

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE ETOWAH COUNTY COMMISSION
ETOWAH COUNTY, ALABAMA
FEBRUARY 22, 2022**

Commissioner Johnny Grant called the meeting to order on the 22nd Day of February, 2022 at 9:00 am with Commissioner Ramsey 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 4 – Tim Ramsey
District 5 – Jeffery Washington
District 6 - Craig Inzer

Absent: Jamie Grant – District 3

PUBLIC COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS: None.

PUBLIC COMMENTS FROM ELECTED OFFICIALS AND OTHERS:

Shane Ellison, CAO, made a statement to brief the Commission regarding an issue that occurred on Tuesday, February 8th, between two Etowah County employees and an employee serving in one of the state offices housed in the courthouse. During the course of eating lunch, the state employee had occasion to converse with the two county employees and made a comment to and about the county employees that would qualify as both discriminatory and offensive. Shane outlined the actions that had been taken up to this point and the future training to be conducted with all employees. He also stated that “The Etowah County Commission does not and will not tolerate verbal or physical conduct by any supervisor, employee, customer, or visitor that harasses any employee of the Etowah County Commission, disrupts or interferes with an employee’s work performance, or creates an intimidating, offensive, or hostile environment.” This statement is from the Etowah County Policy Manual. A complete copy of the Statement has been filed in Attachment Book 12, Page 55.

Harvey Martin discussed the upcoming events in Attalla, such as the Easter Egg Hunt and the Demolition Derby Cancer Fundraiser.

Eric Wright with the Extension Office reviewed the upcoming events including a Diabetes Empowerment Education Program every Thursday in March from 10:30 to noon at the Extension Office and a Professional Chainsaw Safety Workshop on Friday, March 18th at the Sand Mountain Research & Experiment Station (Crossville). He also encouraged people to give to the Etowah County 4-H Scholarship Program which now allows you to donate with your phone by sending a text and there will be a workshop for managing sports fields soon.

Angela Anders with RAM (Remote Area Medical) which is a Free Remote Area Medical Clinic taking place April 22-24 at Gadsden City High School gave a status update to the Commission. Originally scheduled for 2020, the event was postponed due to the COVID Pandemic. Ms. Anderson said they still have their funds from the Commission and are now looking for healthcare professionals to volunteer to help with the program. There will be COVID protocols in place and will have free dental, medical, and vision for everyone that shows up (on a first come first serve basis).

AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS, PROCLAMATIONS, OR ANNOUNCEMENTS: None.

Upon motion of Commissioner Inzer, seconded by Commissioner 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:

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

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 22nd DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2022.

Upon motion of Commissioner Washington, seconded by Commissioner 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:

To call the Etowah County Commission Meeting back to order at 9:52 am.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 22nd DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2022

OLD BUSINESS: None.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Upon motion of Commissioner Ramsey 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 February 1, 2022, of the Etowah County Commission be, and the same are hereby approved as written.
- B. The Proposed Agenda for February 22, 2022
- C. Reported Financial Transactions. A copy of the Cash Disbursements, Online Transfers, and Credit Card Purchases for January are filed in Attachment Book 12, Page 56.
- D. To approve the request of Melissa Lett, Purchasing Accountant, to let a new bid for In Place Plant Mix.
- E. To approve the request of Melissa Lett, Purchasing Accountant, to let a new bid for Traffic Stripe & Pavement Markers.
- F. To declare the following as surplus as requested by Robert Nail, County Engineer:

Equipment	VIN#	Asset#
Caterpillar Dozer	00D6KLRST01120	9992
Caterpillar Excavator	ERL00172	10002
Caterpillar Backhoe	JRDF00728	9997
Caterpillar Backhoe	CRDF00780	9998
Caterpillar Backhoe	HRDF00784	9996
Caterpillar Backhoe	ERDF00785	10001
Caterpillar Wheel Loader	SWL03918	9993
Caterpillar Integrated Tool Camer	JSWL04069	9994
Caterpillar Motor Grader	KN9M00151	10004
Caterpillar Intergrated Tool Camer	SWL04054	9995
Caterpillar Motor Grader	JN9M00152	9999
Caterpillar Motor Grader	JN9M00149	10005
Caterpillar Excavator	F2W00268	10007
Caterpillar Motor Grader	PN9M00150	10006
Caterpillar Excavator	F2W00269	10008

