

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING  
OF THE BEN HILL COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
HELD ON JANUARY 5, 2016 AT 6:45 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   |
| Bennie Calloway   | Commissioner    |
| Daniel Cowan      | Commissioner    |
| John Mooney       | Commissioner    |
| Frank Feild       | County Manager  |
| Donna Prather     | County Clerk    |
| Toni Sawyer       | County Attorney |

Chairman Philip Jay III called the meeting to order.

Pastor Bennie Calloway gave the invocation.

Everyone gave the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Amendments To The Rules Of Order**

No action was taken

**Approval of the Agenda/Agenda Changes**

Commissioner Daniel Cowan made a motion to approve the agenda. Vice-Chairman OD Netter seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner Daniel Cowan, Vice-Chairman OD Netter, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, and Commissioner John Mooney all voting for the motion.

**Public Comments:**

No Public Comments

**Required Annual Actions**

Vice-Chairman OD Netter made a motion to approve Frank Feild as County Manager. Commissioner Daniel Cowan seconded the motion; which passed with Vice-Chairman OD Netter, Commissioner Daniel Cowan, Commissioner John Mooney, and Commissioner Bennie Calloway all voting for the motion.

Vice-Chairman OD Netter made a motion to approve Donna Prather as County Clerk. Commissioner Daniel Cowan seconded the motion; which passed with Vice-Chairman OD Netter, Commissioner Daniel Cowan, Commissioner John Mooney, and Commissioner Bennie Calloway all voting for the motion.

Vice-Chairman OD Netter made a motion to approve Toni Sawyer as County Attorney. Commissioner Daniel Cowan seconded the motion; which passed with Vice-Chairman OD Netter, Commissioner Daniel Cowan, Commissioner John Mooney, and Commissioner Bennie Calloway all voting for the motion.

Vice-Chairman OD Netter made a motion to approve Meeks CPA as County Auditors. Commissioner Daniel Cowan seconded the motion; which passed with Vice-Chairman OD Netter, Commissioner Daniel Cowan, Commissioner John Mooney, and Commissioner Bennie Calloway all voting for the motion.

Vice-Chairman OD Netter made a motion to substitute Bank of America with Ameris Bank as a County Financial Institute. Commissioner Daniel Cowan seconded the motion; which passed with Vice-Chairman OD Netter, Commissioner Daniel Cowan, Commissioner John Mooney, and Commissioner Bennie Calloway all voting for the motion.

Vice-Chairman OD Netter made a motion to add BB& T Bank as a County Financial Institute. Commissioner Daniel Cowan seconded the motion; which passed with Vice-Chairman OD Netter, Commissioner Daniel Cowan, Commissioner John Mooney, and Commissioner Bennie Calloway all voting for the motion.

Vice-Chairman OD Netter made a motion to approve Wells Fargo, Planters First, Colony Bank, Community Bank, Ameris Bank, BB&T Bank, and Local Investment Pool as County Financial Institutes. Commissioner Daniel Cowan seconded the motion; which passed with Vice-Chairman OD Netter, Commissioner Daniel Cowan, and Commissioner Bennie Calloway all voting for the motion. Commissioner Scott Downing abstained from the motion.

Vice-Chairman OD Netter made a motion to approve The Herald Leader as County Legal Organ. Commissioner Daniel Cowan seconded the motion; which passed with Vice-Chairman OD Netter, Commissioner Daniel Cowan, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, and Commissioner John Mooney all voting for the motion.

Commissioner Bennie Calloway made a motion to approve rehiring all County Employees. Vice-Chairman OD Netter seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner Bennie Calloway, Vice-Chairman OD Netter, Commissioner John Mooney, and Commissioner Daniel Cowan all voting for the motion.

Commissioner Bennie Calloway made a motion to appoint Commissioner Daniel Cowan as Vice-Chairman of the Commission Board. Vice-Chairman OD Netter seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner Bennie Calloway, Vice-Chairman OD Netter, Commissioner Daniel Cowan, and Commissioner John Mooney all voting for the motion.

### **Acceptance of Prior Minutes**

Commissioner Daniel Cowan made a motion to approve the Workshop Meeting Minutes held on December 01, 2015. Vice-Chairman OD Netter seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner Daniel Cowan, Vice-Chairman OD Netter, Commissioner John Mooney, and Commissioner Bennie Calloway all voting for the motion.

Commissioner Daniel Cowan made a motion to approve the Workshop Meeting Minutes held on December 07, 2015. Vice-Chairman OD Netter seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner Daniel Cowan, Vice-Chairman OD Netter, Commissioner John Mooney, and Commissioner Bennie Calloway all voting for the motion.

Commissioner Daniel Cowan made a motion to approve the Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes held on December 08, 2015. Vice-Chairman OD Netter seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner Daniel Cowan, Vice-Chairman OD Netter, Commissioner John Mooney, and Commissioner Bennie Calloway all voting for the motion.

Commissioner Daniel Cowan made a motion to approve the Workshop Meeting Minutes held on December 16, 2015. Vice-Chairman OD Netter seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner Daniel Cowan, Vice-Chairman OD Netter, Commissioner John Mooney, and Commissioner Bennie Calloway all voting for the motion.

Commissioner Daniel Cowan made a motion to approve the Workshop Meeting Minutes held on December 21, 2015. Vice-Chairman OD Netter seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner Daniel Cowan, Vice-Chairman OD Netter, Commissioner John Mooney, and Commissioner Bennie Calloway all voting for the motion.

Commissioner Daniel Cowan made a motion to approve the Public Hearing Minutes held on December 31, 2015. Vice-Chairman OD Netter seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner Daniel Cowan, Vice-Chairman OD Netter, Commissioner John Mooney, and Commissioner Bennie Calloway all voting for the motion.

