

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE ETOWAH COUNTY COMMISSION
ETOWAH COUNTY, ALABAMA
February 7, 2023**

Commissioner Craig Inzer, Jr., called the meeting to order on the 7th Day of February, 2023 at 9:00 am and Commissioner Washington asked the Prayer and led 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: James Collins addressed the Commissioners about a drainage problem he had been having on his road since 2006. He talked to the road department on October 13, 2021 after they dug ditches for drainage but he was still having problems and wants them resolved. He thinks the ditches that were dug out are causing the problems on his property. This has been an ongoing situation and he asked the Commission to vacate the road if they couldn't fix it so he could fix it himself. He said the other people living on the road were in agreement with him about the situation and were tired of the drainage issues. Robert said he will look at it on Thursday morning after it rains and Commissioner Ramsey said he would like to be there as well.

Fred Zachary was at the meeting to discuss the property tax penalty for late payment. He said it was putting a penalty on a penalty because the State already charges a late fee. He feels like a \$300 late fee on a \$22.00 bill is unfair. He said hundreds of people pay late, not because they want to but because they don't have the money to pay on time, and this is a regressive tax. He doesn't think it is in the best interest of the citizens of Etowah County.

Joseph Cole also complained about the late fee on property tax and said people are having difficulty with their bills being so high now and the State already has a tax if you pay late. There shouldn't be a tax on top of another tax. He said the Commissioners have the authority to rescind it today if they wanted to but he didn't expect it to happen.

Commissioner Jamie Grant and Commissioner Statum explained it wasn't a tax but a late fee that you had control over by paying your bill on time. The tax is due October 1st and you have a 90-day grace period. The late fee doesn't start until December 31st. Almost everyone bill paid has a late fee if you don't pay it on time and this is a bill that you have every year so it's not unexpected. Commissioner Inzer said he asked about the delinquencies (comparing this year to last year) and was told it was about the same. The money is used for roads, the Megasite, and part of it goes back to the Revenue Department. Commissioner Washington thinks it should be changed so it's a percentage of the bill and not the same amount for everyone, no matter how much you owe. Commissioner Ramsey also thinks it needs a different cap and it needs to be reviewed and some changes made. Commissioner Inzer said it can be discussed at a later time and they can vote on it.

PUBLIC COMMENTS FROM ELECTED OFFICIALS & OTHERS: None.

AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS, PROCLAMATIONS, OR ANNOUNCEMENTS: None.

Upon motion of Commissioner Johnny Grant, 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 recess in order to have a Work Session at 9:34 am.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 7th DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2023.

Upon motion of Commissioner 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 call the Etowah County Commission Meeting back to order at 10:02 am.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 7th DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2023.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Upon motion of Commissioner Johnny Grant, 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) on January 17, 2023, and February 7th, 2023, will be approved in the February 21st, 2023 meeting.
- B. The Proposed Agenda for February 7, 2023.
- C. Reported Financial Transactions. The Purchasing Charges, Online Transfers, and Cash Disbursements for January, 2023, are approved and a copy is filed in Attachment Book 13, Page 011.
- D. To approve the request of Spencer Gray, Maintenance Supervisor, to hire Laurie Wardlow as a Building Service Worker, effective February 7, 2023. This is a replacement to be paid from the Maintenance Fund, at an hourly rate of \$10.87.
- E. To approve the request of Becky Nordgren, Revenue Commissioner, to transfer Allison Smith to Revenue Mapping Clerk, effective February 7, 2023. This is a voluntary demotion and a replacement to be paid from the Reappraisal Fund/ Reappraisal Maintenance at an hourly rate of \$14.26.
- F. To place the name of Jerry Entrekin in the Sheriff’s Office job slot of Process Server, effective January 17, 2023. This is a transfer to the Sheriff’s Office with the statutory elimination of the Constable’s Office, to be paid from the Sheriff’s Office, General Fund, at an hourly rate of \$14.98.
- G. To place the name of Stephen Rodgers in the Sheriff’s Office job slot of Deputy Specialist (FTO), effective January 20, 2023. This is a replacement to be paid from the Sheriff’s Office, General Fund, at an hourly rate of \$18.25.
- H. To place the name of Cody Eubanks in the Sheriff’s Office job slot of Deputy Specialist (FTO), effective January 20, 2023. This is a replacement to be paid from the Sheriff’s Office, General Fund, at an hourly rate of \$16.54.
- I. To place the name of Andrew Reed in the Sheriff’s Office job slot of Patrol Sergeant, effective January 20, 2023. This is a replacement to be paid from the Sheriff’s Office, General Fund, at an hourly rate of \$20.65
- J. To place the name of Charles Argo in the Sheriff’s Office job slot of Investigator, effective January 20, 2023. This is a replacement and a voluntary demotion to be paid from the Sheriff’s Office, General Fund, at an hourly rate of \$25.17.
- K. To place the name of Richella Bradford in the Sheriff’s Office job slot of Detention Deputy, effective January 20, 2023. This is a replacement and a promotion to be paid from the Jail Fund, at an hourly rate of \$14.98.

