

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE ETOWAH COUNTY COMMISSION
ETOWAH COUNTY
February 17, 2026**

Commission President Jeffery Washington called the Commission Meeting to order on the 17th day of February, 2026 at 9:00 am and Commissioner Craig Inzer, asked the Prayer and led the Pledge to the Flag.

CALL OF ROLL TO ESTABLISH A QUORUM: The following 5 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 5 – Jeffery Washington
District 3 – Jamie Grant	District 6 – Craig Inzer Jr.

PUBLIC COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS:

Sarah Meehan and Adrienne Reed with Habitat for Humanity – The Grand Opening for the Habitat Restore will be Wednesday, February 18, 2026 at 11 am.

Adrienne Reed with the Gadsden Career Center – gave out information for Alabama Works On the Job Training.

AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS, PROCLAMATIONS, OR ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Shane Ellison, CAO, presented Traci Pondick, RSVP Director, a certificate for 20 years of service with the County.

Upon a motion of Commissioner Ramsey, 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 recess in order to have a Work Session at 9:22 am.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 17TH DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2026.

Upon a motion of Commissioner Jamie Grant, 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 call the Etowah County Commission Meeting back to order at 9:36 am.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 17TH DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2026.

OLD BUSINESS: None

Upon a motion of Commissioner Inzer, seconded by Commissioner Ramsey, 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 February 10, 2026 of the Etowah County Commission be, and the same are hereby, approved as written.
- B. The proposed Agenda for February 17, 2026.
- C. To place the name of Christopher Timmons in the Sheriff’s Office job slot of Detention Deputy, effective February 2, 2026. This is a replacement and demotion to be paid from the General Fund – Jail, at an hourly rate of \$21.18
- D. To place the name of Jason Argo in the Sheriff’s Office job slot of Chief Investigator (Unclassified), effective February 9, 2026. This is a replacement and promotion to be paid from the General Fund – Sheriff’s Office, at an hourly rate of \$38.46.

- E. To approve the request of Gracie Griggs, Animal Shelter Manager, to hire Kayla Parris as Kennel Technician – Clinical Specialist, effective February 18, 2026. This is a new position within the current budgeted slot, to be paid from the General Fund – Animal Control / Animal Shelter, at an hourly rate of \$15.36.
- F. To approve the request of Melissa Lett, Purchasing Accountant, to renew Bid No. FY 2023-07 Residential Solid Collection and Disposal with Meridian Waste. The contract will be renewed at the same terms and pricing for two years, as allowed for in the original bid.
- G. To approve the request of Melissa Lett, Purchasing Accountant, to let a new bid for Finished Traffic Signs. The current Bid No FY 2025-08 will expire on March 10, 2026. The current bid holder, Traffic Signs, Inc., choose not to renew due to “rising costs beyond our control”.
- H. To approve the request of Melissa Lett, Purchasing Accountant, to let a new bid for Unfinished Traffic Signs and Posts. The current Bid No. FY 2025-09 will expire on March 10, 2026. The current bid holder Traffic Signs, Inc. choose not to renew due to “rising costs beyond our control”.
- I. To approve the request of Jonathon Horton, Sheriff, to grant approval for Marilyn Jones, Detention Deputy, in the Office of the Sheriff to receive PTO leave donations. This employee has met the eligibility requirements under the program guidelines.
- J. To approve the County Levies for Alcohol Licensing for 2026-2027 with no changes recommended. A copy of this document is in attachment book 15, page 15-150.
- K. To approve the Second Amendment to the Health Services Agreement, dated October 1, 2024, with Detention Care Partners, LLC., and to authorize the CAO to execute the document. This amendment will provide for additional healthcare services to accommodate the increased number of ICE Detainees, plus additional mental health services for inmates. A copy of this document is in attachment book 15-151
- L. To approve the request of Kevin Dollar, Deputy Administrator/CFO, to make the following budget amendments for one of the two equipment operators not included in the original budget of the Gas Tax Fund. Funding for the remaining portion of the budget year is from the state portion of a FEMA Grant.

