

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
OF THE BEN HILL COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
HELD ON OCTOBER 08, 2024 AT 6:00 PM IN THE
BEN HILL COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING ROOM
LOCATED AT 321 DEWEY MCGLAMRY ROAD

Those present for the meeting were as follows:

Steve Taylor	Chairman
Daniel Cowan	Commissioner
Bennie Calloway	Commissioner
John Mooney	Commissioner
Michael Dinnerman	County Manager
Hampton Raulerson	Assistant County Manager
Pamela D. Turner	County Clerk

Vice Chair-Hope Harmon was absent from meeting

Call to Order

Chairman Steve Taylor called the meeting to order.

Approval of the Agenda/Agenda Changes

Chairman Steve Taylor moved Rezoning Application agenda item to New Business.

Commissioner Calloway made a motion to approve the agenda which included the New Business agenda item Rezoning Application. Commissioner Daniel seconded the motion, which passed with Commissioner Bennie Calloway, Commissioner Daniel Cowan, Commissioner John Mooney, 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 3rd, 2024. Commissioner Bennie Calloway seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner John Mooney, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, Commissioner Daniel Cowan, , and Chairman Steve Taylor all voting for the motion.

Commissioner Bennie Calloway made a motion to suspend the Regular Monthly Meeting to enter into a Public Hearing to discuss a Rezoning Application. Commissioner John Mooney seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner Bennie Calloway, Commissioner Daniel Cowan, Commissioner John Mooney, and Chairman Steve Taylor all voting for the motion.

Public Hearing/Rezoning Application/187 W. Jack Allen Rd./From M-R(Multi-Residential) to RR (Rural Residential)

Building and Zoning Director Jake Hughes stated that the property is currently used for Mr. Stegall's vehicles and equipment. The rezoning of this parcel from MR to RR would allow Mr. Stegall to place a manufactured home on the property for a family member. No additional manufactured homes are proposed to be placed on the property at this time.

There were no public comments.

Commissioner John Mooney made a motion to close the Public Hearing to enter the Regular monthly Meeting. Commissioner Calloway seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner John Mooney, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, Commissioner Daniel Cowan, and Chairman Steve Taylor all voting for the motion.

Constitutional Officer: NONE

Department Head Reports:

Ben Hill County 4H Ag. Agent Laura Hughes introduces ANR Agent Floyd Sanders and Ben Hill County-H members.

Agent Sanders stated that farmers will lose 30%-40% of cotton, and that 40 and older trees were down and that the younger trees withheld the wind damage during Hurricane Helene. 4-H Member and Georgia 4-H State Officer, Nandini stated that Georgia 4-h is celebrating National 4-H week and recognizing more than 100 years of excellence in positive youth development. Georgia 4-H is the largest youth leadership organization in the state. "Beyond Ready" is the 2024 National 4-H week theme.

- Over 6 million members
- 25 million alumni nationally
- Georgia 4-H engages 240,000 students a program year
- 4th -12th grades

4-H Member Anna gave the upcoming events for national 4-H

- Clovers and Company shows
- New Homeschool club and council meeting
- Community Service Workshop, Judging team competition/Competition at Ga. State Fair

Anna also express gratitude to the Community of Ben Hill County for their continued support of Ben Hill County 4-H club

4-H Member Gaurech thanked the Commissioners for having 4-H at the meeting and presented the National 4-H Week Proclamation to the Commissioners to be signed.

EMA Director Jake Hughes gave an update on Hurricane Helene. He stated Currently all FWLB powerlines have been restored. There are a few houses still without power due to damage to their home.

Irwin EMC is the same with power being restored except for customers who had damage to their homes as well

Jake stated that 3 Trucks loads of water/ 1 Truck of MRES/Several Pallets of Tarps and 1 Truckload of Food Donated by Second Harvest were given out to the community. He stated he also sent extra tarps to Douglas Ga.

