

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE ETOWAH COUNTY COMMISSION
ETOWAH COUNTY
September 24, 2024**

Commissioner Tim Ramsey, called the Commission Meeting to order on the 24th Day of September, 2024 at 9:00 am and Scott Hassell, Judge of Probate, asked the Prayer and led the Pledge to the Flag.

CALL OF ROLL TO ESTABLISH A QUORUM: The following 5 out of 6 Commission members were at the meeting and accordingly a quorum was present:

District 1 – Joey Statum
District 2 – Johnny Grant

District 4 – Tim Ramsey
District 5 – Jeffery Washington
District 6 – Craig Inzer

Absent: Jamie Grant – District 3

PUBLIC COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS: None.

AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS, PROCLAMATIONS, OR ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Scott Hassell, Judge of Probate, performed the ‘swearing in’ of David Bankson as the Gadsden State Community College Police Officer – Mental Health Officer. Judge Hassell commended the Commissioners on being ‘forward thinking’ and briefly discussed the history of Gadsden State Community College. He discussed the importance of having the Mobile Crisis Team in the county to help with the mental illness crisis and now to have the first Community Mental Health Officer at the GSCC Police Department with David Bankson serving in the position. Judge Hassell swore Officer Bankson in with Dr. Kathy Murphy, GSCC President, and GSCC Police Chief Jay Freeman standing with him to show support. Dr. Murphy thanked the Commissioners for their support. She said they were glad to have the GSCC Police Dept and she was glad she chose to hire Chief Jay Freeman to lead them. She thanked the Commission for the support they have given them in helping set up the police department, including equipment and training. She said they appreciated it so much and thanked the Judge for helping them to make history today. She said with the help from the Commission over the three years she has been at GSCC, they have taken care of a lot of deferred maintenance items such as replacing roofs and demolishing one of the buildings. They also replaced the roof at Bevill Hall and some of the walls at Inzer Hall. She also thanked them for their investment in the Workforce Development Center.

Commissioner Ramsey thanked Dr. Murphy for all the improvements and changes she has brought to Gadsden State Community College.

Upon motion of Commissioner Statum, seconded by Commissioner Washington, 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 9:45 am.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 24th DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2024.

Upon motion of Commissioner Inzer, seconded by Commissioner 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 call the Etowah County Commission Meeting back to order at 10:25 am.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 24th DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2024.

OLD BUSINESS: 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(s) dated September 3, 2024, of the Etowah County Commission be, and the same are hereby, approved as written.
- B. The Proposed Agenda for September 24, 2024.
- C. Any reported financial transactions.
- D. To approve the request of Melissa Lett, Purchasing Accountant, to award Bid No FY 2024-07 New Roof on former Pollock Building to Birmingham Roofing & Sheet Metal, Inc., the lowest, responsible bidder. Birmingham Roofing & Sheet Metal, Inc., has also provided pricing to paint the entire structure at an added cost of \$33,600, as Change Order #1, and this will bring the total contract cost to \$173,445.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 24th DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2024.

NEW BUSINESS:

Upon the motion of Commissioner Statum, seconded by Commissioner Washington, 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 item was approved:

To approve the request of Shane Ellison, CAO, to adopt the FY 2025 Budgets. A copy is filed in Attachment Book 14, Page 70.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 24th DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2024.

Upon the motion of Commissioner Johnny Grant, seconded by Commissioner 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 item was approved:

To approve a three-year contract with Doctor's Care Physicians, P. C. for Inmate Medical Services at the Etowah County Detention Center. A copy is filed in Attachment Book 14, Page 71.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 24th DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2024.

Upon the motion of Commissioner Inzer, seconded by Commissioner Johnny 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 item was approved:

To authorize an agreement with Rainbow City to accept American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds in the amount of \$1 million for infrastructure improvements at the Northeast Alabama Regional Megasite. The funds will be distributed in two equal payments, the first planned for the current fiscal year and the second in FY 25. A copy of the Agreement is filed in Attachment Book 14, Page 72.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 24th DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2024.

Upon the motion of Commissioner Statum, seconded by Commissioner Inzer, with all other members present voting 'yes', the following resolution was passed and adopted, after a roll-call vote which was requested by Commissioner Washington (District 1- yes, District 2 – yes, District 4 – yes, District 5 – no, and District 6 – yes):

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ETOWAH COUNTY COMMISSION: That the following item was approved by the majority present at the meeting:

To approve the renewal of Robert Nail's contract as Etowah County Engineer for a three-year term. A copy is filed in Attachment Book 14, Page 73.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 24th DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2024.

