

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE ETOWAH COUNTY COMMISSION
ETOWAH COUNTY
December 17, 2024**

Commissioner Tim Ramsey called the Commission Meeting to order on the 17th Day of December, 2024 at 9:00 am and Shane Ellison, CAO, 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 4 – Tim Ramsey

District 3 – Jamie Grant

District 5 – Jeffery Washington

District 6 – Craig Inzer

Absent: Johnny Grant – District 2

PUBLIC COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS: None.

AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS, PROCLAMATIONS, OR ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Shane Ellison, CAO, presented three of the principals in the Gadsden City School System with Proclamations for their respective schools to recognize the improvements in their overall school grades. Each school improved by a letter-grade. Principal Charles Parker with Litchfield Middle School, Principal Ali Sullivan with Oscar Adams Elementary School, and Principal Ernest Calloway with Donahoo Elementary School were all commended for their efforts. Commissioner Washington said that the Superintendent was at a Conference and unable to attend. He said he also plans to buy their lunch on Friday.

Commissioner Ramsey presented Shane Ellison, CAO, with his 5-year Certificate of Service and thanked him for the leadership he has provided.

Upon motion of Commissioner Inzer, 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 9:15 am.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 17th DAY OF DECEMBER, 2024.

Upon motion of Commissioner Washington, 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 9:45 am.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 17th DAY OF DECEMBER, 2024.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Upon 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 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 December 3, 2024, of the Etowah County Commission be, and the same are hereby, approved as written.
- B. The Proposed Agenda for December 17, 2024.
- C. There were no Financial Transactions for December 17, 2024.

D. To approve the request of Melissa Lett, Purchasing Accountant, to let new bids for the following:

- a. Street Lights Grant/Project with the City of Gadsden 2.0
- b. Traffic Stripe & Pavement Markers
- c. In Place Plant Mix
- d. Bituminous Surface Treatment

E. To place the name of Graciela Strickland in the Sheriff's Office job slot of Detention Deputy, effective December 9, 2024. This is a replacement to be paid from the Jail Fund, at an hourly rate of \$15.36.

F. To place the name of Krista Taylor in the Sheriff's Office job slot of Dispatcher, effective December 9, 2024. This is replacement to be paid from the Sheriff's Office, General Fund, at an hourly rate of \$14.98.

G. To approve the request of Robert Nail, County Engineer, to hire Franklin Tillman as an Equipment Operator, effective January 6, 2025. This is a replacement to be paid from the Gas Tax Fund, at an hourly rate of \$15.74.

H. To approve the request of Becky Nordgren, Revenue Commissioner, to transfer Kim Jones to Appraisal Clerk, effective December 18, 2024. This is a promotion and a replacement to be paid from the Reappraisal Fund, at an hourly rate of \$14.36.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 17th DAY OF DECEMBER, 2024.

NEW BUSINESS:

Upon the motion of Commissioner Jamie Grant, 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 designating Stephanie Franklin, County Clerk, as the Public Officer of Etowah County to carry out the directives of the Open Records Act, as amended by Act No. 2024-278 and as they pertain to public records in the custody and control of the Commission and to authorize the Commission President to execute the document. A copy of this resolution is filed in Attachment Book 14, Page 109.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 17th DAY OF DECEMBER, 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 Resolution adopting the procedures for accepting Public Records Requests, as recommended by the Public Officer of Etowah County, Stephanie Franklin, County Clerk, and to authorize the Commission President to execute the document. A copy of the forms used is filed in Attachment Book 14, Page 110.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 17th DAY OF DECEMBER, 2024.

Upon the motion of Commissioner Joey 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:

On behalf of the Region 7 Counties, to award the Debris Removal Services contract to DRC Emergency Services, LLC, and to award the Debris Removal Monitoring Services contract to Tetra Tech, Inc., as recommended by the ACCA Joint Bid Consultant after reviewing and evaluating all bids submitted. A copy of the evaluation sheets will be filed in Attachment Book 14, Page 111.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 17th DAY OF DECEMBER, 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:

To approve the Professional Services Contract with G-Squared for aerial photography, triangulation, LIDAR, digital mapping, digital orthophotography, map conversion, and photogrammetry consulting services within the specified area. Also, to authorize the CAO to execute the document. This contract will be in effect through June 20, 2027. A copy has been filed in Attachment Book 14, Page 112.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 17th DAY OF DECEMBER, 2024.

Upon the motion of Commissioner Jamie 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 Master Service Agreement with Lexipol for ‘Annual Corrections Policy Manual & Daily Training Bulletins’ as well as ‘Annual Corrections Supplemental Manuals’ for a total annual cost of \$33,029.60 and to authorize the Etowah County Sheriff to execute the document. A copy of the agreement is filed in Attachment Book 14, Page 113.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 17th DAY OF DECEMBER, 2024.

Upon the motion of Commissioner Inzer, 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 2025 County Agreement for the National Voting Rights Act (NVRA) confirmation mailing process and to authorize the Commission President to execute the document. A copy is filed in Attachment Book 14, Page 114.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 17th DAY OF DECEMBER, 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:

At the recommendation of GMC, to award the Bid for the Northeast Alabama Regional Megasite I-59 Utility Crossing to REV Construction in the amount of \$1,352,520; to authorize the Commission President to execute the contract documents; and to authorize the use of ARPA funds. A copy of this agreement is filed in Attachment Book 14, Page 115.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 17th DAY OF DECEMBER, 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 the following budget amendments for ARPA Funds – Revenue Loss Replacement. The funds are hereby obligated to cover FY25 personnel costs in the listed departments.

