

PUTNAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



117 Putnam Drive, Suite A ♦ Eatonton, GA 31024

Minutes

Tuesday, March 17, 2020 ♦ 6:30 PM

Putnam County Administration Building – Room 203

The Putnam County Board of Commissioners met on Tuesday, March 17, 2020 at approximately 6:30 PM in the Putnam County Administration Building, 117 Putnam Drive, Room 203, Eatonton, Georgia.

PRESENT

Chairman Billy Webster
Commissioner Kelvin Irvin
Commissioner Daniel Brown
Commissioner Bill Sharp

STAFF PRESENT

County Attorney Adam Nelson
County Manager Paul Van Haute
County Clerk Lynn Butterworth

Opening

1. Welcome - Call to Order

Chairman Webster called the meeting to order at approximately 6:32 p.m.
(Copy of agenda made a part of the minutes on minute book page _____.)

2. Invocation

Pastor Jonathon Dawson, of LakePoint Community Church, gave the invocation.

3. Pledge of Allegiance (BS)

Commissioner Sharp led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Code of Ordinances Public Hearing

4. Proposed adoption of changes to the Putnam County Code of Ordinances - Chapter 2 (Administration) and Chapter 46 (Roads, Bridges, and Other Public Property)

No one signed in to speak for or against the proposed ordinance changes.

Chairman Webster asked to remove adoption of Chapter 46 changes for further review.

Motion to adopt the changes to the Putnam County Code of Ordinances - Chapter 2 (Administration).

Motion made by Commissioner Sharp, Seconded by Commissioner Irvin.

Voting Yea: Commissioner Irvin, Commissioner Brown, Commissioner Sharp

(Copy of changes made a part of the minutes on minute book pages _____ to _____.)

Regular Business Meeting

5. Public Comments

Ms. Stacy Brown from the Eatonton-Putnam County Library announced that the library has decided to close for this week and will be reevaluating on Friday to determine next week. She advised that they are still offering support to the community by offering email options for questions, processing books, and waiving fees. The restoration work is still going on and a facility manager is on site.

6. Approval of Agenda

Chairman Webster requested to move agenda item #12 "COVID-19 Impact Discussion" to immediately follow agenda item #7 "Consent Agenda."

Motion to approve the agenda with requested change.

Motion made by Commissioner Sharp, Seconded by Commissioner Irvin.

Voting Yea: Commissioner Irvin, Commissioner Brown, Commissioner Sharp

7. Consent Agenda

a. Approval of Minutes - March 6, 2020 Regular Meeting (staff-CC)

b. Approval of Minutes - March 6, 2020 Executive Session (staff-CC)

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda.

Motion made by Commissioner Irvin, Seconded by Commissioner Brown.

Voting Yea: Commissioner Irvin, Commissioner Brown, Commissioner Sharp

8. COVID-19 Impact Discussion (BW)

Sheriff Howard Sills gave the current statistics for the number of people in Georgia with the virus and stressed that this is a "real thing." He stated that if he wasn't Sheriff he would be at home. He advised that he held a meeting yesterday with emergency personnel and heads of government. As of now courthouse services are normal, however, the Chief Judge has issued an order to postpone jury and grand jury trials. Also, the Sheriff's office will not close. He advised to contact your normal doctor if you feel you might have the virus or call 1-866-PUB-HLTH. Putnam General Hospital does have test kits; however, the tests are sent to a lab and take several days for results. The Governor originally asked for meetings to limit to no more than 50 people and that has now changed to 10. Everyone is being asked to self-quarantine ourselves as best we can for the next 8 weeks. If you know of mass events, let the Sheriff know. He also asked the commissioners to pass a resolution declaring a state of local emergency.

Motion to approve a resolution declaring a state of local emergency.
Motion made by Commissioner Sharp, Seconded by Commissioner Irvin.
Voting Yea: Commissioner Irvin, Commissioner Brown, Commissioner Sharp
(Copy of resolution made a part of the minutes on minute book page _____.)

Tax Commissioner Pam Lancaster requested an extension for the due date of mobile home taxes to May 1, 2020. The normal due date is April 1st. She also advised that the Tax Commissioner's office is open for now, but subject to change.

Motion to extend the due date for mobile home taxes for 30 days to May 1, 2020 instead of April 1, 2020.

Motion made by Commissioner Sharp; Seconded by Commissioner Irvin
Voting Yea: Commissioner Irvin, Commissioner Brown, Commissioner Sharp

9. Request from Haband for Tax Waiver (Tax Comm)

County Attorney Nelson explained that the Board of Commissioners does not legally have the ability to forgive Freeport as a result of not applying in a timely manner.

Motion to ask the County Attorney to draft a letter to Haband explaining why the County can't waive the taxes due.

Motion made by Commissioner Sharp, Seconded by Commissioner Irvin.
Voting Yea: Commissioner Irvin, Commissioner Brown, Commissioner Sharp
(Copy of letter made a part of the minutes on minute book page _____.)

10. Chairman's Appointment - BOC Vice Chairman (BW)

Chairman Webster appointed Commissioner Daniel Brown as Vice Chairman.

11. Appointment to the Sinclair Water Authority (BW)

Motion to appoint Commissioner Kelvin Irvin to serve on the Sinclair Water Authority.

Motion made by Commissioner Brown, Seconded by Commissioner Sharp.

Voting Yea: Commissioner Irvin, Commissioner Brown, Commissioner Sharp

12. Authorization for Chairman to sign Amended Intergovernmental Agreement between Putnam County, Baldwin County, and the Sinclair Water Authority (BW)

Mr. Trevor Addison explained the previous negotiation attempts and that new negotiations began with this board. He gave an overview of the agreement and answered questions.

Motion to authorize the Chairman to sign the Second Amendment to the Intergovernmental Agreement between Putnam County, Baldwin County, and the Sinclair Water Authority.

Motion made by Commissioner Sharp, Seconded by Commissioner Brown.

Voting Yea: Commissioner Irvin, Commissioner Brown, Commissioner Sharp

(Copy of agreement made a part of the minutes on minute book pages _____ to _____.)

Reports/Announcements

13. County Manager Report

County Manager Van Haute reported the following:

- Due to the pandemic, the school system is using fire stations as feeding stations. There were some unintended consequences such as kids were all over the buildings. We will be locking down the Fire Station buildings. There are also concerns about parking lot traffic and emergency calls. Greene County has bus drivers delivering meals to the students.
- Animal Shelter is empty, and they are in deep clean mode. Animal Services employees are helping Public Works when possible.
- Recreation Department is closed to the public
- Administration Building employees are going to four ten-hour days to minimize exposure

14. County Attorney Report

No report.

15. Commissioner Announcements

Commissioner Irvin: commented that he was sad to lose Commissioner Addison and inquired about the procedure for filling the vacancy. County Attorney Nelson advised that due to the amount of time left in the term it cannot be filled by appointment process, it can only be filled by special election.

Commissioner Brown: commented that he didn't think our meeting was boring tonight and advised that doctors can check for symptoms of the virus over the phone.

Commissioner Sharp: advised that First Baptist Church was not holding services, however their efforts for fundraising for tornado victims in Putnam County, TN was ongoing.

Chairman Webster: advised that if you feel like you have symptoms of the virus and don't have a doctor, to call the ER before going.

Closing

16. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion made by Commissioner Sharp, Seconded by Commissioner Irvin.

Voting Yea: Commissioner Irvin, Commissioner Brown, Commissioner Sharp

Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:35 p.m.

ATTEST:

Lynn Butterworth
County Clerk

Billy Webster
Chairman