



**GEORGETOWN-QUITMAN COUNTY COMMISSION  
CALLED MEETING MINUTES  
AUGUST 8, 2023  
11:00 a.m.**

**CALLED TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Lewis at 11:19 a.m. followed with a prayer and the pledge. Members present were Commissioners: Lewis, Blackmon, Hayes, and Kinsey. Financial Officer Teri Odom, County Manager Jason Weeks, and County Clerk Carolyn Wilson. (Bussey was not present.)

**AGENDA AMENDMENTS**

Chairman Lewis asked for a motion to approve the amended agenda to add Executive session to discuss possible litigation. **Motion made by Hayes to approve the amended agenda to add Executive session to discuss possible litigation. Second by Kinsey.** Voting Yes- Kinsey, Hayes, Blackmon and Lewis.

**BANKING OPERATIONS-** Chairman Lewis opened the floor for Ameris bank representatives Michael Lawson and Kenny Moss. Mr. Lawson started the conversation by apologizing on behalf of Ameris bank for the lack of attention that we have received on all of our accounts with them. Mr. Lawson explained how he got involved in finding out the mistakes that have been made and stated how things will be handled moving forward. Mr. Lawson assured the Board of Commissioners that the days of our accounts not being attended to are over. Mr. Moss told everyone that he has been in banking for 38 years and with Ameris bank for 18 years. He apologized for the lack of service that we have received and added that he and his colleagues will put in writing that they will check-in with Financial officer Odom on a monthly basis for review and to provide interest earnings reports the first week of every calendar month beginning September 2023.

**LIBRARY-** Chairman Lewis explained to everyone that there is a deficit in the library budget for Ms. Adrian Alexander's salary. Chairman Lewis would like the County to pay \$5000.00 towards her salary to be able to keep her position. Lewis has asked the School to look at their budget to see if they are able to contribute any funds as well. Ms. Alexander is a part time employee.

**FAMILY CONNECTIONS-** Chairman Lewis asked everyone for their thoughts on paying additional funds to Family Connections Coordinator Sara Lee Crumbs. After some discussion, Chairman Lewis asked County Clerk Wilson to write a letter to Executive Director Mr. Michael Johnson and Ms. Crumbs' Chairman Ms. Sharin Gilbert to explain that we are not able to provide additional funds for salary for a State funded position. Lewis also stated that Ms. Crumbs will need to rework her budget to add training and travel back in.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION-**  
**MEETING ADJOURN**

Motion to adjourn at 1:11 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Carvel Lewis, Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Danny Blackmon, Vice Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Willie H. Bussey, Jr., Commissioner

\_\_\_\_\_  
David Kinsey, Commissioner

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jim Hayes, Commissioner

\_\_\_\_\_  
Attest: Jason Weeks, County Manager

**GEORGETOWN-QUITMAN COUNTY COMMISSION**  
**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**  
**AUGUST 8, 2023**  
**6:30 p.m.**

**CALLED TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Lewis at 6:40 p.m. with a prayer. Members present were Commissioners: Lewis, Blackmon, Hayes, Kinsey and Bussey. County Manager Jason Weeks. Financial Officer Teri Odom, and County Clerk Carolyn Wilson.

**AGENDA AMENDMENTS-** Chairman Lewis asked for a motion to amend the agenda to add Resolution R11-2023 adoption of Mill rate. **Motion made by Blackmon to approve the amended agenda to add Resolution R11-2023 adoption of Mill rate. Second by Hayes.** Voting Yes-Bussey, Kinsey, Hayes, Blackmon, and Lewis.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS-** Chairman Lewis asked for any public comments at this time. No comments were made at this time.

**PREVIOUS MONTH CHECK REGISTER**

**Motion made by Bussey to approve the previous month's check register. Second by Kinsey.** Voting Yes- Bussey, Kinsey, Hayes, Blackmon, and Lewis.

**APPROVAL OF BILLS**

**Motion made by Blackmon to approve the bills. Second by Hayes.** Voting Yes- Bussey, Kinsey, Hayes, Blackmon, and Lewis.

**MINUTES**

July 11, 2023 Regular meeting minutes-**Motion made by Kinsey to approve the Regular meeting minutes. Second by Bussey.** Voting Yes-Bussey, Kinsey, Hayes, Blackmon, and Lewis.

