

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
OF THE BEN HILL COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
HELD ON APRIL 05, 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
Michael Dinnerman	County Manager
Donna Prather	County Clerk

Commissioner John Mooney was absent.

Call to Order

Chairman Steve Taylor called the meeting to order and gave the invocation.

Everyone gave the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Taylor stated two annexation notifications from the City of Fitzgerald and the Public Defender Contract for FY 22-23 need to be added to the agenda under New Business. New Business agenda items need to be moved behind the Public Hearing so that those attending the Public Hearing can leave if they like to due to the weather.

Approval of the Agenda/Agenda Changes

Commissioner John Mooney made a motion to approve the agenda with the changes. 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

Vice-Chair Hope Harmon made a motion to approve the Regular Monthly Meeting that was held on March 08, 2022. 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 Workshop Meeting that was held on March 31, 2022. 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.

Commissioner John Mooney made a motion to close the Regular Monthly Meeting to enter the Public Hearing. 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.

Public Hearing

Zoning Variance/Kaylyn Venteicher

Building & Zoning Administrator Lawton Lovett stated There is a variance request on behalf of Kaylyn Venteicher concerning property located at 1894 Lower Rebecca Road.

Since this is an appeal/ variance request public notice was placed in local periodicals and on the property. A variance only must have a public meeting with the governing body.

Mr. Willis Griffin left the house and surveyed out a parcel of land 1.12 acres to be deeded to his daughter Beth Griffin-Fowler. I was contacted by Mrs. Fowlers law firm concerning the dimensions of the lot so it could be recorded. The ordinance at that time was 1 acre with 300 feet of road frontage. There was no way to separate the acre out and contain the septic and well to meet the 300 feet road frontage.

I advised that a revised ordinance would be coming and there was a possibility the frontage requirement might be reduced. When the revise ordinance was approved in December 2021, General Farming lots were changed to 2 acres and 200 feet road frontage. Which would still require a variance.

Mrs. Fowler passed on August 15th and Mr. Fowler passed on August 26th. Which left the property to Mrs. Venteicher.

We are requesting a variance be given on the lot dimensions and size to be accepted with a variance as a non-conforming lot. This will allow Mrs. Venteicher to legally sell the lot. This is a hardship that Mrs. Venteicher did not create, nor her parents, they inherited it. The lot as surveyed will sustain the house and is acceptable. There are others in the area on one acre lots. It will be a non-conforming lot under the current ordinance.

Public Comments

Kaylyn Venteicher is requesting a frontage and acreage variance on the property located at 1894 Lower Rebecca Road. Ms. Venteicher inherited the property from her mother when she passed away. She wants the variance so that she can sell the property.

John Griffin address is 1905 Lower Rebecca Road. He is not in favor of the variance. He asked questions regarding the 1 acre because the land was originally on 4.2 acres. He was also concerned about who Ms. Venteicher is going to sell the property to and the possibility of an increase in crime because it is close to his property.

Frances Griffin Wall address is 1874 Lower Rebecca Road. She is not in favor of the variance. Ms. Wall is concerned with how the variance will affected her property value if she decides to sell.

Commissioner John Mooney made a motion to close the Public Hearing to 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.

New Business:

Zoning Variance/Kaylyn Venteicher

Commissioner John Mooney made a motion to approve the non-conforming variance. Vice-Chairman Hope Harmon seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner John Mooney, Vice-Chair Hope Harmon, Commissioner Daniel Cowan, and Chairman Steve Taylor all voting for the motion.

Commissioner Bennie Calloway opposed the motion.

Monitor Enrichment Center Construction Plans Letter

Commissioner John Mooney made a motion to approve the Monitor Enrichment Center revised construction plans and authorize the Chairman to sign the letter. Vice-Chairman 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.

Ben Hill Transit Non-Renewal Letter

Commissioner John Mooney made a motion to approve the non-renewal letter to RMS for the FY 2023 Ben Hill Transit contract and authorize the Chairman to sign the letter. 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.

5311 Authorizing Resolution

Commissioner John Mooney made a motion to approve the Resolution authorizing Southern Georgia Regional Commission to execute and file an application on behalf of Ben Hill County. Vice-Chairman 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.

Southern Georgia Region Commission Aging Advisory Council Member

Commissioner John Mooney made a motion to reappoint Senior Citizen Director Cathy Posey to serve for another term of three years on the Aging Advisory Council. Vice-Chairman 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.

FY 2022-2023 Public Defender Contract

Vice-Chairman Hope Harmon made a motion to approve the Office of the Public Defender Budget and Contract for the Fiscal Year 22-23. 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.

Constitutional Officer:

Tax Commissioner Barry Foster gave an update regarding 2021 tax collection, property tax sells, and mobile home sells. He also mention they are making progress restoring his QuickBooks software.

Department Head Reports: NONE

County Board Reports: NONE

County Manager's Report: NONE

Annexation Request:

Annexation Notification/Benjamin Hill Drive

The City of Fitzgerald sent notification for Annexation into the City of Fitzgerald for said property land lot number 302 in the fourth land district located on Benjamin H. Hill Drive and the Public Road right of way adjacent thereto from GB County to GB City of Fitzgerald.

Annexation Notification/Evergreen Road

The City of Fitzgerald sent notification for Annexation into the City of Fitzgerald for said property land lot number 279 in the fourth land district located on Evergreen Road and the Public Road right of way adjacent thereto from R-6-M County to K-I City of Fitzgerald.

Rezoning Application: NONE

Alcohol Application:

DAAT Quick Stop LLC/Timothy Sullivan

Commissioner John Mooney made a motion to deny the alcohol application for Timothy Sullivan based on Sheriff Cone and County Manager Michael Dinnerman recommendation due to his criminal history. Vice-Chairman 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.

Appointments: NONE

Old Business: NONE

Agenda Changes and/or add on: NONE

Legislative Report:

Vice-Chair Hope Harmon reported that she connected with Department of Community Affairs (DCA) Commissioner Christopher Nunn at the Legislative Breakfast in Atlanta and they discussed improving rental assistance in this area.

Public Comments: NONE

Executive Session

Commissioner's Remarks:

Chairman Taylor informed the Commissioners of the vacancy on the DFCS Board that must be filled in 90 days. He asked them to be thinking of someone to serve.

Commissioner Daniel Cowan announced he is the new Chairman for the Board of Health.

Meeting adjourned

_____ Steve Taylor, Chairman

_____ Donna R. Prather, County Clerk