

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE ETOWAH COUNTY COMMISSION
ETOWAH COUNTY, ALABAMA
APRIL 5, 2022**

Commissioner Johnny Grant called the meeting to order on the 5th Day of April, 2022 at 9:00 am with Commissioner Washington asking the Prayer and leading the Pledge to the Flag.

CALL OF ROLL TO ESTABLISH A QUORUM: The following 6 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 4 – Tim Ramsey
District 5 – Jeffery Washington
District 6 – Craig Inzer

PUBLIC COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS: Four citizens signed up to speak about the access road for Tillison Bend Campground. This is an RV Park that either has or plans to have about 15 acres, utilities, store, covered storage, and laundry. The Engineer is requiring the owner to widen the road before it is approved due to large boats, recreational vehicles (RV's / Campers) using the road so they will be able to pass each other without an issue. Those attending the meeting include Bert Boykin (with Evans & Evans Law Firm), Ron Crocker, and Joey Fortenberry. They just felt it wasn't fair to put the burden on one property owner. Ron Crocker was the engineer consultant and he studied the traffic impact analysis for the campground and said the existing residential area (including the projected future usage by residential) already was more than capacity for the road even without the campground and the campground would only add a couple of additional vehicles a day. Joey Fortenberry said he was trying to open a business on property that began as a trash pile when he bought it. He said he hauled off the junk and plans to put a Camper & RV Storage facility and then get the RV or Camper out when the person is planning to come and set it up for them.

Also, James Collins was there to discuss a drainage issue that he has been trying to get someone to fix for many years.

PUBLIC COMMENTS FROM ELECTED OFFICIALS AND OTHERS: None.

AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS, PROCLAMATIONS, OR ANNOUNCEMENTS: Dr. Kathy Murphy, Gadsden State Community College President, was at the meeting with several members of her staff to discuss some upcoming improvements and for the Commission to present her with a Proclamation in recognition of Community College Month.

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 9:25 am.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 5th DAY OF APRIL, 2022.

Upon motion of Commissioner Jamie 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 call the Etowah County Commission Meeting back to order at 9:40 am.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 5th DAY OF APRIL, 2022.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Upon motion of Commissioner Statum seconded by Commissioner Ramsey, 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 March 1, 2022 of the Etowah County Commission be, and the same are hereby approved as written. (The Minutes for the meeting on March 15, 2022 will be approved in the meeting on April 19, 2022).
- B. The Proposed Agenda for April 5, 2022
- C. Reported Financial Transactions. A copy of the Cash Disbursements and Online Transfers for March of 2022 and a copy of the Credit Card Purchases for January through March, 2022 have been filed in Attachment Book 12, Page 71.
- D. To approve the request of Melissa Lett, Purchasing Accountant, to let a new bid for Rebuild Alabama – Steele Station and Pleasant Valley Road – Patching and Base Repairs. (These are two of the roads that were approved in the Transportation Plan).
- E. To approve the request of Melissa Lett, Purchasing Accountant, to award Bid No FY 2021-2022-12 Traffic Stripe & Pavement Markers to Highway Management, the lowest, responsible bidder.
- F. To approve the request of Melissa Lett, Purchasing Accountant, to award Bid No FY 2021-2022-08 Bituminous Surface Treatment to Charles E. Watts, Inc., the only bidder.
- G. To approve the request of Melissa Lett, Purchasing Accountant, to award Bid No FY 2021-2022-11 In Place Plant Mix to Vulcan Materials and Wiregrass Construction, the lowest, responsible bidders.
- H. To approve the request of Melissa Lett, Purchasing Accountant, to renew Bid No FY 2021-2022-13 Miscellaneous Tax Forms – Revenue with the current vendor, American Solutions for Business, as provided for in the original bid. This is the 3rd and final year for renewal.
- I. To approve the request of Melissa Lett, Purchasing Accountant, to let a new bid for Little Canoe Creek Phase II.
- J. To approve the Agreement with GMC for Engineering Design Services for the US 411 & Whorton Bend Road Intersection Improvement Project for a base fee of \$75,900. Additional options with fees are listed in the agreement if needed. A copy of the Agreement has been filed in Attachment Book 12, Page 72.
- K. To approve change orders totaling \$300,431.39 for the contract with Hudak Construction Company for Renovations for Etowah County Board of Education at 401 Broad Street. See attached spreadsheet for itemization. A copy of these change orders has been filed in Attachment Book 12, Page 73.
- L. To approve the request of Robert Nail, County Engineer, to declare the RM-250C Caterpillar Reclaimer 2003 Model as surplus and to purchase a RM400 Reclaimer as a replacement. There are enough funds in the Budget approved in September 2021 (for equipment rotation) to cover the cost.
- M. To approve the request of Kevin Dollar, Deputy Administrator, to declare the following as surplus:
 - 1 - iPad Apple Pro 4th Generation 12.9 inch Tablet
- N. To place the name of Colin Peterson in the Sheriff’s Office job slot of Detention Deputy, effective March 21, 2022. This is a replacement to be paid from the Jail Fund, at an hourly rate of \$14.98.
- O. To place the name of Justin Brannen in the Sheriff’s Office job slot of Detention Deputy, effective March 21, 2022. This is a replacement to be paid from the Jail Fund, at an hourly rate of \$14.98.
- P. To place the name of Tyler Young in the Sheriff’s Office job slot of Deputy Sheriff (Certified), effective April 4, 2022. This is a replacement to be paid from the Sheriff’s Office, General Fund, at an hourly rate of \$15.36.
- Q. To place the name of Trenton Green in the Sheriff’s Office job slot of Deputy Sheriff (Certified), effective April 4, 2022. This is a replacement to be paid from the Sheriff’s Office, General Fund, at an hourly rate of \$15.36.
- R. To approve the request of Becky Nordgren, Revenue Commissioner, to hire Karen Garrison as a Revenue Tag & Title Clerk, effective April 5, 2022. This is a replacement to be paid from the Revenue - General Fund, at an hourly rate of \$12.00.
- S. To approve the request of Robert Nail, County Engineer, to hire Blake Hamilton as an Equipment Operator, effective April 5, 2022. This is a replacement to be paid from the Gas Tax Fund, at an hourly rate of \$13.24.
- T. To approve the request of Robert Nail, County Engineer, to promote Collin Sims to a Heavy Equipment Operator, effective April 5, 2022. This promotion will be paid from the Gas Tax Fund, at an hourly rate of \$14.62.
- U. To approve the request of Robert Nail, County Engineer, to promote Rodney McCoy to a Heavy Equipment Operator, effective April 5, 2022. This promotion will be paid from the Gas Tax Fund, at an hourly rate of \$15.74.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 5th DAY OF APRIL, 2022.