- G. To place the name of Joshua Duncan in the Sheriff's Office job slot of Detention Deputy, effective February 21, 2022. This is a replacement to be paid from the Jail Fund, at an hourly rate of \$14.98.
- H. To place the name of Araceli Sanchez in the Sheriff's Office job slot of Detention Deputy, effective February 7, 2022. This is a replacement to be paid from the Jail Fund, at an hourly rate of \$14.98.
- I. To place the name of Eryck Moore in the Sheriff's Office job slot of Detention Deputy, effective February 7, 2022. This is a replacement to be paid from the Jail Fund, at an hourly rate of \$14.98.
- J. To place the name of Jerry King in the Sheriff's Office job slot of Specialist, effective February 7, 2022. This is a promotion and a replacement to be paid from the Jail Fund, at an hourly rate of \$15.74.
- K. To place the name of Jeffrey Parker Riggs in the Sheriff's Office job slot of Deputy Sheriff/Trainee, effective February 14, 2022. This is a replacement to be paid from the Sheriff's Office, General Fund, at an hourly rate of \$14.62.
- L. To place the name of Logan Lafollette in the Sheriff's Office job slot of Deputy Sheriff/Trainee, effective February 28, 2022. This is a replacement to be paid from the Sheriff's Office, General Fund, at an hourly rate of \$14.62.
- M. To place the name of Mark D Harris in the Sheriff's Office job slot of Part Time Deputy Security, effective February 18, 2022. This is a part-time replacement to be paid from the Courthouse Security Fund, at an hourly rate of \$15.36.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 22nd DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2022

NEW BUSINESS:

Upon motion of Commissioner Washington, seconded by Commissioner 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 Protective Maintenance Agreement with Bagby for the Hydraulic Passenger Elevator at the building located at 401 Broad Street in Gadsden, AL (Board of Education Building), and to authorize the CAO to execute the document. Bagby is the current service provider authorized through sealed bid and subsequent contract award. A copy of this agreement has been filed in Attachment Book 12, Page 57.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 22nd DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2022.

Upon motion of Commissioner Tim Ramsey, 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:

The Resolution authorizing Rural Transportation to enter into Third Party Agreements with the following: Access 2 Care, Medicaid, Smeltzer Center, Sickle Cell Foundation, and Legacy Trust. Also, to approve the Agreements with Central Alabama Sickle Cell Foundation and Legacy Trust Advisors, relative to transportation services, and to authorize the Commission President to execute the documents. A copy of this Resolution has been filed in Attachment Book 12, Page 58.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 22nd DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2022.

Upon motion of Commissioner Washington, seconded by Commissioner 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 Resolution that will give authority to the Etowah County CAO and the Commission President, in coordination with the Probate Judge and the Revenue Commissioner, to close the County Courthouse and Revenue Commission Satellite offices when absolutely necessary. A copy of this Resolution has been filed in Attachment Book 12, Page 59.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 22nd DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2022.

Upon motion of Commissioner Inzer, seconded by Commissioner 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 Resolution opposing Senate Bill 157, which (if passed) will cause significant damage to county roads and bridges by removing existing weight restrictions, recommended by engineering professionals nationwide, to allow logging trucks to transport an increased weight of almost 100,000 pounds per trip on public roads and bridges. A copy of this Resolution has been filed in Attachment Book 12, Page 60.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 22nd DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2022.

