

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
OF THE BEN HILL COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
HELD ON JUNE 07, 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
John Mooney	Commissioner
Michael Dinnerman	County Manager
Donna 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 John Mooney seconded the motion; which passed with Vice-Chair Hope Harmon, Commissioner John Mooney, 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 May 03, 2022. 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.

Constitutional Officer: NONE

Department Head Reports: NONE

County Board Reports: NONE

County Manager's Report:

County Manager Michael Dinnerman reported he is working on 2023 SPLOST. Mr. Dinnerman said he have some concerns because the City is going to have only one meeting. It is better to put SPLOST on March ballot for 2023. If we put it on the November ballot and the SPLOST don't pass, we would have to wait a year before we can place it back on the ballot.

In the meantime, the County can work up a marketing plan and give more thought for 2023 SPLOST and give the new Mayor some time to get credibility.

Annexation Request: NONE

Rezoning Application: NONE

Alcohol Application: NONE

Appointments: NONE

Old Business: NONE

New Business:

Ben Hill 401 (a) Defined Contribution Plan for Senior Management Employees Resolution/Ratify

Commissioner John Mooney made a motion to ratify the vote to adopt the Ben Hill 401 (a) Defined Contribution Plan for Senior Management Employees Resolution. 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.

Employee Health Insurance

Commissioner John Mooney made a motion to approve Partners Benefit Group Anthem renewal rate that will include a 5% increase. 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.

Public Defender Budget

County Manager Michael Dinnerman stated the Public Defender's retirement percentage for personnel has an unexpectant increase by the Governor. Their total budget increased \$5,474.59. The County's budget increased \$1,861.36 for the year.

Agenda Changes and/or add on: NONE

Legislative Report: NONE

Public Comments:

Verna Larkin, 180 Preston Drive, stated she attended the Commissioners meeting May 8, 2018 regarding an abandon house located on Preston Drive. She was told at the meeting that it would be taken care of. Ms. Larkin stated, nothing has been done. The abandon house is an eye sore, a nuisance, and it is bringing the property value down. People are going in and out of the abandon house and kids are playing at the house. Someone is going to get hurt or killed. She said when she moved to Preston Drive 30 years ago it was a beautiful area.

County Manager Michael Dinnerman state he is familiar with the property. In 2018, proper staff was not in place and the County depended upon the City of Fitzgerald Code Enforcement. The County has since staffed its own Building and Zoning. This will be a process.

Commissioner Bennie Calloway stated several people has tried to buy the property; but the owner did not respond to their request.

Mr. Dinnerman stated the County may have to process this through the Court.

Chairman Steve Taylor stated they are listening and will look back into the issue.

Executive Session

Commissioner's Remarks:

Chairman Taylor informed everyone the Commissioner's meeting for July is scheduled on July 5th, the Tuesday after July 4th. He ask the Commissioners if they would like to keep the meeting as scheduled or changed it. All the Commissioner preferred to keep the meeting on July 5, 2022, as scheduled.

Meeting adjourned

_____ Steve Taylor, Chairman

_____ Pamela Turner, Acting County Clerk