

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE ETOWAH COUNTY COMMISSION  
ETOWAH COUNTY, ALABAMA  
February 2, 2021**

The Etowah County Commission met in a regular meeting on the 2nd Day of February, 2021 at 9:00 am with Commission President Jamie Grant calling the meeting to order. Commissioner Joey Statum asked the Prayer and the Pledge.

**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 W. Grant	District 5 – Jeffery Washington
	District 6 – Craig Inzer

Absent: Johnny Grant, District 2

**PUBLIC HEARING:** None.

Upon motion of Commissioner Joey Statum, seconded by Commissioner Craig 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 recess in order to have a Work Session at 9:05 am.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 2nd DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2021.**

Upon motion of Commissioner Tim Ramsey, seconded by Commissioner Joey 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 after the recess at 9:50 am.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 2nd DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2021**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS:** Harvey Martin brought some paperwork to give the Commissioners concerning his issues with the 501-3c (Sheriff’s Reserves) and wanted to make sure the Commissioners knew he was not suing them.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS FROM ELECTED OFFICIALS AND OTHERS:** None.

**AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS, PROCLAMATION, OR ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**Advanced 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, February 6th, 2021**. 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

**Presentation:** On behalf of all Commissioners, Shane Ellison, CAO, presented a Proclamation and a Plaque to Commissioner Jeffery Washington in recognition of his service as Commission President in 2020. Commissioner Washington thanked everyone for the team effort in accomplishing all they were able to in 2020.

Presentation: Traci Pondick, Director of RSVP, was scheduled to receive her Certificate of Service for 15 years but was unable to attend the meeting today and has been rescheduled for the next meeting.

**CONSENT AGENDA:** Upon motion of Commissioner Jeffery Washington, seconded by Commissioner Joey 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 Meetings dated January 19th, 2021, of the Etowah County Commission be, and the same are hereby approved as written.
- B. The Proposed Agenda for February 2nd, 2021.
- C. Reported Financial Transactions.
- D. To place the name of Jason Pointer, in the Sheriff's Office job slot of Sergeant Detention (Ice) effective January 25, 2021. This is a replacement to be paid from the ICE Fund, at an hourly rate of \$14.62. (This is a promotion).
- E. To place the name of Joseph Andrew Reed, in the Sheriff's Office job slot of Deputy Sheriff, effective January 24, 2021. This is a replacement to be paid from the Sheriff's Office, General Fund, at an hourly rate of \$17.82. (This is a voluntary demotion)
- F. To place the name of Joshua Queen, in the Sheriff's Office job slot of Detention Deputy, effective February 2, 2021. This is a replacement to be paid from the Jail Fund, at an hourly rate of \$12.60
- G. To place the name of Jerry King, in the Sheriff's Office job slot of Detention Deputy, effective January 19, 2021. This is a replacement to be paid from the ICE Fund, at an hourly rate of \$13.91. (This is a voluntary demotion).
- H. To place the name of Jeffrey Britton, in the Sheriff's Office job slot of Detention Deputy, effective February 15, 2021. This is a replacement to be paid from the Jail Fund, at an hourly rate of \$12.60.
- I. To approve the request of Melissa Lett, Purchasing Accountant, to renew **Bid No FY 2018-2019-04 Printing – Letterhead, Envelopes, Forms** with the current vendor, Patterson Printing, for the third and final year as provided for in the original bid.
- J. To approve the request of Melissa Lett, Purchasing Accountant, to renew **Bid No. FY 2018-2019-06 Inmate Uniforms** with the current vendor, Bob Barker Company, for the third and final year as provided for in the original bid.
- K. To approve the request of Melissa Lett, Purchasing Accountant, to request a new bid for a 2021 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 Trail Boss 4x4 for the Coroner.
- L. To approve the request of Melissa Lett, Purchasing Accountant, to award **Bid No. FY 2020-2021-07 Metal & Side Drain Pipe** to Fallin Farms, the lowest bidder.
- M. To approve the request of Mike Powell, Sheriff's Office – Chief of Administrations, to declare the following as surplus:

9 - 2020 Chevy Silverado 1500 P/U - VIN# 3GCUYGEDOLG191501  
3GCUYGRD3LG198510  
3GCUYGRD9LG195319  
3GCUYGED7LG193150  
3GCUYGED3LG194571  
3GCUYGEDXLG196544  
3GCUYGED8LG194050  
3GCUYGRDXLG198391  
1GCUYGED9LZ171683

**PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 2nd DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2021.**

**OLD BUSINESS:** None.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Upon motion of Commissioner Joey Statum, seconded by Commissioner Craig 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:

The First Reading to reappoint Mark Cassidy to the Tillison Bend Water Authority Board of Directors for a new six-year term effective March 1, 2021.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 2nd DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2021.**

Upon motion of Commissioner Joey Statum, 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:

The First Reading to reappoint Tommy Morgan and Leon Young to the Highland Water Authority Board of Directors for a new six-year term effective March 1, 2021.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 2nd DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2021.**

