

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE ETOWAH COUNTY COMMISSION
ETOWAH COUNTY, ALABAMA
September 20, 2022**

Commissioner Johnny Grant called the meeting to order on the 20th Day of September, 2022 at 9:03 am with Commissioner Statum 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: District Attorney Jody Willoughby addressed the Commission about needing to replace funding from a grant which provides Victim Service Officers which will not be renewed. He said he appreciated the Commission and all they do and hopes they will consider his request. The Victim Service Officers are able to help victims of felony/misdemeanor crimes by advocating for non-release of a criminal coming up for parole, helping victims get through the Grand Jury Sessions/ trials, and helping child-abuse victims. Their services are invaluable and this is a program they need to be able to find the funds to continue.

Representatives from the Windy Van Hooten Teaching Garden were here to discuss their program. They provide a community garden and also school gardens. They teach students and others to plant, transplant, harvest, & discover and also teach cooking lessons. The schools they serve provide \$10,000 to start up they program and then they do fundraisers to get \$5,000 more dollars. They were on the agenda to be approved as serving a public purpose which will allow the Commissioners to donate money to their program.

PUBLIC COMMENTS FROM ELECTED OFFICIALS & OTHERS: None.

AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS, PROCLAMATIONS, OR ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Revenue Commissioner Becky Nordgren presented a 10 year Certificate of Service to Sonya Johnson. Ms. Johnson works in the tag office and she is always bright, sweet, and smiling. Kevin Dollar said she was always very helpful when he needed help with the County Tags.

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:

To recess in order to have a Work Session at 9:32 am.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 20th DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2022.

Upon motion of Commissioner Inzer, 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 9:55 am.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 20th DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2022.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Upon 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 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 August 16, 2022, and September 6, 2022, of the Etowah County Commission will be approved in the October 3, 2022 meeting.
- B. The Proposed Agenda for September 20, 2022
- C. Reported Financial Transactions.
- D. To place the name of Marilyn Jones in the Sheriff's Office job slot of Detention Deputy, effective September 19, 2022. This is a replacement to be paid from the Jail Fund, at an hourly rate of \$14.98.
- E. To place the name of Luv Smith in the Sheriff's Office job slot of Detention Deputy, effective September 26, 2022. This is a replacement to be paid from the Jail Fund, at an hourly rate of \$14.98.
- F. To place the name of Kodie Gray in the Sheriff's Office job slot of Detention Deputy, effective September 19, 2022. This is a replacement to be paid from the Jail Fund, at an hourly rate of \$14.98.
- G. To place the name of Jeffrey Dixon in the Sheriff's Office job slot of Detention Deputy, effective September 26, 2022. This is a replacement to be paid from the Jail Fund, at an hourly rate of \$14.98.
- H. To approve the request of Robert Nail, County Engineer, to hire Charles Keith McGatha as a Part-time Heavy Equipment Operator I (up to 29 hours), effective October 3, 2022. This is a replacement of a full-time position to be paid from the Gasoline Tax Fund, at an hourly rate of \$14.62.
- I. To approve the request of Robert Nail, County Engineer, to hire Adam Hall as an Assistant County Engineer, effective October 17, 2022. This is a replacement to be paid from the Gasoline Tax fund, at an annual salary of \$65,000.
- J. To approve the request of Becky Nordgren, Revenue Commissioner, to hire Elizabeth Maroney, Temporary Revenue Assessing Clerk, effective October 3, 2022. This is a Temporary position to be paid from the General-Revenue Fund, at an hourly rate of \$12.00.
- K. To approve the designation that the following organization serves a public purpose and is eligible to receive public funds:
 - a. Windy Van Hooten Teaching Garden
- L. To adopt the Purchasing Cooperatives listed by the Alabama Department of Public Accounts as an approved source for awarding county service bids. A list of the approved cooperatives is filed in Attachment Book 12, Page 126.
- M. To approve the contract for the phone services with Integrated Communication Solutions, Inc., effective September 1, 2022. ICS has been providing phone services through Schneider and are awarded the contract through the TIPS Cooperatives List, which is a Purchasing Cooperative listed by the Alabama Department of Public Accounts. A copy of this Agreement is filed in Attachment Book 12, Page 127.
- N. To approve the participation in the Traffic Enforcement Agreement through the East Central Alabama Highway Safety Office as outlined by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and ADECA (Alabama Dept of Economic Community Affairs) and to authorize the CAO and the Sheriff to execute any documents. A copy of this Agreement is filed in Attachment Book 12, Page 128.
- O. To approve the 'Contract for Services Agreement' with the City of Gadsden concerning their participation with the Mobile Crisis Assistance Team (MCAT) and to authorize the CAO to execute the document. A copy of this Agreement is filed in Attachment Book 12, Page 129.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 20th DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2022.

