

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE ETOWAH COUNTY COMMISSION  
ETOWAH COUNTY  
November 19, 2024**

Commissioner Joey Statum, Acting President, called the Commission Meeting to order on the 19th Day of November, 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 4 out of 6 Commission members were at the meeting and accordingly a quorum was present:

District 1 – Joey Statum  
District 2 – Johnny Grant

District 5 – Jeffery Washington  
District 6 – Craig Inzer

Absent: Jamie Grant – District 3  
Tim Ramsey – District 4

**PUBLIC COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS:** Mollie Gibson with United Way gave the Commissioners information on the first six months of the year. They have been having the United Way drive at the County, trying to get people to give money. She asked the Commission for financial help to support their programs. She said they helped over 50% of the people in the County last year. Commissioner Statum told her they appreciated what they do. Traci Pondick then drew names out of a box to give ‘door prizes’ to the county employees that participated in their fund-raising drive.

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

Upon motion of Commissioner Johnny Grant, seconded by Commissioner Jeffery 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 9:22 am.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 19th DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2024.**

Upon motion of Commissioner Craig Inzer, seconded by Commissioner Jeffery 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 call the Etowah County Commission Meeting back to order at 9:30 am.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 19th DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2024.**

**OLD BUSINESS:** None.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

Upon 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 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 November 13, 2024, of the Etowah County Commission be, and the same are hereby, approved as written.
- B. The Proposed Agenda for November 19, 2024.
- C. There were no reported financial transactions.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 19th DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2024.**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Upon the motion of Commissioner Jeffery Washington, 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 approve the Resolution Ratifying and Authorizing an Amendment to the Articles of Incorporation for West Etowah County Water Authority to increase the number of directors from three to five, effective March 1, 2025. A copy of the Resolution is filed in Attachment Book 14, Page 102.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 19th DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2024.**

Upon the motion of Commissioner Washington, 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 appoint Mr. Gene Paul Proctor to the West Etowah County Water Authority to fill a newly created position. This appointment will be effective March 1, 2025, and the term will expire March 31, 2031.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 19th DAY OF NOVEMBER, 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 have the First Reading to appoint Mr. Jacob Gaul to the West Etowah County Water Authority to fill a newly created position. This appointment will be effective March 1, 2025, and the term will expire March 31, 2031.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 19th DAY OF NOVEMBER, 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 by the majority present at the meeting:

To have the First Reading to appoint Mr. Pat Yancy to the West Etowah County Water Authority to replace Mr. James Golden. This will be effective March 1, 2025, and the term will expire February 28, 2031.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 19th DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2024.**

Upon the motion of Commissioner Washington, 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 approve a transfer of \$150,000 from Opioid Funds for FY 25 to the District Attorney's Office as outlined in D. A. Willoughby's request letter dated November 14, 2024. With annual approval of the Commission, the funding will continue through FY29, unless an alternate funding source becomes available. The first payment will occur in November 2024. Additional funding will be distributed on a quarterly basis beginning January 2025. A copy of the letter from the District Attorney is filed in Attachment Book 14, Page 103.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 19th DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2024.**

Upon the motion of Commissioner Johnny Grant, seconded by Commissioner Jeffery 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 agreements regarding the Resurfacing of Old US Hwy 411 from Turkey Town to Cherokee CR-20 and to authorize the Commission President to execute the documents (A copy of the documents is filed in Attachment Book 14, Page 104):

a. The Resolution with the State of Alabama for Project # STPAA-2826; CPMS REF# 100078590, which provides an agreement to resurface Old US-411 from Turkey Town to Cherokee CR-20 and the funding for the project. The estimated cost is \$2,703,265 with a portion coming from STPAA Funds and a portion from State Funds.

b. The Contract and Agreement with the Cherokee County Commission regarding the resurfacing of Old Highway 411 (CR 267) with Etowah County being responsible for 70.12% of the local cost share of the resurfacing and Cherokee County being responsible for 29.88%.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 19th DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2024.**

