

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE ETOWAH COUNTY COMMISSION
ETOWAH COUNTY, ALABAMA
March 21, 2023**

Commissioner Craig Inzer, Jr., called the meeting to order on the 21st Day of March, 2023 at 9:00 am and Commissioner Ramsey 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:

Laura King with New Life for Women discussed her program located in West Etowah County. In business since 2005, it is a treatment center for chemically dependent women. It is certified but not ran by the state. It costs about \$7,000 for one person to spend 6 months there and they do get some funding but it's not enough. They have 2 facilities with a total of 52 beds with most of their clients staying at least 6 months. They would also like to open an outpatient clinic for Community Corrections and are trying to get funding toward this project as well. She is requesting the county to use some of the Opioid settlement funds to help her facility so they can expand.

Fred Zachary wanted to see if the Commission planned to make a change concerning the late fee on the property tax – he was at a previous meeting discussing why he considered it unfair to tax everyone that pays late the same, even if they are both late. (Sometimes the late penalty is more than the tax bill). The Commission told him they were looking into a solution and are hoping they can come up with something.

Jeff Johnson, Principal at Etowah Middle School, brought a few students on the Robotics Teams to the meeting. They had 3 teams (with 3 students per team) that went to State and now 2 teams will be going to the World Competition in Dallas, Texas. Principal Johnson also pointed out all the teams learn from working on their projects including technology, coding, programming, record-keeping, documenting failures/successes, and with the process in general teaching them to work together and solve problems. The students are in the 6th & 7th grades and they cost will be about \$6600 to attend on April 29 through May 3rd. They appreciate any help they can get to pay for their trip.

PUBLIC COMMENTS FROM ELECTED OFFICIALS & OTHERS: None.

AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS, PROCLAMATIONS, OR ANNOUNCEMENTS: None.

Upon motion of Commissioner Statum, seconded by Commissioner 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 recess in order to have a Work Session at 9:25 am.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 21st DAY OF MARCH, 2023.

Upon motion of Commissioner Washington, seconded by Commissioner 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 call the Etowah County Commission Meeting back to order at 9:40 am.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 21st DAY OF MARCH, 2023.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Upon motion of Commissioner Statum, seconded by Commissioner Johnny 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 March 7, 2023, of the Etowah County Commission be, and the same are hereby, approved as written.
- B. The Proposed Agenda for March 21, 2023
- C. Any Reported Financial Transactions.
- D. To approve the request of Melissa Lett, Purchasing Accountant, to award Bid No FY 2023-13 Printing – Letterhead, Envelopes, & Forms to Patterson Printing, the sole bidder.
- E. To place the name of Kevin Phillips in the Sheriff’s Office job slot of Part-time Deputy, effective March 20, 2023. This is a part-time job position (up to 29 hours) and is one of two part-time jobs replacing a full-time position, to be paid from the Sheriff’s Office, General Fund, at an hourly rate of \$15.36.
- F. To place the name of Natalie George in the Sheriff’s Office job slot of Detention Deputy, effective March 13, 2023. This is a replacement to be paid from the Jail Fund, at an hourly rate of \$14.98.
- G. To place the name of Jaime Johnson in the Sheriff’s Office job slot of Detention Deputy, effective March 27, 2023. This is a replacement to be paid from the Jail Fund, at an hourly rate of \$14.98.
- H. To place the name of Destiny Westmoreland in the Sheriff’s Office job slot of Admin Tech, effective March 13, 2023. This is a replacement to be paid from the Sheriff’s Office, General Fund, at an hourly rate of \$12.00.
- I. To place the name of Michael Turner, Jr., in the Sheriff’s Office job slot of Deputy, effective April 3, 2023. This is a replacement to be paid from the Sheriff’s Office, General Fund, at an hourly rate of \$15.36.
- J. To approve the request of Spencer Gray, Maintenance Supervisor, to hire Roderick Crocton as a Floor Tech effective March 27, 2023. This is a replacement to be paid from the Maintenance Fund, at an hourly rate of \$11.42.
- K. To approve the request of Mike Powell, Chief Administrator -Sheriff’s Office, to declare the following as surplus:

2013 Ford Taurus VIN# 1FAHP2M82DG107998

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 21st DAY OF MARCH, 2023.