NEW BUSINESS:

Upon the motion of Commissioner Jamie Grant, 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:

To have the Final Reading and Approval for ABC License Application Type 050- Retail Beer (Off Premises Only) for applicant **FOUR H LLC (Melissa Spears Honeycutt & Gary Allan Honeycutt II)** under the trade name, **VALLEY CHEVRON, located at 6574 Duck Springs Drive, Attalla, AL 35904.** This property is located in Etowah County.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 20TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2022.

Upon the motion of Commissioner Jamie Grant, seconded by Commissioner Tim Ramsey, with the majority of the other members voting "yes", the following resolution was adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ETOWAH COUNTY COMMISSION: That the following items were combined and approved in one motion, with the Commissioners Joey Statum, Johnny Grant, Jamie Grant, Tim Ramsey, and Jeffery Washington voting "yes" and Commissioner Craig Inzer voting 'no', the following ABC License Application Type 260-Wine Festival Participants were all approved:

- A. To have the Only Required Reading and Approval for ABC License Application Type 260 – Wine Festival Participant for applicant **RISERS MILL FARM, LLC (Joseph Lee Moffett)** under the trade name, **2022 WINE FESTIVAL NOVI VINEYARDS AND WINERY, located at 10522 Duck Springs Rd, Attalla, AL 35954.** (Wills Creek Vineyards) The policy was changed by the Etowah County Commission on October 5, 2021 to require only one reading for the wine festival participants.
- B. To have the Only Required Reading and Approval for ABC License Application Type 260 – Wine Festival Participant for applicant **PIPPIN FAMILY VINEYARD AND WINERY, LLC (Tonya Lynn & David Matthew Pippin)** under the trade name, **2022 WINE FESTIVAL PIPPIN FAMILY VINEYARD AND WINERY, located at 10522 Duck Springs Rd, Attalla, AL 35954.** (Wills Creek Vineyards) The policy was changed by the Etowah County Commission on October 5, 2021 to require only one reading for the wine festival participants.
- C. To have the Only Required Reading and Approval for ABC License Application Type 260 – Wine Festival Participant for applicant **HIGH COUNTRY CELLARS LLC (Barry Keith Roberts)** under the trade name, **2022 WINE FESTIVAL HIGH COUNTRY CELLARS, located at 10522 Duck Springs Rd, Attalla, AL 35954.** (Wills Creek Vineyards) The policy was changed by the Etowah County Commission on October 5, 2021 to require only one reading for the wine festival participants.
- D. To have the Only Required Reading and Approval for ABC License Application Type 260 – Wine Festival Participant for applicant **WHITE OAK VINYARDS LLC (Randal Warren Wilson & Dana Kay Davis)** under the trade name, **2022 WINE FESTIVAL WHITE OAK VINYARDS, LLC., located at 10522 Duck Springs Rd, Attalla, AL 35954.** (Wills Creek Vineyards) The policy was changed by the Etowah County Commission on October 5, 2021 to require only one reading for the wine festival participants.
- E. To have the Only Required Reading and Approval for ABC License Application Type 260 – Wine Festival Participant for applicant **WHIPPOORWILL VINEYARDS LLC (Bobby Watkins and Timothy Hayward Watkins)** under the trade name, **2022 WINE FESTIVAL WHIPPOORWILL VINEYARDS, LLC, located at 10522 Duck Springs Rd, Attalla, AL 35954.** (Wills Creek Vineyards) The policy was changed by the Etowah County Commission on October 5, 2021 to require only one reading for the wine festival participants.
- F. To have the Only Required Reading and Approval for ABC License Application Type 260 – Wine Festival Participant for applicant **A CORBIN COMPANY LLC (James Gary Corbin and Donna B. Corbin)** under the trade name, **2022 WINE FESTIVAL CORBIN FARMS WINERY, located at 10522 Duck Springs Rd, Attalla, AL 35954.** (Wills Creek Vineyards) The policy was changed by the Etowah County Commission on October 5, 2021 to require only one reading for the wine festival participants.

During the discussion, Commissioner Inzer just stated he thinks if we just have one reading for the wine festival participants, we should just have one reading for any ABC application.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 20TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2022.

Upon the 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:

To adopt the Resolution declaring September 25th through October 1st, 2022 as Water Quality Awareness Week. A copy of the Resolution has been filed in Attachment Book 12, Page 130.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 20TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2022.

