

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE ETOWAH COUNTY COMMISSION
ETOWAH COUNTY, ALABAMA
February 6, 2024**

Commissioner Tim Ramsey, called the Commission Meeting to order on the 6th Day of February, 2024 at 9:00 am and Commissioner Joey Statum, asked the Prayer and led the Pledge to the Flag.

CALL OF ROLL TO ESTABLISH A QUORUM: The following 4 out of 6 Commission members were at the meeting and accordingly a quorum was present:

District 1 – Joey Statum
District 3 – Jamie Grant

District 4 – Tim Ramsey
District 6 – Craig Inzer, Jr.

Absent: Johnny Grant – District 2
Jeffery Washington – District 5

PUBLIC COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS: Mr. & Mrs. Phillip Denny signed in to complain about the condition of Carlisle Acres Circle (Road). They do not have postal service on their road and ADSI has recently stopped coming down their road to empty their trash cans. They have to take everything to the county road and some of the people are older and/or disabled and the distance is ½ mile or a little more. They brought a petition from a lot of the people on the road asking the county to maintain it. The road has always been a private road and is not in the condition required by the county regulations to be accepted as a county road. It is on their deeds from when they purchased the property letting them know it is a private road and they are responsible for maintaining it.

AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS, PROCLAMATIONS, OR ANNOUNCEMENTS: Shane Ellison, CAO, read and presented a Proclamation declaring January, 2024, as Human Trafficking Awareness Month to Family Success Center members (Katie & Emma) and to The Barrie Center (Patricia Falcon) to increase awareness of how widespread human trafficking is and to also let everyone know about and upcoming training program for first responders, social workers, and counselors to help them better recognize this situation when they see it. There will also be a training specifically for educators in the near future, as well.

(This proclamation was originally scheduled to be presented on January 16th but there were icy road conditions that day and it was postponed until today.)

Upon motion of Commissioner Jamie Grant, seconded by Commissioner Craig Inzer, Jr., 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 9:20 am.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 6th DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2024.

Upon motion of Commissioner Joey Statum, 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 call the Etowah County Commission Meeting back to order at 9:35 am.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 6th DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2024.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Upon motion of Commissioner Jamie Grant, seconded by Commissioner Joey Statum, 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 January 16, 2024, of the Etowah County Commission, will be approved at the February 20, 2024 meeting.
- B. The Proposed Agenda for February 6, 2024.

- C. Any Reported Financial Transactions. Copies of the Purchasing Charges, Cash Disbursements, and Online Transfers for January, 2024 are filed in Attachment Book 14, Page 16.
- D. To approve the request of Melissa Lett, Purchasing Accountant, to let a new bid for Full-Service Elevator Maintenance – 3 Year Contract.
- E. To place the name of Blake Hobyman in the Sheriff's Office job slot of Deputy SRO-Highland School, effective January 16, 2024. This is a replacement to be paid from the Sheriff's Office, General Fund, at an hourly rate of \$17.37.
- F. To place the name of Zack Boggs, in the Sheriff's Office job slot of Deputy, effective February 8, 2024. This is a replacement to be paid from the Sheriff's Office, General Fund, at an hourly rate of \$17.37.
- G. To approve the request of Dorothea Kurdziel, Rural Transportation Director, to transfer Petra Fair to Transportation Coordinator (Unclassified), effective January 29, 2024. This is a promotion and a replacement to be paid from the Rural Transportation-Administration Fund, at an hourly rate of \$18.44.
- H. To approve the request of Becky Nordgren, Revenue Commissioner, to promote Michelle Fuller to Real Property Appraiser II, effective February 6, 2024. This is a promotion due to Michelle completing the State education and testing requirements for this position and will be paid from the Reappraisal Fund/ Reappraisal Maintenance Fund at an hourly rate of \$19.18.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 6th DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2024.

NEW BUSINESS:

Upon the motion of Commissioner Joey Statum, seconded by Commissioner Jamie Grant, with all other member voting 'yes', the following resolution was adopted:

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

To approve the request of Cassandra Johnson, Circuit Clerk, to contract with two individuals to help with absentee voting. The contract amount will be \$125 per day, with a provision for partial payment.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 6th DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2024.

Upon the motion of Commissioner Jamie Grant, seconded by Commissioner Joey Statum, with all other member voting 'yes', the following resolution was adopted:

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

To approve the request of Kevin Dollar, Deputy Administrator/CFO, to declare the following vehicle as surplus:

2008 Chevrolet Trailblazer - VIN# 1GNDS13S282200044

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 6th DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2024.