ARPA Fund

Increase:

Courthouse Security

Longevity Pay (299.51110-106)	\$90
Salaries & Wages (299.51110-113)	\$102,970
Overtime Pay (299.51110-116)	\$8,323
Health Insurance (299.51110-122)	\$6,500
Social Security/Medicare Taxes (299.51110-124)	\$8,382
Workmen’s Compensation Insurance (299.51110-125)	\$3,645
Dental Insurance (299.51110-141)	\$574

Sheriff’s Office

Longevity Pay (299.52100-106)	\$15,325
County Official’s Pay (299.52100-111)	\$158,395
Salaries & Wages (299.52100-113)	\$3,516,891
Overtime Pay (299.52100-116)	\$223,700
Health Insurance (299.52100-122)	\$830,570
Social Security/Medicare Taxes (299.52100-124)	\$298,736
Workmen’s Compensation Insurance (299.52100-125)	\$122,210
Dental Insurance (299.52100-141)	\$28,726

Jail

Longevity Pay (299.52200-106)	\$13,500
Salaries & Wages (299.52200-113)	\$2,920,203
Overtime Pay (299.52200-116)	\$615,414
Health Insurance (299.52200-122)	\$647,956
Social Security/Medicare Taxes (299.52200-124)	\$288,154
Workmen’s Compensation Insurance (299.52200-125)	\$120,327
Dental Insurance (299.52200-141)	\$29,470

Coroner’s Office

County Official’s Pay (299.52400-111)	\$31,000
Salaries & Wages (299.52400-113)	\$6,000
Social Security / Medicare Taxes (299.52400-124)	\$2,831
Workmen’s Compensation Insurance (299.52400-125)	\$108
	\$10,000,000

Decrease:

ARPA Fund Balance (299.35900)	\$10,000,000
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General Fund

Decrease:

Courthouse Security

Reimbursement – Salaries & Benefits (001.51110-901)	\$130,484
Sheriff's Office	
Reimbursement – Salaries & Benefits (001.52100-901)	\$5,194,553
Jail	
Reimbursement – Salaries & Benefits (001.52200-901)	\$4,635,024
Coroner's Office	
Reimbursement – Salaries & Benefits (001.52400-901)	<u>\$39,939</u>
Increase:	
General Fund Balance (001.35900)	\$10,000,000

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 17th DAY OF DECEMBER, 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 ratify the use of ARPA funds for payment of the following contracts for water and sewer improvements at the NEAR Megasite:

- Goodwyn Mills Cawood - \$2,267,400
- Jordan Excavating Co. - \$2,310,284.08 for SEEDS match (total contract - \$5,397,860)
- APEL Machine and Supply Co. - \$4,938,252.77
- REV Construction, Inc. - \$1,352,520

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 17th DAY OF DECEMBER, 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:

To declare the following as serving a public purpose and eligible to receive public funds:

- a. Old Harmony Cemetery

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 17th DAY OF DECEMBER, 2024.

Upon the motion of Commissioner Jamie 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:

At the request of Representative Craig Lipscomb, to adopt the Resolution expressing opposition to restrictions placed on fishing tournaments on the Coosa River and affirming the commitment to improve local fisheries. A copy of this Resolution is filed in Attachment Book 14, Page 116.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 17th DAY OF DECEMBER, 2024.

Upon the motion of Commissioner Jamie 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:

At the recommendation of Stephen Ward & Associates, to award the negotiated Bid for Courthouse Renovations to Greer Building Contractors in the amount of \$2,041,074, and to authorize the Commission President to execute the contract documents. A copy of this Agreement is filed in Attachment Book 14, Page 117.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 17th DAY OF DECEMBER, 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 declare the following Drug Enforcement Unit vehicles as surplus:

- | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------|
| 2021 Black Chevrolet Tahoe | VIN# 1GNSKLED8MR327030 |
| 2016 Black Dodge Charger | VIN# 2C3CDXAT5GH188379 |
| 2016 White Dodge Charger | VIN# 2C3CDXAT3GH188378 |

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 17th DAY OF DECEMBER, 2024.

REPORTS FROM THE STAFF

Chief Administrative Officer
County Engineer
County Attorney
Other

DISCUSSION BY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Jamie Grant wished everyone a Merry Christmas and said 2025 will be a great year.

Commissioner Washington reminded everyone about the New Year’s Eve “E” Drop which will take place in the Buffalo Wild Wings parking lot and start at 10:30 pm. He said there will be live entertainment and wished everyone a Merry Christmas!

Commissioner Inzer said there were a lot of good things on the agenda today and thanked the Sheriff’s Office for saving money with their contract with Lexipol and making the policy updates and training in the Detention Center. He talked about the NEAR Megasite contract moving forward by working on getting the utilities under the interstate and said we are trying to get more SEED money. He said it’s not fun to have to spend money on building repairs but people don’t want to have to walk around buckets when they come in the building to pay their taxes. He wished everyone to have a safe and Merry Christmas!

Commissioner Statum thanked Shane for being with the County for the last 5 years and thanked him for his efforts. He said Shane is a big part of the positive movement for the County. He said he believes Christmas is about Jesus and family and he asked everyone to keep Lee Freeman and family in their prayers. He said Mr. Freeman is not doing well and talked about the material things he has but is now on hospice.

Shane reminded the Commissioners that we will not meet again until Tuesday, January 7th, 2025.

Commissioner Ramsey wished Robert Nail, Jim Turnbach, and everyone else a Merry Christmas!

ADJOURN: The Chair then entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. Upon motion of Commissioner Jamie Grant, seconded by Commissioner Washington, 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

Jeffery Washington, Commissioner, District 5

Jamie Grant, Commissioner, District 3

Craig Inzer, Jr., Commissioner, District 6