

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE ETOWAH COUNTY COMMISSION
ETOWAH COUNTY, ALABAMA
September 7, 2021**

Commissioner Jamie Grant called the meeting to order on the 7th Day of September, 2021 at 9:00 am with Commissioner Jeffery Washington asking the Prayer and leading 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 2 – Johnny Grant

District 3 – Jamie Grant

District 5 – Jeffery Washington

District 6 – Craig Inzer

Absent: Tim Ramsey – District 4

PUBLIC HEARING: None.

PUBLIC COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS: None.

PUBLIC COMMENTS FROM ELECTED OFFICIALS AND OTHERS: Probate Judge, Scott Hassell, said the extension of Whitesboro Cemetery required the Commission and Probate to work together. The Health Department approved areas 1 & 2 but areas 3 – 8 were not approved. The request was amended and the Probate Office recommends approval. He also updated everyone on the Mental Health Committee. They have an RFP that is being reviewed by an attorney so that is moving forward. He also discussed an issue his department has with the business license for Real Estate Salesmen. The license is not applied consistently. There was a change in 2018 and they started making real estate agents pay based on their sales or the maximum amount (which is \$300). Everyone paid the same amount prior to 2018. He is just wondering if they should handle it the same way they handle the car salesmen since they also sell to people that live in other locations. They pay \$70. He recommended they go back to however it was prior to 2018 when it was working better because he believes now we have more people that are non-compliant. He also said many people have a license but are not conducting business and the Real Estate Board can give the Probate Office information to let them know who is actually selling. The cost is anywhere from \$50 to \$300 for the County portion at this time. Linda Barrett-Vaughan said realtors also pay a Business License Fee to the municipality based on where their broker is located.

AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS, PROCLAMATIONS, OR ANNOUNCEMENTS: Shane Ellison presented Debbie Morris with a Certificate of Service for 15 years. He thanked her for all she does for the Commission Office.

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 recess in order to have a Work Session at 9:22 am.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 7th DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2021.

Upon motion of Commissioner Statum, 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 call the Etowah County Commission Meeting back to order after the recess at 9:35 am.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 7th DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2021.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

Consent Agenda:

Upon 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 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 August 17, 2021, of the Etowah County Commission be, and the same are hereby approved as written.

