

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE ETOWAH COUNTY COMMISSION
ETOWAH COUNTY
January 6, 2026**

Commissioner Johnny Grant called the Commission Meeting to order on the 6th day of January, 2026 at 9:00 am and Scott Hassell, Probate Judge, asked the Prayer and led the Pledge to the Flag.

CALL OF ROLL TO ESTABLISH A QUORUM: The following 4 out of 5 Commission members were at the meeting and accordingly a quorum was present:

District 1 – Vacant	District 4 – Tim Ramsey
District 2 – Johnny Grant	
District 3 – Jamie Grant	District 6 – Craig Inzer Jr.
Absent – Jeffery Washington, District 5	

PUBLIC COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS:

AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS, PROCLAMATIONS, OR ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Judge Hassell gave an update from 2025 – Commitment cases have increased 20% but mental health hospital admissions decreased 39%. There was a 1.7% decrease in cases but Etowah County is in the top 5 in the state for adoption cases. Indigent burial cases are also on the rise.

Upon a motion of Commissioner Inzer, seconded by Commissioner Ramsey, with all other members present 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 9:10 am.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 6TH DAY OF JANUARY, 2026.

Upon a motion of Commissioner Inzer, seconded by Commissioner Jamie Grant, with all other members present 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 9:22 am.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 6TH DAY OF JANUARY, 2026.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

Upon a motion of Commissioner Jamie Grant, seconded by Commissioner Inzer, with all other members present voting “yes”, the following resolution was adopted:

CONSENT AGENDA:

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 dated December 16, 2025 of the Etowah County Commission be, and the same are hereby, approved as written.
- B. The proposed Agenda for January 6, 2026.
- C. To place the name of Heath Yates in the Sheriff’s Office job slot of Deputy Sheriff/School Resource Officer, effective January 5, 2026. This is a replacement (voluntary demotion) to be paid from the General Fund – Sheriff’s Office, at an hourly rate of \$28.46
- D. To place the following names in the Sheriff’s Office job slot of Detention Deputy, effective January 5, 2026. These are replacements to be paid from the General Fund – Jail, at an hourly rate of \$15.36:
 - Joseph Saporetti
 - Jesica Helms
 - Toby Peace
 - David Hulsey
 - Juarez Mateo

- E. To approve the request of Dorothea Kurdziel, Rural Transportation Director, to hire James D. Jennings, as Rural Transportation Driver, effective January 5, 2026. This is a replacement to be paid from Rural Transportation Operations, at an hourly rate of \$13.24
- F. To have the final reading and approval to reappoint Kevin Dollar to the Etowah Gadsden Healthcare Authority Board of Directors. This will be a four-year term.
- G. To have the final reading and approval to appoint Jim Slick to the Etowah Gadsden Healthcare Authority Board of Directors. This will be a four-year term.
- H. To approve the request of Kevin Dollar, Deputy Administrator/CFO, to transfer one Ford Expedition VIN # 1FMJU1J84REA08004, from the Commission Office to the Emergency Management Agency, effective December 17, 2025.
- I. To approve the Agreement between Gadsden-Etowah Industrial Development Authority and the Etowah County Commission and to authorize the Commission President to execute the document. The agreement shall be for a one-year period, with the option to renew for two additional years. A copy of this document is in Attachment Book 15, page 15-121
- J. To approve the ‘FY 2025 County Rebuild Alabama Annual Report’. A copy of this document is in Attachment Book 15, page 15-122
- K. To approve the request of Jonathon Horton, Sheriff, to grant approval for Alexis Bearden, Detention Deputy in the Office of the Sheriff, to receive PTO leave donations. This employee has met the eligibility requirements under the program guidelines.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 6TH DAY OF JANUARY, 2026.

NEW BUSINESS:

Upon a motion of Commissioner Jamie Grant, seconded by Commission Ramsey, with all other members present voting “yes”, the following resolution was adopted.

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

To approve the Memorandums of Agreement for Emergency Management Services between the Etowah County Commission and the following municipalities: Altoona, Attalla, Glencoe, Hokes Bluff, Rainbow City, Sardis City, Southside, and Walnut Grove; and to authorize the CAO to execute the document. A copy of each document is in Attachment book 15, pages 15-123 / 15-130.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 6TH DAY OF JANUARY, 2026.

REPORTS FROM THE STAFF

Chief Administrative Officer
County Engineer
County Attorney
Other

DISCUSSION BY COMMISSIONERS:

Craig Inzer remarked we’ve come a long way with our mental health programs. It’s remarkable to have those numbers in the short amount of time.
Tim Ramsey thanked Robert for the Rebuild Alabama report. The Focus Program has a lot of moving part but it is moving forward.
Jamie Grant said 2026 will be a great year.
Johnny Grant praised the excellent work the ESU has been doing.

ADJOURN: The Chair then entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. Upon motion from Commissioner Jamie Grant, seconded by Commissioner Ramsey, with all other members present voting “yes”, the motion was passed. The meeting was adjourned at 9:37 am.

<u>Vacant</u> Commissioner, District 1	Tim Ramsey, Commissioner, District 4
Johnny Grant, Commissioner, District 2	<u>Absent</u> Jeffery Washington, President, Commissioner, District 5
Jamie Grant, Commissioner, District 3	Craig Inzer, Jr., Commissioner, District 6