

# PUTNAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



117 Putnam Drive, Suite A ♦ Eatonton, GA 31024

## Minutes

Friday, October 6, 2023 ♦ 10:00 AM

Putnam County Administration Building – Room 203

The Putnam County Board of Commissioners met on Friday, October 6, 2023 at approximately 10:00 AM in the Putnam County Administration Building, 117 Putnam Drive, Room 203, Eatonton, Georgia.

### *PRESENT*

Chairman Bill Sharp  
Commissioner Gary McElhenney  
Commissioner Daniel Brown  
Commissioner Jeff Wooten

### *STAFF PRESENT*

County Attorney Barry Fleming  
County Manager Paul Van Haute  
County Clerk Lynn Butterworth  
Deputy County Clerk Donna Todd

### **Opening**

#### 1. Welcome - Call to Order

Chairman Sharp called the meeting to order at approximately 10:00 a.m.  
(Copy of agenda made a part of the minutes on minute book page \_\_\_\_\_.)

#### 2. Approval of Agenda

County Attorney Fleming advised that a request was received to postpone agenda item #9 “Appeal of Short Term Vacation Rental License denial by Kerri Grant/Pier 6 LLC” to the next meeting.

**Motion to approve the Agenda as amended moving agenda item #9 to the next scheduled meeting.**

**Motion made by Commissioner Brown, Seconded by Commissioner Wooten.**

**Voting Yea: Commissioner McElhenney, Commissioner Brown, Commissioner Wooten**

#### 3. Invocation - Pastor Jonathon Dawson, Lakepoint Community Church

Pastor Jonathon Dawson, Lakepoint Community Church, gave the invocation.

Minutes	Page 1 of 5	Approved
October 6, 2023		October 17, 2023

4. Pledge of Allegiance (Staff)  
County Manager Van Haute led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Regular Business Meeting**

1. Public Comments

Mr. Charles Gray suggested adding lines to the Public Comments sign-up sheet providing citizens the option of indicating their district and contact information. Doing so would allow Commissioners and or staff to respond to citizens about their concerns voiced during the Public Comment portion of the meeting.

Dr. Steve Hersey explained the contents of the Senior Freeze Homestead Exemption handout, of which he provided copies to staff and commissioners.

(Copy of handout made a part of the minutes on minute book pages \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_.)

6. Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of Minutes - September 19, 2023 Regular Meeting (staff-CC)
- b. Approval of 2023 Alcohol License-Great Waters Clubhouse (staff-CC)
- c. Authorization for Chairman to sign ACCG Interlocal Risk Management Agency Safety Discount Verification Form (staff-HR)
- d. Authorization for Chairman to sign ACCG Group Self-Insurance Workers' Compensation Fund Safety Discount Verification Form (staff-HR)

**Motion to approve the Consent Agenda.**

**Motion made by Commissioner McElhenney, Seconded by Commissioner Brown.**

**Voting Yea: Commissioner McElhenney, Commissioner Brown, Commissioner Wooten**

(Copy of documents made a part of the minutes on minute book pages \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_.)

7. Approval of Lease Agreement for Convenience Center - Wards Chapel - Holt Spivey (staff-Finance)

County Manager Van Haute explained that the Lease Agreement for the Wards Chapel Convenience Center had been approved at a prior meeting; however, Mr. Holt Spivey requested some changes to the verbiage of the lease before signing.

**Motion to approve the Lease Agreement for Convenience Center – Wards Chapel – Holt Spivey.**

**Motion made by Commissioner Brown, Seconded by Commissioner Wooten.**

**Voting Yea: Commissioner McElhenney, Commissioner Brown, Commissioner Wooten**

Minutes	Page 2 of 5	Approved
October 6, 2023		October 17, 2023

8. Request by Bradley T. Swicegood for Variance on Anchor Point Drive (staff-P&D/CC) Planning and Development Director, Lisa Jackson, explained that when the property was developed in the early 90s, there were no regulations. Today, regulations state that there should be no accessory structure without a primary one. However, due to terrain and utility access, and since the plats show no intention to develop non-lake lots, staff recommend approval for use variance with the following conditions:

1. Parcel 053 033001 shall not be subdivided.
2. Accessory structures allowed on the parcel shall be limited to one 24' x 40' pole barn and one 8' x 40' shipping container, and shall be sited in accordance with applicable development regulations.