B. The Proposed Agenda for September 7, 2021.

- C. Reported Financial Transactions. A copy of the Cash Disbursements and Online Transfers for August, 2021 has been filed in Attachment Book 12, Page 008.
- D. To place the following names in the Sheriff's Office job slots of Detention Deputy. These are replacements to be paid from the ICE Fund, at an hourly rate of \$14.98:
1. Dale Childress effective September 13, 2021.
 2. Kelona Powell effective September 7, 2021.
 3. Cody Godfrey effective September 13, 2021.
 4. Bayleigh Smith effective August 30, 2021.
 5. Christopher Yates effective August 23, 2021.
 6. Nicholas Deerman effective September 7, 2021.
- E. To place the name of Eryck Moore in the Sheriff's Office job slot of Detention Deputy, effective August 23, 2021. This is a replacement to be paid from the Jail Fund, at an hourly rate of \$14.98.
- F. To place the name of Jordan Lasseter in the Sheriff's Office job slot of Admin Technician/Dispatcher, effective September 13, 2021. This is a replacement to be paid from the Sheriff's Office, General Fund, at an hourly rate of \$10.87.
- G. To place the name of Joseph Isbell in the Sheriff's Office job slot of School Resource Officer, effective August 16, 2021. This is a replacement to be paid from the Sheriff's Office, General Fund, at an hourly rate of \$18.71.
- H. To place the name of Michael Eric Johns in the Sheriff's Office job slot of Temporary Deputy Sheriff (Certified), effective September 5, 2021. This is a replacement to be paid from the Sheriff's Office, General Fund, at an hourly rate of \$13.92.
- I. To place the name of Rodney Rylander in the Sheriff's Office job slot of Temporary Part-time Deputy Sheriff (up to 29 hours), effective August 30, 2021. This is a replacement to be paid from the Courthouse Security Fund, at an hourly rate of \$13.92.
- J. To approve the request of Linda Barrett-Vaughan, Revenue Commissioner, to hire the following as Revenue – Tag and Title Clerks. These are new hires and replacements to be paid from the General - Revenue Fund, at an hourly rate of \$10.87:
1. Portia Powell effective September 13, 2021.
 2. Jared Austin Reynolds effective September 7, 2021.
 3. Traci Kopec effective September 7, 2021.
- K. To approve the request of Linda Barrett-Vaughan, Revenue Commissioner, to hire Alexis Bonds as Revenue Collections Clerk, effective September 7, 2021. This is a new hire and a replacement to be paid from the General - Revenue Fund, at an hourly rate of \$10.87.
- L. To approve the request of Linda Barrett-Vaughan, Revenue Commissioner, to hire Lana Barnes as a Mapping Clerk, effective September 7, 2021. This is a transfer and a replacement to be paid from the Reappraisal Fund, at an hourly rate of \$11.70.
- M. To approve the request of Linda Barrett-Vaughan, Revenue Commissioner, to hire Sonya Johnson as Title Specialist, effective September 7, 2021. This is a promotion and a replacement to be paid from the General - Revenue Fund, at an hourly rate of \$13.57.
- N. To approve the request of Linda Barrett-Vaughan, Revenue Commissioner, to hire Glenda Justus as a Temporary Revenue Assessing Clerk, effective October 1, 2021. This is a Temporary position to be paid from the General – Revenue Fund, at an hourly rate of \$10.87.
- O. To approve the request of Melissa Lett, Purchasing Accountant, to let a new bid for Aggregate.
- P. To approve the request of Melissa Lett, Purchasing Accountant, to award **Bid No FY 2020-2021-20 RAA Grant – US 431 at Mountainboro VFD Crossover to Vulcan Materials Asphalt & Construction, the lowest, responsible, complete bidder.**
- Q. To approve the request of Melissa Lett, Purchasing Accountant, to renew **Bid No FY 2018-2019-12 Filters – Fuel, Air, Oil, & Hydraulic to Tractor & Equipment and The Parts House** for a third and final year, as provided for in the original bid.
- R. To approve the request of Melissa Lett, Purchasing Accountant, to let a new bid for Janitorial Supplies.
- S. To declare the property located at 3200 W Meighan Blvd, Gadsden, AL 35904 as surplus.
- T. To approve the Warranty Deed to grant Etowah County Master Gardeners Association, Inc., additional property at their location so they will own access to their property. A Description of the property is attached. A copy of the Warranty Deed has been filed in Attachment Book 12, Page 009.

- U. To approve the ‘Intergovernmental Agreement Between City of Gadsden Transportation Department, The Etowah County Transportation Services, and The City of Gadsden/Etowah County Emergency Management Agency, regarding the use of Transportation Equipment and Personnel; and to authorize the Commission President to execute the document. A copy of this Agreement has been filed in Attachment Book 12, Page 010.
- V. To approve the request of Kevin Dollar, Deputy Administrator/CFO, to make the following Budget Amendments to pay for ½ of the Motor Vehicle Limited Paperwork Scanning Solution Software with scanners to be purchased from Delta Computer Systems:

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| <u>Increase:</u> | |
| Operating Transfer Out – Revenue Commissioner Discretionary Funds (001.62000-143) | \$14,663 |
| <u>Increase:</u> | |
| Ad Valorem Taxes – Motor Vehicles (001.40000.41112-001) | \$14,663 |
| <u>Increase:</u> | |
| Operating Transfer In- General Fund (143.61000-001) | \$14,663 |
| <u>Increase:</u> | |
| Fund Balance (143.15900.00) | \$14,663 |

(These Amendments represent transferring the General Fund’s portion to the Revenue Commissioner’s Discretionary Funds for the total invoice to be paid from the Revenue Commissioner’s Discretionary Fund due to the installation completion date falling after September 30, 2021.)

