

PUTNAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



117 Putnam Drive, Suite A ♦ Eatonton, GA 31024

Minutes

Friday, February 4, 2022 ♦ 9:00 AM

Putnam County Administration Building – Room 203

The Putnam County Board of Commissioners met on Friday, February 4, 2022 at approximately 9:00 AM in the Putnam County Administration Building, 117 Putnam Drive, Room 203, Eatonton, Georgia.

PRESENT

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

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 9:00 a.m.
(Copy of agenda made a part of the minutes on minute book page _____.)

2. Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve the Agenda.

Motion made by Commissioner Sharp, Seconded by Commissioner Wooten.

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

3. Invocation - Rev. Dr. Ford G'Segner

Rev. Dr. Ford G'Segner gave the invocation.

4. Pledge of Allegiance (JW)

Commissioner Jeff Wooten led the Pledge of Allegiance.

| | | |
|------------------|-------------|-------------------|
| Minutes | Page 1 of 5 | Approved |
| February 4, 2022 | | February 15, 2022 |

5. Special Presentation-Public Safety Payment from the Governor's Office
 County Manager Van Haute asked EMS Director Brad Murphey, Fire Chief Thomas McClain, and Sheriff Howard Sills to come up front to receive funds from the Governor's office for their respective employees. It took several months to get these funds and countless emails and phone calls by the Finance & Human Resources departments, who went above and beyond to get these checks to the men and women who deserve these funds. Putnam County and the State of Georgia are committed to public safety and thank all those who serve in these fields.

Regular Business Meeting

6. Public Comments

None

7. Consent Agenda

a. Approval of Minutes - January 18, 2022 Regular Meeting (staff-CC)

b. Approval of 2022 Alcohol Licenses (staff-CC)

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda.

Motion made by Commissioner McElhenney, Seconded by Commissioner Wooten.

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

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

8. Discussion and possible action concerning a 2022 Alcohol License (staff-CC)

County Attorney Nelson explained that the alcohol license application from James Alex Davidson for Georgia Butts BBQ was removed from the Consent Agenda after receiving correspondence from the Sheriff recommending that it be denied. He read the following from the Putnam County Code of Ordinances, Section 6-31:

Mr. Ben F. Windham, attorney representing Mr. Davidson, advised that Mr. Davidson has been charged with four counts of serving to minors since April 2021 and he has pled not guilty in State Court. He also had a friend who operated a trailer selling daiquiris from his parking lot who sold to a minor. There have been no other citations other than for noise ordinances. He is asking the board to renew the alcohol license until the results from the trial date.

Ms. Cindy Metcalf spoke on behalf of Mr. Davidson and the employees of Georgia Butts asking that the license not be denied because it affects the employees and community as well.

Ms. George Craig, on behalf of the Georgia Parenting Project, which is a benefactor of Georgia Butts, spoke to the character of Mr. Davidson and said that the trailer selling alcohol in his parking lot was separate from his business; she asked that the license not be denied.

Sheriff Howard Sills commented on his letter, stating it was not about a noise ordinance, but about alcohol ordinance violations that have been a pattern for over two years. He also advised that the drink wagon was not a separate business and it operated under Mr. Davidson's alcohol license and that it was shut down by the State Revenue Department. He advised that if the board is going to have an ordinance it should be enforced.

| | | |
|------------------|-------------|-------------------|
| Minutes | Page 2 of 5 | Approved |
| February 4, 2022 | | February 15, 2022 |

Motion to deny the request of James Alex Davidson for an alcohol license, to afford Mr. Davidson his right to an evidentiary hearing pursuant to O.C.G.A. 3-3-2 if he so elects by providing written notice to the County Clerk within 30 days of this action, and to allow Mr. Davidson to continue alcohol service until the hearing afforded Mr. Davidson under O.C.G.A. 3-3-2.

Motion made by Commissioner Sharp, Seconded by Commissioner Brown.

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

9. Discussion with Middle Georgia Regional Commission on Joint Comprehensive Plan (staff-CM)

Mr. Joe Black and Mr. Taylor Stickels from the Middle Georgia Regional Commission presented a PowerPoint and provided an update on the Putnam County and City of Eatonton Joint Comprehensive Plan. They explained the background of the plan and the plan components. They also provided an estimated timeline and requested suggestions for the stakeholders group, input on the structure of the meetings, and any upcoming opportunities for engagement with the community. No action was taken.

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

10. Request from Solicitor General regarding Victim Witness & Assistance Fund (SG) (Tabled from 1-18-22 meeting)

Solicitor General Russell Thomas asked for the County Finance Department to resume fiduciary responsibilities as the holder of funds for the Victim Witness & Assistance Fund.

Motion to accept the Victim Witness & Assistance Fund back from the Solicitor General.

Motion made by Commissioner Sharp, Seconded by Commissioner McElhenney.

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

11. Correction of Funding Source for Motions from October 19, 2021 and December 21, 2021 (staff-Finance)

County Manager Van Haute explained that a couple of previous motions needed to clarify the funding source.