**Motion to approve the request by Bradley T. Swicegood for a Variance on Anchor Point Drive with the following conditions:**

- 1. Parcel 053 033001 shall not be subdivided.**
- 2. Accessory structures allowed on the parcel shall be limited to one 24' x 40' pole barn and one 8' x 40' shipping container, and shall be sited in accordance with applicable development regulations.**

**Motion made by Commissioner Wooten, Seconded by Commissioner McElhenney.**

**Voting Yea: Commissioner McElhenney, Commissioner Brown, Commissioner Wooten approve w/conditions.**

Commissioner Wooten asked if an overlay could be put on all the lots on Anchor Point Drive. County Attorney Barry Fleming stated that it may be simpler to allow each individual property owner to request the variance. Staff will review the matter.

9. Appeal of Short Term Vacation Rental License denial by Kerri Grant/Pier 6 LLC (staff-CC) Moved to next scheduled meeting.

**Reports/Announcements**

10. County Manager Report

County Manager Van Haute reported the following:

- Solid waste bids are out and we are actively working with four to five contractors.
- Actively recruiting code enforcement officers from a contractor and surrounding counties; these positions will be a lot of weekend work; vehicles have been ordered and will be identifiable as code enforcement vehicles.
- Former Commissioner Bob Landau celebrated his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday on October 5.

Commissioner Brown asked County Manager Van Haute to ask the state to address the vegetation growth at Brer Bear and Highway 44.

Chairman Sharp requested that the state also be notified of the need of trimming at the intersection of Tanyard Road and Highway 44.

11. County Attorney Report

No report, but requested an Executive Session to discuss litigation.

Minutes	Page 3 of 5	Approved
October 6, 2023		October 17, 2023

12. Commissioner Announcements

Commissioner McElhenney: thanked Human Resources Director Cynthia Miller for her hard work for breast cancer awareness month and for the programs and events she planned so staff could participate in the observation of this wide-reaching and important cause.

Commissioner Brown: none.

Commissioner Wooten: echoed Commissioner McElhenney’s comments, adding that HR Director Miller takes a lot on to get things done and restated that the County is very proud of her for all the work she does.

Chairman Sharp: none.

**Executive Session**

13. Enter Executive Session as allowed by O.C.G.A. 50-14-4 for Personnel, Litigation, or Real Estate

**Motion to enter Executive Session as allowed by O.C.G.A. 50-14-4 for Litigation.**

**Motion made by Commissioner McElhenney, Seconded by Commissioner Wooten.**

**Voting Yea: Commissioner McElhenney, Commissioner Brown, Commissioner Wooten**

Meeting closed at approximately 10:28 a.m.

14. Reopen meeting following Executive Session

**Motion to reopen the meeting following Executive Session.**

**Motion made by Commissioner Wooten, Seconded by Commissioner Brown.**

**Voting Yea: Commissioner McElhenney, Commissioner Brown, Commissioner Wooten**

Meeting reconvened at approximately 11:05 a.m.

15. Authorize Chairman to sign Affidavit concerning the subject matter of the closed portion of the meeting

**Motion to authorize the Chairman to sign the Affidavit concerning the subject matter of the closed portion of the meeting.**

**Motion made by Commissioner McElhenney, Seconded by Commissioner Wooten.**

**Voting Yea: Commissioner McElhenney, Commissioner Brown, Commissioner Wooten**  
(Copy of affidavit made a part of the minutes on minute book page \_\_\_\_\_.)

16. Action, if any, resulting from the Executive Session

No action taken.

Minutes	Page 4 of 5	Approved
October 6, 2023		October 17, 2023

**Closing**

17. Adjournment

**Motion to adjourn the meeting.**

**Motion made by Commissioner McElhenney, Seconded by Commissioner Wooten.**

**Voting Yea: Commissioner McElhenney, Commissioner Brown, Commissioner Wooten**

Meeting adjourned at approximately 11:07 a.m.

ATTEST:

Lynn Butterworth  
County Clerk

B. W. "Bill" Sharp  
Chairman

Minutes	Page 5 of 5	Approved
October 6, 2023		October 17, 2023