Commissioner Daniel Cowan made a motion to approve the Special Called Meeting Minutes held on December 31, 2015. Vice-Chairman OD Netter seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner Daniel Cowan, Vice-Chairman OD Netter, Commissioner John Mooney, and Commissioner Bennie Calloway all voting for the motion.

**Constitutional Officer: NONE**

**Department Head Reports: NONE**

**County Board Reports: NONE**

**County Manager's Report: NONE**

**Annexation Request:**

County Manager Frank Field reported the City has annexed 1.18 acres of land at the northwest corner of the intersection of the Ocilla Highway and Harper Drive and rezoned it General Business (City). The ordinance became effective on January 1st. This is the property where Johnnie's Restaurant was located. The new owner is Lyon Management and they plan to construct a Dairy Queen on the site.

Vice-Chairman OD Netter made a motion to approve the annexation of the 1.18 acres of land at the northwest corner of the intersection of the Ocilla Highway and Harper Drive and authorize the Chairman to sign the necessary documents. Commissioner Bennie Calloway seconded the motion; which passed with Vice-Chairman OD Netter, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, Commissioner Daniel Cowan, and Commissioner John Mooney all voting for the motion.

**Rezoning Application: NONE**

**Alcohol Application: NONE**

**Old Business:**

**City of Fitzgerald Ben Hill County Comprehensive Plan Resolution**

Vice-Chairman OD Netter made a motion to incorporate Johnny Swain suggestion that Ben Hill County/Fitzgerald needs more diversity among school teachers and administrators, police, and City and County employees and more economic development efforts need to be focused on African-American-owned businesses. Commissioner Bennie Calloway seconded the motion.

After further discussion, Vice-Chairman OD Netter withdrew the motion.

Vice-Chairman OD Netter made a motion to amend the Comprehensive Plan by adding Ben Hill County/Fitzgerald needs more diversity among school teachers and administrators, police, and City and County employees and more economic development efforts need to be focused on African-American-owned businesses. Commissioner Daniel Cowan seconded the motion; which passed with Vice-Chairman OD Netter, Commissioner Daniel Cowan, Commissioner John Mooney, and Commissioner Bennie Calloway all voting for the motion.

Commissioner John Mooney made a motion to adopt the Final Draft of the Comprehensive Plan 5-Year Work Plan Update and Economic Development Strategic Plan with the amendments to include Ben Hill County/Fitzgerald needs more diversity among school teachers and administrators, police, and City and County employees; more economic development efforts need to be focused on African-American-owned businesses, and authorize the Chairman to sign the resolution. Commissioner Daniel Cowan seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner John Mooney, Commissioner Daniel Cowan, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, and Vice-Chairman OD Netter all voting for the motion.

**Service Delivery Strategy Update**

County Manager Frank Field reported the City-County Service Delivery Strategy is a written document required by Georgia Law and administered by the Department of Community Affairs. It addresses the different categories of public services provided by the City and County; who is responsible for each of them; and how they are paid for. This document must be updated every 5-years; and expires on by February 28th, 2016. The Regional Commission says we need to submit it to DCA for review not later than January 16, 2016.

This document was originally prepared in 1989, and was re-approved by the City Council and County Commission without changes in 2011.

The City and County Staffs have met and prepared a new DRAFT of the 2016 Service Delivery Strategy for review and approval by the City Council and County Commission. After approval, the document will be forwarded thru the Regional Commission to DCA. This document was posted on the Commissioner's CVO and the Ben Hill County website on November 13th. The City Council approved the Service Delivery Strategies at its December 14th Meeting.

In 2011, the City and County reached agreement on the Local Option Sales Tax distribution and approved splitting the collections equally (50-50); with the understanding that we would balance the teeter-totter by renegotiating the Service Delivery Strategy. This renegotiation has never taken place. I have spoken with the City and recommended we conduct a joint workshop as soon as possible after tonight's meeting.

**2016 Sheriff Forfeiture Account Budget**

Vice-Chairman OD Netter made a motion to approve the 2016 Sheriff Forfeiture Account Budget. Commissioner Daniel Cowan seconded the motion; which passed with Vice-Chairman OD Netter, Commissioner Daniel Cowan, Commissioner John Mooney, and Commissioner Bennie Calloway all voting for the motion.

**New Business:**

**2016 CDBG Application**

County Manager Frank Field stated our community will be eligible to apply for another \$500,000 CDBG grant on April 1, 2016. This will require a \$65,000 cash match and \$11,000 in-kind credit. We are publishing a Request for Qualifications for administration and engineering contractors in the January 13th edition of The Herald Leader; and will forward solicitations to all we have identified that are experienced in CDBG grants. We will evaluate the submissions on February 12th and then select an administrator and engineer.

Mr. Field said the plan is to do another street paving, curbs & gutters, and storm drainage project. This is a highly competitive grant. DCA scores the applications by looking for the greatest number of low-to-moderate income residents that will benefit from the money that is available. Tim Kegebein has spent a lot of time studying our options, and we are confident that we can put together another strong application.

Mr. Field stated the application must be submitted to DCA by April 1st. Notices of award will be made in late August.

Commissioner Daniel Cowan made a motion to approve the preparation of a 2015 CDBG application and authorize the Chairman to sign the necessary documents. Vice-Chairman OD Netter seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner Daniel Cowan, Vice-Chairman OD Netter, Commissioner John Mooney, and Commissioner Bennie Calloway all voting for the motion.

**Agenda Changes and/or add ons: NONE**

**Legislative Report: NONE**

**Commissioner’s Remarks: NONE**

Meeting adjourned

\_\_\_\_\_ Philip C. Jay III, Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_ Donna R. Prather, County Clerk