

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING  
OF THE BEN HILL COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
HELD ON OCTOBER 03, 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**

Chairman Steve Taylor added Georgia Military Veteran's Hall of Fame Proclamation to the agenda under New Business.

Commissioner John Mooney made a motion to approve the agenda to include Georgia Military Veteran's Hall of Fame Proclamation. 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.

**Acceptance of Prior Minutes**

Commissioner John Mooney made a motion to approve the Regular Monthly Meeting minutes that was held on September 05, 2023. Commissioner Daniel Cowan seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner John Mooney, Commissioner Daniel Cowan, Vice-Chair Hope Harmon, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, and Chairman Steve Taylor all voting for the motion.

**Appointments: NONE**

**Constitutional Officer: NONE**

**Department Head Reports:**

Library Manager Leslie Paul presented a FY2023 snapshot of all activity for the Fitzgerald-Ben Hill County Library.

Laura Lee Williams, Ag Extension Office stated she, Lauren Wixsen, and Ashley Braddy to announce the University of Georgia 4-H Program is celebrating National 4-H Week and recognizing more than 100 years of excellence in positive development October 1<sup>st</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>.

The Commissioners signed a Proclamation declaring October 1<sup>st</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> National 4-H Week

**County Board Reports: NONE**

**County Manager's Report:**

County Manager Michael Dinnerman reported:

- Mr. Dinnerman asked Commissioner Bennie Calloway to speak on the new building.
- Commissioner Calloway stated the new Commissioner's meeting room and 4-H Office is exceptional, and he thinks it is a building everyone will be proud of.
- Mr. Dinnerman stated we will have a nice meeting room and 4H Office. They are completing the work and are excited about it.
- Negotiating with Southern Telecom on encroachment for Ed Ward Road.
- Had someone look at the Monitor building roof.
- Working on the FY 2024 budget.
- Things are going well.

**Annexation Request: NONE**

**Rezoning Application: NONE**

**Alcohol Application: NONE**

**Appointments: NONE**

**Old Business:**

*Ben Hill County Board of Health Vacancy*

Vice-Chair Hope Harmon made a motion to reappoint Thelma Graham, reappoint Health Parrish, and appoint Lisa Smith to the Ben Hill County Board of Health. 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.

**New Business:**

*Ben Hill County ARPA INODIC-Monitor Center Project Architect Scoring/Ratify*

Vice-Chair Hope Harmon made a motion to ratify the vote for the Ben Hill County ARPA INODIC-Monitor Center Project Architect Scoring naming Ricketts & Associates as the architect of the project. 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.

*Memorandum of Understanding/Fingerprinting Services*

Vice-Chair Hope Harmon made a motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding for fingerprinting services. 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.

Vice-Chair Hope Harmon made a motion to approve the updated Georgia Crime Information Center (GCIC) Non-Criminal Justice Disciplinary Policy. 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.

*Updated Georgia Crime Information Center (GCIC) Media Protection Policy*

Vice-Chair Hope Harmon made a motion to approve the updated Georgia Crime Information Center (GCIC) Media Protection Policy. 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.

*Updated Georgia Crime Information Center (GCIC) Non-Criminal Justice Man-Made Natural Disaster Policy*

Vice-Chair Hope Harmon made a motion to approve the updated Georgia Crime Information Center (GCIC) Non-Criminal Justice Man-Made Natural Disaster Policy. 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.

*Updated Georgia Crime Information Center (GCIC) Non-Criminal Applicant Privacy Rights Notification Policy*

Vice-Chair Hope Harmon made a motion to approve the updated Georgia Crime Information Center (GCIC) Non-Criminal Applicant Privacy Rights Notification Policy. 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.

*Updated Georgia Crime Information Center (GCIC) Privacy Rights Acknowledgement Statement*

Vice-Chair Hope Harmon made a motion to approve the updated Georgia Crime Information Center (GCIC) Privacy Rights Acknowledgement Statement. 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/Doug Justice's Firearm*

Commissioner Daniel Cowan made a motion to approve the Surplus Resolution for Doug Justice's firearm. 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.

*Amended Legal Services Agreement/Opioid Lawsuit*

Vice-Chair Hope Harmon made a motion to amend the Legal Service Agreement regarding the opioid lawsuit attorneys' fees. 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.

*Mental Health Resolution*

Commissioner Daniel Cowan made a motion to approve the Mental Health Resolution urging the Governor and General Assembly of Georgia to continue efforts to reform and improve mental health services for the citizens of Georgia. 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.

*Georgia Military Veteran's Hall of Fame Proclamation*

Commissioner Daniel Cowan made a motion to approve the Georgia Military Veteran's Hall of Fame Proclamation proclaiming November 4, 2023, as the Georgia Military Veterans' Hall of Fame, Inc. Day. 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.

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

**Legislative Report:**

Vice-Chair Hope Harmon reported they took Adrian Rivers, a representative of Senator Raphael Warnock office, on a tour of the County showing him all the projects that are being worked on in hopes of earmarking those projects for future funding.

**Public Comments:**

Claretha Moore, 106 Railroad Avenue, stated she is having problems with people dropping off stray dogs in the neighborhood. She has called animal control for help. The Animal Control Officer came out and stated they would return with cages to trap the dog, but he hasn't returned to do so. Ms. Moore said she needs to know what to do about the issue because the dog has damaged her vehicle.

**Executive Session**

**Commissioner's Remarks: None**

**Meeting adjourned.**

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

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