

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE ETOWAH COUNTY COMMISSION
ETOWAH COUNTY, ALABAMA
September 26, 2023**

Commissioner Craig Inzer, Jr., called the meeting to order on the 26th Day of September, 2023 at 9:00 am and Commissioner Statum 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 4 – Tim Ramsey
District 2 – Johnny Grant	District 5 – Jeffery Washington
District 3 – Jamie Grant	District 6 – Craig Inzer

PUBLIC COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS: Katie Bohannon and Emma Clapp with the Family Success Center invited the Commissioners to the ribbon cutting for their Community Garden and thanked the Commissioners for their support.

PUBLIC COMMENTS FROM ELECTED OFFICIALS & OTHERS: None.

AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS, PROCLAMATIONS, OR ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Upon 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 recess in order to have a Work Session at 9:07 am.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 26th DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2023.

Upon motion of Commissioner Joey 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 call the Etowah County Commission Meeting back to order at 9:45 am.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 26th DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2023.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Upon motion of Commissioner Statum, 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) dated August 15, 2023, and September 5, 2023, of the Etowah County Commission be, and the same are hereby, approved as written.
- B. The Proposed Agenda for September 26, 2023.
- C. Any Reported Financial Transactions.
- D. To place the name of Tyler Daniel in the Sheriff’s Office job slot of Detention Deputy, effective September 15, 2023. This is a replacement to be paid from the Jail Fund, at an hourly rate of \$14.98.
- E. To place the name of Steven Griffin in the Sheriff’s Office job slot of Captain of Patrol, effective September 17, 2023. This is a promotion and a replacement to be paid from the Sheriff’s Office, General Fund, at an hourly rate of \$22.80.
- F. To place the name of Cody Eubanks in the Sheriff’s Office job slot of Sergeant of Patrol, effective September 17, 2023. This is a promotion and a replacement to be paid from the Sheriff’s Office, General Fund, at an hourly rate of \$17.82.
- G. To place the name of Eula Higgins in the Sheriff’s Office job slot of Detention Deputy, effective September 11, 2023. This is a replacement to be paid from the Jail Fund, at an hourly rate of \$19.18.

- H. To place the name of Regina Benzel in the Sheriff's Office job slot of Detention Deputy, effective September 11, 2023. This is a replacement to be paid from the Jail Fund, at an hourly rate of \$16.95.
- I. To place the name of Christopher Thornton in the Sheriff's Office job slot of Sergeant - Detention, effective September 11, 2023. This is a promotion and a replacement to be paid from the Jail Fund, at an hourly rate of \$18.72.
- J. To place the name of Ronnie Ward in the Sheriff's Office job slot of Sergeant - Detention, effective September 11, 2023. This is a replacement to be paid from the Jail Fund, at an hourly rate of \$16.96.
- K. To place the name of Barry Gardner in the Sheriff's Office job slot of Deputy Security Specialist, effective September 11, 2023. This is a promotion and a replacement to be paid from the Jail Fund, at an hourly rate of \$18.72.
- L. To place the name of Rona Watts in the Sheriff's Office job slot of Deputy Security Specialist, effective September 11, 2023. This is a promotion and a replacement to be paid from the Jail Fund, at an hourly rate of \$16.14.
- M. To place the name of Tiara Grady in the Sheriff's Office job slot of Deputy Security Specialist, effective September 11, 2023. This is a promotion and a replacement to be paid from the Jail Fund, at an hourly rate of \$16.14.
- N. To place the name of Jennifer McIntyre in the Sheriff's Office job slot of Detention Deputy, effective September 11, 2023. This is a promotion and a replacement to be paid from the Jail Fund, at an hourly rate of \$16.13.
- O. To place the name of John Streefkerk in the Sheriff's Office job slot of Sergeant - Certified, effective September 15, 2023. This is a promotion and a replacement to be paid from the Sheriff's Office, General Fund, at an hourly rate of \$17.82.
- P. To approve the request of Becky Nordgren, Revenue Commissioner, to hire Morgan Renfroe as a Revenue Tag & Title Clerk, effective September 26, 2023. This is a replacement to be paid from the Revenue – General Fund, at an hourly rate of \$12.00.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 26th DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2023.