Upon the 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:

As requested by Kevin Dollar, Deputy Administrator/CFO, to approve the following Budget Amendments and line item transfers:

ICE Adjustments

General Fund

Increase:

Operating Transfer In (001.62000-195)	\$1,412,654
Revenue	
Sale of Capital Assets (001.61210-000)	\$16,608
Financial Institution Excise Tax (001.40000.44130-023)	\$175,000
Certificate of Formation Fees (001.40000.44165-023)	\$15,800
FEMA Grant (001.40000.44712-830)	\$7,429
Revenue from Municipalities (001.40000.44912-720)	\$5,000
ARPA State Prisoner Reimbursement (001.40000.44798-720)	\$52,015
Other Revenue (001.40000.47900-000)	\$16,500
Bond Forfeiture-State of AL (001.40000.47907-000)	\$25,600
State Simplified Sellers Use Tax (001.40000.44145-023)	\$879,390

Decrease:

Fund Balance (001.34900)	<u>\$219,312</u>
	\$1,412,654

ICE Fund

Increase:

Revenue - Operating Transfer In (195.61000-001)	\$1,412,654
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Fund Balance (195.35900)	\$1,412,654
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Increase:

General Fund

Operating Transfer Out – Inmate Medical Fund (001.62000-006)	\$100,000
Operating Transfer Out – 2018- A G.O. Warrants (001.62000-303)	\$58,692
Operating Transfer Out – 2018- B G.O. Warrants (001.62000-304)	\$100,646

Maintenance Department

Other Miscellaneous Supplies (001.51995-219)	\$40,685
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Sheriff's Office

Fuel & Lubricants (001.52100-212)	\$75,000
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Jail

Overtime Pay (001.52200-116)	\$206,735
Workers compensation Insurance (001.52200-125)	\$4,965
Medical & Dental Services – Inmates (001.52200-158)	\$399,813
Insurance – General Liability (001.52200-274)	\$21,994

MCAT (Mobile Crisis Assistance Team)

Longevity Pay (001.55210-103)	\$270
Salaries & Wages (001.55210-113)	\$125,755
Retirement Contribution (001.55210-121)	\$9,657
Health Insurance (001.55210-122)	\$26,298
Life Insurance (001.55210-123)	\$300
Social Security / Medicare Taxes (001.55210-124)	\$9,641
Workers Compensation Insurance (001.55210-125)	\$2,260
Dental Insurance (001.55210-141)	\$1,214
Office Supplies (001.55210-211)	\$500
Fuel & Lubricants (001.55210-212)	\$4,000
Other Miscellaneous Supplies (001.55210-219)	\$500
Travel-Training & Registration Fees (001.55210-265)	\$3,000
Insurance – Motor Vehicles (001.55210-272)	\$600
Insurance – General Liability (001.55210-274)	\$1,880
Equipment<Threshold (001.55210-471)	\$4,500
Motor Vehicles (001.55210-551)	<u>\$30,000</u>

\$1,228,905

Increase:

Revenue

County Sales Tax (001.40000.41210-005)	\$338,285
Mortgage Deed / Filing Tax (001.40000.41310-020)	\$80,000
Revenue from Municipalities (001.40000.44910-710)	\$125,000

Decrease:

<u>Fund Balance (001.35900)</u>	<u>\$685,620</u>
	\$1,228,905

Inmate Medical Fund

Increase:

Operating Transfer in- General Fund (006.61000-001)	\$100,000
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Fund Balance (006.35900)	\$100,000
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ICE Fund

Decrease:

Operating Transfer Out – 2018-A G.O. Wts Debt Service (195.62000-303)	\$58,702
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Operating Transfer Out – 2018-B G.O. Wts Debt Service (195.62000-304)	\$101,372
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Increase:

Fund Balance (195.35900)	\$160,074
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2018-A G.O. Wts Debt Service Fund

Increase:

Operating Transfer In – General Fund (303.61000-001)	\$58,692
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Fund Balance (303.35900)	\$10
Decrease:	
Operating Transfer In – ICE Fund (303.61000-195)	\$58,702
<u>2018-B G.O. Wts Debt Service Fund</u>	
Increase:	
Operating Transfer In – General Fund (304.61000-001)	\$100,646
Fund Balance (304.35900)	\$726
Decrease:	
Operating Transfer In – ICE Fund (304.61000-195)	\$101,372
<u>Sheriff's Office</u>	
Increase:	
Direct Support – Public Safety (001.52100-291)	\$410,687
Decrease:	
Other Miscellaneous Supplies (001.52100-219)	\$10,687
Equipment<Threshold (001.52100-471)	\$400,000
<u>Sheriff's Office – ATF</u>	
Revenue	
<u>Decrease:</u> ATF (001.40000.44987-720)	\$8,500
Expenditures	
Overtime Pay (001.52105-116)	\$8,500
Retirement Contribution (001.52105-121)	\$663
Social Security/Medicare Taxes (001.52105-124)	\$650
Increase: Fund Balance (001.35900)	\$1,313
<u>Sheriff's Office – TVCRFLT</u>	
Revenue	
Decrease: TVCRFLT (001.40000.44988-720)	\$11,625
Expenditures	
Overtime Pay (001.52110-116)	\$11,625
Retirement Contribution (001.52110-121)	\$863
Social Security/Medicare Taxes (001.52110-124)	\$889
Increase: Fund Balance (001.35900)	\$1,752
<u>Gasoline Tax Fund</u>	
Revenue	
Increase:	
FEMA Grant (111.40000.44712-820)	\$126,916
Charges for Services – Highways & Roads (111.40000.45680-730)	\$49,074
Sale of Driveway Pipe (111.40000.47351-730)	\$19,880
Other Revenue (111.40000.47900-000)	<u>\$1,657</u>
	\$197,527
Expenditures:	
Fuels & Lubricants (111.53100-212)	\$145,000
Road Construction Supplies (111.53100-213)	\$5,645
Operating Leases – Construction Equipment (111.53100-225)	\$3,701
Increase:	
Fund Balance (111.35900)	<u>\$43,181</u>
	\$197,527
<u>District Attorney's Office</u>	
Increase:	
Direct Support – Other (001.51260-299)	\$65,000
Decrease:	
Fund Balance (001.35900)	\$65,000

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 20TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2022.

Upon the motion of Commissioner Tim Ramsey, 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 approve the Purchase and Sale Agreement with the Blaurock Family Partnership, LLC, to sell the property located at 3200 W Meighan in Gadsden, Alabama and to authorize the CAO to execute any and all related documents. A copy of this Agreement is filed in Attachment Book 12, Page 131.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 20TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2022.

Upon the motion of Commissioner Tim Ramsey, 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 approve the request of Robert Nail, County Engineer, to transfer Bobby Driskill to an Equipment Operator Trainee, effective September 20, 2022. This is a voluntary demotion to be paid from the Gas Tax Fund at an hourly pay of \$10.00. (This request made by the employee is to reduce the penalty he has to reimburse his retirement fund.) A copy of this request has been filed in Attachment Book 12, Page 132.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 20TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2022.

Upon the 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:

At this time, the Budget Proposal was reviewed and a request was made to add a last minute addition to the agenda so the FY2022-2023 Budget could be added. (The District 3 Commissioner had already left the meeting at this time). A roll call vote was made for this approval: District 1 – yes; District 2 – yes; District 4 – yes; District 5 – yes; and District 6 – yes.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 20TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2022.

Upon the motion of Commissioner Statum, seconded by Commissioner Washington, with the majority of the other members voting “yes”, the following resolution was adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ETOWAH COUNTY COMMISSION: That the following item was approved with a request for a roll call vote – Commissioners Statum, Johnny Grant, Washington, and Inzer voted “yes” with Commissioner Ramsey voting “no” :

To approve the FY2022-2023 Budgets. (This request passed with 4 voting yes and 1 voting no. During the discussion Commissioner Ramsey said he would like to see more money going to the Road Department and we were going to have to find a way to get more funding for the roads in the county.)

A copy of the approved FY2022-2023 Budgets have been filed in Attachment Book 12, Page 133.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 20TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2022.

REPORTS FROM THE STAFF

Chief Administrative Officer – Shane said he will be out of the office Thursday & Friday. We will have a work session at 9:00 am next Tuesday as scheduled.

County Engineer

County Attorney

Other

DISCUSSION BY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Inzer thanked the employees and said he would love to have given more.

Commissioner Washington thanked everyone for coming and thanked everyone for working on the budget.

Commissioner Ramsey said he knew the budget was a lot of work and he appreciated all the work that went into it. He said they need to do better on the road budget in the future. It needs to have \$2 to \$3 Million more in it. He said as revenues increased in the future, he would love to see more of those funds going toward the roads.

Commissioner Statum thanked the ACCA for getting the Rebuild Alabama Tax passed and said if we didn’t have that money, we would have come up short by about \$2 million. He also thanked all of the departments for what they do. He said he knows that people will start trying to get more money from the county so we have to be diligent about that but he thanked Kevin Dollar for his hard work. Commissioner Statum said he will not be here next Tuesday.

ADJOURN: The Chair then entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. Upon motion of Commissioner Statum, seconded by Commissioner Ramsey, 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