

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
OF THE BEN HILL COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
HELD ON MAY 04, 2021 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
Daniel Cowan	Commissioner
John Mooney	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-Chair Hope Harmon made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Commissioner Bennie Calloway seconded the motion; which passed with Vice-Chair Hope Harmon, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, Commissioner Daniel Cowan, Commissioner John Mooney and Chairman Steve Taylor all voting for the motion.

Acceptance of Prior Minutes

Vice-Chair Hope Harmon made a motion to approve the Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes that were held on April 06, 2021. Commissioner Daniel Cowan seconded the motion; which passed with Vice-Chair Hope Harmon, Commissioner Daniel Cowan, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, Commissioner John Mooney, and Chairman Steve Taylor all voting for the motion.

Constitutional Officer: NONE

Department Head Reports:

Volunteer Fire Department Chief Michael Jay gave an update on all activities for the last year.

Allen Conger, Chairman of the Volunteer Fire Department, stated they are helping out at the Rodeo, continuing the fireworks show on the 4th of July, and they had a productive meeting with EMS and the City of Fitzgerald regarding the Volunteer Fire Department responsibility when they arrive on the scene of an accident that needs excavation.

Mr. Conger also stated he is seeking resolution regarding being called to wood fires. They were called to 53 wood fires; but believe the Forestry Commission should respond to those fires. He explained what it cost for the VFD to respond to wood fires without the proper knowledge from E911 Dispatcher regarding the fire. He wants to meet with E911 to come to a solution before they respond. He recommended the dispatcher be able to answer certain questions from them before the VFD responds. He stated they need to work together on those calls because it would save them money.

County Board Reports: NONE

County Manager's Report:

County Manager Michael Dinnerman reported:

- Health Insurance renewal increased only 6%
- LOST is up 17% ahead of last year. We are tracking \$61,000 ahead.
- SPLOST is up 17.5% ahead of last year.
- Our cash position is healthy.
- Chief Appraiser Joyce Merritt has sent out notices on taxes and she is working on the digest.

Annexation Request: NONE

Rezoning Application: NONE

Alcohol Application: NONE

Appointments: NONE

Old Business: NONE

New Business:

Expired Board Appointments

1. Hospital Authority Board/Steve Pair

Commissioner John Mooney made a motion to submit Leslie Clemons, Brandi Petrie, and Mollie Taylor names to the Hospital Authority to replace Steve Pair. Vice-Chair Hope Harmon seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner John Mooney, Vice-Chair Hope Harmon, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, Commissioner Daniel Cowan, and Chairman Steve Taylor all voting for the motion.

2. Fitzgerald BHC Development Authority

Commissioner John Mooney made a motion to reappoint Ron Paulk to the Fitzgerald BHC Development Authority Board. Vice-Chair Hope Harmon seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner John Mooney, Vice-Chair Hope Harmon, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, Commissioner Daniel Cowan, and Chairman Steve Taylor all voting for the motion.

3. Fitzgerald BHC Planning & Zoning Commission

Chairman Steve Taylor asked the Commissioners to be thinking of appointees to replace George Vereen and Farise Taylor because they no longer wish to serve.

Commissioner Daniel Cowan made a motion to reappoint Chris Calhoun to the Fitzgerald BHC Planning & Zoning Commission. Vice-Chair Hope Harmon seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner Daniel Cowan, Vice-Chair Hope Harmon, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, Commissioner John Mooney, and Chairman Steve Taylor all voting for the motion.

4. Fitzgerald BHC Library Board

Chairman Steve Taylor asked the Commissioners to be thinking of an appointee to replace Sherry Sue Davis because she no longer wishes to serve.

5. BHC Board of Elections & Registration

Chairman Steve Taylor opened the floor to receive nominations to replace Dr. Tom Green. Commissioner Bennie Calloway nominated Joseph Manley. Commissioner John Mooney nominated Mary Young.

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

Chairman Taylor asked County Clerk Donna Prather to record the Commissioners vote by using roll call:

Vice-Chair Hope Harmon voted for Joseph Manley
Commissioner Daniel Cowan voted for Mary Young
Commissioner Bennie Calloway voted for Joseph Manley
Commissioner John Mooney voted for Mary Young
Chairman Steve Taylor voted for Mary Young.

Mary Young was appointed to the Ben Hill County Board of Elections and Registration.

6. Behavioral Health & Developmental Disabilities Board

Chairman Steve Taylor asked the Commissioners to be thinking of an appointee for this Board because it was later discovered Dale Niday lives in Irwin County.

Thank You Letter/ Judge Chasteen/ Superior Courts Cordele Judicial Circuit

Chairman Steve Taylor acknowledged a letter written to Dr. Lloyd Stenbridge, Arbor Baptist Church Pastor, from Judge Robert Chasteen thanking him for making the Family Life Center available to the court system for their April term of Ben Hill Superior Court. They were able to dispose of over 50 cases from the trial calendar by being able to conduct jury selection at the Family Life Center.

Agenda Changes and/or add on:

Legislative Report:

Vice-Chair Hope Harmon reported, ACCG has started with the Policy Committees. If anyone has any concerns or changes regarding policies, please contact her because your input or ideas will be captured through a survey.

Public Comments: NONE

Executive Session

Commissioner's Remarks: NONE

Meeting adjourned

_____ Steve Taylor, Chairman

_____ Donna R. Prather, County Clerk