

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE ETOWAH COUNTY COMMISSION
ETOWAH COUNTY, ALABAMA
May 5th, 2020**

The Etowah County Commission met in a regular meeting on the 5th Day of May, 2020. Commissioner Washington called the meeting to order at 10:05 am and led in the Prayer and the Pledge to the Flag.

PUBLIC COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS: Scott Hassell, Judge of Probate, expressed his appreciation at how well everything went on May 4th (the first day the Courthouse was opened to the public since March 30th). There were over 1300 citizens that came through the building and the average wait time was about an hour. “Everyone worked together from the beginning” and there were no problems with the employees or the public, in spite of the wait time. (Preparations were made in advance with everyone except handicapped using the same door so the Security Personnel could control the number of people in the building. The floors were marked to insure social distancing.) Judge Hassell said everyone worked together as expected.

PUBLIC COMMENTS FROM ELECTED OFFICIALS AND OTHERS: None.

CALL OF ROLL TO ESTABLISH A QUORUM: The roll was called to establish a quorum. The following 6 out of 6 Commission members responded to their names and accordingly and quorum was present (with Commissioner Payne attending the meeting by Phone):

District 1 – Joey Statum	District 4 – Tim Ramsey
District 2 – Johnny Grant	District 5 – Jeffery Washington
District 3 – Larry V. Payne	District 6 – Craig Inzer

ANNOUNCEMENTS: None.

AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS, PROCLAMATIONS: None.

CONSENT AGENDA: Upon motion of Commissioner Statum, seconded by Commissioner Inzer, with all other members present voting “yes”, the following resolution was passed and adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ETOWAH COUNTY COMMISSION: That the following items on the Consent Agenda were approved as presented:

CONSENT AGENDA: All items designated as “Consent” are considered to be routine and non-controversial and will be approved by one motion. No separate discussion of these items will be permitted unless a Commissioner so requests. If so, such item(s) will revert to New Business.

- A. That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting dated April 21st, 2020, of the Etowah County Commission be, and the same are hereby approved as written.
- B. The Proposed Agenda for May 5th, 2020.
- C. Reported Financial Transactions. A copy of the Credit Card Purchasing Charges from March 19, 2020 - April 16, 2020; and the Cash Disbursements and Online Transfers for April 2020 have been filed in Attachment Book 11, Page 009.
- D. To place the name of Michael Angle, in the Sheriff’s Office job slot of Detention Deputy effective May 4th, 2020. This is a replacement to be paid from the Jail Fund, at an hourly rate of \$12.60.
- E. To place the name of Summer Beason, in the Sheriff’s Office job slot of Detention Deputy effective May 4th, 2020. This is a replacement to be paid from the ICE Fund, at an hourly rate of \$12.60.
- F. To place the name of Jessie Sharp, in the Sheriff’s Office job slot of Detention Deputy effective May 4th, 2020. This is a replacement to be paid from the Jail Fund, at an hourly rate of \$12.60.
- G. To place the name of Ricky Bice, in the Sheriff’s Office job slot of Detention Deputy effective April 27th, 2020. This is a replacement to be paid from the ICE Fund at an hourly rate of \$12.60.
- H. To approve the request of Shane Ellison, CAO, to grant approval for Jessie Davis, Revenue Assessment Clerk, in the Office of the Revenue Commission to receive catastrophic sick leave donations. This employee has met the eligibility requirements under the program guidelines.
- I. To approve the request of Melissa Lett, Purchasing Accountant, to renew Bid No. FY 2018-2019-09 Hygiene Products – Jail with the current vendor (Bob Barker Company) for an additional year, as provided for in the original bid.

(Commissioner Statum asked if we were having any shortages on items such as hand sanitizer or disinfectant but Shane Ellison, CAO, said we were not having any issues at this time.)

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 5th DAY OF MAY, 2020.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Upon motion of Commissioner Craig Inzer, seconded by Commissioner Tim Ramsey, with all other members voting “yes”, the following resolution was adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ETOWAH COUNTY COMMISSION: That the following item was approved:

To approve the “Memorandum of Agreement Between the Etowah County Commission and the Town of Reece City Regarding Debris Removal” due to the storms, tornadoes, winds, and flooding around April 12th, 2020, and to authorize the Chief Administrative Office to execute the document. A copy of this Agreement has been filed in Attachment Book 11, Page 010.

(Commissioner Tim Ramsey thanked the Road Department for all they have done and said he appreciated their hard work).

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 5th DAY OF MAY, 2020.

