

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

PUBLIC HEARING

Robert Nail conducted a public hearing regarding the vacation of Brow Cutoff. Robert had a map showing this was a farm road the county started maintaining in the seventies. It's a bumpy road with only one house on it, located in District 3. Robert asked for public comments and Julie Bright said this will be a major inconvenience for her because she drives one of the school buses and uses the road twice a day. She said if she has to go down to turn onto the road (without taking the cutoff), the turn is very sharp and hard to make.

Robert thanked her for her comments concerning the vacation. There were no other comments so Robert ended the public hearing at 9:05 am.

Commissioner Craig Inzer, Jr., called the Commission Meeting to order on the 7th Day of November, 2023 at 9:07 am and Commissioner Tim Ramsey asked the Prayer and led the Pledge to the Flag.

CALL OF ROLL TO ESTABLISH A QUORUM: The following 5 out of 6 Commission members were at the meeting and accordingly a quorum was present:

District 1 – Joey Statum
District 2 – Johnny Grant

District 4 – Tim Ramsey
District 5 – Jeffery Washington
District 6 – Craig Inzer

Absent: Jamie Grant – District 3

PUBLIC COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS: None.

AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS, PROCLAMATIONS, OR ANNOUNCEMENTS: None.

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 recess in order to have a Work Session at 9:15 am.

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

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

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

The Commissioners discussed tabling the Road Vacation Resolution until the next meeting since there were questions and concerns brought up during the public hearing. This will allow Robert Nail, County Engineer, time to check into any issues.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Upon motion of Commissioner Joey Statum, seconded by Commissioner Tim Ramsey, 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 October 3, 2023, of the Etowah County Commission be, and the same hereby, approved as written.
- B. The Proposed Agenda for November 7th, 2023.
- C. Any Reported Financial Transactions. A copy of the Cash Disbursements, Online Transfers, and Purchasing Charges for October, 2023, is filed in Attachment Book 13, Page 97.
- D. To approve the request of Melissa Lett, Purchasing Accountant, to award Bid No FY2024-01 Aggregate to Whitaker Contracting and Wiregrass Construction Company, the lowest bidders.
- E. To place the following names in the Sheriff's Office job slots of Detention Deputy, effective November 7, 2023. These are replacements to be paid from the Jail Fund, at an hourly rate of \$15.36:
 - a. Hunter Stidham
 - b. Braxtin Goodnight
 - c. Joshua Kirkendoll
 - d. Summer Owens
 - e. Jayme Johnson
 - f. Reagan Lawson
- F. To place the name of Trent Potapowicz in the Sheriff's Office job slot of Detention Deputy, effective October 30, 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 Michael Wynn in the Sheriff's Office job slot of Deputy/SRO, effective November 6, 2023. This is a replacement to be paid from the Sheriff's Office, General Fund, at an hourly rate of \$17.37.
- H. To place the name of Andrew Works in the Sheriff's Office job slot of Deputy Sheriff, effective November 6, 2023. This is a replacement to be paid from the Sheriff's Office, General Fund, at an hourly rate of \$17.37.
- I. To place the name of Benaiah Bishop in the Sheriff's Office job slot of Deputy Sheriff, effective November 6, 2023. This is a replacement to be paid from the Sheriff's Office, General Fund, at an hourly rate of \$17.37.
- J. To approve the request of Becky Nordgren, Revenue Commissioner, to promote Cindy Waddell to Personal Property Appraiser III, effective November 7, 2023. This is a promotion to be paid from the Reappraisal Fund, at an hourly rate of \$21.70.
- K. To approve the request of Becky Nordgren, Revenue Commissioner, to transfer Dana Justice to Revenue Full-time Floater, effective November 7, 2023. This is a transfer to be paid from the General Fund, Revenue, at an hourly rate of \$13.24. (This position combines two part-time positions into a full-time position).
- L. To approve the following requests from Becky Nordgren, Revenue Commissioner:
 - a. To designate all SAFE Program Banks in Etowah County as eligible to be the depository for the operating funds of the Revenue Commissioner's Office of Tags and Titles for the year beginning October 1, 2023. This also includes the satellite offices located in Hokes Bluff, Rainbow City, and Sardis.
 - b. To designate all SAFE Program banks in Etowah County as eligible to be the depository for the operating funds of the Revenue Commissioner's Office for Collections beginning October 1, 2023. This includes the collections of all real and business personal property, mobile homes, and redemptions.
- M. To approve all SAFE program banks in Etowah County eligible to be designated as a county depository for the next calendar year.