(On January 17, 2023, Richella Bradford transferred to Administrative Technician due to the statutory elimination of the Constable’s Office, to be paid from the Sheriff’s Office, General Fund. The hourly rate of pay was \$13.91.)

Both actions need to be approved for auditing purposes.

- L. To place the name of Eli Kirby in the Sheriff’s Office job slot of Detention Deputy, effective January 23, 2023. This is a replacement to be paid from the Jail Fund, at an hourly rate of \$14.98.
- M. To place the name of Kayla Bowman in the Sheriff’s Office job slot of Detention Deputy, effective January 24, 2023. This is a replacement to be paid from the Jail Fund, at an hourly rate of \$14.98.
- N. To place the name of Ryan Justice in the Sheriff’s Office job slot of Detention Deputy, effective January 30, 2023. This is a replacement to be paid from the Jail Fund, at an hourly rate of \$14.98.
- O. To place the name of Anthony Davis in the Sheriff’s Office job slot of Patrol Sergeant, effective January 30, 2023. This is a replacement to be paid from the Sheriff’s Office, General Fund, at an hourly rate of \$17.37.
- P. To place the name of Trenton Green in the Sheriff’s Office job slot of Deputy Specialist, effective January 30, 2023. This is a replacement to be paid from the Sheriff’s Office, General Fund, at an hourly rate of \$16.54.
- Q. To place the name of Logan Gibson in the Sheriff’s Office job slot of Deputy Sheriff, effective January 30, 2023. This is a replacement to be paid from the Sheriff’s Office, General Fund, at an hourly rate of \$15.36.
- R. To place the name of Bob Vosbury in the Sheriff’s Office job slot of Commander – Community Resources, Part-time maximum of 14 hours per week, effective February 1, 2023. This is a replacement to be paid from the Sheriff’s Office, General Fund, at an hourly rate of \$19.66.

- S. To place the name of Chris Newman in the Sheriff's Office job slot of Detention Deputy, effective February 6, 2023. This is a replacement to be paid from the Jail Fund, at an hourly rate of \$14.98.
- T. To place the name of Chanda Moland in the Sheriff's Office job slot of Executive Assistant to the Sheriff, effective February 6, 2023. This is a new position, replacing an Administrative Coordinator and approved by the Etowah County Sheriff's Office Personnel Board, to be paid from the Sheriff's Office, General Fund, at an hourly rate of \$14.62.
- U. To place the name of Shae Coley in the Sheriff's Office job slot of Detention Deputy, effective February 6, 2023. This is a replacement to be paid from the Jail Fund, at an hourly rate of \$14.98.
- V. To approve the request of Melissa Lett, Purchasing Accountant, to renew Bid No FY 2021-2022-07 Office Supplies with the current vendor, Observer Supply, for a second year as provided for in the original bid.
- W. To approve the request of Melissa Lett, Purchasing Accountant, to renew Bid No FY 2021-2022-06 Unfinished Traffic Signs and Posts with the current vendor, G & C Supply Company, for an additional year as provided for in the original bid.
- X. To approve the request of Melissa Lett, Purchasing Accountant, to award Bid No FY 2023-05 Slide Repair on CR-26/Tidmore Bend Rd to Keller North America, the lowest, responsible bidder.
- Y. To approve the request of Melissa Lett, Purchasing Accountant, to let a new bid for Printing – Letterhead, Envelopes, and Forms.
- Z. To approve the request of Melissa Lett, Purchasing Accountant, to renew Bid No FY 2021-2022-10 Inmate Uniforms with the current vendor, Bob Barker Company, for an additional year as provided for in the original bid.
- AA. To approve the request of Melissa Lett, Purchasing Accountant, to let new bids on the following:
 - a. Traffic Stripe & Pavement Markers
 - b. In Place Plant Mix
 - c. Bituminous Surface Treatment
- BB. To approve the request of Traci Pondick, RSVP Director, to declare the following printers as surplus since they no longer work:

Brothers Printer Model HL-2270 DW Serial number U62674LOJ365016

Xerox Printer Model Phaser 3260 Serial number K8A262040

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 7th DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2023.

NEW BUSINESS:

Upon the motion of Commissioner Tim 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 have the First Reading to reappoint Harold Holland to the Douglas Water Authority for a six-year term.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 7th DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2023.

Upon the motion of Commissioner Tim Ramsey, seconded by Commissioner Joey Statum, with all other members voting "yes", the following resolution was **TABLED:**

To have the First Reading to reappoint Kenny Goss to the West Etowah County Water Authority for a six-year term.

THIS ITEM WAS TABLED.

Upon the motion of Commissioner Jamie Grant, seconded by Commissioner Tim 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 have the First Reading for **ABC License Application Type 050- Retail Beer (Off Premises Only) and Type (070) – Retail Table Wine (Off Premises Only)** for applicant **YASHI08 INC (Mamta Patel) under the trade name, ONE STOP, located at 5340 Sardis Rd, Suite B, Boaz, AL 35956.** This is located in Etowah County.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 7th DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2023.

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 have the First Reading for **ABC License Application Type 011- Lounge Retail Liquor – Class II (Package)** for applicant **YASHI08 INC (Mamta Patel) under the trade name, ONE STOP LIQUOR, located at 5340 Sardis Rd, Suite A, Boaz, AL 35956.** This is located in Etowah County.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 7th DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2023.

Upon the motion of Commissioner Craig Inzer, Jr., seconded by Commissioner Johnny 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 Melissa Lett, Purchasing Accountant, to award Bid No FY 2023-07 Residential Solid Waste Collection & Disposal to Arrow Disposal Services, the lowest, responsible bidder. The monthly rate for the first year will be \$23.45; the monthly rate for the second year will be \$24.45; and the monthly rate for the third year will be \$25.45. The next closest bidder was over \$26 per month for year one.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 7th DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2023.

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:

To approve the request of Kevin Dollar, Deputy Administrator / CFO, to declare the following as surplus:

2016 Ford Explorer VIN# 1FM5K7B88GGC81361
(Economic Development Director vehicle)

2015 Ford Taurus VIN# 1FAHP2D95FG208044
2021 Chevrolet Equinox VIN# 3GNAX5EV4MS119368
(Both are Constable’s Office vehicles- requested by Sheriff)

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 7th DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2023.

Upon the motion of Commissioner Joey 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 approve the following Backup and Disaster Recovery Services Agreements with Southern Data:

- a. Revenue (Appraisal) Department Agreement at a monthly cost of \$1,133.
- b. Commission Office Agreement at a monthly cost of \$833.

A copy of both agreements has been filed in Attachment Book 13, Pages 012 & 013.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 7th DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2023.

Upon the motion of Commissioner Joey Statum, seconded by Commissioner Tim 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 approve the Agreement with Keet Consulting Services, LLC., for GIS Data Configuration and Accelerated Starter Kit to create an interactive map for the NEAR Megasite webpage at an initial cost of \$3,700 and a monthly maintenance fee of \$250 for years one through three. The contract provides for one day of On-site Training, as needed, at a cost of \$1,200. A copy of this Agreement has been filed in Attachment Book 13, Page 014.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 7th DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2023.

Upon the motion of Commissioner Johnny 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 have the First Reading to appoint Traci Pondick, RSVP Director, to the Alabama Mountain Lakes Tourist Association for a two-year term.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 7th DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2023.

