

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE ETOWAH COUNTY COMMISSION
ETOWAH COUNTY
October 29, 2024**

Commissioner Tim Ramsey, called the Commission Meeting to order on the 29th Day of October, 2024 at 9:00 am and Commissioner Jeffery Washington, 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: Darlene Harcrow and Craig Scott with CommUnity Thanksgiving were at the meeting to ask the Commissioners to help with funding and to invite them to help prepare and give out the foot. The event will be on November 28th at The Venue.

Kevin Blackwell with the SPAN Program wanted to make the Commissioners aware of his students and their successes with the SPAN Program.

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 Ramsey, 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 29th DAY OF OCTOBER, 2024.

Upon motion of Commissioner Johnny Grant, seconded by Commissioner 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 call the Etowah County Commission Meeting back to order at 9:43 am.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 29th DAY OF OCTOBER, 2024.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Upon motion of Commissioner Washington, 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 September 24, 2024, of the Etowah County Commission be, and the same are hereby, approved as written.

- B. The Proposed Agenda for October 29, 2024.
- C. There are no reported financial transactions.
- D. To approve the request of Melissa Lett, Purchasing Accountant, to award Bid No. FY 2024-16 Aggregate to Vulcan Materials Asphalt & Construction and Wiregrass Construction Company, the lowest bidders.
- E. To place the name of Collin Bishop in the Sheriff's Office job slot of Deputy Sheriff/ School Resource Officer, effective October 28, 2024. This is replacement to be paid from the Sheriff's Office, General Fund, at an hourly rate of \$17.37.
- F. To place the name of Tyler Phillips in the Sheriff's Office job slot of Deputy Trainee, effective October 14, 2024. This is a replacement and a transfer to be paid from the Sheriff's Office, General Fund, at an hourly rate of \$15.74.
- G. To place the following names in the Sheriff's Office job slot of Detention Deputy, effective October 21, 2024. These are replacements to be paid from the Jail Fund, at an hourly rate of \$15.36.
 - a. Michael William Hunt
 - b. Jason M. Smith
 - c. Markia Calloway
 - d. Quanterria Huntley
- H. To approve the request of Becky Nordgren, Revenue Commissioner, to hire Judy Phillips as a Tag & Title Clerk, effective October 29, 2024. This is a replacement to be paid from the Revenue General Fund, at an hourly rate of \$13.24.
- I. To approve the request of Becky Nordgren, Revenue Commissioner, to hire Cathy Holley as a Tag/Collections – Full-Time Floater, effective October 29, 2024. This is a replacement to be paid from the Revenue General Fund, at an hourly rate of \$13.24.
- J. To approve the request of Becky Nordgren, Revenue Commissioner, to hire Angela Tidmore as a Collections Clerk, effective October 29, 2024. This is a replacement to be paid from the Revenue General Fund, at an hourly rate of \$13.24.
- K. To approve the request of Becky Nordgren, Revenue Commissioner, to hire Randi McCain as a Real Property Appraiser I, effective October 29, 2024. This is a replacement to be paid from the Reappraisal Fund, at an hourly rate of \$16.13.
- L. To approve the request of Becky Nordgren, Revenue Commissioner, to hire Angela Whitehead as a Real Property Sales Analyst, effective November 1, 2024. This is a promotion and a replacement to be paid from the Reappraisal Fund, at an hourly rate of \$16.54.
- M. To approve the request of Shane Ellison, Chief Administrative Officer, to hire Scottie Hardy as Maintenance Director, effective November 18, 2024. This is a replacement to be paid from the General Fund-Maintenance, at an hourly rate of \$43.27.
- N. To approve request of Shane Ellison Chief Administrative Officer, to hire Stephanie Franklin as County Clerk, effective November 12, 2024. This is a replacement to be paid from the General Fund-County Commission Office, at an hourly rate of \$23.08.
- O. To approve the following requests from Becky Nordgren, Revenue Commissioner:
 - a. To designate all SAFE Program Banks in Etowah County as eligible to be the depository for all the operating funds of the Revenue Commissioner's Office of Tags and Titles for the year beginning October 1, 2024. This also includes the satellite offices located in Hokes Bluff, Rainbow City, and Sardis.
 - b. To designate all SAFE Program Banks in Etowah County as eligible to be the depository for the operating funds of the Revenue Commissioner's Office for Collections beginning October 1, 2024. This includes the collections of all real and business personal property, mobile homes, and redemptions.
- P. To approve all SAFE Program Banks in Etowah County eligible to be designated as a county depository for the next calendar year.
- Q. To approve all SAFE Program Banks in Etowah County as eligible to be designated as a county depository for the next year for the Probate Office, beginning October 1, 2024.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 29th DAY OF OCTOBER, 2024.

