

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE ETOWAH COUNTY COMMISSION  
ETOWAH COUNTY, ALABAMA  
May 16, 2023**

Commissioner Craig Inzer, Jr., called the meeting to order on the 16th Day of May, 2023 at 9:00 am and Commissioner Statum asked the Prayer and led the Pledge to the Flag.

**CALL OF ROLL TO ESTABLISH A QUORUM:** The following 6 out of 6 Commission members were at the meeting and accordingly a quorum was present:

District 1 – Joey Statum	District 2 – Johnny Grant
District 3 – Jamie Grant	District 5 – Jeffery Washington
District 4 – Tim Ramsey	District 6 – Craig Inzer

**PUBLIC COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS:** D J Nation requested an update on Mine Road. Robert said he checked their records and couldn't find any recent maintenance on the road. The citizens on the road were told it would have to meet certain specifications for the county to add it as a county road because right now it shows that it is a private road. Mr. Nation said the county worked on it several years ago and caused the issues they are having now.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS FROM ELECTED OFFICIALS & OTHERS:** Scott Hassell discussed the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of Mental Health Awareness Month and how important partnerships were. The County and the City of Gadsden have supported their mental health awareness efforts. Next week, they plan to expand to the municipal court and are working with Community Corrections to try to help their clients get the help they need. They are also working with the Sheriff's Office. Next week, they will host an appreciation meal of hot dogs & chips for the employees to promote mental health in the workplace.

Keith Peek thanked everyone for helping with the Sheriff's Office Charities golf tournament and said it was the best one so far. Money was raised for gifts for over a hundred kids at Christmas.

**AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS, PROCLAMATIONS, OR ANNOUNCEMENTS:** None.

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 recess in order to have a Work Session at 9:15 am.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 16th DAY OF MAY, 2023.**

Upon motion of Commissioner Joey Statum, seconded by Commissioner Johnny Grant, 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 call the Etowah County Commission Meeting back to order at 9:30 am.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 16th DAY OF MAY, 2023.**

**OLD BUSINESS:** None.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

Upon motion of Commissioner Joey Statum, seconded by Commissioner Jamie Grant, 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(s) dated May 2, 2023 of the Etowah County Commission be, and the same are hereby, approved as written.
- B. The Proposed Agenda for May 16, 2023
- C. Any Reported Financial Transactions. The Cash Disbursements and Online Transfers are filed in Attachment Book 13, Page 40.
- D. To place the name of Nick Stillwell in the Sheriff’s Office job slot of Detention Deputy, effective May 8, 2023. This is a replacement to be paid from the Jail Fund, at an hourly rate of \$14.98.
- E. To place the name of Martevion George in the Sheriff’s Office job slot of Detention Deputy, effective May 8, 2023. This is a replacement to be paid from the Jail Fund, at an hourly rate of \$14.98.
- F. To place the name of Summer Doran in the Sheriff’s Office job slot of Deputy Sheriff, effective May 8, 2023. This is a replacement to be paid from the Sheriff’s Office, General Fund, at an hourly rate of \$15.36.
- G. To approve the request of Robert Nail, County Engineer, to hire Terry Dewberry as an Equipment Operator, effective May 22, 2023. This is a replacement to be paid from the Gas Tax Fund at an hourly rate of \$13.24.
- H. To approve the request of Robert Nail, County Engineer, to hire Earnest Garnett as an Equipment Operator, effective May 22, 2023. This is a replacement to be paid from the Gas Tax Fund at an hourly rate of \$13.24.
- I. To approve the request of Shane Ellison, CAO, to hire Brittany Coheley as Animal Control and Shelter Manager (Unclassified), effective May 16, 2023. This is a promotion and a replacement to be paid from the Animal Control/Shelter fund at an hourly rate of \$17.31.
- J. To approve the request of Shane Ellison, CAO, to hire April Dempsey as Adoption Coordinator (Unclassified), effective May 16, 2023. This is a replacement to be paid from the Animal Control/Shelter Fund at an hourly rate of \$15.51.
- K. To declare the following vehicle as surplus from the Etowah County Drug Enforcement Unit:

2013 Chevrolet Silverado (Tan) VIN# 3GCPKPEA2DG217912

**PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 16th DAY OF MAY, 2023.**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Upon the motion of Commissioner Jamie Grant, 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 Agreement with JM Wood Auction Company, Inc., for equipment rotation for the Road Department and to authorize the Commission President to execute the document. A copy of this Agreement has been filed in Attachment Book 13, Page 41.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 16th DAY OF MAY, 2023.**

