

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
OF THE BEN HILL COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
HELD ON JUNE 02, 2020 AT 6:00 PM
VIA TELEPHONE CONFERENCE

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

As the World Health Organization (WHO) has declared COVID-19 a global pandemic (3/11/20), President Donald Trump declared a National Emergency (3/13/20), Governor Brian Kemp declared a Public Health Emergency for the State of Georgia (3/14/20), and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has recommended social distancing measures be implemented for all individuals to prevent the continued spread of the illness, this special called emergency meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Ben Hill County was held with attendance by telephone conference under the authority of OCGA 50-14-1(g) and OCGA 38-3-54. Notice of this meeting was given to the legal organ, posted on the county website and in the county commissioner's office. The notice contained direction and opportunity for any citizens desiring to attend and/or participate in the meeting by phone

Call to Order

Chairman Steve called the meeting to order and asked for a moment of silence.

Approval of the Agenda/Agenda Changes

Vice-Chair 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, Chairman Steve Taylor and Commissioner Daniel Cowan all voting for the motion.

Chairman Steve Taylor called each Commissioner name to record their vote.

Commissioner Bennie Calloway entered the meeting.

Acceptance of Prior Minutes

Vice-Chair Hope Harmon made a motion to approve the May 05, 2020 Regular Monthly Meeting minutes and to reflect the correction in the Manager's report. Commissioner John Mooney seconded the motion; which passed with Vice-Chair Hope Harmon, Commissioner John Mooney, Chairman Steve Taylor, Commissioner Bennie Calloway and Commissioner Daniel Cowan all voting for the motion.

Chairman Steve Taylor called each Commissioner name to record their vote.

Constitutional Officer: NONE

Department Head Reports:

EMA/E911 Director Brandon Fletcher gave an update on the progress of the Taskforce for the Emergency Infectious Disease meeting. He stated they are still meeting every Wednesday via phone and everything is going well.

Mr. Fletcher also gave an EMA report regarding all the activity with the Health Department, Senior Citizen, Elections, Probate, Courthouse, and E911.

He mentioned people are getting relaxed with the coronavirus. He cautioned everyone in business, churches, etc. to continue social distancing, wearing a mask, and washing their hands. The turnaround for virus testing is 24 hours.

He stated there will be a peaceful demonstration Saturday, June 6th at 9:00 am, beginning at the Blue & Gray Park and ending at the Courthouse. Law Enforcement will be in attendance, but he don't see any issues.

County Manager Michael Dinnerman stated the return of the original telephone numbers process is moving in a positive direction. We are getting close to getting the numbers ported.

County Board Reports: NONE

County Manager's Report:

Mr. Dinnerman reported:

- ❖ Building Inspector Lawton Lovett, Commissioner John Mooney, and Mr. Dinnerman has been working diligently on the Building & Zoning new program. They are revamping the process to make it user friendly and a quick process.
- ❖ He is also working on the Health Insurance renewal.

Annexation Request: NONE

Rezoning Application: NONE

Alcohol Application: NONE

Appointments: NONE

Old Business: NONE

New Business:

Restricted Public Access

Commissioner John Mooney made a motion to extend limited public access to the public for all county buildings until July 3, 2020 due to COVID-19. 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.

Chairman Steve Taylor called each Commissioner name to record their vote.

Delegating Authority to the Tax Commissioner to Waive Certain Penalties or Interest

Commissioner John Mooney made a motion to adopt the resolution delegating authority to the Tax Commissioner to waive certain penalties or interest. 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.

Chairman Steve Taylor called each Commissioner name to record their vote.

Tax Commissioner Waiver of Penalties & Interest Resolution COVID-19

Commissioner John Mooney made a motion to adopt the resolution approving the waiver of certain penalties or interest by the Tax Commissioner. 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.

Chairman Steve Taylor called each Commissioner name to record their vote.

Permit Fees/Occupational Fees/Business Licenses Fees Rate Changes

County Manager Michael Dinnerman stated Commissioner John Mooney, Building Inspector Lawton Lovett, and himself has been working on the rate changes. Mr. Dinnerman stated they looked at surrounding counties to be equitable.

Commissioner John Mooney stated we need to get an early start getting the rate changes to the public. It is important they know we are in line with surrounding counties.

Commissioner John Mooney made a motion to approve the Permit Fees, Occupational Fees, and the Business Licenses Fees rate changes as presented. 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.

Chairman Steve Taylor called each Commissioner name to record their vote.

