

**Upson County Board of Commissioners
April 14, 2015 Meeting Minutes**

Call to Order

Chairman Blackston calls the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. All Commissioners are in attendance. County Manager Jim Wheless and County Attorney Paschal English are also in attendance. The Invocation was led by Commissioner Ellington and Pledge of Allegiance is led by Chairman Blackston.

Minutes

A motion is made by Comm. Spraggins, with a second from Comm. Ellington, to adopt the March 24, 2015 regular meeting minutes. The motion carries.

Commissioner Hudson – Yes Chairman Blackston – Yes
Commissioner Ellington – Yes Commissioner Wilder – Yes
Commissioner Spraggins – Yes

Public Comments

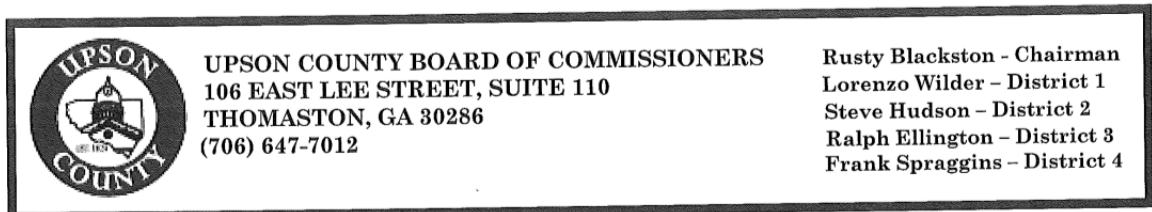
Gary Seth, 226 Roberts Loop, stated that he is a member of the Records Advisory Board, but he was not speaking on behalf of them. He stated that they have been looking at the carpet situation at the Archives and would like the board to consider approving the project to replace it.

New Business

- a. A motion was made by Comm. Wilder with a second from Comm. Hudson to amend the agenda to delete the discussion of the lighting at Salem's basketball court.

Commissioner Spraggins – Yes Commissioner Hudson – Yes
Chairman Blackston – Yes Commissioner Ellington – Yes
Commissioner Wilder – Yes

- b. Chairman Blackston stated that on April 18, 2015 a parade and ceremony will be held of the Vietnam Veterans. He read a proclamation proclaiming April 18, 2015 Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day.



UPSON COUNTY, GEORGIA

PROCLAMATION

The Board of Commissioners of Upson County, Georgia recognize that many men and women served in the Vietnam Conflict,

And whereas, we celebrated the end of this conflict after forty (40) years;

And whereas, many from our county answered the Call of Duty above and beyond their personal belief;

And whereas, fifteen (15) men from Upson County, Georgia made the ultimate sacrifice, namely PFC Joseph Jordan; PFC Ricky Harrison; SP4 Tommy Dickerson; CPL Isicah Releford, Jr.; SP4 Roy Carroll; Chief Petty Officer Willie King; Howard Beneford; SP4C Ernest McAlum; PFC Perry Harris; PFC Jimmy Bussey; PFC David Taylor; CPL Eugene Owenby; CPL T. M. McClure; CPL George Fuller; SFC John Hammer; were among the 58,220 casualties suffered.


And whereas, Edward Daughtery, was held as a Prisoner of War;

And whereas, the troops never received the Welcome Home they deserved, instead they were rejected, spat upon, and disgraced for serving their country;

Therefore the Board of Commissioners of Upson County, Georgia, will proclaim Saturday, April 18, 2015 as WELCOME HOME VIETNAM VETERANS DAY throughout all of Upson County and we encourage all citizens to show their respect, love, and honor to those men and women by attending the celebration starting at four o'clock p.m., with a parade through Thomaston and a Memorial Service at 6:00 P.M. in the Matthews Field Stadium.

Now, therefore, I, RUSTY BLACKSTON, CHAIRMAN OF THE UPSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, Upson County, Georgia do hereby proclaim, April 18, 2015 as WELCOME HOME VIETNAM VETERANS DAY.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Official Seal of Upson County, Georgia to be affixed this 14th day of April, 2015.


Rusty Blackston, Chairman

A motion was made by Comm. Ellington with a second from Comm. Wilder to sign and approve the proclamation.

Chairman Blackston – Yes Commissioner Ellington – Yes
Commissioner Wilder – Yes Commissioner Spraggins – Yes
Commissioner Hudson – Yes

- c. The board discussed that with House Bill 199 the Timber Harvesting Ordinance will have to be amended to line up with it. Currently the bill has not been signed by the Govoner but it has been approved by both parties.

County Manager, Commissioners and County Attorney Comments

County Manager Jim Wheeless stated that they are working on a safety action road project. Road Superintendent James Melton is fine tuning the justification and it should be sent in by the end of the week. They are also working with D.O.T on the project to widen the road at County Rd. and Atwater Rd.; they have decided to put in a traffic light instead of a roundabout.

Commissioner Spraggins had no comments.

Commissioner Hudson stated that he was informed that the county did not receive the grant that was applied for on behalf of Sprewell Bluff. There were 87 applicants and 47 were awarded the grant. The county scored a 75 from the state.

Commissioner Wilder stated that the lighting would still be done at the basketball court in Salem but the county would not be involved.

Commissioner Ellington stated that he has been approached by more than one person about combining the distilled spirits and the beer/wine ordinance. He added that they had discussed making the distance the same for both. He added that he hope there will be a huge turnout for the Vietnam Veterans celebration.

County Attorney Paschal English had no comments.

Chairman Blackston stated that he prays the weather is nice and there is a huge turnout for the Vietnam Veterans Celebration. He added that people will be coming for all over the south and he feel the Veterans are deserving of this celebration.

Executive Session

A motion was made by Comm. Wilder with a second by Comm. Hudson at 6:20 to recess regular meeting and go into executive session.

A motion was made by Comm. Ellington with a second from Comm. Wilder to exit executive session back in to regular session at 6:30.

Chairman Blackston stated that there has been a lot of discussion about a park in the Logtown Community. They have located 4 acres of land to purchase that will be suited for a recreation area.

A motion was made by Comm. Ellington with a second from Comm. Wilder approving the purchase of 4 acres of land from Logtwon Bethel Church for \$1750 and acre which is below market value.

Chairman Blackston – Yes Commissioner Ellington – Yes
Commissioner Wilder – Yes Commissioner Spraggins – Yes
Commissioner Hudson – Yes

Adjournment

Comm. Spraggins made a motion to adjourn at 6:35 pm, with a second by Comm. Ellington to adjourn the meeting

Chairman Rusty Blackston

Commissioner Steve Hudson

Commissioner Frank Spraggins

Commissioner Lorenzo Wilder

Commissioner Ralph Ellington

Jim Wheeless, County Manager