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

NEW BUSINESS:

Upon the motion of Commissioner Tim Ramsey, 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 Agreement with Smeltzer Center Relative to Transportation Services for FY 2024 and to authorize the Commission President to execute the document. A copy of the agreement is filed in Attachment Book 13, Page 98.

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

Upon the motion of Commissioner Washington, seconded by Commissioner Statum, 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:

The request of Kevin Dollar, Deputy Administrator/CFO, to make the following budget amendments:

General Fund

Increase:

Community Centers

Repairs & Maintenance – Building, Land, & Improvements (001.57901-231) \$21,308

Board of Education

Repairs & Maintenance – Building, Land, & Improvements (001.58100-231) \$2,685

Decrease:

Fund Balance (001.35900) \$23,993

Gas Tax Fund

Increase:

Repairs & Maintenance – Construction Equipment (111.53100-232) \$56,305

Decrease:

Fund Balance (111.35900) \$56,305

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

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

The request of Kevin Dollar, Deputy Administrator/CFO, to make the following Budget Amendments, effective September 30, 2023:

Rural Transportation Funds:

Increase:

Operating Transfer In – General Fund (271.61000-001) \$80,000
Transportation Fees (271.40000.45610-710) \$25,253
Other Revenue (271.40000.47900-000) \$937

Decrease:

Salaries & Wages (271.56210-113) \$34,120
Retirement (271.56210-121) \$2,836
Social Security / Medicare Taxes (271.56210-124) \$2,610

Decrease:

Operating Transfer In-Rural Transportation Escrow Fund (217.61000-273) \$145,756

Rural Transportation Escrow Fund:

Decrease:

Transportation Fees (273.40000.45610-720) \$60,000
Operating Transfer Out - Rural Transportation Fund (273.620000-271) \$145,756

Increase:

Fund Balance (273.35900) \$85,756

General Fund:

Increase:

Operating Transfer Out – Rural Transportation Fund (001.62000-271) \$80,000
Simplified Sellers Use Tax (001.40000.44145-023) \$80,000

Capital Improvement Fund:

Increase:

Repairs & Maintenance – Bldg, Land, & Improvements (Old Health Dept Bldg) (116.51993-231) \$22,635
Repairs & Maintenance – Bldg, Land, & Improvements (Detention Center) (116.51997-231) \$25,253
Repairs & Maintenance- Bldg, Land, & Improvements (Judicial Bldg) (116.51998-231) \$55,189
Repairs & Maintenance – Bldg, Land, & Improvements (Board of Education Bldg) (116.58100-231) \$20,000

Decrease:	
Repairs & Maintenance- Bldg, Land, & Improvements (Courthouse Bldg) (116.51996-231)	\$47,851
Bldg Additions & Renovations (Animal Shelter) (116.51996-231)	\$35,000
Operating Transfer Out – General Fund (116.62000-001)	\$150,000

Increase:	
Fund Balance (116.35900)	\$41,373

General Fund

Increase:	
Ad Valorem Taxes – Real Property (001.41111-001)	\$150,000

Decrease:	
Operating Transfer In – Capital Improvement Fund (001.61000-116)	\$150,000

Increase:	
Ad Valorem Taxes – Real Property (001.40000.41111-001)	\$96,261
Ad Valorem Taxes – Motor Vehicles 9001.40000.41112-001).	\$247,808

Decrease:	
Sale of Capital Assets (001.61210-000)	\$344,069

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

Upon the motion of Commissioner Inzer, 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 authorize Shane Ellison, CAO, to execute a buy-back offer of up to 60 hours of a combination of sick, vacation, paid-time-off (PTO), and /or comp time to eligible county employees to be executed in November, 2023.

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

Upon the motion of Commissioner Inzer, seconded by Commissioner 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 tabled until the next meeting in two weeks:

To table the request from Robert Nail, County Engineer, to approve the ‘Resolution to Vacate Brow Cutoff’.

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

Upon the motion of Commissioner Statum, seconded by Commissioner 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 approve the request of Becky Nordgren, Revenue Commissioner, to grant approval for Alexis Bonds, Revenue Collections Clerk, to received PTO leave donations. She has met the eligibility requirements under the program guidelines.

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

Upon the motion of Commissioner Statum, seconded by Commissioner 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 approve the request of Robert Nail, County Engineer, to grant approval for Donald Kelley, Maintenance Supervisor, to receive PTO donations. He has met the eligibility requirements under the program guidelines.