Upon the motion of Commissioner Joey Statum, seconded by Commissioner Johnny Grant, 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 appoint Sheriff Jonathon Horton, or his designee, as the Homeland Security (ALEA) Primary Point of Contact.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 16th DAY OF MAY, 2023.**

Upon the motion of Commissioner Tim Ramsey, seconded by Commissioner Jamie Grant, 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 have the First Reading to reappoint Sharon Maness to the Etowah County CED Mental Health Board. This term will expire April 1, 2029.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 16th DAY OF MAY, 2023.**

Upon the motion of Commissioner Jamie Grant, seconded by Commissioner Johnny Grant, 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 have the First Reading to appoint Tim Ramsey to the Etowah County CED Mental Health Board. This will be to complete the term of Rene Culverhouse, who resigned, and will expire on April 1, 2025.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 16th DAY OF MAY, 2023.**

Upon the motion of Commissioner Tim Ramsey, seconded by Commissioner Jamie Grant, 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 have the First Reading to appoint Terri Vosbury to the Etowah County CED Mental Health Board. This is normally a six-year term but in order to meet the Board Requirements, this term will expire April 1, 2027 (after four years).

**PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 16th DAY OF MAY, 2023.**

Upon the 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 the update to the Etowah County Personnel Policy and Procedures under Bereavement Leave to read as follows (with a copy of this change filed in Attachment Book 13, Page 42.)

“Employees shall be allowed two (2) or three (3) working days (up to 24 hours) off with pay when there is a death in their immediate family. Immediate family shall be defined as spouse, children, parents, grandparents, grandchildren, brother, sister, father-in-law, mother-in-law, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, son-in-law, and daughter-in-law. The time may be used surrounding the death, funeral, or even a later scheduled memorial service. Documentation must be provided.”

(These improvements which include the addition of son-in-law and daughter-in-law, and authorize flexibility in the scheduling of the paid leave benefit, were approved by the Etowah County Personnel Board.)

**PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 16th DAY OF MAY, 2023.**

#### **REPORTS FROM THE STAFF**

**Chief Administrative Officer  
County Engineer  
County Attorney  
Other**

#### **DISCUSSION BY COMMISSIONERS**

Commissioner Jamie Grant asked several questions about the Animal Control Officer job responsibilities and how much authority they have. He wanted to know if they could write tickets to county residents that are not in compliance with the State laws. He discussed the set-up they have in Southside where Chief Ragsdale has someone working with their Animal Control Officer. They have a body camera in case there are questions that come up later. Commissioner Jamie Grant also had questions about the workmanship on a road in this District.

Commissioner Ramsey said a lot of the people that live in the unincorporated areas of the county don't want their dogs in a pen or a fence. He thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and thanked the Road Department for all they do. He complimented everyone's hard work for the recent cleanup day in Rainbow City and said Tim and his crew did a great job. He said the City of Gadsden just increased the fine in the city for littering and he would like to see all of the Mayors do the same. Jamie said the Judges have to enforce it or it won't help.

Commissioner Johnny Grant thanked Chief Peek and said he heard good things about the crew when they cleaned up Tom Cat Road. He also said it is Law Enforcement Appreciation Week and there will be a ceremony at the memorial to remember the officers and first responders that have died. He asked if there were any issues with the quarterly containers put out by Arrow. Shane said they were not going to charge anything extra this month for putting out extra containers.

Craig Inzer said Waste Management still hasn't picked up the cans that have been brought to the Whorton Bend Fire Department and he asked me to let them know so they can get picked up. He also thanked everyone that came to the I59 Corridor Meeting and said there was a big turnout. He commended the Family Success Center for their recent fundraiser (Derby Day) and said they had a big turnout and raised about \$70,000.

**ADJOURN:** The Chair then entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. Upon motion of Commissioner Joey Statum, seconded by Commissioner Johnny Grant, with all other members voting “yes”, the motion was passed. The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 am.

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Joey Statum, Commissioner, District 1

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Tim Ramsey, Commissioner, District 4

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Johnny Grant, Commissioner, District 2

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Jeffery Washington, Commissioner, District 5

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Jamie W. Grant, Commissioner, District 3

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Craig Inzer, Jr., President, Commissioner, District 6