- W. To approve the ‘Proposal for Delta’s Motor Vehicle Limited PaperLink™ Scanning Solution with Scanners Agreement’ for the Revenue Department, Tags and Titles. A copy of the Agreement has been filed in Attachment Book 12, Page 011.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 7th DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2021.

NEW BUSINESS:

Upon motion of Commissioner Inzer, 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:

The Final Reading and Approval to reappoint Jaurus Rawls to the Etowah County Communications District Board for a four year term.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 7th DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2021.

Upon motion of Commissioner Washington, 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:

The Final Reading and Approval to reappoint Tim Crow to the Etowah County Communications District Board for a four year term.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 7th DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2021.

Upon motion of Commissioner Statum, 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:

The Final Reading and Approval to appoint Scott Reeves to the Etowah County Communications District Board for a four year term (to replace Michael Barton).

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 7th DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2021.

Upon motion of Commissioner Washington, 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 with Commissioner Statum requesting ‘the First Reading be waived and this Reading is the Final Reading and Approval’ and all Commissioners agreed with the change:

To Waive the First Reading and to have the Final Reading and Approval to reappoint Kevin Dollar and Robert Turk to the Etowah Gadsden Health Care Authority through December 22, 2025. They are current members, appointed by the Etowah County Commission, and wish to continue to serve on the Board.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 7th DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2021.

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:

Authorizing the Chief Administrative Officer to execute a written agreement with the Alabama Department of Commerce, after its receipt and review by the County Attorney.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 7th DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2021.

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:

The Long Term Detention Subsidy Contract with the Alabama Department of Youth Services (for FY October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2022); to designate Coosa Valley Detention as our Detention Center to receive funds; and to authorize the Commission President to execute the document.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 7th DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2021.

Upon motion of Commissioner Statum, 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:

Authorize Shane Ellison, CAO, to submit a “Letter of Intent” on behalf of the Commission to purchase new equipment for the Road Department with delivery in February 2022.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 7th DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2021.

Upon motion of Commissioner Washington, 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:

The application to extend Whitesboro Baptist Church Cemetery, which has been reviewed by the Probate Court of Etowah County, Alabama, and meets the required qualifications for this extension.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 7th DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2021.

REPORTS FROM THE STAFF:

- Chief Administrative Officer:** No Report.
- County Engineer:** No Report.
- County Attorney:** No Report.
- Other:** No Report.

DISCUSSION BY COMMISSIONERS:

Commissioner Inzer said he was glad they were able to hire more deputies for the jail since they were short on help. He hoped everyone had a good weekend and there was a lot of people on the river.

Commissioner Washington thanked everyone for coming to the meeting.

Commissioner Johnny Grant said to remember everyone in their prayers; we have so many sick with Covid and to also pray for those in Afghanistan especially the Americans trying to get home.

Commissioner Statum said we needed to get aggressive with getting water and sewer to the Megasite. He said the site is very critical for Etowah County and Northeast Alabama. He also said he wanted to move forward on redistricting as soon as they could because he knows Sardis & Southside grew even though the County dropped a little.

Shane Ellison said he had contacted East Alabama multiple times and they wouldn’t call back. He said we would move forward as soon as possible.

Commissioner Jamie Grant said he was glad to see the number of the deputies working at the jail improving and that we were making headway with that. He also asked everyone to pray for the leadership in the White House and the things that are happening overseas. Also, pray for the people that have Covid or have a sick family member.

ADJOURN: The Chair then entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. Upon motion of Commissioner Washington, seconded by Commissioner Grant with all other members voting “yes”, the motion was passed. The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 am.

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| <hr/> Joey Statum, Commissioner, District 1 | <hr/> Tim Ramsey, Commissioner, District 4 |
| <hr/> Johnny Grant, Commissioner, District 2 | <hr/> Jeffery Washington, Commissioner, District 5 |
| <hr/> Jamie W. Grant, President, Commissioner, District 3 | <hr/> Craig Inzer, Jr., Commissioner, District 6 |