Upon the motion of Commissioner Johnny Grant, seconded by Commissioner 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 item was approved:

To approve the renewal of Shane Ellison's contract as Chief Administrative Officer for a three-year term. A copy of this Agreement is filed in Attachment Book 14, Page 74.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 24th DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2024.

Upon the motion of Commissioner Washington, seconded by Commissioner 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 item was approved:

To adopt the Resolution to declare the week of September 22nd through September 28th, 2024, as 'Water Quality Awareness Week'. A copy of this Resolution is filed in Attachment Book 14, Page 75.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 24th DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2024.

Upon the motion of Commissioner Inzer, seconded by Commissioner 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 item was approved:

To approve an application for SEEDS grant funds from the State of Alabama for extension of water and sewer from Steele Station Road, under Interstate 59, and extending to the 500,000-gallon elevated water storage tank, with the required match coming from the ARPA fund, after a roll-call vote. District 1- yes, District 2 – yes, District 4 – yes, District 5 – no, and District 6 – yes. A copy has been filed in Attachment Book 14, Page 76.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 24th DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2024.

Upon the motion of Commissioner Statum, seconded by Commissioner Johnny 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 item was approved:

To approve the software maintenance contract extensions on the Delta Computer Systems' support agreements through December 31, 2024. A copy of this Agreement is filed in Attachment 14, Page 77.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 24th DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2024.

REPORTS FROM THE STAFF

Chief Administrative Officer
County Engineer
County Attorney
Other

DISCUSSION BY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Inzer thanked Judge Hassell for David Bankson being placed in the role of Mental Health Officer at GSCC Police Dept. He said this is a great thing for our community and GSCC has done a lot of work on their buildings. His Great Grandfather was Lt Governor in the 40's and envisioned a community college. He thanked Kevin for the work on the budget and said they will need to be cautious over the next year because they were at a pivotal point. With the upcoming election, there will be changes coming. Chief Peek worked on getting the day rate increased and he can now submit for an increase every 90 days, instead of having to wait 2 to 3 years. There will be a lot of people at the meeting on October 8th to showcase the NEAR Megasite improvements and the future projects. He feels confident we can get extra money with a low match. He also thanked Terri Vosbury for all she does and said she has made a big difference in the Community Correction program.

Commissioner Washington said he could never say enough about great people and people that have moved the county forward. He is glad to be Commissioner with all the things that are happening to make the county better. He thanked Kevin and Keith and also the supervisors and engineers.

Commissioner Johnny Grant said he pushed for raises and the employees and he appreciated Kevin's hard work. He thanked Judge Hassell and Terri Vosbury for all they do. He also thanked Shane and Robert Nail.

Commissioner Statum thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and thanked Kevin for his hard work. He said the county has a lot of accounts to keep up with. He congratulated Robert and said he appreciates all he does. He said we are lucky to have him here in this county because you cannot buy knowledge. He thanked Shane and said he was glad he was part of bringing him on board. He said he appreciated the great staff, department heads, and fellow commissioners. He said you never know when you work with a new group of commissioners, how it will be because it takes a team and everyone can't be the quarterback. Everyone brings something to the team with their own personalities and strengths. He said the county would not have had a lot of money for infrastructure had it not been for money from the government (even though it was caused by Covid, which was not a good thing) and believes it was just a sign from above.

Commissioner Ramsey thanked Kevin for his work on the budget and said Shane and Robert made a great team and he was glad he was going to have them for 3 more years. He thanked Eric and the extension group and encouraged everyone to support the chick chain event. He also thanked the other employees. He said they were working hard with the mental health issues and trying to keep people out of jail that needed help. He was proud to be a part of the program.

ADJOURN: The Chair then entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. Upon motion of Commissioner Washington, seconded by Commissioner Johnny Grant, with all other members voting “yes”, the motion was passed. The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 am.

Joey Statum, Commissioner, District 1

Tim Ramsey, President, Commissioner, District 4

Johnny Grant, Commissioner, District 2

Jeffery Washington, Commissioner, District 5

ABSENT

Jamie Grant, Commissioner, District 3

Craig Inzer, Jr., Commissioner, District 6