Upon motion of Commissioner Ramsey, 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 Master Service Agreement with Vital Records Control for Records Storage and Services for a monthly standard fee and also sets the service fees. (This replaces the agreement with File Depot / Observer due to the business changing names.). A copy of this Agreement has been filed in Attachment Book 12, Page 61.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 22nd DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2022.

Upon motion of Commissioner Statum, seconded by Commissioner 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 Proposal for Voter Registration Maps with Southeaster GIS Services and to authorize the CAO to execute the document. A copy of the Agreement has been filed in Attachment Book 12, Page 62. (As discussed, this agreement was \$10,000 up front cost with an hourly fee charged for updates as needed but no annual fee.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 22nd DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2022.

Upon motion of Commissioner Ramsey, seconded by Commissioner Statum, with all other members voting "yes", the following resolution was added and adopted (All Commissioners agreed to add this as a late item to the agenda):

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ETOWAH COUNTY COMMISSION: That the following item was approved:

The following budget amendment: (These funds are to be used for paving only)

Gasoline Tax Fund

Increase: Road Construction Supplies (111.53100-213)	\$200,000
Increase: Operating Transfer In from General Fund (111.61000-111)	\$200,000

General Fund

Increase: Operating Transfer Out to Gasoline Tax Fund (001.62000-111)	\$200,000
Decrease: Funding Balance (001.35900)	\$200,000

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 22nd DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2022.

Upon motion of Commissioner Inzer, seconded by Commissioner 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:

To authorize two Executive Sessions with one to discuss safety and security and a second session to discuss threatened and pending litigation, after a roll call vote with the majority approving the session. The County Attorney, Jim Turnbach, determined the reason for this meeting as meeting the criteria allowed. The Commission went into Executive Session at 10:15 am. District 1 – yes; District 2 – yes; District 4 – yes; District 5 – yes; and District 6 – yes. The first meeting will have the Commissioners, the Sheriff, Keith Peek, Shane Ellison, Kevin Dollar, and Jim Turnbach and the second meeting will have the Commissioners, Robert Nail, Jim Turnbach, Shane, and Kevin.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 22nd DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2022

Upon motion of Commissioner Ramsey, 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 reconvene from Executive Session.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 22nd DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2022

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 talked about the trash service and wanted to know where we stand on bidding that out. Shane said Mr. Gamble was reviewing the bid specs and it shouldn't be long now. They also discussed how the inmates had been picking up 12,500 pounds of trash in a month and he thanked the Sheriff for that service. He also discussed the Atrip meeting in Guntersville, And the Whorton Bend project moving forward. He said the RAM program is a big deal and he hoped they had a lot of volunteers. They will see over 1,000 people in two days.

Commissioner Washington thanked everyone for coming and said the RAM project is important and he asked everyone to get the word out to all of the citizens.

Commissioner Ramsey thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and he asked Eric Wright for more details about the Diabetes Education. The meeting is every Thursday in March at the Extension Office. They will be putting flyers on the doctor's Office. It's limited to 15 people. He also asked Eric about the 4- H Scholarships (for more information) and Eric said he would bring flyers down on that. He thanked Harvey Martin for all of his Community information regarding Attalla and keeping everyone informed. He said he was excited about the RAM event and he also thanked the Family Success Center and said they were setting up a food pantry at West End High School. He also thanked everyone for working together on the road money.

Commissioner Statum said he agrees with that all has been said.

Commissioner Grant said there's got to be a way to get the word out to the county and other municipalities about the grant that's available to them through United Way with money the county received in a grant

ADJOURN: The Chair then entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. Upon motion of Commissioner Statum, seconded by Commissioner Washington, with all other members voting “yes”, the motion was passed. The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 am.

Joey Statum, Commissioner, District 1

Tim Ramsey, Commissioner, District 4

Johnny Grant, President, Commissioner, District 2

Jeffery Washington, Commissioner, District 5

ABSENT

Jamie W. Grant, Commissioner, District 3

Craig Inzer, Jr., Commissioner, District 6