Upon motion of Commissioner Tim Ramsey, seconded by Commissioner Joey Statum, with all other members voting “yes”, the following resolution was adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ETOWAH COUNTY COMMISSION: That the following item was approved:

To approve the Department of Justice Grant to provide Etowah County’s COVID-19 Supplemental Aide for an amount of up to \$58,008 and to authorize the Commission President to execute the document. This Grant Project is approved subject to conditions and limitations as outlined in the grant. A copy of this Grant has been filed in Attachment Book 11, Page 011.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 5th DAY OF MAY, 2020.

Upon motion of Commissioner Joey Statum, seconded by Commissioner Tim Ramsey, with all other members voting “yes”, the following resolution was adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ETOWAH COUNTY COMMISSION: That the following item was approved:

To approve a 370 Day Loan of up to \$440,000 with River Bank & Trust for the purpose of providing funding for the purchase of vehicles for the Sheriff’s Office Fleet Renewal Program and to purchase eleven Ford Explorers; Also, to authorize the CAO to execute all documents. A copy of this Agreement has been filed in Attachment Book 11, Page 027.

(Commissioner Inzer asked about the rate and it is 1.95%)

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 5th DAY OF MAY, 2020.

REPORTS FROM THE STAFF:

Chief Administrative Officer: Shane Ellison updated the Commissioners on several items:

The plan is to resume some of the essential operations with Rural Transportation on Monday, May 11th, which is in line with what most of the other counties are doing. They plan to take precautions such as providing separation between the driver and riders, sanitizing as much as possible throughout the day, and restricting the trips to groceries and drug / medical needs.

Shane reminded everyone the Back-to-school Sales Tax Holiday is the weekend of July 17th – 19th, 2020, and Etowah County scheduled to participate. There were no objections.

The State Revenue Commissioner has extended the deadline for Tag/Title renewals that were due in March, April, or May to June 19th, without charging a penalty or late fee.

Shane also discussed a couple of grants they were checking on to see if we qualify.

County Engineer: No Report.

County Attorney: No Report.

Other: No Report.

SCHEDULED PUBLIC HEARINGS: None

DISCUSSION BY COMMISSIONERS:

Commissioner Joey Statum discussed some of the bills the Legislators were going to review when they went back in session. He asked everyone to stay informed on the Constable Bill for Etowah County and also a Retirement Bill.

Commissioner Johnny Grant said everyone has done a tremendous job at the Road Department and also everywhere else. He said he appreciated what everyone has done and appreciated the CAO.

Commissioner Statum agreed, saying the automotive business was really going well and they had sold 18 vehicles on Friday and Saturday and 3 yesterday. He said we needed to get the restaurants back open and continue with social distancing and staying safe.

Commissioner Ramsey thanked the staff and all they have done. He said most people were social distancing and he was optimistic with how things were going. He said we had talked in the past about doing hazard pay for the Sheriff’s Office but he doesn’t want to do anything that will cause them to have to lay people off at a later time. He said he was glad it was getting closer to normal.

Commissioner Inzer said the Federal Government had a lot of money in the CARES ACT that businesses and governments are able to get and he noticed Gadsden was mentioned as getting about \$3 million but didn't see anything about Etowah County. He said we needed to try to get some of the money if we qualify. He said he would like to personally thank Advanced Disposal for the quarterly pickup this past Saturday. Over the few hours they were there, they brought 4 open top containers and they helped people put their stuff in the container. (They would swap them out when one got full). He said they definitely fulfilled their contract. He also commended Deborah Gaither on the weekly calls she makes to everyone to keep them updated on the storms and the COVID-19 Virus update. He said there was a wide variety of listeners on the call from state, local, municipal and schools system representatives. She was keeping everyone updated with the real numbers. He asked everyone to keep First Responders in your thoughts / prayers and they are working to keep First Responders informed if their call is for a COVID-19 patient so they can protect themselves from exposure. Once they are exposed to the virus, they cannot work and have to be quarantined for 14 days. He thanked the staff for all they do.

Commissioner Payne said everyone was doing a good job and they could call him if they needed him.

Commissioner Washington thanked everyone saying we have risen to a new level in what we do. He also felt the EMA calls were helpful and informative. He said it is nice to see everyone working together to help the community. He encouraged taking things slow, as far as getting things opened back up, and everyone staying covered (with face masks) and social distancing. He asked everyone to pray for First Responders and to keep communications open.

We plan to have a work session next week on May 12th, at 9:00 am.

ADJOURN: The Chair then entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. Upon motion of Commissioner Tim Ramsey, seconded by Commissioner Joey Statum, with all other members voting "yes", the motion was passed. The meeting was adjourned at 10:35 am.

Joey Statum, Commissioner, District 1

Tim Ramsey, Commissioner, District 4

Johnny Grant, Commissioner, District 2

Jeffery Washington, President, Commissioner, District 5

Larry V. Payne, Commissioner, District 3

Craig Inzer, Jr., Commissioner, District 6