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

Upon the motion of Commissioner Washington, seconded by Commissioner 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 approve the following requests from Jeff Little, Personnel Director:

- a. To adopt the updated Vehicle Policy used by Etowah County. A copy of this update is filed in Attachment Book 13, Page 99.
- b. To adopt the updated Etowah County Drug and Alcohol Abuse Policies and Procedures. A copy of this update is filed in Attachment Book 13, Page 100.

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

Upon the motion of Commissioner Ramsey, 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 grant from the American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) Drinking Water/Wastewater Projects Agreement for the ARPA Stormwater Project in the amount of \$150,000 with the Commission authorizing the use of up to \$80,824 of its own funds and/or other resources to be used for the construction of the project. This project will replace up to 15 cross drain pipes on various paved roads as listed in the Agreement, and to authorize the CAO to execute the documents. A copy of this agreement is filed in Attachment Book 13, Page 101.

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

Upon the motion of Commissioner Statum, seconded by Commissioner 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 accept the grant from the American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) Drinking Water/Wastewater Projects Agreement for the ARPA Stormwater Project in the amount of \$71,678.35 with a minimum match required of \$25,087.42. This project will replace up to 5 cross drain pipes with new pipes as listed in the Agreement, and to authorize the CAO to execute the documents. A copy of this agreement is filed in Attachment Book 13, Page 102.

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

Upon the motion of Commissioner Statum, seconded by Commissioner 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 2024 meeting schedule for the Etowah County Commission. A copy of the schedule is filed in Attachment Book 13, Page 103.

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

Upon the motion of Commissioner Johnny Grant, seconded by Commissioner 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 2024 Holiday Schedule. A copy of the schedule is filed in Attachment Book 13, Page 104.

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

Upon the motion of Commissioner Ramsey, 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 designation that Snellgrove Civitan Center serves a public purpose and is eligible to receive public funds.

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

Upon the motion of Commissioner 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 approve the Agreement with Avenu for Franchise Fee Tax Revenue Administration and to authorize the CAO to execute the document. A copy of this agreement is filed in Attachment Book 13, Page 105.

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

Upon the motion of Commissioner Statum, seconded by Commissioner 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 authorize an Executive Session to discuss business and commerce after a roll call vote with the majority approve the session. District 1 – yes; District 2 – yes; District 4 – yes; District 5 – yes; District 6 – yes. The County Attorney, Jim Turnbach, certified the meeting met the criteria to be an executive session. Those attending include the Commissioners, Kevin Dollar, Jim Turnbach, and Shane Ellison. The Commission went into Executive Session at 10:00 am and Shane said there would not be any action taken after the meeting.

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

Upon the motion of Commissioner Statum, seconded by Commissioner 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 reconvene from Executive Session.

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

REPORTS FROM THE STAFF

Chief Administrative Officer
County Engineer
County Attorney
Other

DISCUSSION BY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Washington thanked everyone for coming. He reminded everyone of the Unity Tree Lighting Ceremony on November 27th. He also it will be a celebration with a lot of activities and a ‘house divided can’t stand’. The JSU 24 will be here to do their news program on location. He asked each Commissioner to give \$250 each for signs for the front and the back.

Commissioner Ramsey thanked everyone for coming to the meeting. He commended Commissioner Washington for his focus on the Unity Tree Lighting and keeping everyone on track. He said it will be a good thing to have and he also thanked the groups for coming to the meeting today. He asked Derrick (with EMA) to call him later about some fires that were breaking out. He thanked Robert for getting grant funds to replace the cross drains and said he looks forward to the Thanksgiving Lunch at The Venue.

Commissioner Johnny Grant thanked everyone for coming and said he appreciated Derrick staying up on the storm shelter situation and said to let them know if he or Shane can help in some way. They are looking at 2 potential shelters in one District. Derrick said one group had requested help from the Senator.

Commissioner Statum thanked everyone for coming. He also thanked the employees and the department heads. He also thanked the Assistant County Engineer and said he is doing a good job.

Commissioner Inzer reminded everyone the Patriots lunch will be Wednesday at 11:30 and at 6:00 tonight the State of the City will be addressed by Mayor Ford at The Venue. He thanked Ms. Bright for coming to express her concerns about the road vacation. There will be no work session on November 14th and the next meeting will be November 21st.

ADJOURN: The Chair then entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. Upon motion of Commissioner Joey Statum, seconded by Commissioner Johnny Grant, with all other members voting “yes”, the motion was passed. The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 am.

Joey Statum, Commissioner, District 1

Tim Ramsey, Commissioner, District 4

Johnny Grant, Commissioner, District 2

Jeffery Washington, Commissioner, District 5

ABSENT

Jamie W. Grant, Commissioner, District 3

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