August 1, 2023 Called meeting minutes-**Motion made by Bussey to approve the Called meeting minutes. Second by Kinsey.** Voting Yes-Bussey, Kinsey, Hayes, Blackmon, and Lewis.

**MANAGER'S REPORT-** County Manager Weeks was present and gave his report. Weeks gave the EMS report for June total calls 23, transports 16, refusals 2, and cancelation 5. Average response time was 13 minutes.

**RIVER BLUFF PARK-** Weeks updated everyone about River Bluff Park. Weeks stated that he received a phone call from the U.S. Army Corp. of Engineers that River Bluff Park had to be closed immediately due to the first bridge being unsafe for vehicles to cross. Weeks went onto to say that he has reached out to Chad Griffin with Still Water Engineering to get them to come and assess the bridge to come up with a plan for repair.

**ROAD DEPT.-** Weeks stated that earlier in the day we experienced a storm that blew several trees down. The road dept. has been working all day and still working getting trees cleared off of roads.

**COUNTY ATTORNEY-**Weeks gave an update on our Zoning Ordinance that County Attorney Jeff Strickland has been working on. Mr. Strickland anticipates to have these changes to us before the next Regular Commission meeting. There have been several state mandated changes that needed to be added or updated to the Zoning ordinance and there were some changes that Weeks had asked about making as well.

**Tax Commissioner Report-**

**Probate Report-**

**SUPERIOR CLERK OF COURT-**

**SHERIFF REPORT-**

**FAMILY CONNECTIONS-** Chairman Lewis read a report from Ms. Sara Lee Crumbs for Family Connections. Ms. Crumbs stated in her report that she attended the Governors summit on literacy, the Deal center in Milledgeville, Ga. and also attended open house at the Quitman County Schools on July 27. She met with Stephanie Flowers about CPSY (Community Partnership for Strengthening Youth). Ms. Crumbs completed several reports during the month of July. Ms. Crumbs also stated in her report that the Area Agency senior farmers market went great and they were able to serve 187 seniors. Ms. Crumbs went onto to say that Family Connections is having Community Conversations on September 11, 2023 from 11:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m. at the Quitman County Library. Lunch will be provided. She explained that this is an informal way to address things that we see going on in our community. She would like to have a representative from the County there but everyone is invited. Ms. Crumbs reminded everyone about the Community Cultural celebration Day September 30, 2023 and invited everyone to please attend.

**Library-**

**Fire Dept. Report-**

**CHAIRMAN REPORT-**

**OLD BUSINESS-**

**NEW BUSINESS-**

**RECREATION BOARD APPOINTMENT-** Chairman Lewis asked to discuss this at the next work session.

**SPLOST 2024 BALLOT DATE-**Chairman Lewis stated that this was something that needed to be looked at to decide on a date for SPLOST to be on the ballot for 2024. Lewis stated that he would like to go with the earlier date of May.

**ORDINANCE 03-2023 ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE ORDINANCE 1ST READING-**

Chairman Lewis asked County Manager Weeks to give a brief summary of the changes in the Alcoholic Beverage ordinance. Weeks read over each section that has changes. Weeks recommended that this also be looked over at the next work session to make sure that the Commissioners all agree on these changes.

**RESOLUTION R11-2023 MILLAGE RATE FY 2024-** Chairman Lewis read Resolution R11-2023 Millage rate for FY 2024. **Motion made by Kinsey to approve Resolution R11-2023 Millage rate for FY 2024. Second by Bussey.** Voting Yes-Bussey, Kinsey, Hayes, Blackmon, and Lewis.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION-**

1=HL=E : =J □ □ □ □ GJK+ =LÆ?

**APPEARANCES** –Chairman Lewis asked Rev. Dr. Betty Jones Smith to come forward to address the Board with her issues and concerns about the American Indians. Ms. Smith stated that she came to speak about the American Indians being charged taxes and the discrimination that she is experiencing as an American Indian. She thanked the Commission for listening to her concerns.

Chairman Lewis asked everyone to look at their calendars to schedule a work session. The work session is scheduled for August 17, 2023 at 9:00 a.m.