NEW BUSINESS:

Upon the motion of Commissioner Johnny Grant, 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 have the First Reading to reappoint Jonathon Horton, Etowah County Sheriff, to the 911 Communications Board for a four-year term. (His term is from August 19, 2024 through August 18, 2028).

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 29th DAY OF OCTOBER, 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 have the First Reading to appoint Wayne Keener to the 911 Communications Board for a four-year term. (He will replace Deborah Gaither and her term has expired). Mr. Keener's term will end on August 18, 2028.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 29th DAY OF OCTOBER, 2024.

Upon the motion of Commissioner Washington, 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 item was approved:

To authorize Shane Ellison, CAO, to execute a buy-back of up to 40 hours of employee time, which may include sick, vacation, paid-time-off (PTO), and comp time, or any combination thereof. The buy-back will be executed in November of 2024.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 29th DAY OF OCTOBER, 2024.

Upon the motion of Commissioner 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 item was approved by the majority present at the meeting:

To have the Final Reading and Approval to reappoint Karen Cook to the Etowah County Personnel Board.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 29th DAY OF OCTOBER, 2024.

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 Resolution for Project No. ECP 28-196-25 which is for guardrail and end anchor installation for the culvert spanning Greens Creek on Matt Smith Road. A copy of this Resolution is filed in Attachment Book 14, Page 92.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 29th DAY OF OCTOBER, 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 approve the 2025 Holiday Schedule as listed in Attachment A, which includes a one-time increase in the number of paid holidays to include Friday, December 26, 2025. A copy of the Holiday Schedule is filed in Attachment Book 14, Page 93.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 29th DAY OF OCTOBER, 2024.

Upon the motion of Commissioner Inzer, 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 declare the following organization as serving a public purpose:

- a. Alabama Conservation Enforcement Officers Association, Inc. (Game Warden)
- b. The Woman's Club of Gadsden

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 29th DAY OF OCTOBER, 2024.

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 have the Final Reading and Approval 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 29th DAY OF OCTOBER, 2024.

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 Revocable License Agreement with Alabama Power Company to make a Field Path in order to replace a culvert on Lonz Street, which will require Lonz Street to be closed to traffic during the replacement, and to authorize the CAO to execute the document. The Field Path runs adjacent to and parallel with the waters of Lake Neely Henry. A copy of the Agreement is filed in Attachment Book 14, Page 94.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 29th DAY OF OCTOBER, 2024.

Upon the motion of Commissioner Washington, 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 item was approved:

To approve the request of Kevin Dollar, Deputy Administrator/CFO, to make the following Budget Amendments, effective September 30, 2024:

General Fund

Increase Revenues:

Ad Valorem Taxes-Real Property (001.40000.41111-001)	\$5,025
Revenue Commissioner Fees & Commissions (001.40000.45235-710)	\$6,935
Certificate of Formation Fees (001.40000.44165-023)	\$1,800
State Share-Sheriff's Department (001.40000.44290-820)	\$745
Worthless Check Fees (001.40000.44283-710)	\$1,155
Interest Revenue (001.40000.47100-025)	\$1,440
Other Revenue (001.40000.47900-000)	\$1,380

Decrease Revenue: Bond Forfeiture-State of AL (001.40000.47907-000) \$35,578

Expenditures & Operating Transfers Out

Increase: Operating Transfer Out-Domestic Violence Grant (001.62000-284) \$14,020
Decrease: Operating Transfer Out-RSVP Fund (001.62000-176) \$7,500

