

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
OF THE BEN HILL COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
HELD ON JANUARY 04, 2022 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

County Manager Michael Dinnerman removed 401(a) Defined Contribution Plan Resolution agenda item from the agenda.

Commissioner John Mooney made a motion to approve the agenda as presented to include the change. 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.

Acceptance of Prior Minutes

Vice-Chair Hope Harmon made a motion to approve the Workshop Meeting that was held on December 02, 2021. 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.

Vice-Chair Hope Harmon made a motion to approve the Regular Monthly Meeting that was held on December 07, 2021. 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.

Vice-Chair Hope Harmon made a motion to approve the Public Hearing that was held on December 15, 2021. 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.

Vice-Chair Hope Harmon made a motion to approve the Special Called Meeting that was held on December 22, 2021. 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.

Proclamation

Chairman Steve Taylor presented a Proclamation to the Fitzgerald High School College and Career Academy Purple Hurricane Football Team, Coaches, and Support Staff congratulating them for their hard work and outstanding achievement as the 2021 Georgia High School Association AA State Champions.

Required Annual Actions

Commissioner Bennie Calloway made a motion to rehire County Manager Michael Dinnerman. 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.

Commissioner Bennie Calloway made a motion to rehire County Clerk Donna Prather. 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.

Vice-Chair Hope Harmon made a motion to rehire County Attorney Hall, Smith & Booth Managing Partner Tony Rowell working with Nick Kinsley. 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 John Mooney made a motion to rehire Tony Eckler CPA Auditing Firm. Commissioner Bennie Calloway seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner John Mooney, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, Commissioner Daniel Cowan, Vice-Chair Hope Harmon, and Chairman Steve Taylor all voting for the motion.

Commissioner Bennie Calloway made a motion to approve Wells Fargo, Planters First, Colony Bank, Community Bank, & Local Investment Pool as the County Financial Institutes. Vice-Chair Hope Harmon seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner Bennie Calloway, Vice-Chair Hope Harmon, Commissioner John Mooney, Commissioner Daniel Cowan, and Chairman Steve Taylor all voting for the motion.

Vice-Chair Hope Harmon made a motion to approve the Herald Leader as the County Legal Organ. Commissioner Daniel Cowan seconded the motion; which passed with Vice-Chair Hope Harmon, Commissioner Daniel Cowan, Commissioner John Mooney, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, and Chairman Steve Taylor all voting for the motion.

Commissioner John Mooney nominated Commissioner Hope Harmon for Vice-Chair.

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

Constitutional Officer:

Tax Commissioner Barry Foster reported:

- 2021 taxes are .25% ahead of last year.
- 2020 taxes are 98.39% collected leaving approximately \$90k for County and 97k for School.
- Taxpayers have done a good job of paying through the last couple years with COVID going on.
- Statewide upgrade of Vehicle system is up and running but has been slow printing and getting reports.

Department Head Reports: NONE

County Board Reports: NONE

County Manager's Report: NONE

Annexation Request: NONE

Rezoning Application: NONE

Alcohol Application: NONE

Appointments: NONE

Old Business:

Board Appointments/Board of Elections

Commissioner John Mooney made a motion to reappoint Thelma Graham and Danny Young to the Board of Elections and Registration. 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.

New Business:

2022 Holiday Calendar

Commissioner Daniel Cowan made a motion to approve FY 2022 Holiday Calendar as presented. Vice-Chair Hope Harmon seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner Daniel Cowan, Vice-Chair Hope Harmon, Commissioner John Mooney, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, and Chairman Steve Taylor all voting for the motion.

Tax Commissioner Authority to Waive Penalties & Interest Resolution

Commissioner John Mooney made a motion to approve the Tax Commissioner Authority to Waive Penalties & Interest 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.

Authorizing the Tax Commissioner to Accept Payments of Taxes and Fees

Vice-Chair Hope Harmon made a motion to adopt the Supporting Reform to Georgia's Annexation Dispute Resolution Law. Commissioner Daniel Cowan seconded the motion; which passed with Vice-Chair Hope Harmon, Commissioner Daniel Cowan, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, and Chairman Steve Taylor all voting for the motion.

Agenda Changes and/or add on: NONE

Legislative Report: NONE

Public Comments:

Mr. Jerry Lanier, 135 Drexler Lane, asked if anything has been done regarding his request from last month about people dumping runoff water across the dirt road causing damage to the road.

Chairman Steve Taylor stated he has been in communication with County Manager Michael Dinnerman and they are looking into the request.

Executive Session

Commissioner John Mooney made a motion to enter Executive Session for legal. 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.

Commissioner John Mooney made a motion to close Executive Session for legal 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, Commissioner Daniel Cowan, and Chairman Steve Taylor all voting for the motion.

Commissioner's Remarks: NONE

Meeting adjourned

_____ Steve Taylor, Chairman

_____ Donna R. Prather, County Clerk