

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE ETOWAH COUNTY COMMISSION
ETOWAH COUNTY, ALABAMA
August 27, 2024**

Commissioner Tim Ramsey, called the Commission Meeting to order on the 27th Day of August, 2024 at 9:00 am and Scott Hassell, Judge of Probate, 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 2 – Johnny Grant	District 4 – Tim Ramsey
District 3 – Jamie Grant	District 5 – Jeffery Washington
	District 6 – Craig Inzer

Absent: Joey Statum – District 1

PUBLIC COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS: Jackie Lowery with Alabama Power talked about a Regional Program they have started called One East Alabama, which involves nine counties in East Alabama to help with Economic Development in this area. They plan to announce their program and the director on September 19th at the Talladega National Speedway. She played a video that will support their program and promoted these counties, with several good pictures taken in Etowah County.

Commissioner Ramsey said he appreciate all Alabama Power does for economic development in our county and state.

Trent Thrasher (Construction company owner) came to the meeting to discuss his involvement with the Challenger Center in Rainbow City. He explained the process he went through, being interviewed and vetted for the opportunity to build the facility. He said he has his own architect and uses his own people and he is local to our area. This enables him to save money while still providing good quality and he is looking forward to the project. The Governor has been invited to attend the ground-breaking on September 17th. He just wanted to answer any questions regarding the project and the 501C3 status of the Foundation in charge, which allows them to hire someone qualified to do the work without having to go through the bid process and pick the lowest bidder. The Commissioners had requested their \$100,000 donation be used on a portion of the project that will allow it to be bid out.

Mark Richards with NE Alabama Water Authority came to the meeting to notify the Etowah County Commission of the raise they planned to give their Board Members, with the President of the Board increasing to \$350 per meeting and the Board Members increasing to \$300 per meeting. This is funded by Northeast Alabama Water but they are required to notify all of the Commissions they operate under (also includes Marshall, Cherokee, and DeKalb Counties) of the pay increase and receive a confirmation from the Commissions of the notification. In Etowah County, they are primarily in the Smith Institute Area. Commissioner Ramsey asked about their loss rate and he said it is 18 to 19% and they fixed 109 leaks in July. Commissioner Jamie Grant didn't understand the reason they had to be notified since the pay doesn't come from our county but Mr. Richards explained it was for auditing purposes. Shane said he would type a letter for Mr. Richards and everyone was okay with that.

Eric Schavey, County Extension Coordinator, said they had a good report from the kitchen at the annual meeting and they used locally grown products. They have the 4-H programs starting soon in 8 schools and they currently have 1 full-time and 1 part-time employees working with the schools on these programs. He said they really needed for this to be 2 full-time positions because it's hard to get to all of the classrooms on working 20 hours a week. (This is something that is paid for from funds they receive from the Commission). He said they will have the chick-chain auction on October 19th at The Fairgrounds in Ft Payne.

AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS, PROCLAMATIONS, OR ANNOUNCEMENTS: Becky Nordgren, Revenue Commissioner, recognized her Deputy Director, Annette Thompson, for her 15 years of Service. She said she does a great job.

Upon motion of Commissioner Inzer, 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 recess in order to have a Work Session at 9:40 am.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 27th DAY OF AUGUST, 2024.

