

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
OF THE BEN HILL COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
HELD ON JULY 11, 2023 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 R. 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

Commissioner Bennie Calloway made a motion to approve the Regular Monthly Meeting minutes that was held on June 06, 2023. 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.

Chairman Steve Taylor recognized Human Resource Director Pamela Turner for completing the Advanced Certification in Human Resource Management with the Carl Vinson Institute of Government.

Appointments: NONE

Constitutional Officer: NONE

Department Head Reports: NONE

County Board Reports: NONE

County Manager's Report:

County Manager Michael Dinnerman reported:

- He is still working with Georgia Power on Ed Ward Road.
- He is working on the Monitor Grant with Southern GA Regional Commission.
- In the process of cleaning out the Media Center Building.
- He and Darlow are working with Tony Eckler on the Audit.

Annexation Request: NONE

Rezoning Application: NONE

Alcohol Application: NONE

Old Business: NONE

New Business:

Grant Administration Technical Services Resolution

Commissioner John Mooney made a motion to approve the Improving Neighborhood Outcome In Disproportionately Impacted Communities Grant (INODIC) Resolution agreeing to enter into an intergovernmental agreement with Southern Regional Commission for Grant Administration Technical Services and authorizing the Chairman to execute the document. Vice-Chair Hope Harmon seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner John Mooney, Vice-Chair Hope Harmon, Commissioner Daniel Cowan, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, and Chairman Steve Taylor all voting for the motion.

Grant Administration Technical Assistance IGA

Vice-Chair Hope Harmon made a motion to approve Intergovernmental Agreement between Ben Hill County and the Southern Georgia Regional Commission for Grant Administration Technical Assistance on the Improving Neighborhood Outcome In Disproportionately Impacted Communities (INODIC) Grant and authorizing the Chairman to execute the document. Commissioner Bennie Calloway seconded the motion; which passed with Vice-Chair Hope Harmon, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, Commissioner John Mooney, Commissioner Daniel Cowan, and Chairman Steve Taylor all voting for the motion.

Surplus Resolution/Tax Commissioner

Commissioner Daniel Cowan made a motion to approve the Surplus Resolution to declare the AS 400 with Serial Number 100029042 surplus and to deem the said property no further use or value to the Ben Hill County Tax Commissioner. 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.

TV Cable Franchise Fee Resolution

Vice-Chair Hope Harmon made a motion to approve the Cable and Video Franchise fees authorizing Ben Hill County to collect a franchise fee at a rate up to 5% of each cable or video service provider's gross revenue generated within the unincorporated areas of the County or the maximum amount established by federal and state law. 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.

Proposed Millage Rate

County Manager Michael Dinnerman explained how the rollback was calculated. He stated this year's proposed millage rate is 14.6870. Mr. Dinnerman gave credit to Chief Appraiser Joyce Merritt and the Board of Tax Assessor for the reevaluation of real property.

Commissioner John Mooney made a motion to advertise the Property Tax Digest and Five-Year history, proceed with the proposed rollback millage rate of 14.6870, and to set the Special Called Meeting date to adopt the proposed millage rate for July 27, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. Vice-Chair Hope Harmon seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner John Mooney, Vice-Chair Hope Harmon, Commissioner Daniel Cowan, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, and Chairman Steve Taylor all voting for the motion.

Proposed Millage Rate Special Called Meeting July 27th @ 6 pm

Chairman Steve Taylor stated the Special Called Meeting date to adopt the proposed millage rate has been set for July 27, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

Agenda Changes and/or add on:

Legislative Report: NONE

Public Comments:

Louie Harper, 315 Bethlehem Church Road, stated there are two very aggressive dogs at 128 Thistle Lane, that attacked their neighbor's dog. He asked the Commissioners to look at this situation with concern and haste because the dog has been returned to its owner.

Wilma Jean Clemons, 136 Thistle Lane, stated her dog was attacked by the neighbor's pit bull in a very aggressive manner and has been at the veterinarian for 13 days and has undergone four (4) surgeries. Ms. Clemons provided pictures showing the injuries her dog suffered from the attack. She stated that could have been her or someone else in the neighborhood. The dogs continue to dig out from under the neighbor's fence and roam the neighborhood. She is scared to be in her own yard. She is asking the Commissioners to investigate the situation further and enforce the pit bull ordinance in the County because the dog has been returned to its owner.

Executive Session/Legal

Commissioner Daniel Cowan made a motion to suspend the Regular Monthly Meeting for Executive Session to discuss legal. 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.

Vice-Chair Hope Harmon made a motion to leave Executive Session to return to the Regular Monthly Meeting. 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.

Commissioner's Remarks: NONE

Meeting adjourned.

_____ Steve Taylor, Chairman

_____ Donna R. Prather, County Clerk