

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE ETOWAH COUNTY COMMISSION  
ETOWAH COUNTY, ALABAMA  
October 17, 2023**

Commissioner Craig Inzer, Jr., called the meeting to order on the 17th Day of October, 2023 at 9:00 am and Judge Hassell 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:** None.

**AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS, PROCLAMATIONS, OR ANNOUNCEMENTS:** None.

Upon motion of Commissioner Jamie Grant, seconded by Commissioner Joey 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 recess in order to have a Work Session at 9:02 am.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 17th DAY OF OCTOBER, 2023.**

Upon 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 call the Etowah County Commission Meeting back to order at 9:35 am.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 17th DAY OF OCTOBER, 2023.**

Commission President Craig Inzer, Jr., made a motion to add a personnel request form from the Revenue Commissioner to the Consent Agenda as item ‘I’. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Statum and approved by all Commissioners. This item was added.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

Upon motion of Commissioner Tim Ramsey, 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 September 26, 2023, of the Etowah County Commission be, and the same hereby, approved as written.
- B. The Proposed Agenda for October 17th, 2023.
- C. Any Reported Financial Transactions.
- D. To place the name of Joseph Fountain in the Sheriff’s Office job slot of Detention Deputy, effective October 16, 2023. This is a replacement to be paid from the Jail Fund, at an hourly rate of \$15.36.
- E. To place the name of Marilyn Jones in the Sheriff’s Office job slot of Detention Deputy, effective October 16, 2023. This is a replacement to be paid from the Jail Fund, at an hourly rate of \$15.36.
- F. To place the name of Madelyn Steele in the Sheriff’s Office job slot of Detention Deputy, effective October 16, 2023. This is a replacement to be paid from the Jail Fund, at an hourly rate of \$15.36.
- G. To place the name of Nathan Chapman in the Sheriff’s Office job slot of Detention Deputy, effective October 16, 2023. This is a replacement to be paid from the Jail Fund, at an hourly rate of \$15.36.

- H. To approve the Agreement with Community Foundation of Northeast Alabama, on behalf of The Challenger Learning Center of Northeast Alabama, to support the Challenger Learning Center with an annual pledge of \$25,000 for four years (not to exceed \$100,000), and to authorize the CAO to execute the document. A copy of this Agreement is filed in Attachment Book 13, Page 91.
- I. To approve the request of Becky Nordgren, Revenue Commissioner, to promote Lana Barnes to Mapper 1, effective October 17, 2023. This is a replacement to be paid from the Reappraisal Fund, at an hourly rate of \$16.13.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 17th DAY OF OCTOBER, 2023.**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

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 Supplemental Agreement No. 1 for funding Rural Transportation in Etowah County for FY 2023 – 2025. This agreement extends the funds awarded through the CARES ACT of 2020 and the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP) to be used on any approved expenses for the Rural Transportation Department, and to authorize the Commission President to execute the document. A copy of this Agreement is filed in Attachment Book 13, Page 92.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 17th DAY OF OCTOBER, 2023.**

Upon the motion of Commissioner Jamie Grant, seconded by Commissioner Johnny Grant, 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:

- A. To approve the following Budget Amendment, effective September 30, 2023, for the Probate Judge’s Office:

<b>Increase:</b> Expenditures	
Salaries & Wages (001.51300.113)	\$20,728
Retirement Contribution (001.51300.121)	\$1,523
Social Security/Medicare Taxes (001.51300.124)	\$1,526
<b>Increase:</b> Revenue	
Salaries – Probate Judge Reimbursement (001.4000.44996-710)	\$23,777

**PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 17th DAY OF OCTOBER, 2023.**

Upon the motion of Commissioner Jamie Grant, seconded by Commissioner Johnny Grant, 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:

- A. To approve the following line-item transfers for the Reappraisal Fund:

<b>Increase:</b>	
Longevity Pay (120.51800-106)	\$1,251
Retirees Insurance (120.51800-127)	\$5,452
Misc. Services provided by others (120.51800-199)	\$4,865
Office Supplies (120.51800-211)	\$233
Repairs & Maintenance-Appraisal DP Software (120.51800-241)	\$4,950
Utilities – Electricity (120.51800-241)	\$1,920
Advertising (120.51800-253)	\$598
Minor Office Equipment (120.51800-470)	<u>\$8,700</u>
	<u>\$27,969</u>
<b>Decrease:</b>	
Salaries & Wages (120.51800-113)	\$1,251
Health Insurance (120.51800-122)	\$5,452
Legal Services (120.51800-154)	\$4,208
Membership Dues (120.51800-171)	\$141
Tire & Tubes (120.51800-215)	\$657
Misc. Supplies (120.51800-219)	\$500
Repairs & Maintenance – Office Equipment (120.51800-233)	\$500
Repairs & Maintenance – Data Processing Equip. (120.51800-235)	\$1,316
Repairs & Maintenance – GIS Hardware (120.51800-239)	\$272
Repairs & Maintenance – GIS Software (120.51800-240)	\$2,454
Utilities – Water (120.51800-246)	\$257
Telephone (120.51800-251)	\$122
Postage (120.51800-252)	\$1,117
Cellular Service (120.51800-255)	\$138
Gasoline for County Vehicles (120.51800-266)	\$884
Motor Vehicles (120.51800-551)	<u>\$8,700</u>

**PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 17th DAY OF OCTOBER, 2023.**

Upon the motion of Commissioner Jamie Grant, seconded by Commissioner Johnny Grant, 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 approve the 'Notice of Change of Congressional District' notifying the voters of Etowah County that pursuant to an order of the United States District Court, Northern District of Alabama, Southern Division, Etowah County is now part of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives. A copy of this notice is filed in Attachment Book 13, Page 93.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 17th DAY OF OCTOBER, 2023.**

