

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE ETOWAH COUNTY COMMISSION
ETOWAH COUNTY, ALABAMA
May 2, 2023**

Commissioner Craig Inzer, Jr., called the meeting to order on the 2nd Day of May, 2023 at 9:00 am and Shane Ellison, CAO, asked the Prayer and led the Pledge to the Flag.

CALL OF ROLL TO ESTABLISH A QUORUM: The following 4 out of 6 Commission members were at the meeting and accordingly a quorum was present:

District 3 – Jamie Grant
District 4 – Tim Ramsey

District 5 – Jeffery Washington
District 6 – Craig Inzer

Absent: Joey Statum - District 1
Johnny Grant – District 2

PUBLIC COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS: Frank Leatherwood signed in to discuss issues with his road. He said it had never been paved and they just patch it all the time. He also has concerns about a mobile home park being set up close to him.

Allen Millican signed in to update the Commissioners on the Challenger Center. The Governor plans to include the project in her budget for \$8.5 million so they are trying to get about \$850,000 to match what they will get from grants. They already have a promise of \$200,000 over a 5-year period. The simulation cost \$2.5 million. They want the project built in Gadsden but it will serve the surrounding seven counties including Etowah County and it will remain free for the kids to participate. This will be a learning center and not a ‘field trip’. The members of the Committee trying to get the funding together have personally put money into the project, with each giving at least \$1,000 apiece. The Commission is being asked to give \$25,000 a year for the next 4 to 5 years and they plan to make that happen

Edward Moon with the American Legion Post in Attalla discussed the flag placement at the Oak Hill Cemetery, which will begin at 10:30 am. They also plan to have a Pro-Rodeo at the Fair Grounds on May 26th-27th- and are asking the Commissioners to help any way they can. (This will take place on the weekend of Memorial Day.) He said they also needed a road sign on Griffin Street for their location because it is easy to miss. He wants a double-sided sign and has talked to the City of Attalla but hasn’t heard back yet.

Don and Paula Colvin and two others signed in to discuss the condition of Mine Road in Etowah County. Part of the road is in the city and part of it is in the county and it has been badly neglected over the past few years. In the past, they said the county did some ditching on the road and put in a big culvert but now there’s some questions concerning the possibility the road is a private road. Robert Nail said there were changes made in 2009 and they could no longer work on a private road but he would need to check on it. It runs off of Crudup Road. They said they would all be willing to donate right-of-way to get the road fixed, if needed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS FROM ELECTED OFFICIALS & OTHERS:

Judge Hassell discussed May as Mental Health Awareness Month and said each week during the month there will be a different focus. He said they try to reduce the stigma associated with mental health issues. Next week they will concentrate on youth and are also planning to partner with Gadsden Municipal Court. They will also discuss Behavior Health at work and on May 23rd they will have lunch for the County Employees. Judge Hassell said there were three appointments the Commission has on the CED Mental Health Board and two have expired and one member has resigned. He said suicide is the 2nd leading cause of death in teenagers and to make matters worse, we have a shortage of mental health workers. They are trying to provide a safety net for those in need.

AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS, PROCLAMATIONS, OR ANNOUNCEMENTS: Shane Ellison presented Judge Hassell with a Proclamation declaring May as Mental Health Awareness Month, which was signed by all Commissioners.

Upon 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 recess in order to have a Work Session at 9:37 am.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 2nd DAY OF MAY, 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 9:55 am.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 2nd DAY OF MAY, 2023.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Upon motion of Commissioner Ramsey, seconded by Commissioner Washington, 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 April 4, 2023, and April 18, 2023 of the Etowah County Commission be, and the same are hereby, approved as written.
- B. The Proposed Agenda for May 2, 2023
- C. Any Reported Financial Transactions. A copy of the Credit Card Purchases for April 2023 is filed in Attachment Book 13, Page 034.
- D. To approve the request of Melissa Lett, Purchasing Accountant, to award Bid No FY 2023-12 Traffic Stripe and Pavement Markers to TRP Construction Group, the only bidder.
- E. To approve the request of Melissa Lett, Purchasing Accountant, to award Bid No FY 2023-11 In Place Plant Mix to Vulcan Materials and Wiregrass Construction, the lowest, responsible bidders.
- F. To approve the request of Melissa Lett, Purchasing Accountant, to award Bid No FY 2023-10 Bituminous Surface Treatment to Charles E. Watts, Inc., the only bidder.
- G. To approve the request of Melissa Lett, Purchasing Accountant, to renew Bid No FY 2021-2022-16 Hygiene Products – Jail with the current vendor, Bob Barker Company, for an additional year as provided for in the original bid.
- H. To place the name of Cody Manuel in the Sheriff’s Office job slot of Deputy Sheriff (Trainee), effective May 1, 2023. This is a replacement to be paid from the Sheriff’s Office, General Fund, at an hourly rate of \$14.62.
- I. To place the name of Monroe J. Beasley IV in the Sheriff’s Office job slot of FTO Deputy Specialist, effective April 25, 2023. This is a replacement and a promotion to be paid from the Sheriff’s Office, General Fund, at an hourly rate of \$16.95.
- J. To place the name of Tyler Kircus in the Sheriff’s Office job slot of Detention Deputy, effective May 8, 2023. This is a replacement to be paid from the Jail Fund, at an hourly rate of \$14.98.
- K. To place the name of John Eller in the Sheriff’s Office job slot of Detention Deputy, effective May 15, 2023. This is a replacement to be paid from the Jail Fund, at an hourly rate of \$14.98.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 2nd DAY OF MAY, 2023.