Upon motion of Commissioner Craig Inzer, seconded by Commissioner Joey 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:

The First Reading to reappoint James Gann and Gary Whorton to the Whorton Bend Water Authority Board of Directors for a new six-year term effective March 1, 2021.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 2nd DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2021.**

Upon motion of Commissioner Jeffery Washington, seconded by Commissioner Joey 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:

The First Reading to reappoint Lamar Rosson and Mona Causey to the Big Wills Water Authority Board of Directors for a new six-year term effective March 1, 2021.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 2nd DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2021.**

Upon motion of Commissioner Tim Ramsey, 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:

The First Reading to appoint Dan Campbell Jr., to the West Etowah County Water Authority Board of Directors for a six-year term effective March 1, 2021.

Commissioner Ramsey thanked Mr. Kimbril for his 18 years of service. He said, 'The change was to just get another set of eyes out there. People have complained about water usage.'

**PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 2nd DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2021.**

Upon motion of Commissioner Joey Statum, seconded by Commissioner Tim 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:

The request of Sheriff Jonathon Horton to allow Detention Deputy, James Autwell, to receive catastrophic sick leave donations. This employee has met the eligibility requirements under the program guidelines.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 2nd DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2021.**

Upon motion of Commissioner Jeffery Washington, seconded by Commissioner Tim 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:

The 'Fiscal Year 2021 Certifications and Assurances for Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Assistance' for Rural Transportation and to authorize the Commission President to execute the document. A copy of the 'Certifications and Assurances' form has been filed in Attachment Book 11, Page 094.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 2nd DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2021.**

Upon motion of Commissioner Joey Statum, 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:

The following adjustments to convert operating loans made from the General Fund to the ICE Fund to Operating Transfers effective September 30, 2020:

Increase: General Fund (001.62000-195) Operating Transfers Out – ICE Fund \$1,400,084.16  
ICE Fund (195.62000-001) Operating Transfers In - General Fund \$1,400,084.16

Decrease: General Fund - Due from ICE Fund (001.14100-195) \$1,400,084.16  
ICE Fund – Due to General Fund (195.22000-001) \$1,400,084.16

**PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 2nd DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2021**

**REPORTS FROM THE STAFF:**

**Chief Administrative Officer:** Shane Ellison, CAO, said the Commission had received a 'Thank you' Certificate from the Census Bureau for their help with the 2020 Census.

**County Engineer:** No Report.

**County Attorney:** Jim Turnbach said he felt the Commission Meeting went well using the new format.

**Other:** No Report.

**SCHEDULED PUBLIC HEARINGS:** None

**DISCUSSION BY COMMISSIONERS:**

Commissioner Inzer talked about the Commission and the need to do what they had to do in order to get things done.

Commissioner Washington said we are so busy arguing amongst ourselves that we are getting taken advantage of and that we needed to be prudent. We need to work with others and stand as one voice. If we pull together, we will get respect.

Commissioner Ramsey said the new Legislative Cycle was starting and the main concern is addressing the State Inmates that are being left in the county jails instead of being moved to the state prisons. This is a crisis that needs a resolution because it is costing the counties a lot (due to a change that was made in 2015). All of the counties are on board with this being a priority.

Commissioner Inzer said the Sheriff's Association was still waiting on reimbursements from the overcrowded jails. We have one of the largest jails in the state and currently have 242 state inmates in the county jail that should have been moved. The problem is the judicial system making deals and that is the reason Gadsden is overrun with drugs and people selling body parts. The Sheriff said he didn't have enough people to clean up Gadsden. He said he received copies of all of the reimbursements that had been made.

Commissioner Statum aid that Deborah is sending a name and a number of who everyone needed to call regarding the vaccine. Then we can take the next step. He thanked everyone for coming and also thanked the Sheriff and department heads.

Commissioner Jamie Grant thanked Ms. Bohannon from the Gadsden Messenger and the representative from the Gadsden Times for coming to the meeting.

Kevin Dollar said they just needed to keep in contact with the Legislative delegates regarding the CARES ACT money and the vaccine. He said the county had filed claims with FEMA on Covid and we were still waiting to get that reimbursement from last summer. We are also still waiting on money from FEMA for the tornado damage last spring.

The Sheriff said we needed to continue to pray for the county and we just have to love people and be aggressive. He said he was planning to meeting with other Sheriff's regarding issues and we just needed to learn from things that happen and move on. We are moving in the right direction.

**ADJOURN:** The Chair then entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. Upon motion of Commissioner Joey Statum, seconded by Commissioner Tim Ramsey, with all other members voting "yes", the motion was passed. The meeting was adjourned at 10:17 am.

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Joey Statum, Commissioner, District 1

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Tim Ramsey, Commissioner, District 4

**ABSENT**

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Johnny Grant, Commissioner, District 2

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Jeffery Washington, Commissioner, District 5

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Jamie W. Grant, President, Commissioner, District 3

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Craig Inzer, Jr., Commissioner, District 6