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of two remaining segments of the ADHS Corridor A and the GRIP that is two lanes." One of the main goals

of a pair of informational meetings held last week was to give residents of Union and Towns counties chances to provide feedback on what is likely to be the final set of plans for the project.

According to GDOT, the plans will be finalized soon so that property owners can be notified about the right of way process, with the next three years of the project allotted for acquisition of properties along the project corridor.

Public comments become part of the official record of each GDOT project, and in some cases actually cause changes to be made to projects.

Residents interested in leaving public comments, which must be submitted by Thursday, April 20, can view plans for the project by visiting www.dot.ga.gov/ps/public/publicoutreach.

Look for the "Search Public Outreach" heading about halfway down that webpage, and select either Union or Towns from the "By County" list, then click "Go."

A list of projects will appear – click on the link that says "122900 Young Harris Bypass." From there, residents can see the entire layout of the project, and can leave



Union County residents filling out project comment cards as others browse the plans in the background, on Thursday, April 6, at the Blairsville Civic Center.

comments by clicking on the "Comment" link above the name of the project.

This information and more was made available by GDOT in a couple of public meetings last Thursday, one in Union County, attended by 177 residents, and the other in Towns County, attended by 120 residents.

An item of interest for many included the two-lane bypass of Main Street in Young Harris, which will feature a roundabout at each end and two new bridge crossings over Brasstown Creek.

Many of the nearly 300 residents to attend the open houses expressed interest in the relocation aspect of the project, including John Yandell, who lives on Swanson Mountain in Young Harris.

Callie Moore, executive director of the Hiwassee River Watershed Coalition, attended the meeting in Blairsville, and she, too, was surprised to see just how much of 515 was being relocated.

The relocation part of the project includes stretches of GA 515 that GDOT plans to straighten in order to make

travel safer, which in turn will require the road to be moved from its current location in several places.

In some instances, the relocated roadway will be much closer to Butternut Creek and Bitter Creek, which Moore said would almost certainly cause the streams to heat up due to closer proximity of water runoff from the new road.

Residents with questions can contact the project manager, Achor Njoku, at (404) 631-1550.

McCann...from Page 1A

"We want to congratulate Kaye on her accomplishment. We're very proud of her and grateful for everything she continues to do for the city.

"Kaye, thank you so much for all you do."

McCann will be taking on all responsibilities concerning primaries and elections within the city limits, including registration for elections and ensuring accurate and ethical elections, effective immediately. This title is in addition to her position as city clerk, which she recently gained at the beginning of the year.

Continued discussions of an imminent agreement with Notla Water Authority and an amendment to the city's alcohol ordinance were also prominent topics of conversation during the meeting last Tuesday.

During the February city council meeting, Mayor Conley proposed to the council an agreement between the city and Notla Water Authority concerning commercial property on Pat Haralson Drive.

Through this agreement, Notla Water Authority would provide water and sewer to the commercial property at a discounted rate to the city, increasing the chances of the property selling.

When first approaching the agreement, Notla's only stipulation for going into a contract with the city was that the city only provide the water and sewer bought from Notla to commercial properties, prohibiting any neighboring residential homes access to the discounted rate and water and sewer hook-up.

Since, Mayor Conley and Attorney Barrett met with the Notla Water Authority Board during its March meeting to further discuss the agreement and outline a contract for the city to discuss, and move forward with the agreement.

However, upon further review of the preliminary agreement, the council found concern with the third item of the agreement, which stated that Notla would increase the price of the water to the city at the same rate reflected in that of increased customer rates.

Essentially, the council was concerned that it left an opening for a change in rate from the discounted price agreed upon for the commercial property.

"Another problem with this is, we can't just go up on one particular customer or customers on Haralson Drive, without it affecting everyone in the system," said Mayor Conley.

To relieve concerns on this item of the agreement, Attorney Barrett agreed to amend the third item to include the word "proportionate" in reference to the rate increases to the city, rather than reflective. In doing so, the rate at which the water is sold to the city will remain at a proportional discounted rate, even when rates increase, and will not affect other water rates within the city.

Attorney Barrett will present the amended agreement to the council during the May council meeting.

Also during the meeting, Mayor Conley held the second reading for an amendment to the city's alcohol ordinance prohibiting brown bagging



The Blairsville City Council and Mayor Jim Conley met for their regular city meeting on Tuesday, April 4.

of alcoholic beverages at institutions that hold an alcohol license.

Recently, the council learned that, due to an oversight in the city's current alcohol ordinance, a business within the city limits was allowing brown bagging on Sundays.

To prevent such a violation from occurring again, and to keep with conformity with the county's ordinance on the matter, the council voted to include an amendment preventing brown bagging.

Mayor Conley and the

council held a public hearing and second reading of the amendment during the meeting, and the revised ordinance will go into affect immediately.

S.A.F.E. Board meeting

The next meeting of the Board of Directors of S.A.F.E. (Support in Abusive Family Emergencies, Inc.) will be April 18, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. Call 706-379-1901 for location.