

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
OF THE BEN HILL COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
HELD ON AUGUST 06, 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
Hope Harmon	Vice-Chair
Daniel Cowan	Commissioner
Bennie Calloway	Commissioner
John Mooney	Commissioner
Michael Dinnerman	County Manager
Donna R. Prather	County Clerk

Call to Order

Chairman Steve Taylor called the meeting to order.

Approval of the Agenda/Agenda Changes

Chairman Steve Taylor added a Special Called Meeting agenda item to New Business.

Vice-Chair Hope Harmon made a motion to approve the agenda which included the New Business agenda item Special Called Meeting. Commissioner Daniel seconded the motion; which passed with Vice-Chair Hope Harmon, Commissioner Daniel Cowan, Commissioner John Mooney, 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 minutes that was held on July 09, 2024. Commissioner Daniel Cowan seconded the motion; which passed with Vice-Chair Hope Harmon, Commissioner Daniel Cowan, Commissioner John Mooney, and Chairman Steve Taylor all voting for the motion.

Vice-Chair Hope Harmon made a motion to approve the Special Called Meeting minutes that was held on July 24, 2024 at 10:00 am. Commissioner Daniel Cowan seconded the motion; which passed with Vice-Chair Hope Harmon, Commissioner Daniel Cowan, Commissioner John Mooney, and Chairman Steve Taylor all voting for the motion.

Vice-Chair Hope Harmon made a motion to approve the Special Called Meeting minutes that was held on July 24, 2024 at 6:15 pm. Commissioner Daniel Cowan seconded the motion; which passed with Vice-Chair Hope Harmon, Commissioner Daniel Cowan, Commissioner John Mooney, and Chairman Steve Taylor all voting for the motion.

Vice-Chair Hope Harmon made a motion to approve the Special Called Meeting minutes that was held on July 31, 2024. Commissioner Daniel Cowan seconded the motion; which passed with Vice-Chair Hope Harmon, Commissioner Daniel Cowan, Commissioner John Mooney, and Chairman Steve Taylor all voting for the motion.

Commissioner Bennie Calloway entered the meeting.

Chairman Steve Taylor ask DLS Director Keith Morrison to introduce the Class C Swim Team. Mr. Morrison introduced the Swim Coach Jennifer Shoults. Ms. Shoults reported they had 41 swimmers in all. Out of the 41 swimmers 32 competed in the District Meet and 31 competed at the State Meet. Out of 31 swimmers competing at State, they placed 3rd as a Team, 4 individuals are State Champs, 6 finished in 2nd place, and 11 finished in 3rd place.

Vice-Chair Hope Harmon made a motion to suspend the Regular Monthly Meeting to enter into a Public Hearing to discuss the proposed millage rate. Commissioner Daniel Cowan seconded the motion; which passed with Vice-Chair Hope Harmon, Commissioner Daniel Cowan, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, Commissioner John Mooney, and Chairman Steve Taylor all voting for the motion.

Public Hearing/2024 Proposed Millage Rate

County Manager Michael Dinnerman stated we are keeping last year's millage rate. The percentage increase of 3.02% is contributed to reassessment, which gives an increase of \$210,000. New growth consists of new houses and renovations contributed to the \$138,000 increase.

There were no public comments.

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

Constitutional Officer: NONE

Department Head Reports:

EMA Director Jake Hughes gave an update on Tropical Storm Debbie. He stated the storm was not as bad as it was originally reported. Winds did reach 30 mph. The Road Department started picking up fallen trees around 1:00 am Tuesday morning.

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

DLS Keith Morrison gave an update on all activities for DLS.

County Board Reports: NONE

County Manager's Report:

County Manager Michael Dinnerman reported:

- They have had the pre-construction meeting for Ed Ward Road.
- The pre-construction meeting for Flint Road will be on the 14th.
- He thanked County Clerk Donna Prather for the years she worked with him.

Annexation Request/Notification:

The City of Fitzgerald sent notification of an annexation request for the said location 148 Newcomer Trail. They are requesting the said property be rezoned from R-15 County to R-15 City.

Rezoning Application: 582 Jacksonville Hwy/from GF (General Farming) to WLI (Wholesale Light Industrial)

Commissioner Daniel Cowan made a motion to approve the rezoning application for the said property 582 Jacksonville Hwy from GF (General Farming) to WLI (Wholesale Light Industrial). Vice-Chair Hope Harmon seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner Daniel Cowan Vice-Chair Hope Harmon, Commissioner John Mooney, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, and Chairman Steve Taylor all voting for the motion.

Alcohol Application: NONE

Appointments

Old Business: NONE

New Business:

Millage Rate Resolution

Commissioner John Mooney made a motion to accept the School Board millage rate at 15.509%, to adopt the final millage rate for Ben Hill County at 14.687 % for unincorporated and incorporated, approve the Tax Levy Resolution, and to authorize the Chairman to sign all documents. Vice-Chair Hope Harmon seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner John Mooney, Vice-Chair Hope Harmon, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, and Chairman Steve Taylor all voting for the motion. Commissioner Daniel Cowan opposed the motion.

DLS Board Reappointment/ Jennifer Shoults

Vice-Chair Hope Harmon made a motion to reappoint Jennifer Shoults to the DLS Board. Commissioner Daniel Cowan seconded the motion; which passed with Vice-Chair Hope Harmon, Commissioner Daniel Cowan, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, Commissioner John Mooney, and Chairman Steve Taylor all voting for the motion.

2024 Legislative Leadership Conference Voting Delegate

Commissioner Daniel Cowan made a motion to appoint Vice-Chair Hope Harmon as the voting delegate for the 2024 Legislative Leadership Conference. Commissioner John Mooney seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner Daniel Cowan, Commissioner John Mooney, Vice-Chair Hope Harmon, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, and Chairman Steve Taylor all voting for the motion.

September Meeting Date

Chairman Steve Taylor informed the Commissioners that the September meeting date is the day after Labor Day. Mr. Taylor asked if everyone was okay with keeping the scheduled meeting date. All Commissioners were okay with keeping the meeting on the scheduled meeting day.

Special Called Meeting Date

Chairman Steve Taylor informed the Commissioners of a Special Called meeting that is scheduled for August 14th at 11:30 am to discuss personnel. The meeting will be held at the meeting room located at the Commissioner's Office.

Agenda Changes and/or add on:

Legislative Report: NONE

Public Comments: NONE

Executive Session

Commissioners Remarks

Chairman Steve Taylor, Vice-Chair Hope Harmon, and Commissioner Daniel Cowan thanked County Clerk Donna Prather for her years of service with Ben Hill County and wished gave their best wishes.

County Manager Michael Dinnerman announced Human Resource Director Pamela Turner will be taking Donna Prather's place as County Clerk and he is looking for replacement for Pamela Turner's position as Payroll because she will continue to be the Human Resource Director.

Meeting adjourned

_____ Steve Taylor, Chairman

_____ Donna R. Prather, County Clerk