**MEETING ADJOURN**

Motion to adjourn at 7:50 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Carvel Lewis, Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Danny Blackmon, Vice Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Willie H. Bussey, Jr., Commissioner

\_\_\_\_\_  
David Kinsey, Commissioner

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jim Hayes, Commissioner

\_\_\_\_\_  
Attest: Jason Weeks, County Manager



that is most commonly used is Chattahoochee Courts. Lewis asked County Clerk Wilson to please make a note of this to be discussed.

**SPLOST 2024 BALLOT DATES-** Chairman Lewis stated that he would like for SPLOST to be on the general primary election ballot for May 21, 2024. After a brief discussion, a **motion was made by Bussey to have SPLOST on the general primary election ballot for May 21, 2024. Second by Kinsey.** Voting Yes-Bussey, Kinsey, Hayes, Blackmon, and Lewis.

**R12-2023 RESOLUTION AMERIS BANK CD-** Chairman Lewis opened the discussion about the CD at Ameris bank. Vice Chairman Blackmon explained that currently Trustmark Bank in Eufaula, AL. has the best interest rate on a CD. Blackmon went onto say that the banking business is very volatile right now. After some discussion, a **motion was made by Kinsey to approve Resolution R12-2023 Ameris Bank CD. Second by Kinsey.** Voting Yes-Bussey, Kinsey, Hayes, Blackmon, and Lewis.

**FORESTER PONTOON SITE-** Chairman Lewis asked Weeks to go over the handout in the packet concerning the Forester Pontoon site driveway. Weeks explained that the handout is from Landmark Grading Company and it list a couple of different options on fixing the driveway off of US HWY 82 for the Forester Pontoon site. The current driveway is not GDOT compliant. The options listed would correct the issues. Weeks also explained that the other issue that the contractor is having in the area that would be the parking lot for Forester Pontoon will not dry out enough to compact. The contractor Landmark Grading has offered 2 different options that would correct this issue but the recommendation from Mr. Tim Simpson of Barrett and Simpson Engineering is not to do either option because Forester Pontoon may not do an asphalt parking lot and this would be an additional cost for us for no reason. After a lengthy discussion, a **motion was made by Blackmon to approve Option 2 which consist of doing a concrete drive with striping and signage at the cost of \$31,786.05. Second by Bussey.** Voting Yes-Bussey, Kinsey, Hayes, Blackmon, and Lewis.

**O3-2023 ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE ORDINANCE 1<sup>ST</sup> READING-** Chairman Lewis asked Weeks if he would go over the changes in the Alcoholic Beverage Ordinance for everyone. Weeks started out by saying the majority of changes that the County Attorney made are where it listed the County Commission making administrative changes it now says County Manager because the County Manager would be the one that would approve or disapprove if someone was not in compliance with the Alcoholic beverage ordinance. The County Commission is still in charge of approving or denying any license that does or does not meet the qualifications listed in the Ordinance and any appeals that are made if someone does not agree with the County Manager's decision. Weeks went through the rest of the Ordinance and pointed out all changes. Chairman Lewis stated that this was the 1<sup>st</sup> official reading of Ordinance O3-2023 Alcoholic Beverage Ordinance. This will be advertised in the legal organ and a copy is on file in the County Commission office.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION-** **Motion made by Blackmon to go into executive session to discuss personnel. Second by Bussey.** Voting Yes- Bussey, Kinsey, Hayes, Blackmon, and Lewis.

1=HL=E : =J □ □ □ □ GJK+ =L?



**Motion made by Blackmon to close executive session. Second by Bussey.** Voting Yes-Bussey, Kinsey, Hayes, Blackmon, and Lewis. **Motion made by Kinsey to reopen regular session. Second by Bussey.** Voting Yes-Bussey, Kinsey, Hayes, Blackmon, and Lewis. Chairman Lewis stated that nothing was done in executive session that required a vote.

**MEETING ADJOURN**

Motion to adjourn at 11:28 a.m.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Carvel Lewis, Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Danny Blackmon, Vice Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Willie H. Bussey, Jr., Commissioner

\_\_\_\_\_  
David Kinsey, Commissioner

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jim Hayes, Commissioner

\_\_\_\_\_  
Attest: Jason Weeks, County Manager