Upon the motion of Commissioner Joey Statum, seconded by Commissioner Jamie Grant, with all other member voting 'yes', the following resolution was adopted:

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

To approve the request of Shane Ellison, CAO, to grant approval for Roderick Crockton, Building Service Worker in the Maintenance Department, to receive PTO leave donations. This employee has met the eligibility requirements under the program guidelines.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 6th DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2024.

Upon the motion of Commissioner Jamie Grant, seconded by Commissioner Craig Inzer, Jr. with all other member voting 'yes', the following resolution was adopted:

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

To approve the contract and agreement between the Etowah County Board of Education and the Etowah County Commission regarding the installation of school zone warning lights on Appalachian Highway, entering Hokes Bluff Middle School Zone, and to authorize the Commission President to execute the document. A copy of this Agreement is filed in Attachment Book 14, Page 17.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 6th DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2024.

Upon the motion of Commissioner Joey Statum, seconded by Commissioner Jamie Grant with all other member voting 'yes', the following resolution was adopted:

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

To authorize Shane Ellison, CAO, to sign a lease agreement with Quadient Leasing, USA, for a SMART IX 7DW30 postage machine for \$695.50 per month, beginning February 24, 2024 through February 23, 2027. A copy of this Agreement is filed in Attachment Book 14, Page 18.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 6th DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2024.

Upon the motion of Commissioner Joey Statum, seconded by Commissioner Craig Inzer, Jr. with all other member voting 'yes', the following resolution was adopted:

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

To authorize an Executive Session to discuss business and commerce after a roll call vote with the majority approving the session. Jim Turnbach, County Attorney, certified it meets the requirements under the Open Meetings Law. Those present for the meeting will be the Commissioners, Kevin Dollar, Shane Ellison, and Jim Turnbach. District 1 – yes, District 3 – yes, District 4 – yes, and District 6 – yes. The Commission dismissed for the Executive Session at 9:50 am.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 6th DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2024.

Upon the motion of Commissioner Jamie Grant, seconded by Commissioner Craig Inzer, Jr. with all other member voting 'yes', the following resolution was adopted:

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

To reconvene from Executive Session.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 6th DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2024.

REPORTS FROM THE STAFF

Chief Administrative Officer
County Engineer
County Attorney
Other

DISCUSSION BY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Inzer thanked Family Success & Barrie Center for all they do to help recognize and prevent trafficking. He said he was out of town on the Saturday that Arrow put out the roll-offs but he didn't get any complaints. He said in the last couple of months, the City of Gadsden had made changes about some of the items they would pick up for their citizens and he just wants to make sure these items are not illegally dumped in the county.

Commissioner Jamie Grant said he receives a lot of complaints about Sand Valley Road (& Landfill) and there were a lot of negative comments on Facebook. The complaints get a lot worse after it rains because of the mud and dirt the trucks track onto the roadway. He said they plan to have a neighborhood meeting on Sunday at 3 to discuss some of the issues. He said the Commissioners care about the entire county, not just the roads. He said when it comes to people and their way of life, he has spent more than half of his life outside of this county or abroad. He has seen what human trafficking does to people. He talked about a baseball player in the news recently for talking to a 14-year-old girl. A lot of kids being on social media creates a lot more opportunity for this type of thing to happen.

Commissioner Statum thanked the Family Success Center and The Barrie Center representatives for all they do.

Commissioner Ramsey said he won 3rd place at the chili cook-off in town representing the Commission in the Gadsden downtown chili cook-off. He said he was glad they could support downtown Gadsden. The Duncan Donuts in Rainbow City had their grand opening and about 200 people were there. He will be at the Mayor's Summit in Rainbow City on Thursday. He invited the others to come. He also talked about April being 'Don't Drop it on Alabama' month and he was going to try to get a group together to pick up trash in his District. He said the people in the communities were going to have to get out there themselves and clean-up. He will be in Montgomery tomorrow for a meeting as part of the PLAN Group. The group plans to stress mental health issues for the Legislature to address.

ADJOURN: The Chair then entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. Upon motion of Commissioner Joey Statum, seconded by Commissioner Jamie Grant, with all other members voting "yes", the motion was passed. The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 am.

Joey Statum, Commissioner, District 1

Tim Ramsey, President, Commissioner, District 4

ABSENT

Johnny Grant, Commissioner, District 2

ABSENT

Jeffery Washington, Commissioner, District 5

Jamie W. Grant, Commissioner, District 3

Craig Inzer, Jr., Commissioner, District 6