Ben Hill County had no reports of injury during the storm. Cleanup efforts are still ongoing.

Astor Rd. was closed before Hurricane Helene due to excessive rainfall Wednesday night and Thursday morning that washed away the pipe in the road. The road should be back open on tomorrow or Thursday.

All roads that were damaged by Hurricane Helene will have opened or will be opened by the end of the week. There are two Debris Sites at the landfill with 1 more pending approval.

Sparow Road still closed on the East but will be reopened by the end of the week. Sustain winds were recorded at the weather stem located at 911 center of 50mph with gusts of 60.

Paul McIntyre from FWLB reported that 95% of power has been restored, only a small percentage of services have not been restored these residents need an electrician. Replaced were 70 poles and 30 transformers.

FWLB have sent 6 employees and material to help Douglas Ga. Due to damages from Hurricane Helene

Assistance came from 45 out of town Lineman

- Contractor East Point Ga. -12
- Fort Valley-2
- Lawrenceville-5
- Groveland Massachusetts-12
- Climbing Crew- Kentucky 6
- K-Pub Kerrville Texas-8

Paul McIntyre thank Ben Hill County for their patience during Hurricane Helene

Chairman Taylor thanked the EMA Director for keeping them up to date throughout the storm.

County Board Reports: NONE

County Manager's Report:

County Manager Michael Dinnerman reported:

- Introduce Hampton Raulerson as the new County Manager he will take over January 1, 2025
- New County Manager Hampton Raulerson thanked Mike Dinnerman and is looking forward to working with everyone.
- Working on the Budget.
- Proud of Rd. Department/E911/Public Works/FWLB/Irwin EMC for working during and after the storm. E911 did an excellent job by taking all calls during the storm
- Still working on Edward Rd and Monitor Building projects, also the shop is on the ground at the Road Department.

Annexation Request/Notification:

Rezoning Application:

Alcohol Application: NONE

Appointments

Old Business: NONE

New Business:

Rezoning Application 187 W. Jack Allen Rd./From M-R(Multi-Residential) to RR (Rural Residential)

Commissioner John Mooney made a motion to approved Rezoning Application for Jeffery Stegall, to change from M-R to RR. Commissioner Daniel Cowan seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner John Mooney, Commissioner Daniel Cowan, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, and Chairman Steve Taylor all voting for the motion.

School Resource Agreement

Commissioner Daniel made a motion to adopt School Resource Agreement for 6 Resource Officers. Commissioner Daniel Cowan seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner Daniel Cowan, Commissioner John Mooney, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, and Chairman Steve Taylor all voting for the motion.

Chairman Steve Taylor stated that Election Board Appointments will be voted on at next Regular Monthly Meeting

Code Of Ordinances / Amended of Technical Codes

Commissioner John Mooney made a motion to adopt to revise Technical Codes for the Code of Ordinances. Commissioner Bennie Calloway seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner John Mooney, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, Commissioner Daniel Cowan, and Chairman Steve Taylor all voting for the motion.

Agenda Changes and/or add on:

Legislative Report: NONE

Public Comments:

Tammy Miles at 362 Broxton Hwy stated that Ben Hill County employees should not be made to use their vacation time for inclement weather and that the County should implement a policy that indicates this change.

Beverly Cook at 224 Dewey McGlamry Road Apt. 507 stated that Ben Hill County employees should not have to use any vacation days for inclement weather and that these days should be paid days for employees.

Chairman Steve Taylor stated, they are currently having discussion about Policy change for inclement weather, and instead of Annual leave employees can use their sick time. Sick leave will be donated to employees who do not have any or enough to cover the 16 hours. Mr. Dinnerman stated he will donate some of his sick leave for the employees that don't have it.

EMA Director Jake Hughes stated he will donate sick as well.

Executive Session

Commissioners Remarks:

Meeting adjourned

Steve Taylor, Chairman

Pamela D. Turner, County Clerk