Upon 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 call the Etowah County Commission Meeting back to order at 10:00 am.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 27th DAY OF AUGUST, 2024.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Upon motion of Commissioner Statum, 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 July 30, 2024, and August 6, 2024, of the Etowah County Commission be, and the same are hereby, approved as written.
- B. The Proposed Agenda for August 27, 2024.
- C. Any reported financial transactions.
- C. To approve the request of Melissa Lett, Purchasing Accountant, to award Bid No FY 2024-14 (A) & (B) Lawn Mtn - Co Bldgs to Addison Lawn Care, the lowest, responsible bidder.
- D. To approve the request of Melissa Lett, Purchasing Accountant, to renew Bid No FY 2021-2022-23 Janitorial Supplies with the current vendor, McCleskey Brothers, Inc., for the third and final year as provided for in the original bid.
- E. To approve the request of Melissa Lett, Purchasing Accountant, to renew Bid No FY 2021-2022-21 Filters – Fuel, Air, Oil, & Hydraulic with the current vendor, Tractor & Equipment Company, for a third and final year as provided for in the original bid.
- F. To place the name of Kaitlyn Mason in the Sheriff’s Office job slot of Detention Deputy, effective June 28, 2024. This is an involuntary demotion to be paid from the Jail Fund, at an hourly rate of \$18.27.
- G. To place the name of Ralph Lemons in the Sheriff’s Office job slot of Detention Deputy, effective August 5, 2024. This is a replacement to be paid from the Jail Fund, at an hourly rate of \$15.36.
- H. To place the following names in the Sheriff’s Office job slots of Detention Deputy, effective August 19, 2024. These are replacements to be paid from the Jail Fund, at an hourly rate of \$15.36:
 1. Anthony (Tony) Roberson
 2. Salena Claire Miller
 3. Jeremy Cannon
 4. Tatyana Cole
 5. Austin Elder
- I. To place the name of Summer Doran in the Sheriff’s Office job slot of Deputy Specialist, effective August 15, 2024. This is a promotion and a replacement to be paid from the Sheriff’s Office, General Fund, at an hourly rate of \$18.26.
- J. To place the name of Dustin Ledbetter in the Sheriff’s Office job slot of Deputy Specialist, effective August 27, 2024. This is a promotion and a replacement to be paid from the Sheriff’s Office, General Fund, at an hourly rate of \$18.71.
- K. To place the name of Dakota Grant in the Sheriff’s Office job slot of Deputy, effective August 9, 2024. This is a voluntary demotion and a replacement to be paid from the Sheriff’s Office, General Fund, at an hourly rate of \$19.66.
- L. To place the name of Zack Boggs in the Sheriff’s Office job slot of Deputy Specialist, effective August 26, 2024. This is a promotion and a replacement to be paid from the Sheriff’s Office, General Fund, at an hourly rate of \$18.25.
- M. To approve the request of Robert Nail, County Engineer, to hire Samuel Richards as an Equipment Operator, effective September 3, 2024. This is a replacement to be paid from the Gas Tax Fund, at an hourly rate of \$14.62.
- N. To approve the request of Brittany Coheley, Animal Shelter Director, to hire Christopher Dotson as a Kennel Technician, effective September 3, 2024. This is a replacement to be paid from the General Fund, Animal Control/Shelter, at an hourly rate of \$12.60.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 27th DAY OF AUGUST, 2024.

NEW BUSINESS:

Upon the motion of Commissioner Johnny Grant, 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 item was approved:

To approve the request of Scott Hassell, Judge of Probate, to make the following emergency polling place change for the upcoming 2024 General Election (due to renovations being incomplete at Wallace Hall):

Change from - Wallace Hall at Gadsden State Community College
1001 George Wallace Drive
Gadsden, AL 35903

Change to – Beck Field House at Gadsden State Community College
1001 George Wallace Drive
Gadsden, AL 35903

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 27th DAY OF AUGUST, 2024.

Upon the motion of Commissioner Washington, 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 item was approved:

To approve the request of Kevin Dollar, Deputy Administrator/CFO, to make the following Budget Amendments, due to equipment or computer upgrades:

Revenue:		
Increase:		
	Sale of Capital Assets (001.61210.000)	\$6,500
Expenditures:		
Increase:		
	County Commission	
	Equipment<Threshold (001.51100-471)	\$7,340
	Probate Judge's Office	
	Equipment<Threshold (001.51300-471)	\$12,615
	Revenue Commissioner's Office	
	Equipment<Threshold (001.51600-471)	\$3,000
	Personnel	
	Equipment<Threshold (001.51962-471)	\$1,500
	License Inspector	
	Equipment<Threshold (001.51980-471)	\$1,500
	Maintenance	
	Equipment<Threshold (001.51995-471)	\$2,250
	Animal Shelter/Animal Control	
	Equipment<Threshold (001.55400-471)	\$2,250
	Data Processing	
	Equipment<Threshold (001.51965-235)	\$362
Decrease:		
	Data Processing	
	Data Processing-Computer Hardware (001.51965-581)	\$24,317

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 27th DAY OF AUGUST, 2024.

Upon the motion of Commissioner Jamie Grant, 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 item was approved:

To approve the request of Kevin Dollar, Deputy Administrator/CFO to make the following Budget Amendments:

Revenue:		
Decrease:		
	Late Payment Penalties – Ad Valorem Taxes (001.40000.45295-710)	\$64,498
	Other Revenue (001.40000.47900-000)	\$53,358

Increase:		
Interest Revenue (001.40000.47100-025)		\$10,000
Ad Valorem Taxes – Real Property (001.40000.41111-001)		\$107,856

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 27th DAY OF AUGUST, 2024.

Upon the motion of Commissioner Inzer, 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 item was approved:

To approve the request of Robert Nail, County Engineer, to grant approval for Thomas Badgett, an employee in the Engineering Department, to receive PTO leave donations. This employee has met the eligibility requirements under the program guidelines.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 27th DAY OF AUGUST, 2024.

Upon the motion of Commissioner Jamie Grant, 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 item was approved:

To approve the request of Becky Nordgren, Revenue Commissioner, to grant approval for Maxine Jones, Real Property Appraiser, and Morgan Renfro, Revenue Clerk-Tag & Title, to both receive PTO leave donations. These employees have met the eligibility requirements under the program guidelines.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 27th DAY OF AUGUST, 2024.

