

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING  
OF THE BEN HILL COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
HELD ON JULY 02, 2019 AT 6:00 PM IN THE  
BEN HILL COUNTY COURTHOUSE ANNEX

Those present for the meeting were as follows:

Steve Taylor	Chairman
Hope Harmon	Vice-Chair
Bennie Calloway	Commissioner
John Mooney	Commissioner
Daniel Cowan	Commissioner
Michael Dinnerman	County Manager
Donna Prather	County Clerk

**Call to Order**

Chairman Steve Taylor called the meeting to order and gave the invocation.

Everyone gave the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Approval of the Agenda/Agenda Changes**

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

**Acceptance of Prior Minutes**

Vice-Chair Hope Harmon made a motion to approve the Regular Monthly Meeting held on June 04, 2019. Commissioner John Mooney seconded the motion; which passed with Vice-Chair Hope Harmon, Commissioner John Mooney, Commissioner Daniel Cowan, and Commissioner Bennie Calloway all voting for the motion.

Vice-Chair Hope Harmon made a motion to approve the Regular Monthly Meeting held on June 13, 2019. Commissioner John Mooney seconded the motion; which passed with Vice-Chair Hope Harmon, Commissioner John Mooney, Commissioner Daniel Cowan, and Commissioner Bennie Calloway all voting for the motion.

Commissioner John Mooney made a motion to enter into the Public Hearing regarding a special exception for an animal rescue/kennel in a general farming zoning district with the right to return to the Regular Monthly Meeting. Vice-Chairman Hope Harmon seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner John Mooney, Vice-Chairman Hope Harmon, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, and Commissioner Daniel Cowan all voting for the motion.

**Public Hearing/ Special Exception for an Animal Rescue/Kennel in a General Farming Zoning District**

County Manager Michael Dinnerman stated Ora Kendall and Tammy Adams for a special exception regarding property located at 160 Iris Road to establish an animal rescue/kennel. There aren't any houses near the property and the animal rescue/kennel will be located on 100 acres. Mr. Dinnerman stated everything is complete and the Planning and Zoning Board voted to recommend that the request be granted.

**Public Comments**

Jack Wilcox, husband of Nancy Hough Wilcox, stated the vagueness of the letter they received regarding the request for a special exception bothers his family. Mr. Wilcox stated his wife is joint owners of the land in question and she also owns the land adjacent to the land in question. He stated Mr. Adams has been fined regarding the property right of way and wants to know which 100 acres will be used for this project. He stated the letter does not state where the 100 acres is and he doesn't want the land to include his wife's property. Mr. Wilcox stated there is a spring on the land that is protected. This spring is historic property and his wife doesn't want the property invaded, her right away invaded, or the property contaminated.

Martin Hough, son of Nancy Hough Wilcox, stated his biggest concern is the actual location of the animal rescue/kennel on the 100 acres and the vagueness of the language on the letter they received from the Zoning Department.

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

**Constitutional Officer: NONE**

**Department Head Reports:**

Road Superintendent Tim Kegebein stated the LMIG increased this year by \$38,952. He stated we will receive \$451,565.41. The increase will allow for more road resurfacing. He also stated the dumpsite on Sweet Pea Road will be closing because the land owners want the cans gone.

**County Board Reports:**

Connie Graham, Community Service Board Member, informed the office in Tifton is looking for office space in Ben Hill County to meet one day a week for free until the client base increase. Mr. Graham asked if there was anything available. He stated he has been asking for services to come to Ben Hill.

**County Manager's Report:**

Mr. Dinnerman stated E911 is almost completed. They only lack the camera system being installed.

Mr. Dinnerman stated the Sheriff Department has new computers. He is in communication with the insurance company and they have agreed to washing and restoring data on the computers. They are currently going through the data to see what can be used and what was compromised. The Sheriff Department is back in business.

Mr. Dinnerman stated the county is financially sound and we have made it through June without borrowing any TAN.

**Annexation Request: NONE**

**Rezoning Application: NONE**

**Alcohol Application:**

Commissioner Daniel Cowan made a motion to approve Daphne Duarte alcohol licenses for DJ's Cave to allow consumption on premises. Commissioner John Mooney seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner Daniel Cowan, Commissioner John Mooney, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, and Vice-Chair Hope Harmon all voted for the motion.

**Appointments: NONE**

**Old Business: NONE**

**New Business:**

*Special Exception for an Animal Rescue/Kennel in a General Farming Zoning District*

County Manager Michael Dinnerman stated Ora Kendall and Tammy Adams for a special exception regarding property located at 160 Iris Road to establish an animal rescue/kennel. There aren't any houses near the property and the animal rescue/kennel will be located on 100 acres. Mr. Dinnerman stated everything is complete and the Planning and Zoning Board voted to recommend that the request be granted. Mr. Dinnerman recommendation is to approve the request.

Mr. Dinnerman recommended getting the Adams to survey the property to identify exactly where the animal rescue/kennel will be located and where the spring is located. The Commissioners discussed the request and the concerns of adjacent land owners and joint land owners Jack Wilcox, Nancy Hough Wilcox, and Martin Hough.

Commissioner John Mooney made a motion to table the agenda item. Vice-Chair Hope Harmon seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner John Mooney, Vice-Chair Hope Harmon, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, and Commissioner Daniel Cowan all voted for the motion.

*Intergovernmental Agreement for Election Services*

Commissioner John Mooney made a motion to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement for election services for the city election in November. Vice-Chair Hope Harmon seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner John Mooney, Vice-Chair Hope Harmon, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, and Commissioner Daniel Cowan all voted for the motion.

*Public Defender FY 2019-2020 Contract*

County Manager Michael Dinnerman stated the contract has increased \$20,000. Mr. Dinnerman stated he would like to address some concerns regarding the contract and see a breakdown of all counties involved by population and case load. He asked the Commissioners for the opportunity to research his concerns and bring the contract back before them.

Commissioner John Mooney made a motion to table the agenda item. Vice-Chair Hope Harmon seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner John Mooney, Vice-Chair Hope Harmon, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, and Commissioner Daniel Cowan all voted for the motion.

*Ben Hill Transit System Title VI Plan Adoption*

Commissioner John Mooney made a motion to adopt the Ben Hill Transit Title VI Plan as presented. Vice-Chair Hope Harmon seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner John Mooney, Vice-Chair Hope Harmon, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, and Commissioner Daniel Cowan all voted for the motion.

*Proposed Millage Rate*

County Manager Michael Dinnerman presented and explained the five year history. He recommended taking the rollback at 16.581%. Mr. Dinnerman noted there was not a tax increase; but a net increase due to growth for \$188,000.

Vice-Chairman Hope Harmon made a motion to adopt the official millage rate for Ben Hill County at 16.581% for unincorporated and incorporated. Commissioner John Mooney seconded the motion; which passed with Vice-Chair Hope Harmon, Commissioner John Mooney, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, and Commissioner Daniel Cowan all voted for the motion.

**Agenda Changes and/or add on:**

**Legislative Report: NONE**

**Public Comments: NONE**

**Executive Session**

**Commissioner's Remarks:**

Chairman Steve Taylor told Connie Graham that he will get with the County Manager regarding finding space for behavioral health.

Commissioner Hope Harmon stated she will be hosting a backpack give away at Blue and Grey Park on July 20<sup>th</sup>.

Chairman Steve Taylor congratulated the Recreation Department baseball teams that competed at state.

**Meeting adjourned**

\_\_\_\_\_ Steve Taylor, Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_ Donna R. Prather, County Clerk