

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE ETOWAH COUNTY COMMISSION
ETOWAH COUNTY, ALABAMA
November 16, 2022**

Commissioner Johnny Grant called the meeting to order on the 16th Day of November, 2022 at 9:00 am with Shane Ellison, CAO, 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 3 – Jamie Grant

District 5 – Jeffery Washington

District 6 – Craig Inzer

Absent: District 4 – Tim Ramsey

PUBLIC COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS: Joyce Payne signed in and spoke about her grandson, who became ill in jail and died. She said she came to a meeting in May and also June and she still hasn't heard from anyone. She said there was a young man that died after her son and his family heard from the Sheriff but the Sheriff still hasn't talked to her. She said she thinks someone is trying to cover something up until the statute of limitations runs out and she also thinks they are being discriminated against. She called Cherokee County Sheriff's Office and they told her to call the State to get the report because they had completed their investigation and it had been turned over to them. (Keith Peek said he had talked with the family but the information he had wasn't what they wanted to hear). The Commissioners also said they were sorry for the loss of her grandson but the situation is not under their authority and is out of their hands.

PUBLIC COMMENTS FROM ELECTED OFFICIALS & OTHERS: None.

AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS, PROCLAMATIONS, OR ANNOUNCEMENTS: None.

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 recess in order to have a Work Session at 9:20 am.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 16th DAY OF NOVEMBER, 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 call the Etowah County Commission Meeting back to order at 9:30 am.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 16th DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2022.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Upon motion of Commissioner Jamie Grant, seconded by Commissioner Statum, 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 November 1, 2022, of the Etowah County Commission be, and the same are hereby approved as written.

- B. The Proposed Agenda for November 16, 2022
- C. Reported Financial Transactions. A copy of the Cash Disbursements, and Online Transfers for October, 2022 has been filed in Attachment Book 12, Page 145.
- D. To place the name of Dylan Gregory in the Sheriff's Office job slot of Detention Deputy, effective November 7, 2022. This is an involuntary demotion and a replacement to be paid from the Jail Fund, at an hourly rate of \$16.95.
- E. To approve the request of Robert Nail, County Engineer, to promote Billy Wallace to Heavy Equipment Operator, effective November 16, 2022. This is a promotion to be paid from the Gasoline Tax fund, at an hourly rate of \$14.26.
- F. To approve the request of Robert Nail, County Engineer, to promote Tony Holland to Heavy Equipment Operator, effective November 16, 2022. This is a promotion and a replacement to be paid from the Gasoline Tax fund, at an hourly rate of \$14.26.
- G. To approve the request of Robert Nail, County Engineer, to transfer Dale Tolton to Heavy Equipment Operator, effective November 16, 2022. This is a promotion and a replacement to be paid from the Gasoline Tax fund, at an hourly rate of \$15.36.
- H. To approve the request of Becky Nordgren, Revenue Commissioner, to promote Cindy Waddell to Personal Property Appraiser II, effective November 16, 2022. This is a promotion to be paid from the Reappraisal Fund, at an hourly rate of \$19.18.
- I. To approve the request of Lori Howell, Animal Shelter Director, to hire Destiny Westmoreland to Animal Control Officer, effective November 14, 2022. This is a new hire to be paid from the Animal Control/Shelter Fund, at an hourly rate of \$14.98.
- J. To approve the request of Melissa Lett, Purchasing Accountant, to award Bid No FY 2023-01 Aggregate to Madison Materials and Wiregrass Construction Company, the lowest, complete bidders.
- K. To adopt the Etowah County Commission 2023 Meeting Schedule. A copy of the meeting schedule has been filed in Attachment Book 12, Page 146.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 16th DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2022.

NEW BUSINESS:

Upon the motion of Commissioner Washington, 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 Memo of Understanding and Resolution with the Alabama Forever Wild Land Trust and to authorize the Commission President to execute all documents. A copy is filed in Attachment Book 12, Page 147.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 16th DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2022.

Upon the 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:

To approve the Resolution and Agreement with ALDOT regarding the Federal Aid Project to resurface and stripe Appalachian Highway from US 278 to US 411 and to authorize the Commission President to execute the documents (Project #STPAA-2822; ECP 28-076-18; CPMS Ref# 10075361). A copy is filed in Attachment Book 12, Page 148.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 16th DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2022.

Upon the 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 approve the Etowah County Rural Transportation Title VI Program, which is required in order to comply with the Title VI Federal Requirements, and to authorize the Commission President to execute the documents. A copy is filed in Attachment Book 12, Page 149.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 16th DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2022.

REPORTS FROM THE STAFF

Chief Administrative Officer

County Engineer – Robert said Etowah County can apply for a bridge replacement program and he would like to apply for 5 bridge replacements. It would cost approximately \$8 million and there would be a 20% match required if awarded. The bridges he wants to replace include: Mountain Pass, Colvin Gap Road, Leath Gap Road, Ponderosa Road, and Nix Road. All of these bridges are weight restricted and school buses cannot travel over them. All of the Commissioners were okay with Robert moving forward with this process.

County Attorney
Other

DISCUSSION BY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Statum thanked everyone for being here and thanked all of the law enforcement for helping after a jewelry store was robbed in Rainbow City. They caught the robbers. He also reminded everyone of a 4:00 Ribbon cutting for the new Southside Fire Dept.

Commissioner Jamie Grant thanked everyone for coming and said there was a heartbreaking incident that happened and asked for prayers for all involved. He also said when an inmate passes and the family wants answers, what they hear may not be what they wanted to hear.

Commissioner Washington thanked everyone for being here and said they were looking forward to the tree lighting on Monday, Nov 28th. He said anytime we lose someone, it's catastrophic but its about the treatment we receive. No one ever called (Ms. Payne) and talked to her about her grandson. He said 'Treat me how everyone else is being treated" and that's what hurts.

Commissioner Inzer thanked District 6 and his constituents for letting him serve another term. He thanked the Personnel Board for being here and agreed with Joey that about his appreciation for the robbers getting caught. He said they picked one up in St Clair County after he crossed over trying to get away. He said the jewelry store was across the street from his business in a building he owns. The business was ransacked and a citizen saw the criminals leave and followed them and reported them to the police.

Commissioner Washington reminded everyone that the Unity Tree Lighting will be on November 28th from 5:30 – 7:30.

Commissioner Johnny Grant said he was glad they were all re-elected and joked that he would hate for him and Joey to have to train new Commissioners. He thanked the Personnel Board for coming to the meeting and for all they do to represent the employees.

He also told Donna Thornton that he attended the play (about the killing in White Plains from decades ago) and that they did a great job. (She & her husband helped with the screen play.). He asked her if they would show it again someplace else and she said she wasn't sure.

ADJOURN: The Chair then entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. Upon motion of Commissioner Jamie Grant, seconded by Commissioner Statum, with all other members voting "yes", the motion was passed. The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 am.

Joey Statum, Commissioner, District 1

ABSENT

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