Maintenance Department

Increase: Repairs & Maintenance-Bldg., Land & Improvements (001.51995-231) \$23,618

RSVP Fund

Decrease: Operating Transfer in-General Fund (176.61000-001) \$7,500
Increase: State Grant-Welfare (176.40000.44360-860) \$6,270
Other Revenue (176.40000.47900-000) \$1,230

Domestic Violence Grant Fund

Increase: Operating Transfer In-General Fund (284.61000-001) \$14,020
Other Revenue (284.40000.47900-000) \$6,817
Decrease: Law Enforcement Grant (284.40000.44720-820) \$12,527

Expenditures & Fund Balance

Increase:

Salaries & Wages (284.52100-113)	\$8,248
Retirement Contribution (284.52100-121)	\$38
Social Security/Medicare Taxes (284.52100-124)	\$281
Dental Insurance (284.52100-141)	\$8
Insurance-General Liability (284.52100-274)	\$140

Decrease:

Life Insurance (284.52100-123)	\$34
Drug Card (284.52100-142)	\$320
Fund Balance (284.53900)	\$51

Effective September 30, 2024 – General Fund Budget Amendments to reflect the proceeds from the sale of the 712 Forrest Avenue Property and the additional 2024 property taxes on the 905 Forrest Avenue & the 926 First Avenue properties:

Increase: Revenue: Sale of Capital Assets (001.61210-000) \$995,000
Expenditures: Legal & Contingency Department
Equipment<Threshold (001.51990-471) \$513
Land (001.51990-511) \$1,908

Buildings (001.51990-521)	\$3,894
Improv/ other than Buildings (001.51990-531)	\$654
Fund Balance (001.35900)	\$988,031

Effective September 30, 2024- Budget Amendments for the SEEDS Grant:

Increase: Revenue: State Grant-Sanitation (001.40000.44360-940)	\$2,678,514
Expenditures: Professional Services (001.51957-182)	\$179,905
Miscellaneous (001.51957-499)	\$458
Infrastructure-Other Capital Assets (001.51957-579)	\$2,498,151

Effective September 30, 2024 – Budget Amendments for the Coroner’s Office:

Increase: Expenditures: Contract Services (001.52400.185)	\$4,265
Equipment < Threshold (001.52400-471)	\$4,000
Decrease: Other Equipment (001.52400-549)	\$3,660
Increase: Revenue: Other Revenue (001.40000.47900-000)	\$4,000
Sale of Capital Assets (001.612100-000)	\$9,000
Increase: Fund Balance (001.35900)	\$8,395

Effective September 30, 2024 – Budget Amendments for the housing of the U.S. Marshal’s inmates:

Increase: Revenue: Federal Inmates	
Housing (001.40000.45821-720)	\$58,005
Wages Reimbursement (001.40000.45831-720)	\$10,670
Expenditures: Jail-Overtime Pay (001.52200-116)	\$33,945
Jail-Federal Inmates: Feeding Prisoners (001.52210-403)	\$28,436
Jail-Federal Inmate Transports	
Regular Salaries & Wages (001.52220-113)	\$2,395
Overtime Pay (001.52220-116)	\$3,186
Retirement (001.52220-121)	\$300
Social Security/Medicare Taxes (001.52220-124)	\$413

Effective September 30, 2024 – Budget Amendments for Sheriff’s Office for 2024 Ford Explorers purchased for the SROs in FY2024 & to reflect sales proceeds of vehicles sold by Sheriff’s Office at auction:

Increase: Expenditure: Motor Vehicles (001.52100-551)	\$174,371
Revenue: Sale of Capital Assets (001.61210-000)	\$7,695
Decrease: Fund Balance (001.35900)	\$166,676

Effective October 29, 2024 - Budget Amendments for the purchase of vehicles in the Sheriff’s Office:

Increase: Other Revenue (001.40000.47900-000)	\$52,498
Expenditure: Motor Vehicles (001.52100-551)	\$52,498

Effective October 29, 2024 - Budget Amendments for Rural Transportation Fund for auto body repairs:

Increase: Repairs & Maintenance-Motor Vehicles (271.56210-234)	\$12,919
Decrease: Fund Balance (271.35900)	\$12,919

Effective October 29, 2024 - Budget Amendments for the Sheriff’s Office for the remainder of the 2020 Ford Explorers that are sold or committed to be bought in FY 2025:

Increase: Sale of Capital Assets (001.61210-000)	\$137,500
Fund Balance (001.35900)	\$137,500

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 29th DAY OF OCTOBER, 2024.