Gas Tax Fund

Expenditures

Increase

111.53100-113 Salaries and Wages	\$21,833
111.53100-121 Retirement	\$ 2,714
111.53100-122 Health Insurance	\$ 9,478
111.53100-123 Life Insurance	\$ 87
111.53100-124 Social Security/Medicare Taxes	\$ 1,579

Revenue

Increase

111.40000.44712-820 FEMA Grant	\$35,691
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- M. To approve the request of Kevin Dollar, Deputy Administrator/CFO, to make the following budget amendments:

General Fund

SO/CC Warehouse

Increase

001.51991-247 Utilities – Propane Gas	\$ 603
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Jail

Increase

001.52200.218 Food, Food Preparation and Food Servicing Supplies	\$17,500
001.52200.242 Repairs and Maintenance – Other	\$ 1,150
001.52200-549 Other Equipment	\$12,500

Jail – Federal Inmates

Increase

001.52210.218 Food, Food Preparation and Food Servicing Supplies	\$ 7,500
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Animal Shelter / Animal Control

Increase

001.55400-206 Drugs and Medical Supplies	\$ 5,000
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Fund Balance

Decrease

001.35900 Fund Balance	\$ 44,253
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- N. To approve the request of Kevin Dollar, Deputy Administrator/CFO, to make the following budget amendments:

Gasoline Tax Fund

Expenditures

Increase

111.53100-272 Insurance – Motor Vehicles	\$ 6,336
111.53100.273 Insurance – Surety Bond	\$ 123
111.53100.279 Insurance – Other	\$ 4775
111.53100-409 Subscriptions	\$ 635
111.53100-524 Building Additions and Renovations	\$173,631
111.53100-549 Other Equipment	\$ 25,000
111.53100-561 Construction Equipment	\$ 5,871

Revenue

Increase

111.40000.44712-820 FEMA Grant	\$ 5,871
111.61000-157 Operating Transfer In – Comm Disc Gas Tax Fund	\$ 75,000

Fund Balance

Decrease

111.35900 Fund Balance	\$135,500
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Comm. Disc Gas Tax Fund

Increase

157.62000-111 Operating Transfer Out – Gas Tax Fund	\$ 75,000
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Decrease

157.35900 Fund Balance	\$ 75,000
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PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 17TH DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2026.

NEW BUSINESS:

Upon a motion of Commissioner Ramsey, seconded by Commissioner Inzer, 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 have the first reading for ABC License Application Type 050 – Retail Beer (Off Premises Only) and Type 070 – Table Wine (Off Premises Only), for applicant Yousef Yaquob, Inc, under the trade name, Express Mart 57, located at 4725 Highway 179, Boaz, AL 35956 (District 4). This business is located in unincorporated Etowah County and is a transfer.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 17TH DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2026.

Upon a motion of Commissioner Johnny Grant, 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 have the first reading for ABC License Application Type 050 – Retail Beer (Off Premises Only) and Type 070 – Table Wine (Off Premises Only), for applicant Jawad, LLC, under the trade name Food Mart 34, located at 10291 Centre Road, Gadsden, AL 35903 (District 2). This business is located in unincorporated Etowah County and is a transfer.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 17TH DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2026.

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 accept the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency Homeland Security Grant Program Subgrant Award in the amount of \$114,519 for the period of 02/01/2026 through 12/31/2026, and to authorize the CAO to electronically execute the document. This grant will cover the following equipment for EMA:

- Portable Message Boards (3)
- Open Utility Equipment Trailer
- Closed Trailer
- Light Towers (4)
- Generators (3)
- Operational / Emergency Management Software

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 17TH DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2026.

Upon a motion of Commissioner Ramsey, seconded by Commissioner Johnny Grant, with Commissioner Jamie Grant abstaining and 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 award OPIOID Grant Funding to AMED, Maximizing Mental Health, and New Life for Women, and to authorize the Chief Administrative Officer to execute funding agreements in the amount of \$65,000 per organization.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 17TH DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2026.

REPORTS FROM THE STAFF

Chief Administrative Officer
County Engineer
County Attorney
Other

DISCUSSION BY COMMISSIONERS:

The Commission joined in congratulating Jason for being name Chief Investigator, and on the appreciation of receiving the ALEA grant for EMA equipment. Commissioner Ramsey said he is looking forward to the Restore Grand Opening; Commissioner Inzer said he has personally seen people prosper from Habitat for Humanity. Commissioner Inzer thanked Robert for setting the meeting on the Hwy 77 Bridge Project. Commissioner Washington expressed what a great place Etowah County is to live, and the county is moving in a better direction.

ADJOURN: The Chair then entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. Upon a 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 9:49 am.

Vacant

Commissioner, District 1

Tim Ramsey, Commissioner, District 4

Johnny Grant, Commissioner, District 2

Jeffery Washington, President, Commissioner, District 5

Jamie Grant, Commissioner, District 3

Craig Inzer, Jr., Commissioner, District 6