NEW BUSINESS:

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 approve the following Budget Amendment Request from Traci Pondick, RSVP Director:

Increase: Expenditures	
Travel Mileage (176.56230-262)	\$1,000
Travel – Lodging & Meals (176.56230-264)	\$1,000
Miscellaneous (176.56231-499)	\$4,000
Equipment<Threshold (176.56235-471)	\$4,000
Miscellaneous (176.56235-499)	\$2,950
Revenue	
Sale of Capital Assets (176.61210-000)	\$12,950

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 21st DAY OF MARCH, 2023.

Upon the 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 declare the following as serving a public purpose:

- a. Etowah County Sports Hall of Fame

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 21st DAY OF MARCH, 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 have the Final Reading and Approval to reappoint Phyllis Minshew to the Northeast Alabama Water, Sewer, And Fire Protection District for a four-year term.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 21st DAY OF MARCH, 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 have the Final Reading and Approval to reappoint Gary Williamson to the Northeast Alabama Water, Sewer, And Fire Protection District for a four-year term.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 21st DAY OF MARCH, 2023.

Upon the 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 have the Final Reading and Approval to reappoint Gary Pruitt to the Highland Water Authority for a six-year term.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 21st DAY OF MARCH, 2023.

Upon the 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 have the Final Reading and Approval to appoint Steve Blackwell to the Highland Water Authority for a six-year term, to replace Brian Freeman. Brian did not want to renew his appointment.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 21st DAY OF MARCH, 2023.

Upon the motion of Commissioner Craig 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 have the Final Reading and Approval to reappoint James Kilgore to the Whorton Bend Water Authority for a six-year term.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 21st DAY OF MARCH, 2023.

Upon the motion of Commissioner Jamie Grant, 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 have the First Reading to reappoint Jahn Coppey to the Big Wills Water Authority for a six-year term.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 21st DAY OF MARCH, 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 to reappoint Randy Burns to the Big Wills Water Authority for a six-year term.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 21st DAY OF MARCH, 2023

Upon the 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 approve the request of Shane Ellison, Chief Administrative Officer, to grant approval for Titavis Jackson in the Maintenance Department to receive PTO leave donations. This employee has met the eligibility requirements under the program guidelines.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 21st DAY OF MARCH, 2023.

Upon the motion of Commissioner Ramsey, 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 agreements with Tyler Technologies for the Time & Attendance Module (hosted solution) and for eTimesheets, and to authorize the CAO to execute any necessary documents. A copy of this Agreement has been filed in Attachment Book 13, Page 023.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 21st DAY OF MARCH, 2023.

Upon the motion of Commissioner Jamie Grant, seconded by Commissioner 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 authorize the abatement of 20 years of ad valorem taxes for Project Scout, and to abate any sales-use taxes during construction. A copy of this letter is filed in Attachment Book 13, Page 024.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 21st DAY OF MARCH, 2023.

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 Hunting Lease, Liability Waiver, and Indemnity Agreement with the Wesson Lake Hunting Club, and to authorize the CAO to execute the Lease. A copy of this Agreement has been filed in Attachment Book 13, Page 025.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 21st DAY OF MARCH, 2023.

REPORTS FROM THE STAFF

**Chief Administrative Officer
County Engineer
County Attorney
Other**

DISCUSSION BY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Statum said he had been sick but was find now and thanked everyone for coming. He said he appreciated them moving forward and knew everything was in good hands.

Commissioner Johnny Grant thanked everyone for coming and said the fundraiser for Family Success will be Saturday, May 6th.

Commissioner Jamie Grant said it was great that the IDA, City of Gadsden, and Etowah County were working together and he thanked everyone for coming. He said it was a good program.

Commissioner Ramsey thanked Ms. King and said he was familiar with their facility and appreciated all they were doing. He said he was impressed with the robotics and they were doing a great job. He talked about the Maranatha program they were having in Rainbow City and for the last couple of months they had program for young people with disabilities and their parents in a networking group. He thinks it would be a good program to support. Also, he gave money to the snip-it program to help with unwanted dogs/cats.

Commissioner Washington thanked everyone for coming.

Commissioner Inzer talked about Project Scout and how they originally had an interest in the Megasite but when everyone realized they wouldn't be a good fit for that property, they liked the area and looked at other property available through the Gadsden – Etowah Industrial Development Authority. The Megasite is bringing interest to the area.

ADJOURN: The Chair then entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. Upon motion of Commissioner Johnny Grant, seconded by Commissioner Statum, with all other members voting “yes”, the motion was passed. The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 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