seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner Bennie Calloway, Commissioner John Mooney, Commissioner Daniel Cowan, Vice-Chair Hope Harmon, and Chairman Hal Wiley all voting for the motion.

Constitutional Officer: None

Department Head Reports:

County Ext. Coordinator Hunt Sanders reported:

- Fall corn looks good, only a few diseases
- Some cotton is defoliating, haven't harvested much
- The big issue is the price of cotton
- A new insect that was found back in late July is the 2-spot cotton Jassid, it puts toxic into the plant and causes the leaf to die. This will also determine whether there will be cotton next year, however we haven't seen this insect in Ben Hill County.
- Disease is a big thing with peanuts this year; yield is still holding strong, and the early crops look better than the old ones.

County Board Reports:

County Manager's Report:

County Manager Hampton Raulerson reported the following:

- Flint road has been paved, waiting on the contractor to do the striping, and shoulder work left to do, this project should be closed out by the end of the year.
- Looking at starting our LMIG resurfacing mid-November, and this project should be closed out by the end of the year. This would be for a portion of Flint Road that's not a part of this economic development. Tulip and Sundo, early next year Tulip probably will be closed, while GDOT replaces the bridge, once this is complete resurfacing will start. The resurfacing on Tulip should start mid-November.

Annexation Request/ Notification: NONE

Rezoning Application:

J. Burke Batten of Arising Industries

Rezone 189 Ed Ward Rd. from GF (General Farming to WLI (Wholesale Light Industrial)

Commissioner John Mooney made a motion to approve Rezoning application for J. Batten of Arising Industries from GF zone to WLI zone. Commissioner Daniel Cowan seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner John Mooney, Commissioner Daniel Cowan, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, Vice-Chair Hope Harmon and Chairman Hal Wiley all voting on the motion.

Alcohol Application: NONE

Appointments: NONE

Old Business: NONE

New Business:

Text Amendment to the Ben Hill County Code of Ordinance the Allowance to certain fowl (chicken, quail, etc.) in residential zoning in the unincorporated portions of Ben Hill County where this was previously not allowed.

Commissioner John Mooney made a motion to approve the amendment to the Ben Hill County Code of Ordinances to allow certain fowl in residential zoning in the unincorporated portions of Ben Hill County. Commissioner Daniel Cowan seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner John Mooney, Commissioner Daniel Cowan, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, Vice-Chair Hope Harmon and Chairman Hal Wiley all voting on the motion.

Memorandum Of Understanding Between The Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia by and on behalf of The University of Georgia Cooperative Extension and Ben Hill County

Commissioner John Mooney made a motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia on behalf of University of Georgia Extension and Ben Hill County. Commissioner Daniel Cowan seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner John Mooney, Commissioner Daniel Cowan, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, Vice-Chair Hope Harmon and Chairman Hal Wiley all voting on the motion.

Legislative Report: NONE

Public Comments: NONE

Executive Session: NONE

Commissioner's Remarks:

Meeting adjourned.

_____ Hal Wiley, Chairman

_____ Pamela D. Turner, County Clerk