Upon the motion of Commissioner Statum, seconded by Commissioner Johnny 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 adopt the following Resolution:

‘The Etowah County Community Punishment and Corrections Authority has asked the Etowah County Local Delegation to adopt legislation that would give to certain trained and qualified employees of the Etowah County Community Punishment and Corrections Authority the power of arrest. The Etowah County Local Delegation has asked the Etowah County Commission to weigh in on the proposed legislation. The Etowah County Commission has considered the request, and the proposed legislation, and has absolutely no objection to the passage of the proposed legislation.’

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 7th DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2023.

Upon the motion of Commissioner Johnny Grant, seconded by Commissioner Ramsey, with Commissioner Washington voting ‘no’ and all other members voting “yes”, the following resolution was adopted due to the majority approving the item:

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ETOWAH COUNTY COMMISSION: That the following item was approved by the majority of the Commissioners:

To have the First Reading to appoint the following new members to the Etowah County Industrial Development Authority (Economic Development Alliance).

1. Craig Inzer, Jr.
2. Jamie Grant
3. Tim Ramsey
4. Joey Statum

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 7th DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2023.

REPORTS FROM THE STAFF

Chief Administrative Officer
County Engineer
County Attorney
Other

DISCUSSION BY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Statum said it was good to see Katie (formerly with the Gadsden Messenger) at the meeting. She was representing Community Outreach. Joey reminded the Commissioners that last year they donated to “Sleep in Heavenly Peace” (a nonprofit providing beds for any kids that don’t have one) with the money used to purchase the building materials and all of the labor is volunteers. They also purchase the bedding products. They are trying to line up some projects in Etowah County and currently have 243 beds on a waiting list. Joey is planning to contribute to the program. Commissioner Statum said he appreciated the gentlemen that came to the meeting to express their opinions and thanked them for their comments. He said it’s hard to be in the position they are in sometimes.

Commissioner Johnny Grant said he has big expectations for Arrow and everyone is concerned. He said he will look at the road issues and see what they can do.

Commissioner Jamie Grant said he likes for people to come to the meetings and discuss the issues they have. He thanked Robert Nail for all he does and thanked Katie for coming. He asked everyone to pray for the folks affected by the earthquake in Turkey and keep the President in your prayers. This is a time of crisis. He asked if Etowah County will be affected by the inmates being released but we only have 1 and the others had charges against them in other counties that will be addressed now.

Commissioner Ramsey thanked Eric Wright for the programs he has through the Extension Office and keeping them informed. He thanked Traci for representing Etowah County Commission in the North Alabama Tourism Association. He thanked everyone for coming to voice their concerns and said the road budget is not what it needs to be. He and Commissioner Washington think the property tax late fee should be based on a percentage and would like to see it changed. Tim said he would donate to Sleep in Heavenly Peace as well. He said he had received an invitation from the Gadsden Museum of Arts – Night of Jazz for the Commission and this helps raise money for their programs. He thinks the snip-it tickets program went well and is asking everyone to give more to the program. He thanked Robert for all he does.

Commissioner Washington thanked the citizens for coming in and said he would like to see changes made to the late fee and a percentage would be fairer.

Commissioner Inzer said the biggest problem in his district has been residential trash and even if it will be an \$8/month increase, it would have increased anyway. He is glad Melissa was able to get a suitable vendor. He said he and Shane were in Montgomery last week and met with all of the partners involved in the Megasite (GMC, Alabama Power, etc). The Megasite in Etowah County is one of the last ones standing in Alabama. The meeting was well attended and the Governor spoke. There are a lot of good things going on with the site and they are putting money into it. He also met with Senators Britt & Tuberville about funding. He thanked everyone for coming and being respectful.

ADJOURN: The Chair then entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. Upon motion of Commissioner Johnny Grant, seconded by Commissioner Jamie Grant, with all other members voting “yes”, the motion was passed. The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 am

Joey Statum, Commissioner, District 1

Tim Ramsey, Commissioner, District 4

Johnny Grant, Commissioner, District 2

Jeffery Washington, Commissioner, District 5

Jamie W. Grant, Commissioner, District 3

Craig Inzer, Jr., President, Commissioner, District 6