

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE ETOWAH COUNTY COMMISSION
ETOWAH COUNTY
October 08, 2024**

Commissioner Tim Ramsey, called the Commission Meeting to order on the 8th Day of October, 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 6 out of 6 Commission members were at the meeting and accordingly a quorum was present:

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS: None.

AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS, PROCLAMATIONS, OR ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Arrow Disposal will have open top containers at four locations between 7:00 am and 12:00 pm for residential cleanup of household trash on **Saturday, November 2, 2024**. They do not accept tires, batteries, appliances or hazardous waste.

Locations of containers:

Leeth Gap and Sardis Road – across from old County Shop
Intersection of Hwy 278 & Hwy 132
Whorton Bend Volunteer Fire Department
Gaston High School at Hwy 411 North

Upon motion of Commissioner Inzer, 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 recess in order to have a Work Session at 9:07 am.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 8th DAY OF OCTOBER, 2024.

Upon motion of Commissioner Statum, seconded by Commissioner Inzer, 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 9:43 am.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 8th DAY OF OCTOBER, 2024.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Upon 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 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 17, 2024, of the Etowah County Commission be, and the same are hereby, approved as written.
- B. The Proposed Agenda for October 8, 2024.
- C. Any reported financial transactions. A copy of the Purchasing Charges by Credit Card, Cash Disbursements, Online Transfers, and Wire Transfers for September, 2024, is filed in Attachment Book 14, Page 78.

- D. To approve the request of Melissa Lett, Purchasing Accountant, to award Bid No. FY 2024-10 Inmate Communication System to Combined Public Communication, the highest, responsible bidder.
- E. To place the name of Jennifer Kimble in the Sheriff's Office job slot of Captain - Detention, effective September 16, 2024. This is promotion to be paid from the Jail Fund, at an hourly rate of \$24.55.
- F. To place the following names in the Sheriff's Office job slot of Detention Deputy, effective September 23, 2024. These are replacements to be paid from the Jail Fund, at an hourly rate of \$15.36.
 - a. Teresa Wood
 - b. Justin Taylor Morris
 - c. Faria Johnson
- G. To place the name of William Cherry in the Sheriff's Office job slot of Deputy Trainee, effective October 7, 2024. This is a replacement to be paid from the Sheriff's Office, General Fund, at an hourly rate of \$15.36.
- H. To approve the request of Kevin Hassell, Etowah County DEU Commander, to place Kaci Hunter in the Unclassified Position of Administrative Coordinator, effective October 8, 2024. This is a position created by eliminating one part-time job slot and re-allocating funds from a Sheriff's Office position and will be paid from the Drug Enforcement Unit Fund, at an hourly rate of \$17.44. (This change is due to the City of Gadsden withdrawing from Etowah County Drug Enforcement Unit).
- I. To approve the request of Robert Nail, County Engineer, to promote Jimmy Mays to Heavy Equipment Operator 2, effective October 9, 2024. This is a promotion to a new position and will be paid from the Gas Tax Fund, at an hourly rate of \$21.70.
- J. To approve the request of Robert Nail, County Engineer, to promote James Posey to Heavy Equipment Operator 2, effective October 9, 2024. This is a promotion to a new position and will be paid from the Gas Tax Fund, at an hourly rate of \$26.44.
- K. To approve the request of Robert Nail, County Engineer, to promote Danny Thornhill to Heavy Equipment Operator, effective October 9, 2024. This is a promotion to be paid from the Gas Tax Fund, at an hourly rate of \$17.37.
- L. To approve the Participation in the Traffic Enforcement Agreement through North Central Alabama Highway Safety Office and to authorize the Commission President to execute the document.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 8th DAY OF OCTOBER, 2024.

NEW BUSINESS:

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 the Purchase Agreement for acquisition of 160 acres from the Ellen L. Stewart Trust in the amount of \$900,000. This property is immediately east of and adjacent to the NEAR Megasite and will bring the total acreage to approximate 1,250 acres. A copy of filed in Attachment Book 14, Page 79.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 8th DAY OF OCTOBER, 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 approve an agreement with GMC for Engineering Services for the NEAR Megasite Roadway Access on Interstate 59 and to authorize the Commission President to execute the document. A copy of the agreement is filed in Attachment Book 14, Page 80.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 8th DAY OF OCTOBER, 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 Inmate Housing Agreement renewals with the following municipalities: Attalla, Altoona, Glencoe, Hokes Bluff, Rainbow City, Southside, and Sardis. Copies of these agreements are filed in Attachment Book 14, Pages 81 through 87.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 8th DAY OF OCTOBER, 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 by the majority present at the meeting:

To have the First Reading to reappoint Karen Cook to the Etowah County Personnel Board.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 8th DAY OF OCTOBER, 2024.

Upon the motion of Commissioner Jamie Grant, 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 Agreement for Service and Support of the Albireo Energy Closed Circuit Camera System and Detention Facility Locking System at a cost of approximately \$5440 per month. Also, to authorize the CAO to execute the document. A copy of the Agreement is filed in Attachment Book 14, Page 88.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 8th DAY OF OCTOBER, 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:

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

To have the First Reading to reappoint Johnny Grant and Tim Ramsey to the Gadsden Etowah EMA Executive Committee, with Robert Nail and Shane Ellison as the Alternates.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 8th DAY OF OCTOBER, 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 Tax Revenue Enhancement Agreement – Tax Revenue Administration with Avenue Insights & Analytics, LLC., and to authorize the CAO to execute the documents. This agreement includes alcohol, beer, and wine. A copy of this Agreement is filed in Attachment Book 14, Page 89.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 8th DAY OF OCTOBER, 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 approve the Interlocal Agreement between the City of Gadsden, Etowah County, and the Etowah County Sheriff for the Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program Award and to authorize the CAO and the Commission President to execute the documents. A copy of this agreement is filed in Attachment Book 14, Page 90.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 8th DAY OF OCTOBER, 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 authorize a Broadband Service Franchise Agreement with Farmers Telecommunication Corporation, subject to final approval by the county attorney. A copy of the approved agreement is filed in Attachment Book 14, Page 91.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 8th DAY OF OCTOBER, 2024.

REPORTS FROM THE STAFF

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

DISCUSSION BY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Inzer thanked everyone and also Mr. Hooks, now we just have one IDA. He said the County and City of Gadsden both put money toward the IDA (Industrial Development Authority) and he also thanked Shane. He said there were a lot of people doing things behind the scenes.

Commissioner Washington said there were so many personalities coming together and being as one, where in the past we were like the 'Tower of Babel' but now everyone was talking the same language and the IDA helped that to happen. He thanked everyone.

Commissioner Jamie Grant said he agreed with Commissioner Washington and that people didn't do this for themselves but for others because we love kids and our neighbors and we have finally started to move in the same direction and trust each other.

Commissioner Johnny Grant said they all have done a great job, including Norfolk Southern! 'Full steam ahead and don't look back.'

Commissioner Statum thanked everyone from the bottom of his heart. He said "Keep it going" and "I can see it"!

Commissioner Ramsey said we would be hard to stop at this point. He thanked Ms. Anita (from the water department in Rainbow City) and Rainbow City Council Members. He said we couldn't do a lot of what we are doing without Rainbow City Water.

ADJOURN: The Chair then entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. Upon motion of Commissioner Statum, seconded by Commissioner Inzer, 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

Jamie Grant, Commissioner, District 3

Craig Inzer, Jr., Commissioner, District 6