**Updated Fee Schedule:
Ben Hill County Permit Fees Schedule**

Ben Hill Business & Occupational Tax Categories and Fees Schedule

Occupation Tax Schedule			Rate per number or Employees		Page 2	
Number of employees	Charge per person	New Rate	0.3		Charge per person	New Rate
1	\$50.00	\$65.00		21-30	\$13.16	17.11
2	\$50.00	\$65.00		31-40	\$10.37	13.48
3	\$43.33	\$56.33		41-50	\$8.50	11.05
4	\$38.25	\$49.73		51-60	\$7.25	9.43
5	\$32.00	\$41.60		61-70	\$6.35	8.26
6	\$29.16	\$37.91		71-80	\$5.68	7.38
7	\$27.14	\$35.28		81-90	\$5.16	6.71
8	\$25.00	\$32.50		91-100	\$4.75	6.18
9	\$23.88	\$31.04		101-200	\$2.47	3.21
10	\$23.00	\$29.90		201-300	\$1.71	2.22
11	\$22.27	\$28.95		301-400	\$1.38	1.79
12	\$21.25	\$27.63		401-500	\$1.13	1.47
13	\$20.76	\$26.99		501-600	\$0.95	1.24
14	\$20.35	\$26.46		601-700	\$0.89	1.16
15	\$20.00	\$26.00		701-800	\$0.84	1.09
16	\$17.18	\$22.33		801-900	\$0.80	1.04
17	\$19.41	\$25.23		901-1000	\$0.77	1.00
18	\$19.16	\$24.91		1001-1100	\$0.75	0.98
19	\$18.94	\$24.62		1100-over	\$0.72	0.94
20	\$18.75	\$24.38				

Regulatory Fee Schedule

Table 3

Fee	0.3	New Fee	Description
\$75.00		\$97.50	Bldg. & Construction contractors, subcontractors, workers, electrical, plumbing, roofing, pools monument sales, fencing, heating & air
\$100.00		\$130.00	Carnivals or circuses
\$50.00		\$65.00	Taxicab & limousine operators/ \$50.00 first cab, \$25.00 each additional cab
\$250.00		\$325.00	Tattoo artist
\$100.00		\$130.00	Shooting galleries & firearm ranges
\$100.00		\$130.00	Scrap metal processors
\$250.00		\$325.00	Pawnbrokers
\$150.00		\$195.00	Dealers in precious metals
\$100.00		\$130.00	Firearms dealers
		\$0.00	Peddlers (None to be approved at this time)
\$100.00		\$130.00	Modeling Agencies
\$150.00		\$195.00	Auto & Motorcycle racing
\$100.00		\$130.00	Business which provides appearance bonds
\$150.00		\$195.00	Boxing & wrestling promoters
\$100.00		\$130.00	Hypnotists
\$100.00		\$130.00	Handwriting analysts
\$100.00		\$130.00	Health clubs, gym s & spas
\$250.00		\$325.00	Fortunetellers
\$250.00		\$325.00	Garbage collectors
\$250.00		\$325.00	Escort services
\$100.00		\$130.00	Burglar & fire alarm installers
\$100.00		\$130.00	Locksmiths
\$125.00		\$162.50	Flea Markets
\$320.00		\$416.00	Vendors
\$50.00		\$65.00	Auctioneer
\$25.00		\$32.50	Turkey shoot

Professional Fee Schedule		(Optional to pay per employee or per Fee table)		Table 4
Fee	0.3	New Fee	Description	
\$300.00		\$390.00	Lawyers	
\$400.00		\$520.00	Physicians licensed under Chap34 of Title 43, OCGA	
\$400.00		\$520.00	Osteopaths licensed under Chap34 of Title 43, OCGA	
\$400.00		\$520.00	Chiropractors	
\$400.00		\$520.00	Podiatrists	
\$400.00		\$520.00	Dentist	
\$400.00		\$520.00	Optometrists	
\$400.00		\$520.00	Psychologists	
\$300.00		\$390.00	Veterinarians	
\$200.00		\$260.00	Landscape architects	
\$200.00		\$260.00	Land surveyors	
\$300.00		\$390.00	Practitioners of physiotherapy	
\$200.00		\$260.00	Public accountants	
\$300.00		\$390.00	Embalmers	
\$200.00		\$260.00	Funeral directors	
\$200.00		\$260.00	Civil, mechanical, hydraulic, or electrical engineers	
\$200.00		\$260.00	Architects	
\$200.00		\$260.00	Marriage and family therapists, social workers, and professional counselors	
\$50.00		\$65.00	Insurance	

Agenda Changes and/or add on:

Legislative Report: NONE

Public Comments: NONE

Executive Session

Commissioner's Remarks:

Vice-Chair Hope Harmon stated people are using the parks more since school is out. She was receiving phone calls regarding the condition of the playground equipment. She inquired about replacing the equipment and was told the cost of replacing the equipment and she needs to contact DLS.

Commissioner John Mooney stated the Commissioners need to refer people to Building Inspector Lawton Lovett regarding the new permitting process and the fees rate change early.

Commissioner John Mooney stated we need to use the language we are open by appointment

County Manager Michael Dinnerman stated the public will be able to walk through the new permitting process on the website and bring all documents to the office for processing. They should receive a permit in 10 minutes. He stated he want the people to have a good experience.

Meeting adjourned

_____ Steve Taylor, Chairman

_____ Donna R. Prather, County Clerk