Upon the motion of Commissioner Jamie Grant, seconded by Commissioner Inzer, 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 item was approved:

To approve the MOU between Etowah County Sheriff’s Office, Etowah County Commission, and Etowah County 911 regarding a minor increase in pay for the Warrant Clerk in the Sheriff’s Office. A copy of this agreement is filed in Attachment Book 14, Page 62.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 27th DAY OF AUGUST, 2024.

Upon the motion of Commissioner Washington, 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 item was approved:

To approve the following purchases made by the Sheriff’s Office using the Opioid Funds:

- a. FY 23 - \$27,500 for the annual lease of 10 Falcon Cameras (flock camera system); and \$5,069.66 for DARE Supplies for the schools.
- b. FY24 - \$14,767.12 for annual lease of flock cameras; and \$2,850 for DARE Officer Training.
- c. FY 24 Pending Request -\$4000 to purchase educational media and materials with a TV/Streaming/Social Media add campaign on the dangers of drugs and how we fight drug abuse as it relates to mental health. This will also share the drug/crime tip-line and focus on the IMPACT and drug abuse programs.
- d. FY 24 Pending Request - \$5000 to provide funding for educational material (Dangers of Drugs and Drug Abuse in youth) for National Red Ribbon Week and Crime/Drug Tip-line materials at Community Events and D.A.R.E. program in Etowah County Schools.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 27th DAY OF AUGUST, 2024.

Upon the motion of Commissioner Johnny Grant, 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 item was approved:

To approve the Alabama Department of Youth Services Long Term Detention Subsidy Contract with Coosa Valley Youth Center as the Detention Center to receive funds.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 27th DAY OF AUGUST, 2024.

Upon the motion of Commissioner Jamie Grant, 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 item was approved:

To approve the 'Easement Agreement' with Alabama Power for waterlines through a portion of property on or adjacent to Little Canoe Creek on Neely Henry Lake and to authorize the Commission President or the CAO to execute the document. A copy of this agreement is filed in Attachment Book 14, Page 63.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 27th DAY OF AUGUST, 2024.

Upon the motion of Commissioner Jamie Grant, seconded by Commissioner Inzer, 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 item was approved:

To approve and adopt the FY 2025 Etowah County Transportation Plan, also know as Rebuild Alabama. A copy of the Rebuild Alabama Plan for FY 2025 is filed in Attachment Book 14, Page 64.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 27th DAY OF AUGUST, 2024.

REPORTS FROM THE STAFF

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

DISCUSSION BY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Inzer talked about the Whorton Bend Turn Lane and said they were repouring a curb so the contractor is not there working right now. He said it's a State project and is scheduled to be completed in 55 days but he doesn't know if there are consequences if they don't finish in time. (Robert Nail added that he had talked with ALDOT and said they have a fiber optic line that was believed to be a 'dead line' but wasn't so it will have to be relocated before they can finish working on the intersection). Commissioner Inzer also said the Greg Harwood had his kidney transplant and everyone is doing well. He also said he was glad to see the One East program get off the ground because he knew they had been working on it for a while.

Commissioner Washington said everyone is doing an awesome job and he thanked the workers for their service, hard work, and dedication.

Commissioner Jamie Grant thanked Alabama Power for all they do to move everything forward. He thanked Trent Thrasher for being here and said he appreciated his hard work. He said sometimes personalities clash but we are working hard to move in the right direction. He said he understands sometimes people have to promote their city and he said he appreciated everyone's hard work.

Commissioner Johnny Grant said he agreed. He commended Scott Hassell on his 20-year service certificate. He commended Eric (with Extension Office) on the meal they served and Eric said they were finishing up some projects. Commissioner Ramsey told him he appreciated all they do. Johnny also thanked Terri Vosbury.

Commissioner Ramsey thanked Robert for getting the Rebuild Alabama 2025 information together and said we still need to work on getting more road money in the budget. He said he was looking forward to working with One East. He also commended all of the employees that were recognized for their service and said the employees are what make the county a good place to work. He said he was glad to see all of the positive attitudes. He also thanked Alabama Power. He said they heard from the Mental Health Director at the ACCA meetings and said progress was slow but moving forward.

The meeting was adjourned.

ADJOURN: The Chair then entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. Upon motion of Commissioner Washington, seconded by Commissioner Jamie Grant, with all other members voting "yes", the motion was passed. The meeting was adjourned at 10:25 am.

ABSENT

Joey Statum, Commissioner, District 1

Tim Ramsey, President, Commissioner, District 4

Johnny Grant, Commissioner, District 2

Jeffery Washington, Commissioner, District 5

Jamie Grant, Commissioner, District 3

Craig Inzer, Jr., Commissioner, District 6