NEW BUSINESS:

Upon the motion of Commissioner Joey Statum, seconded by Commissioner Jeffery 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 request of Shane Ellison, CAO, to adopt the FY 2024 Budgets. A copy of the Adopted Budget is filed in Attachment Book 13, Page 84.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 26th DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2023.

Upon the motion of Commissioner Johnny Grant, seconded by Commissioner Tim Ramsey, with all other member voting 'yes', the following resolution was adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ETOWAH COUNTY COMMISSION: That the following item was approved:

To adopt the Resolution to declare the week of September 24th through September 30th, 2023, as 'Water Quality Awareness Week'. A copy of the Resolution is filed in Attachment Book 13, Page 85.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 26th DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 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 Inmate Housing Agreements with the following municipalities: Attalla, Altoona, Glencoe, Hokes Bluff, Rainbow City, Southside, and Sardis. Copies of these agreements are filed in Attachment Book 13, Page 86.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 26th DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 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 approve the Modification of the MOU with CED Mental Health to increase the funding toward the salary of the Probate Liaison by \$3,000 annually and to authorize the CAO to execute the document. A copy of this agreement is filed in Attachment Book 13, Page 87.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 26th DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 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 Service Contract with ICS for ‘ThreatLocker Zero-Trust’ and ‘CyberconIQ MyQ Assessment’ for county employees and to authorize the CAO to execute all documents. A copy of this agreement is filed in Attachment Book 13, Page 88.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 26th DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2023

REPORTS FROM THE STAFF

Chief Administrative Officer – Shane thanked the department heads, employees, and elected officials and said he was cautiously optimistic for a good year.

County Engineer

County Attorney

Other

DISCUSSION BY COMMISSIONERS

Sheriff Horton thanked all of the Commissioners, Kevin, and Shane and said it means a lot to him and his employees for them to give them raises with nearly a \$4 an hour increase over the last 3 years. He said he appreciated that they did what they could, even though it wasn’t as much as they asked for, but he knows and appreciates that they did their best.

Commissioner Washington said he was glad the municipalities are going to start paying for their jail use and ‘this will really help us in the long run’. He also thanked Kevin and Shane for their work on the budget and said he was looking forward to the Unity Tree Ceremony on November 27th.

Commissioner Ramsey welcomed Tina Morrison from the Greater Tourism Board. He thanked the Family Success Center for their work on the Community Garden. He said he was glad they were able to get the budget together for the employees and was glad the Sheriff is closer to where they need to be. He thanked Kevin and Shane for the additional money in the road budget and said he was glad the bond will be paid off to free up that money. He said we can only do what we can afford to do and Robert and his crew do a great job.

Commissioner Jamie Grant said you won’t find a Commission anywhere that cares as much about their Sheriff’s Office as this one does, enough to forego their raises to make sure there was more funding for the Sheriff’s Office employees. He said they are here to serve the people of Etowah County and not here to get rich. He thanked Kevin and Shane for their hard work.

Commissioner Johnny Grant agreed with Jamie and said all of the employees needed a raise and he felt like the Commissioners did all they could to make that happen.

Commissioner Statum said it is great what Team work can accomplish. He thanked the employees for their hard work and said people just don’t realize how many accounts Kevin has to deal with on a daily basis. He thanked the Sheriff and his department for all they do.

Commissioner Washington said he was glad they were able to absorb the insurance cost increase.

Commissioner Inzer said sometimes benefits get lost in the shuffle and he was also glad they were able to absorb the insurance cost increase and still give employee raises. He said they talk about the Sheriff’s Office a lot but it’s a big department. This is the largest budget the county has ever passed. The presentation gives everyone an idea of where the money comes from.

ADJOURN: The Chair then entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. Upon motion of Commissioner Johnny Grant, seconded by Commissioner Tim Ramsey, with all other members voting “yes”, the motion was passed. The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 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