

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE ETOWAH COUNTY COMMISSION
ETOWAH COUNTY
February 18, 2025**

Commissioner Joey Statum called the Commission Meeting to order on the 18th Day of February, 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 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 Jr.

PUBLIC COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS:

Dr Alan Cosby with Etowah County Board of Education, Keith Blackwell with Gadsden City Board of Education and Jeff Colegrove with Attalla City Board of Education was at the meeting today to talk about the need for a special election regarding funding for public schools. Currently it will expire in 2026 and without this funding it would be detrimental to all 3 of our public-school boards.

Upon motion of Commissioner Jamie Grant, seconded by Commissioner 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 9:04 am.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 18th DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2025.

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 call the Etowah County Commission Meeting back to order at 9:30 am.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 18th DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2025.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

Upon motion of Commissioner Ramsey, 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 February 04, 2025, of the Etowah County Commission be, and the same are hereby, approved as written.
- B. The proposed Agenda for February 18, 2025.
- C. The reported Financial Transactions for January 2025, including Credit Card Purchases, Cash Disbursements, Online Transfers, and Wire Transfers. A copy of this document is in Attachment Book 15, page 15-006
- D. To approve the County Levies for Alcohol Licensing for 2025-2026 with no changes recommended. A copy of this document is in Attachment Book 15, page 15-007
- E. To approve the request of Scott Hassell, Probate Judge, to hire Fred Lasseter as part-time Probate Court Security Officer, effective February 19, 2025. This is a replacement to be paid from the Probate Judge General Fund, at an hourly rate of \$17.37.
- F. To place the name of Shari Bellew in the Sheriff’s Office job slot of Deputy FTO, effective February 17, 2025. This is a replacement and promotion to be paid from the Sheriff’s Office General Fund, at an hourly rate of \$22.80.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 18TH DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2025.

NEW BUSINESS:

A motion was made by Commissioner Inzer, 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 resolutions were passed and adopted:

To approve the agreement with JM Wood Auction Company for the auction of six 2024 Kenworth T880 Dump Trucks, equipment numbers 1130 – 1135, and to authorize the CAO to execute the documents. A copy of this document is in Attachment Book 15, page 15-009

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 18TH DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2025.

A motion was made by Commissioner Jamie Grant, seconded by Commissioner 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 resolutions were passed and adopted:

To have the final reading and approval to reappoint Susan Bailey to Big Wills Water Authority. This appointment will be effective March 1, 2025, and the term will expire on March 1, 2031.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 18TH DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2025.

A motion was made by Commissioner Ramsey, 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 resolutions were passed and adopted:

To have the final reading and approval to appoint Kevin Dollar to the Coosa Valley Youth Services Board for a three-year term.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 18TH DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2025.

A motion was made by Commissioner Jamie Grant, seconded by Commissioner 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 resolutions were passed and adopted:

To approve the proposal with GMC for the ALDOT ATRIP II Project entitled Intersection Improvements on US-431 at Sand Valley Road and Duck Springs Road, and to authorize the Commission President to execute the document. A copy of this document is in Attachment Book 15, page 15-008

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 18TH DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2025.

A motion was made by Commissioner Jamie Grant, seconded by Commissioner Johnny 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 resolutions were passed and adopted:

To approve the request of Shane Ellison, CAO, to grant approval for Sherri Star, Purchasing Technician in the Commission Office, to receive PTO leave donations. This employee has met the eligibility requirements under the program guidelines.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 18TH DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2025.

A motion was made by 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 resolutions were passed and adopted:

To accept the \$3,330,270 grant awarded to the Northeast Alabama Regional Megasite through the Alabama Site Evaluation and Economics Development Strategy (SEEDS) and to authorize the CAO or Commission President to execute the Site Development Project Agreement. A copy of this document is in Attachment Book 15, page 15-010

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 18TH DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2025.

A motion was made by 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 resolutions were passed and adopted:

To approve the requests from the Etowah County Board of Education, Gadsden City Board of Education and the Attalla City Board of Education for a Resolution Authorizing Special Election for Public School Purposes.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 18TH DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2025.

REPORTS FROM THE STAFF

Chief Administrative Officer
County Engineer
County Attorney
Other

DISCUSSION BY COMMISSIONERS:

Commissioner Johnny Grant told everyone we will do our part in getting everyone out to vote.

Commissioner Jamie Grant said we want to support our schools and agreed with Johnny he will help getting a yes vote. He wanted to let the Sheriff’s staff at the meeting today know that the Sheriff really does praise his staff and he truly means it. On the Megasite there is no doubt the state believes in what we are doing and something big is coming and the future of the county is bright.

Commissioner Ramsey hopes the election goes well; we’ll work together to help people understand the ballot and champion people to vote. One of the things that is going on for our county and the whole region is One East along with Alabama Power and their new strategy where they are working together and looking for what we want to put out there. Strategically look at what our county needs and identify companies throughout our country, contact them, to show them what we have available at the Megasite. That is really a step in the right direction for us. A lot of good things going on currently for our mental health program.

Commissioner Washington is really excited about the direction our county is going in. His slogan has always been is: A house divided can never stand. Everyone is coming together to make things happen for the people of Etowah County. He also thanked the superintendents for coming out today to explain the importance of the special election.

Commissioner Inzer thanked everyone for showing up and he will do his part in helping rally for the election. Please keep the commissioners in the loop, as in if they need to come to some of these programs/graduations or wherever they have the ability to help accomplish the goal. He is very excited about the SEEDS grant for the Megasite. If there is ever a chance we can get tax dollars to help, we should. The money is going to be spent somewhere in the state for economic development, why not Etowah County.

Commissioner Statum – anytime we get grant money to come back to Etowah County is exciting. He appreciates everyone working together for the county. We had a vision; we saw it thru and we’re getting closer and closer every single day. This will affect numerous people in our area.

ADJOURN: The Chair then entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. Upon motion from Commissioner Jamie Grant, seconded by Commissioner Inzer, with all other members voting “yes”, the motion was passed. The meeting was adjourned at 9:48 am.

Joey Statum, President, Commissioner, District 1

Tim Ramsey, Commissioner, District 4

Johnny Grant, Commissioner, District 2

Jeffery Washington, Commissioner, District 5

Jamie Grant, Commissioner, District 3

Craig Inzer, Jr., Commissioner, District 6