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 following Resolution:

In accordance with Section 45-28-241.26 of the Code of Alabama, to authorize an increase in the mail order fee for mailing tags and decals in order to reflect the continuing increases from the United States Post Office. Under this Resolution, the new fee shall equal the actual cost of postage plus two dollars. A copy has been filed in Attachment Book 14, Page 95.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 29th DAY OF OCTOBER, 2024.

Upon the motion of Commissioner Jamie Grant, 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:

Effective October 29, 2024, to approve the following request from Personnel Director Jeff Little, and approved by the Personnel Board, to update the Safety Sensitive Positions list in the Drug and Alcohol Abuse Policies and Procedures to include the following (with a copy of these changes filed in Attachment Book 14, Page 96):

- a. Real Property Appraisers and Chief
- b. Business Personal Property Appraisers and Chief
- c. Mobile Home and Business License Department Employees
- d. Others who drive county vehicles.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 29th DAY OF OCTOBER, 2024.

Upon the motion of Commissioner Inzer, seconded by Commissioner Washington, 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 safety and security, after a roll call vote with the majority approving the session. County Attorney, Jim Turnbach, certified the Session meets the requirements. Those attending the meeting include the Commissioners, Kevin Dollar, Jim Turnbach, and Shane Ellison. District 1 – yes; District 2 – yes; District 3 – yes; District 4 – yes; District 5 – yes; and District 6 – yes.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 29th DAY OF OCTOBER, 2024.

Upon the motion of Commissioner Johnny Grant, seconded by Commissioner Inzer, 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 29th DAY OF OCTOBER, 2024.

REPORTS FROM THE STAFF

Chief Administrative Officer
County Engineer
County Attorney
Other

DISCUSSION BY COMMISSIONERS

Jamie Grant asked everyone to keep the Sardis community in your prayers due to a recent incident where a Sardis City Officer shot a citizen, with the disagreement starting in the school drop off line for his son (and he was going the wrong way). He was a Veteran and married with 3 kids. Just sad for all involved.

Then Jamie had a discussion with Shane about possibly inviting Mayor Ford over to discuss the Megasite and give him an update. He wanted Shane to send a formal invitation. Mayor Ford had been texting Jamie and asking some questions but the Mayor does have a representative (through the IDA) that attends any Commission meeting that deals with the Megasite and is up to speed on everything, as a courtesy.

Tim said he wasn't opposed to the idea but he just wasn't sure the best way to go about it. Nothing was decided at this time. Commissioner Johnny Grant reminded everyone of the Patriots Luncheon on November 6th. Billy Harris had called about this last week to see how many tickets they needed or if they wanted to sponsor a table.

Tim said he will be in Mobile and unable to attend. Tim said they can pay \$200 for a table or \$25 each.

Joey said he already has a table - they will open the doors at 10:30 and the program will start at 11:15 (so everyone will have time to eat before the speakers get started). The official start time is 11:00 am.

There will be a Veterans Day Parade at 2:00 through the city which is being handled by Gadsden Parks & Recreation.

Commissioner Statum thanked the Commission for giving the employees buyback time and the additional paid holiday for 2025. He said it's a big deal and he just wants to emphasize that and he's glad they were able to do it.

Commissioner Washington said the Unity Tree Lighting will be December 9th (Monday) instead of the 3rd. It will take place in front of the Courthouse (Gadsden is having their Christmas Parade on the 3rd).

He said he's letting each Mayor know what we are doing at the county. He said instead of doing an update on the Megasite with just the Mayor of Gadsden, we should include all of the Mayors in the County (especially since we have so much trouble ourselves getting updates from the Delegation).

He still plans to do the New Year's Eve ball drop on December 31st and it will be at the Venue.

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 10:40 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