Upon the motion of Commissioner Joey Statum, seconded by Commissioner Johnny Grant, 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 polling places for the upcoming 2024 Elections (the list of polling precincts is filed in Attachment Book 13, Page 94):

Primary Election – March 5, 2024  
Primary Run-off Election – April 16, 2024  
General Election – November 5, 2024

**PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 17th DAY OF OCTOBER, 2023.**

Upon the motion of Commissioner Tim Ramsey, seconded by Commissioner Jamie Grant, 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 approve the request from Probate Judge Scott Hassell to designate River Bank and Trust of Gadsden, Alabama, as the depository for the operating funds of the Probate Office for FY 2024.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 17th DAY OF OCTOBER, 2023.**

Upon the motion of Commissioner Jamie Grant, seconded by Commissioner Johnny Grant, 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 accept the recommendation of Goodwyn, Mills, Cawood, to award Northeast Alabama Regional Megasite Water Transmission Main Bid to Jordan Excavating Company, LLC, and to authorize the Commission President to execute the document. A copy is filed in Attachment Book 13, Page 95.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 17th DAY OF OCTOBER, 2023.**

Upon the motion of Commissioner Joey Statum, seconded by Commissioner Johnny Grant, 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 declare the following property as surplus:

Approximately one acre of property located on Reservoir Street (PIN# 32647) in Gadsden, Alabama.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 17th DAY OF OCTOBER, 2023.**

Upon the motion of Commissioner Joey Statum, seconded by Commissioner Johnny Grant, 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 award the Region 7 Debris Removal Monitoring Services contract to Thompson Consulting Services, LLC, for FY 2024, as recommended by the Alabama County Joint Bid Program review committee. A copy of the Agreement is filed in Attachment Book 13, Page 96.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 17th DAY OF OCTOBER, 2023.**

## REPORTS FROM THE STAFF

Chief Administrative Officer  
County Engineer  
County Attorney  
Other

## DISCUSSION BY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Statum thanks everyone for being there and reminded everyone of the USDA Luncheon at the Senior Building in Glencoe from 11:30 to 12:30.

Commissioner Johnny Grant talked about a call he had regarding the GPS on the Old 411 and New 411.

Commissioner Jamie Grant talked about the JSU game being at home this week and on ESPN. He asked everyone to support them as they move to the next level (division). He talked about what a good program the Challenger Training Facility will be for the students. He said he was getting a lot of complaints about the appraisals on their property.

Becky Nordgren, Revenue Commissioner, said the State does a re-evaluation and last year it was the four-year reappraisal. She said someone at the State office looks at the sales numbers and picks a median price. (1/2 acre over/1/2 acre under). She doesn't agree with the method they use to come up with their values on the property. She said they started the annual evaluation because of Bob Riley (before that it was every 5 years). Blount County increased as much as Etowah County did and both counties had the same State Appraiser doing their evaluation. Marshal County was less and they had a different appraiser. Becky called and asked for an investigation and told them it needed to be uniform if the counties touch each other. She said they told her they would look at the other counties and see why they were not as much as Etowah & Blount Counties were. If they find something wrong, they have to correct it but it may be next year. Since June & July we had 10 different categories in Etowah County, compared to Calhoun with 77. They have all of Gadsden listed as one neighborhood. They are in the process of changing Etowah County to have 40 instead of 10 (sub-neighborhoods). This will help bring it more in-line. She said we need to have someone working for Etowah County that's certified to value but they have to pass a course work & test and the last test had only 3 pass out of 50. She has been trying to find someone to make them realize how much the State adjusts the numbers around. In 2014, Delta instructed the Revenue office to round up to the next 100. (These instructions allegedly came from the State Revenue Office). Delta gave her the software to change it but she has to make sure it won't violate any statutes in the state before she makes the changes. She said it looks like the State dept has gone rogue and she would like to sue the State Dept of Revenue (has to use the Judicial Branch to make a change). She has someone looking at the statutes to make sure they are being followed. They said it doesn't affect assessing except by a couple of dollars but she believes if it doesn't matter, why don't we use the real numbers.

Someone had complimented Sylvia Horton on how helpful she was with a customer.

Commissioner Tim Ramsey talked about a zoom meeting he attended and wondered if others had been on the meeting. Shane was and some of the others. There's a grant the State is expecting Etowah County to put in for the Megasite so they are looking into that. He thanked everyone for being at the meeting.

Robert Nail was not at the meeting today; he is attending a 911 Conference.

Commissioner Washington thanked everyone for being here. He reminded everyone we will have the Unity Tree Lighting on Monday, November 27<sup>th</sup> and WJSU will broadcast from the location. It will be at 6:00 pm and they plan to interview him about the Ceremony.

Commissioner Inzer said the Mayors Association will meet at the winery in Hokes Bluff on Thursday at 6:30 pm and he hopes someone is able to attend to represent the Commissioners. He thanked Becky for everything and said sometimes you have to fight or you get runover. He said he was glad everyone was able to work together on the bid award for the pipe running to the Megasite. It was awarded to Jordan Excavation and they worked with GMC and also Rainbow City Engineer and Utilities. He said you will see things happen that are beneficial and he was glad for the progress we are making. We are ahead of some others and he's glad for that. They are also working on the interstate exchange.

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

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Joey Statum, Commissioner, District 1

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Tim Ramsey, Commissioner, District 4

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Johnny Grant, Commissioner, District 2

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Jeffery Washington, Commissioner, District 5

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Jamie W. Grant, Commissioner, District 3

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