NEW BUSINESS:

Upon the 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 approve the Agreement between the Etowah County Commission and Central Alabama Sickle Cell Foundation Relative to Transportation Services and to authorize the Commission President to execute the document. A copy of this Agreement is filed in Attachment Book 13, Page 035.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 2nd DAY OF MAY, 2023.

Upon the motion of Commissioner Jamie Grant, 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 Resolutions for the grant application for Rural Transportation for 2023 and to authorize the Commission President to execute the documents. This includes the Authorizing Resolution and the Resolution to Authorize local Matching Funds. Copies of these Agreements are filed in Attachment Book 13, Page 036.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 2nd DAY OF MAY, 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 approve the Lease Agreement with Etowah County Rural Transportation and to authorize the Commission President to execute the document. A copy of the Lease Agreement is filed in Attachment Book 13, Page 037.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 2nd DAY OF MAY, 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 approve the Agreement with Cavanaugh Macdonald Consulting, LLC., for the 2022 Memorandum of Participation for the Interim GASB 75 Report of the Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) and to authorize the CAO to execute the document. The fee will be \$2,500. A copy of this Agreement is filed in Attachment Book 13, Page 038.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 2nd DAY OF MAY, 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 approve the Grant Funding Pre-Application from the Office of State and Community Energy Programs (SCEP) for the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Program and to authorize the CAO and CFO to execute all documents. A copy of the Grant is filed in Attachment Book 13, Page 039.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 2nd DAY OF MAY, 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 approve the Technical Assistance Agreement with the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA) to implement the Alabama Community Broadband Technical Assistance Program (TAP) project and to authorize the CAO or the Commission President to execute all documents.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 2nd DAY OF MAY, 2023.

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REPORTS FROM THE STAFF

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

DISCUSSION BY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Jamie Grant said it was good to have citizens here and he knew when things were in your area, they were important. The Commission has a lot of areas to look at regarding road work in the County. He thanked everyone for coming. He also mentioned the former District 3 Commissioner Larry V Payne had passed away and he will be missed.

Commissioner Ramsey added that retired Commissioner Payne worked on getting the County cleaned up and he plans to get back on cleaning up the litter on the road in his honor. He thanked Mr. Moon for being here. Mr. Moon added they plan to clean up the War Memorial at the Falls if anyone wanted to help. Commissioner Ramsey said he complains about the lack of funding for the roads every week and questions what needs to be done to make the roads better. It will take more funds to resolve the issue. He said they will have to see what they can legally do on Mine Street/Road. He said there was a ribbon cutting at Grace Academy on East Broad Street at Gadsden State today. He also thanked Judge Hassell for his work on Mental Health issues.

Commissioner Washington thanked everyone for coming.

Commissioner Inzer said they will see what can be done about Mine Road and thanked them for coming. He said they were working on getting more money for the Megasite and working with the State.

ADJOURN: The Chair then entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. Upon motion of Commissioner Jamie Grant, seconded by Commissioner Ramsey, with all other members voting “yes”, the motion was passed. The meeting was adjourned at 10:07 am.

ABSENT

Joey Statum, Commissioner, District 1

Tim Ramsey, Commissioner, District 4

ABSENT

Johnny Grant, Commissioner, District 2

Jeffery Washington, Commissioner, District 5

Jamie W. Grant, Commissioner, District 3

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