

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
OF THE BEN HILL COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
HELD ON OCTOBER 05, 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-Chairman Hope Harmon made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Commissioner John Mooney seconded the motion; which passed with Vice-Chair Hope Harmon, Commissioner John Mooney, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, Commissioner Daniel Cowan, and Chairman Steve Taylor all voting for the motion.

Acceptance of Prior Minutes

Vice-Chair Hope Harmon made a motion to approve the Workshop Meeting that was held on September 02, 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.

Vice-Chair Hope Harmon made a motion to approve the Regular Monthly Meeting that was held on September 07, 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.

Commissioner Daniel Cowan made a motion to close the Regular Monthly Meeting to enter the Public Hearing with the right to return to the Regular Monthly Meeting. 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.

Public Hearing

Zoning Ordinance Update

Zoning Administrator Lawton Lovett stated, he was assisted by the South GA Regional Commission, County Administrator, and other area people with experience in zoning to bring the Zoning Ordinance up to date.

Notices were posted within the proper timeline in the Herald Leader and on the County website. A copy that included the mark up of changes, a hard copy, and electronic copy was available to the public at the County Commission office. Copies were also emailed to the Commissioners.

The local Planning and Zoning Commission reviewed and approved the update on Sep 20, 2021.

Mr. Lawton noted that this document is not static and we hope moving forward it would be reviewed regularly and updated as needs dictated a legal change.

Diana Pate, 145 Meadow Lane, stated her purpose for attending the Hearing was to get clarification regarding the zoning changes because the Federal Government wants to take control of what they can or cannot do on their property.

Rezoning Application GF to WLI/W. L. Patterson

Zoning Administrator Lawton Lovett stated, notices were posted within proper timelines in Herald Leader, on the County website, and signs were posted on the property. Adjacent landowners were notified.

A summary is included with the packet that the mandatory questions were addressed by the applicant and by the Zoning Administrator. In this summary, the adjacent landowners were defined by the properties zone and if there were any impacts from this request.

Mr. Patterson operated an auto surplus business on this site for almost 40 years. He sold the property to his brother. His brother's health declined and the operation was closed. Mr. Patterson has acquired the property again and has worked to clean up the site. The purpose for Mr. Patterson's rezoning the property to WLI is so that he can open the shop area as an automotive repair business.

No public comments.

Special Exception for Home Rural Occupation/Cierra Youngblood

Zoning Administrator Lawton Lovett stated, notices were posted within proper timelines in Herald Leader, on the County website, and signs were posted on the property. Adjacent landowners were notified.

A summary is included with the packet that the mandatory questions were addressed by the applicant and by the Zoning Administrator. In this summary, the adjacent landowners were defined by the properties zone and if there were any impacts from this request.

The purpose of Ms. Youngblood's request is so she can operate a one (1) chair salon in an accessory building on her property with her primary residence. She is a single parent with young children. The past year presented hardships with her trying to work at her profession as a beautician and her children being home on short notice.

The ability to have her shop at her residence would solve many logistic problems for her. Rural Home occupations, with an accessory structure, are allowed by SE under the new ordinance.

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

Constitutional Officer: NONE

Department Head Reports: NONE

County Board Reports: NONE

County Manager's Report:

County Manager Michael Dinnerman reported:

- 2020 Audit is complete and has been sent to DCA.
- CPA Tony Eckler will present the audit at the next meeting.

Annexation Request: NONE

Rezoning Application: NONE

Alcohol Application: NONE

Appointments:

4H Agent Laura Lee Williams and Ben Hill County 4-H students; Landon Sinyard, Thomas Holt, Destini Kelly, and Lee Jay shared the importance of National 4-H Week. Millions of youths, parents, volunteers, and alumni across the country will take part in celebrating everything 4-H.

This year theme is “Find Your Spark”, which highlights how 4-H offers opportunities for youth to find their passion and explore learning about that passion and what lies within it through hands-on learning experiences.

Old Business: NONE

New Business:

Authorizing Resolution/ FY 2023 Transit Grant Application

Commissioner John Mooney made a motion to adopt the Resolution authorizing RMS to file an application with the Georgia Department of Transportation and the United States Department of Transportation for a grant for public transportation assistance under Title 49 U.S.C., Section 5311. 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.

2021 ACCG Voting Delegate

Commissioner Daniel Cowan made a motion to appoint Vice-Chair Hope Harmon as the 2021 ACCG Voting Delegate. Commissioner Bennie Calloway seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner Daniel Cowan, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, Commissioner John Mooney, Vice-Chair Hope Harmon, and Chairman Steve Taylor all voting for the motion.

Evergreen TIA Projects Resolution/Ratify

Commissioner John Mooney made a motion to ratify the Evergreen TIA Projects Resolution. 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.

Zoning Ordinance Update

Vice-Chair Hope Harmon made a motion to adopt the Ben Hill County Zoning Ordinance updates. 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.

Rezoning Application GF to Wholesale Light Industrial (WLI)/ W. L. Patterson

Commissioner Daniel Cowan made a motion to approve the Rezoning Application regarding the property at 147 Camp Brooklyn Road, Tract A, to rezone 3 acres of said property from G-F county to WLI county. 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.

Special Exception for Home Rural Occupation/Cierra Youngblood

Commissioner Daniel Cowan made a motion to approve the Special Exception regarding the property at 143 Duke Drive to have a single chair salon on said property zoned G-F. 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.

Reapportionment Letter

County Manager Michael Dinnerman stated that after every Census we are required to look at the changes that took place in the Districts. To start the redistricting, a Representative must be contacted. This process is a free service offered by the State.

Commissioner John Mooney made a motion to give County Manager authorization to start the redistricting process. 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.

Agenda Changes and/or add on: NONE

Legislative Report: NONE

Public Comments: NONE

Executive Session

Commissioner's Remarks:

Chairman Steve Taylor thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

Meeting adjourned

_____ Steve Taylor, Chairman

_____ Donna R. Prather, County Clerk