Upon the motion of Commissioner Johnny Grant, seconded by Commissioner Jeffery 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 an agreement between Etowah County Commissioner Johnny Grant, the Etowah County Board of Education, the City of Hokes Bluff, and Representative Mark Gidley to install 2 school zone warning lights on Appalachian Highway (with one north and one south of Hokes Bluff High School). The cost of removing the old flashing light and installing the new lights is split between all entities; after the installation is complete, any repair, maintenance, or improvement costs in the future will be the obligation of the Etowah County Board of Education. A copy of the agreement is filed in Attachment Book 14, Page 105.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 19th DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2024.**

Upon the motion of Commissioner Washington, 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 approve a change in the Probationary Period for Etowah County employees that will allow an employee to apply for and be selected for a transfer, promotion, or demotion, within the Appointing Authority's or Elected Official's department(s) after six months of employment. The new hire probationary period remains at 12 months. A copy of the change is filed in Attachment Book 14, Page 106.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 19th DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2024.**

Upon the motion of Commissioner Inzer, seconded by Commissioner Jeffery 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 authorize an Executive Session, to discuss pending or threatened litigation after a roll call vote with the majority approving the session. The reason for the session has been certified by the County Attorney, Jim Turnbach, and he will attend the meeting, as well as, Randy McNeill, Sheriff Horton, Keith Peek, Kevin Dollar, Commissioner Statum, Commissioner Johnny Grant, Commissioner Washington, and Commissioner Inzer. The roll call vote – Commissioner Statum – yes; Commissioner Johnny Grant – yes; Commissioner Washington – yes; and Commissioner Inzer – yes.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 19th DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2024.**

Upon the motion of Commissioner Inzer, seconded by Commissioner Jeffery 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 reconvene from Executive Session.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 19th DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2024.**

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

**Chief Administrative Officer** – Shane reminded everyone that we will not meet on November 26<sup>th</sup> and the next meeting will be on Tuesday, December 3, 2024. December 3<sup>rd</sup> will also be the Gadsden Christmas Parade.

**County Engineer**

**County Attorney**

**Other**

#### **DISCUSSION BY COMMISSIONERS**

Commissioner Inzer discussed the roll-offs that are put out quarterly by our residential garbage company (which is Meridian (Arrow) now) and said they had 4 at Whorton Bend this past November 2<sup>nd</sup>. He said he appreciated the citizens using the roll-offs and not just throwing trash on the side of the road. He also said he wants the State (ALDOT) to replace the sod on the side of the road at the Whorton Bend intersection with Hwy 411, where they are working on putting in turn lanes and making other improvements. They are almost finished.

Commissioner Washington thanked everyone for coming to the meeting. He reminded everyone that we will have the Unity Tree Lighting at the Courthouse on Monday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, at 5:30 pm. The three Gadsden City middle school bands will be there. We will also have a 'Ball Drop' on New Year's Eve beginning at 10:30 pm in the Buffalo Wild Wings parking lot. There will be a couple of local bands providing music.

Commissioner Johnny Grant thanked everyone for coming. He said once the lights are completed for Hokes Bluff High School on Appalachian Highway, then all of the schools will have the lights. He thanked Mark Gidley, the City of Hokes Bluff, and the Etowah County Board of Education for helping with the project. He said it should help with safety issues when students and parents are driving to the school.

Commissioner Statum reminded everyone of the CommUnity Thanksgiving on November 28<sup>th</sup> at The Venue and he said to remember they will need volunteers all week to help prepare the food. He said he was thankful to have served Etowah County since 2010 and that he was thankful for new ideas when others came on board. He also said he appreciated all of the efforts and progress at the Megasite and was thankful for the Unity with everyone.

**ADJOURN:** The Chair then entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. Upon motion of Commissioner Inzer, seconded by Commissioner Johnny Grant, with all other members voting “yes”, the motion was passed. The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 am.

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Joey Statum, Commissioner, District 1

**ABSENT**

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Tim Ramsey, President, Commissioner, District 4

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Johnny Grant, Commissioner, District 2

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Jeffery Washington, Commissioner, District 5

**ABSENT**

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Jamie Grant, Commissioner, District 3

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Craig Inzer, Jr., Commissioner, District 6