

**HEARD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
May 25, 2021 - 6:30 P.M.**

The Heard County Board of Commissioners held a Commissioners Meeting on May 25, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. in the Commission Chamber of the Heard County Administration Building. In attendance at the meeting were Chairman Lee Boone, District 1 Commissioner Larry Hooks, District 2 Commissioner James Perry, District 3 Commissioner Gwen Caldwell, District 4 Commissioner Larry Hammond, District 5 Commissioner David Walls, and County Attorney Jerry Ann Conner.

Agenda Item # 2 - Welcome, Invocation, and Pledge to the American Flag - Chairman Boone called the meeting to order, gave the invocation and welcomed everyone present.

Agenda Item # 3- Public Hearings- a. Special Use Application – 720 Dennis Road - Chairman Boone explained this special use application was for a family cemetery located at 720 Dennis Road. With no public comments, on motion (Hooks) and second (Hammond), the Board unanimously voted to close this public hearing.

Agenda Item # 4 – Approval of Minutes – May 25, 2021 – On motion (Perry) and second (Walls), the Board unanimously approved the minutes as presented for the May 25, 2021, meeting.

Agenda Item # 5 – Amend Agenda – Under Old Business add item “a”- Auction and Trash, on motion (Perry) and second (Hammond), the Board unanimously approved this request.

Agenda Item # 6 – New Business – a. Discussion/Decision- Tilman Towers- Postponed until the next meeting on June 22, 2021.

b. Discussion/Decision- 720 Dennis Road- Commissioner Perry, stated that he sees no problem with the family cemetery, and he had not had any comments from people in the area. On motion (Perry) and second (Hooks), the Board unanimously approved this request.

c. Appointment to DFCS Board – Chairman Boone reads DFCS letter that stated Mrs. Carolyn Lane would like to remain a member of the DFCS Board. On motion (Hooks) and second (Hammond), the Board unanimously approved this request.

d. Arena Guidelines and Fees- Chairman Boone opened this discussion explaining what happened when he took over the Heard County Covered Arena and the management issues that existed. He also explained that fees at the arena were restructured in 2016 and had not been adjusted since.

Commissioner Hammond then discussed the handout (see attached) that he and Commissioner Perry created gave to all the commissioners. Some of the recommendations included creating an advisory committee and additional facility guidelines. Commissioner Perry assured the attendees that in having this discussion, there were no intentions in shutting the arena down. Caleb Pike, Arena Director, reviewed his alternate Arena proposal (see attached). Mrs. Marie Clifton- 105 Gales Way came to the podium and stated that she has rented the concession for almost five years. Over the years Mrs. Clifton has donated a grill and microwave to the concession stand. Mrs. Melody Wilcox-Pratt – Say Rodeo Director - 2280 Pine Drive asked Commissioner Hammond to clarify prices that he and Commissioner Perry discussed in their proposed pricing guideline. Mrs. Wilcox-Pratt thinks the trail rides would be a great idea. Chairman Boone asked how many children they have participate in the current rodeo and Mrs. Wilcox-Pratt stated 285 children. Mrs. Melinda Brown- Heard County Cattlemen’s Association – 340 Haines Road – stated that the new changes that some of the Commissioners are wishing to implement would be so high that they would price people out of renting for events. She also stated that she had ideas as the President of the Heard County Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber would like to see concerts held at the arena until the opening of the amphitheater and would also like to bring a county fair in at the arena. Mrs. Brown also stated that a lot of work was needed at the arena on the electrical system. Marcia Pike – DPM Productions – 4108 County Road 87- Mrs. Pike suggested

having a marketing intern come in and market the arena. Mrs. Pike also stated that going up on the arena fees more than \$100.00 would cause them to look elsewhere, and \$300.00 is the most they could afford to pay during the week. Blair McClure – MR Production – 1255 Old Five Notch – Mrs. McClure stated there was a demand issue at the arena. She also stated that \$600.00 plus \$150.00 drag fee would work for them. Mrs. McClure also requested the Board not allow half day rentals on the weekend. Sherri Wilkins – 23209 Highway 100 – The Cowboy Shop Production – Requested there be night riding in the winter with a paid timer to turn the lights on. Mrs. Wilkins also stated that a change needs to happen in how arena dates are distributed. Josh Carroll – 70 Yarbrough Road stated he had never seen any of the commissioners at the arena and the arena was not a concern until they found out that Plant Wansley was closing. Kathy Knowles- Heard County Development Authority – Needs attendance records to attract hotels.

Agenda Item # 6 – Old Business – a. Auction and Trash- Commissioner Perry asked for an update on the auction and trash situation. Chairman Boone stated that he was waiting on the contract from Cal Green for the auction. Chairman Boone stated that he was waiting to hear from the Sheriff about getting inmates for trash detail.

Agenda Item #7 – Public Comments – Paul Nelson – 525 Georgia Highway 100 – wants someone to stop the guys driving down Highway 100 by Pop’s Grocery burning rubber and having no mufflers or modified mufflers.

Roy Hall – 450 Georgia Highway 100- wants officers to stop cars from driving too fast.

Agenda Item # 8 – Executive Session – None

There being no further business, on motion (Caldwell) and second (Hooks), the Board voted unanimously to adjourn.

Adjourned at 9:29 p.m.

Hape Cole

County Clerk

Lee Boone

Chairman

Date 5/26/2021

