

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
OF THE BEN HILL COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
HELD ON MARCH 07, 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.

Chairman Steve Taylor stated agenda items Budget Amendment 2022-11, Authorizing Submission of FY 2023 CDBG Application Resolution, and Fair Housing Resolution listed under New Business needs to be removed from the agenda and Auditor Tony Eckler listed under Appointments will follow Acceptance of Prior Minutes.

Approval of the Agenda/Agenda Changes

Vice-Chair Hope Harmon made a motion to approve the agenda that reflect the changes. 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.

Acceptance of Prior Minutes

Commissioner Daniel Cowan made a motion to approve the Regular Monthly Meeting minutes that was held on February 07, 2023. Vice-Chair Hope Harmon seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner Daniel Cowan, Vice-Chair Hope Harmon, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, Commissioner John Mooney, and Chairman Steve Taylor all voting for the motion.

Commissioner Daniel Cowan made a motion to approve the Special Called Meeting minutes that was held on February 20, 2023. Vice-Chair Hope Harmon seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner Daniel Cowan, Vice-Chair Hope Harmon, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, Commissioner John Mooney, and Chairman Steve Taylor all voting for the motion.

Appointments:

CPA Tony Eckler thanked County Manager Michael Dinnerman, CFO Darlow Maxwell, County Clerk Donna Prather, and HR Director Pamela Turner for working with him on the audit. Mr. Eckler reported FY 2021 fund balance increased \$1,377,986.

He reminded the Commissioners they are responsible for the budget and encouraged them to be knowledgeable regarding the accounting software and data that maintain cash flow.

Constitutional Officer: NONE

Department Head Reports: NONE

County Board Reports: NONE

County Manager's Report: NONE

Annexation Request: NONE

Rezoning Application: NONE

Alcohol Application:

Ashaben Patel/ Stop N Go

Commissioner John Mooney made a motion to approve the alcohol license for Ashaben Patel at Stop N Go. 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.

Meenaben Patel/ Foster's Fast Stop

Commissioner Daniel Cowan made a motion to approve the alcohol license for Meenaben Patel at Foster's Fast Stop. Vice-Chair Hope Harmon seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner Daniel Cowan, Vice-Chair Hope Harmon, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, Commissioner John Mooney, and Chairman Steve Taylor all voting for the motion.

Old Business: NONE

New Business:

Chief Financial Officer Darlow Maxwell stated the Official Code of Georgia Annotated section 36-81-3(b) requires an annual balanced budget for the General Fund, each Special Revenue Fund, and each Debt Service Fund and requires a project-length budget for each capital project fund.

These amendments represents the final review of the General Fund expenditures on a departmental level, E911, Jail Fund, Special Investigation, and Drug Fund. The total General Fund expenditures were neither increased nor decreased as a result of these Budget Amendments.

2022-08 Budget Amendment Resolution

Vice-Chair Hope Harmon made a motion to adopt the 2022-08 Budget Amendment Resolution. Commissioner Daniel Cowan seconded the motion; which passed with Vice-Chair Hope Harmon, Commissioner Daniel Cowan, Commissioner John Mooney, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, and Chairman Steve Taylor all voting for the motion.

2022-09 Budget Amendment Resolution

Vice-Chair Hope Harmon made a motion to adopt the 2022-09 Budget Amendment Resolution. Commissioner Daniel Cowan seconded the motion; which passed with Vice-Chair Hope Harmon, Commissioner Daniel Cowan, Commissioner John Mooney, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, and Chairman Steve Taylor all voting for the motion.

2022-10 Budget Amendment Resolution

Vice-Chair Hope Harmon made a motion to adopt the 2022-10 Budget Amendment Resolution. 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.

New Opioid Settlement

Vice-Chair Hope Harmon made a motion to approve the anticipated Memorandum Of Understanding and authorize Chairman Steve Taylor and Chief Financial Officer Darlow Maxwell to execute the anticipated Participation Forms for the New Opioid Settlements. 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.

Agenda Changes and/or add on:

Legislative Report:

Vice-Chair Hope Harmon attended Housing Day at the Capitol on February 22nd. Various state leaders and organizations discussed the state of housing, rental issues, and homeless in Georgia.

She meet with Rep. Lessa Hagan, Rep. Clay Pirkle, and Senator Carden Summers to discuss local issues, state legislative that could impact south Georgia, and other key items.

Transportation weight limits seems to be a hot topic during this session, but the bill will go through some changes before making it through the house and senate.

Both Representative Hagan and Senator Summers wanted to remind us that they are always available to us if we need them. If we have any concerns about any state legislation, we should reach out to them.

Overall, it was a great day at the Capitol.

Public Comments: NONE

Executive Session/Legal

Commissioner's Remarks: NONE

Meeting adjourned.

_____ Steve Taylor, Chairman

_____ Donna R. Prather, County Clerk