

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
OF THE BEN HILL COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
HELD ON OCTOBER 4, 2012 AT 5:00 PM IN THE
BEN HILL COUNTY COURTHOUSE ANNEX

Those present for the meeting were as follows:

Philip C. Jay III	Chairman
OD Netter	Vice-Chairman
Scott Downing	Commissioner
Bennie Calloway	Commissioner
Kathy Davis	Commissioner
Frank Feild	County Manager
Toni Sawyer	County Attorney
Donna Lampkin	County Clerk

Chairman Philip Jay III called the meeting to order.

Chaplain Godfrey O'Rear gave the invocation.

Everyone gave the Pledge of Allegiance.

Amendments To The Rules Of Order

Commissioner Scott Downing made a motion to relax the rules on addressing the Chairman, Commissioners, and the public. Commissioner Kathy Davis seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner Scott Downing, Commissioner Kathy Davis, Vice-Chairman OD Netter, and Commissioner Bennie Calloway all voting for the motion.

Approval of the Agenda

Vice-Chairman OD Netter made a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Kathy Davis seconded the motion; which passed with Vice-Chairman OD Netter, Commissioner Kathy Davis, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, and Commissioner Scott Downing all voting for the motion.

Public Comments: NONE

Acceptance of Prior Minutes

Vice-Chairman OD Netter made a motion to approve the Workshop Meeting minutes held on September 10, 2012. Commissioner Kathy Davis seconded the motion, which passed with Vice-Chairman OD Netter, Commissioner Kathy Davis, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, and Commissioner Scott Downing all voting for the motion.

Vice-Chairman OD Netter made a motion to approve the September Regular Monthly Meeting minutes held on September 11, 2012. Commissioner Kathy Davis seconded the motion, which passed with Vice-Chairman OD Netter, Commissioner Kathy Davis, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, and Commissioner Scott Downing all voting for the motion.

Vice-Chairman OD Netter made a motion to approve the Public Hearing minutes held on September 13, 2012 at 10:00 AM. Commissioner Kathy Davis seconded the motion, which passed with Vice-Chairman OD Netter, Commissioner Kathy Davis, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, and Commissioner Scott Downing all voting for the motion.

Vice-Chairman OD Netter made a motion to approve the Public Hearing minutes held on September 13, 2012 at 7:00 PM. Commissioner Kathy Davis seconded the motion, which passed with Vice-Chairman OD Netter, Commissioner Kathy Davis, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, and Commissioner Scott Downing all voting for the motion.

Vice-Chairman OD Netter made a motion to approve the Public Hearing minutes held on September 25, 2012. Commissioner Kathy Davis seconded the motion, which passed with Vice-Chairman OD Netter, Commissioner Kathy Davis, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, and Commissioner Scott Downing all voting for the motion.

Vice-Chairman OD Netter made a motion to approve the Special Called Meeting minutes held on September 25, 2012. Commissioner Kathy Davis seconded the motion, which passed with Vice-Chairman OD Netter, Commissioner Kathy Davis, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, and Commissioner Scott Downing all voting for the motion.

Constitutional Officer: NONE

Elected Officials and Department Head Reports:

EMS Director Mark Shealey gave an update on how overtime is distributed between the full time and part time employees.

County Board Reports: NONE

County Manager's Report

Chairman Philip Jay presented Tax Assessor Joyce Merritt with the 2011 Financial Management Award for her department staying under budget.

County Manager Frank Feild reported the Road Department will be listing a shearing blade and a garbage truck on Gov Deals to be sold.

He reported the signing and striping projects on Rhine Road, Frank Road, Lulaville Road, and Evergreen Road have been completed.

He congratulated County Clerk Donna Lampkin for reconciling the general ledger to the bank statements.

He revealed the 2013 budget planning strategy. We are planning for an \$8,000,000.00 budget that will reflect a \$1, 500,000.00 cut from the 2012 budget. The packets are going out to the Constitutional Officers and Department Heads on October 5, 2012.

Annexation Request: NONE

Rezoning Application: NONE

Alcohol Application: NONE

Commissioner Scott Downing made a motion to approve alcohol application for La Lomita Mexican Restaurant and Store. Vice-Chairman OD Netter seconded the motion, which passed with Commissioner Scott Downing, Vice-Chairman OD Netter, Commissioner Kathy Davis, and Commissioner Bennie Calloway all voting for the motion.

Old Business: None

New Business:

Energy Excise Tax, 1st Reading

County Manager Frank Field read the press release that stated Ben Hill County is considering an ordinance that would levy a local excise tax on energy and the ordinance would become effective January 1, 2013. This will allow the County and City to replace the revenues that will be otherwise lost to them as result of the new sales exemption established by HB 386.

Commissioner Scott Downing made a motion to approve posting the Energy Excise Tax ordinance on the County website. Commissioner Kathy Davis seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner Scott Downing, Commissioner Kathy Davis, Vice-Chairman OD Netter, and Commissioner Bennie Calloway all voting for the motion.

Agenda Changes and/or add ons: NONE

Legislative Report:

Commissioner Scott Downing stated the Tag Title Tax is going to be one of the largest tax reforms item they will have and it will be coming up in March. They are going to put some tools on the website to calculate your taxes. It will affect those who bought a new car this year if you would like to opt in and those who will buy a car in the future will automatically be in after March 1, 2013. Until you buy a new car, you will still have to pay regular excise tax and everyone will have to buy a tag on your birthday. There is a calculator on the Department of Revenue website to determine if it is beneficial for you to opt in this year.

Commissioner Scott Downing also reported that Deputy Commissioner Todd Long of Department of Transportation gave a presentation on the Local Maintenance Improvement Grant Program at the 2012 Legislative Leadership Conference.

Commissioner Bennie Calloway thanked everyone for allowing him to attend the training. He stated he learned more about how zoning operates.

Commissioner's Remarks: NONE

Meeting adjourned

_____ Philip C. Jay III, Chairman

_____ Donna R. Lampkin, County Clerk