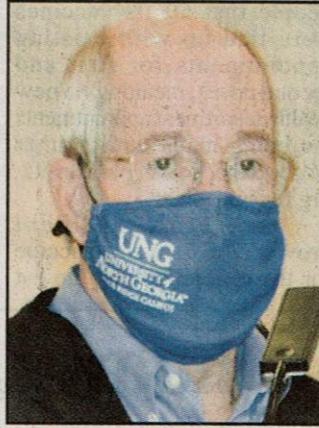


Paris shows Second Amendment support, discusses COVID-19

By Jarrett Whitener
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Union County Sole Commissioner Lamar Paris adopted a resolution explicitly supporting the Second Amendment of the U.S. Constitution before a packed house during his Thursday, Jan. 21, regular meeting in the courthouse.

The resolution came about partly due to the upcoming Union County Gun Range project and partly because of queries Paris has been getting from members of the community who have grown concerned with the seemingly increasing



Lamar Paris
hostile conversation around gun rights.

"I was requested to adopt

this resolution because of existing issues at the proposed gun range," Paris said. "The sheriff had asked me to wait until the approval of our gun range application.

"However, after it has taken longer for the approval than anticipated, the sheriff told me that it was OK to go ahead and adopt the resolution, and I thought we needed to."

Basically, the range project is moving right along, but the U.S. Forest Service announced last year that it required an additional sound study, which delayed things but was successfully completed

See Paris, Page 6A

Paris...from Page 1A

around the turn of the year.

Next steps for the range include completion of in-progress final designs for joint approval by the Forest Service, Department of Natural Resources and Union County Government, with input from the Union County Gun Club, at which point the project can be bid out for construction.

Paris went on to explain that someone came up to him after the Senate runoffs earlier this month, asking "what we would do if the government came and started taking our guns away."

"I told him to just relax, nobody is going to come and take your guns away," Paris said. "Now, they may start putting new guidelines, whether it be ammunition or whether it

would be safety devices with guns, and they may not do anything. The one thing they can't do is retroactively take your guns away."

Someone in the audience asked the commissioner about adding specific language declaring Union County a Second Amendment "sanctuary county," and others chimed in urging him to do this.

Paris said the resolution had been carefully drawn up taking into account input from multiple surrounding counties that have adopted similar measures, but that he would certainly go back, analyze the resolution language and consider making the addition if he thought it necessary.