NEW BUSINESS:

Upon motion of Commissioner Jamie 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:

The Final Reading and Approval to appoint Margarete Fuhrman to the Etowah County Department of Human Resources Board. Margarete Fuhrman will replace Jean Foster, who tendered her resignation from the Board. This is for a six-year term.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 5th DAY OF APRIL, 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 Final Reading and Approval for ABC License Application Type 060- Retail Table Wine (ON or OFF Premises) for applicant AHAVA SPRINGS LLC (David Anthony Carrell) under the trade name, AHAVA SPRINGS WINERY, located at 954 Sumatanga Road, Gallant, AL 35972.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 5th DAY OF APRIL, 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 approve the contract renewal for maintenance on the ArcGIS Enterprise Desktop Software from April 1, 2022 through March 31, 2023 with Esri (Environmental Systems Research Institute) for Software used in the Revenue Department at an annual cost of \$15,000; Also, to authorize the CAO to execute the document. A copy of this Agreement has been filed in Attachment Book 12, Page 74.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 5th DAY OF APRIL, 2022.

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:

In accordance with Section 45-28-241.26 of the Code of Alabama, to authorize an increase in the mail order fee for mailing tags in order to reflect the increase from the United States Post Office. Under this resolution, the new fee shall not exceed \$5 per piece. Decals shall continue to be mailed at the current rate of \$2 per piece.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 5th DAY OF APRIL, 2022.

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 approve the contract with River Region Psychiatry Associates for Community Mental Health Officer Services subject to final review by the county attorney, and to authorize the CAO to execute the document. A copy of this Agreement has been filed in Attachment Book 12, Page 75.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 5th DAY OF APRIL, 2022.

Upon motion of Commissioner Statum, 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 authorize two Execute Sessions with the first to discuss business and commerce and the second to discuss good name and character, after a roll call vote with the majority approving the session. The County Attorney confirmed the meetings qualified to be execute sessions. Joining the Commissioners will be Rod Kanter with Bradley, Arrant, etc., Shane, Kevin, Jim Turnbach, and two representatives from Rainbow City. District 1 – yes; District 2 – yes; District 3 – yes; District 4 – yes; District 5 – yes; and District 6. The Commissioners went into Execute Session at 10:05 am.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 5th DAY OF APRIL, 2022

Upon motion of Commissioner Jamie Grant, 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 reconvene from Executive Session at 11:00 am.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 5th DAY OF APRIL, 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 Tim Ramsey thanked Mr. Collins for coming with his concerns and told him he would check on the issues he was having with drainage. Tim discussed the article in today's paper about the Animal Shelter setting up mobile spay / neuter in the county. He acknowledged the City of Gadsden for donating a building to Huckabee's Hope as a place to keep the animal until they can be adopted. He thanked Harvey for being here and for the upcoming Easter Egg Hunt.

Eric Wright said they have the Pig Squeal Show & Auction on April 23rd and they need sponsors.

Commissioner Jeffery Washington thanked everyone for being here and said his heart was broken about something that happened in this building by a State Employee so we said we couldn't do anything about it. The incident was posted on Facebook and this employee was allowed to lock the door to the office but we say we can do nothing. 'We should be able to do anything if someone is in this building or maybe move them to another building.' Find out what we can do other than allow them to lock the door.

Commissioner Johnny Grant said the Personnel Director and CAO got right on it when they were notified and did everything they could do. Maybe changes need to be made on who is in this building and who is over them. Shane said he had information that can be discussed in the Executive Session if everyone is okay with adding a 2nd session to discuss 'good name & character'.

Commissioner Craig Inzer said we can move it to Montgomery to deal with and he doesn't like the situation at all. He is also excited about Steele Station Road having work done on it. The new census has helped put things on board for the future.

Commissioner Jamie Grant said he felt the Personnel Director and CAO handled the incident the way they were allowed to handle it based on the guidelines. There's documentation on how these things are supposed to be handled. He also said he hopes we can come up with a solution for the RV park in Tidmore Bend.

Alan Smith came up with a great plan and they are going to move Etowah County into the future. He said he was very excited about upcoming events.

ADJOURN: The Chair then entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. Upon motion of Commissioner Washington, seconded by Commissioner Inzer, with all other members voting "yes", the motion was passed. The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 am.

Joey Statum, Commissioner, District 1

Tim Ramsey, Commissioner, District 4

Johnny Grant, President, Commissioner, District 2

Jeffery Washington, Commissioner, District 5

Jamie W. Grant, Commissioner, District 3

Craig Inzer, Jr., Commissioner, District 6