

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE ETOWAH COUNTY COMMISSION
ETOWAH COUNTY
January 21, 2025**

Commissioner Joey Statum called the Commission Meeting to order on the 21st Day of January, 2025 at 9:00 am and Scott Hassell, Probate Judge, 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 1 – Joey Statum
District 3 – Jamie Grant

District 4 – Tim Ramsey
District 6 – Craig Inzer

Absent – Johnny Grant, District 2
Jeffery Washington, District 5

PUBLIC COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS: None.

AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS, PROCLAMATIONS, OR ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Alan Smith, Vice President, Mr. Daniel Anderson, Precision Machining Instructor, and Keri Wood, Work Based Learning Specialist, with Gadsden State Community College came to update the commission on the progress with their workforce development program. When Mr. Smith first came before the commission in 2021, they were trying to raise interest to build a building on the East Broad Street Campus. He wants to let the commission know how much he appreciates the support, especially Commission Jamie Grant for being heavily involved. In 2025 with that building and the momentum they've generated with the program and workforce climate within the state, they have brought in over \$36m dollars to this campus in workforce career technical training. Mr. Smith spoke on The COMET (Consortium of Machining Education Training) and FAME (Federation of Advanced Manufacturing Education) programs, which are a hybrid work-based apprenticeship program where students attend classes two days a week for five semesters, while also working for an industry partner 3 days a week. He said their goal this year with COMET and FAME chapters combined is approaching 100 students in these programs. This "earn while you learn" education model combines curriculum that supports advanced manufacturing technology and paid working experience that readies student for the workforce. It not only focuses on providing a skilled workforce, but also on curriculum helping students with employee preparedness after the program. Including workplace essentials as in; the importance of presenting themselves properly, importance of being to work on time, conflict resolution, and to train a really good and attractive workforce for our community. Mr. Anderson said currently they have 11 industry partners and growing with a 93% continuation rate of employment with graduated students in local companies. After the programs ends the students will have 2 year of work experience under their belt while also earning an Associated Degree from Gadsden State with 4 certifications as well as over a dozen industry credentials. Last year students competed in a National Machining Competition and won the grand prize for the Philips Student Machinist Competition. The students developed and engineered a hand crusher using different materials. They will be participating in that competition again this year developing a machine moving jack and the students are engineering all the components as well. Mr. Anderson talked about how students grow and learn a lot with these types of competitions.

There will be a ribbon cutting event March 19th @ 1:30 for the Gene Haas Center for Advanced Machining and Engineering Technology, invitations will be sent via email.

They have received a naming rights grant for the machine shop at the advanced manufacturing center by the Gene Haas Foundation. The foundation gives back to schools that are working in manufacturing and Gadsden State receives a grant every year for student scholarships. This past year was \$30,000 and on top of that with the naming rights grant it was \$1,000,000 grant; \$800,000 for equipment and \$200,000 that will be divided up over 4 years for student scholarships.

Ms. Wood spoke about her role as work-based learning specialist. She recruits students in the program with the application and screening process, makes sure they maintain their GPA and help get them into the correct classes. She helps them through all 5 semesters with scholarship opportunities and monies to get thru the programs. She welcomed anyone with interest in the programs to contact her and she will be glad to help.

Mr. Smith welcomed all the commissioners to come tour the facility and get a feel for what they are building with this program and the skills they are providing.

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 recess in order to have a Work Session at 9:02 am.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 21st DAY OF JANUARY, 2025.

Upon 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 call the Etowah County Commission Meeting back to order at 9:36 am.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 21st DAY OF JANUARY, 2025.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

Upon motion of Commissioner Inzer, seconded by Commissioner Jamie Grant, with all other members present voting “yes”, the following resolution was passed and adopted:

CONSENT AGENDA:

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 January 7, 2025, of the Etowah County Commission be, and the same are hereby, approved as written.
- B. The Proposed Agenda for January 21, 2025.
- C. To approve the request of Spencer Gray, Facilities Maintenance Manager, to hire Desiree Howard as a Building Service Worker, effective January 22, 2025. This is a replacement to be paid from the General Fund, Maintenance, at an hourly rate of \$12.00.
- D. To approve the request of Spencer Gray, Facilities Maintenance Manager, to hire Miranda Gaskin as a Building Service Worker in the Detention Center, effective January 22, 2025. This is a replacement to be paid from the General Fund, Maintenance, at an hourly rate of \$12.00.
- E. To approve the request of Robert Nail, County Engineer, to hire Lonnie Argo Jr. as an Equipment Operator, effective January 27, 2025. This is a replacement to be paid from the Gas Tax Fund, at an hourly rate of \$15.74.
- F. To approve the request of Melissa Lett, Purchasing Accountant, to let a new bid for Tree Cutting – Various County Roads.
- G. To approve the request of Melissa Lett, Purchasing Accountant, to let a new bid for Mattresses with Pillow – Jail.
- H. To approve the request of Melissa Lett, Purchasing Accountant, to let a new bid for Unfinished Traffic Signs and Posts. The current bid (FY 2021-2022-06) will expire March 14, 2025.
- I. To approve the request of Melissa Lett, Purchasing Accountant, to let a new bid for Finished Traffic Signs. The current bid (FY 2021-2022-03) will expire January 31, 2025.
- J. To approve the request of Melissa Lett, Purchasing Accountant, to award Bid No FY 2025-05 In Place Plant Mix, on the recommendation of Robert Nail, County Engineer, to Vulcan Materials, the lowest, responsible bidder.
- K. To approve the request of Melissa Lett, Purchasing Accountant, to award Bid No FY 2025-06 Traffic Stripe & Pavement Markers, on the recommendation of Robert Nail, County Engineer, to Ozark Striping Company, the sole bidder.
- L. To approve the request of Melissa Lett, Purchasing Accountant, to award Bid No FY 2025-04 Bituminous Surface Treatment, on the recommendation of Robert Nail, County Engineer, to Charles E. Watts, Inc., the sole bidder.
- M. To approve the request of Melissa Lett, Purchasing Accountant, to award Bid No FY 2025-03 Street Lights Grant/Project with the City of Gadsden 2.0, to Inline Electrical, the sole bidder.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 21st DAY OF JANUARY, 2025.

NEW BUSINESS:

A motion was made by Commissioner Inzer, seconded by Commissioner Jamie Grant, with all other members present voting “yes”, to approve all items on the agenda as discussed in the work session.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ETOWAH COUNTY COMMISSION: That the following resolutions were passed and adopted:

- A. To approve the assignment of the Inmate Medical Contract with Doctors’ Care Physicians, PC to a new entity, Detention Care Partners, LLC., for insurances purposes. The staffing, leadership, services, and employees will remain unchanged.
- B. To have the final reading and approval to reappoint Mr. J. Courtney Cole to the Highland Water Authority. This appointment will be effective March 1, 2025, and the term will expire on February 28, 2031.
- C. To approve a change in the personnel policy governing paid time off (PTO). The revised policy would increase PTO from 12 hours per month to 15 hours per month once the employee has served five years. Current policy does not provide for an increase in PTO until the employee has served ten years. A copy of this document will be in Attachment book 15, Page 001

D. To approve the Section 5311 Rural Area Public Transportation Agreement, authorizing a local match of \$218,815.00 for ALDOT Grant for FY2026, and to authorize the Commission President to execute any and all documents related to the grant. A copy of this document will be in Attachment book 14, Page 122

E. At the recommendation of Bill Whittaker Architecture, to award the negotiated Bid for A New Canopy for the Etowah County Jail to Greer Building Contractors in the amount of \$449,443.00, and to authorize the Commission President to execute the contract documents

F. To approve the agreement between the City of Attalla, the Etowah County Commission, and Commissioner Tim Ramsey, to provide \$20,000 towards total cost of recently resurfaced Houk Drive and patched portions of Del-Ed Drive, both located in the City of Attalla, Etowah County District 4. Also, to approve the agreement between the City of Attalla, the Etowah County Commission, and Commissioner Jamie Grant, to provide \$20,000 towards total cost of repair and resurfacing Industrial Drive, located in the City of Attalla, Etowah County District 4. A copy of this document will be in Attachment book 14, Page 121

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 21st DAY OF JANUARY, 2025.

REPORTS FROM THE STAFF

Chief Administrative Officer
County Engineer
County Attorney
Other

DISCUSSION BY COMMISSIONERS

Joey Statum congratulated Mr. Smith on becoming Vice President of Gadsden State.
Craig Inzer stated how much this program will bring back to the community and will be a huge selling point for the Megasite. With the program we will be able to provide a skilled workforce
Tim Ramsey said a program like this is what makes the community grow.
Jamie Grant stated how 75% of graduating high school students go straight into the workforce and this will help bridge that gap.

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 9:37 am.

Joey Statum, President, Commissioner, District 1

ABSENT

Johnny Grant, Commissioner, District 2

Jamie Grant, Commissioner, District 3

Tim Ramsey, Commissioner, District 4

ABSENT

Jeffery Washington, Commissioner, District 5

Craig Inzer, Jr., Commissioner, District 6