From October 19, 2021 concerning the discussion of an Electric Vehicle Charging Station - the original motion was to submit the application to the State with a 50% match (\$40,000). From December 21, 2021 concerning a one time lump sum payment to the Sinclair Water Authority - the original motion was to approve a one time lump sum payment of \$250K out of rescue money to SWA.

Motion to submit the application for an Electric Vehicle Charging Station to the State with a 50% match (\$40,000) funded from American Rescue Plan funds from the county and motion to approve a one time lump sum payment of \$250K to the Sinclair Water Authority out of American Rescue Plan funds from the county.

Motion made by Commissioner McElhenney, Seconded by Commissioner Sharp.

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

| | | |
|------------------|-------------|-------------------|
| Minutes | Page 3 of 5 | Approved |
| February 4, 2022 | | February 15, 2022 |

12. Awarding of Sale for Old Jail (staff-Finance)

County Manager Van Haute advised that the Old Jail was put out for bid on GovDeals. We received one bid from Asad Halai of GLT LLC out of Elgin, Texas in the amount of \$109,500.00 plus an Administrative Fee of \$8,212.50, totaling \$117,712.50.

Motion to award the sale of the Old Jail to Asad Halai of GLT LLC in the amount of \$109,500.00 plus an Administrative Fee of \$8,212.50, totaling \$117,712.50.

Motion made by Commissioner Sharp, Seconded by Commissioner Wooten.

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

Reports/Announcements

13. County Manager Report

County Manager Van Haute reported the following:

- The Event Center at Oconee Springs Park is coming to fruition and Mrs. Susan Campbell is looking for some guidance on a name for the center. Susan came forward and thanked the board for their support and invited them to come see the progress on the Event Center. She would like to create a separate name and logo for the event venue to help identify it, keeping it a part of OSP yet with its own identity. She will be doing some marketing for it that is separate from what they do with the park and campground. She threw out some of the names she has thought of and invited the board to think about it and share their ideas. Chairman Webster asked about the possibility of making this a contest to the public with prizes. Susan advised that she is also considering putting this out on their Facebook page.
- Dean Nelson from the Middle Georgia Regional Commission emailed recently with an update on the Splash Pad Grant, advising that we should receive a notice of award sometime between March 1 and April 15.
- Reviewed the employee medical insurance renewal update and the trend is about 65% and the target line for the insurance carriers is usually 75% which means we should be able to hold what we have or see a slight decrease. All this is also dependent on the loss pool with ACCG, which is unknown at this time.
- The traffic signal at Scott Road is underway.
- There will be a ribbon cutting and Chamber Business After Hours at Oconee Springs Park when the event center is completed, probably in May.
- Putnam County did not receive any of the ARPA money for broadband, but Baldwin County did.
- Welcome back to Mr. Don Cottrell; it's been a while since he was able to attend a meeting.

14. County Attorney Report

No report.

15. Commissioner Announcements

Commissioner McElhenney: thanked Public Works department for the work they have done in his district and gave kudos to the Recreation Department. He visited recently with his grandson and they have renovated a lot out there and it looks really good.

| | | |
|------------------|-------------|-------------------|
| Minutes | Page 4 of 5 | Approved |
| February 4, 2022 | | February 15, 2022 |

Commissioner Brown: commented that he also has a grandson that plays at the Recreation Department and he recently visited and got a tour from Director Scott Haley. They've remodeled the gym area, added a new concession area and redid the bathrooms with stainless steel fixtures. He also thanked Susan and Lonnie Campbell for the work they do at Oconee Springs Park.

Commissioner Sharp: shared a copy of the Spring/Summer edition of the Putnam County Recreation Magazine, commenting that it is a wonderful brochure full of programs for all ages. He also thanked County Manager Van Haute for being on top of things with all he has to do and commented that he is so proud the Scott Road traffic signal project has started.

Commissioner Wooten: commented that this has been a proud week for him. He recently spoke to a Putnam County citizen originally from Tampa, Florida, who said we have the best permitting office and health department. He was also recently contacted by the Sole Commissioner of Bleckley County, who has some property in Putnam County, to meet him at the convenience center. He said we have the most efficient, well-kept convenience center at Pea Ridge. They also visited the new center on Sammons Parkway and were really impressed.

Chairman Webster: thanked the commissioners for all their well-said comments. He also thanked the emergency responders for what they do, usually under extreme conditions. He also mentioned that Public Information Officer Stephanie McMullen puts a lot of the information mentioned by the commissioners on our social media sites and thanked her for keeping everyone informed. He also provided an update on the LOST negotiations with the City of Eatonton with a PowerPoint presentation focusing on the Per Capita Benefit and advised there is another meeting at 1:00 p.m. today.

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

Closing

16. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion made by Commissioner McElhenney, Seconded by Commissioner Sharp.

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

Meeting adjourned at approximately 10:06 a.m.

ATTEST:

Lynn Butterworth
County Clerk

Billy Webster
Chairman

| | | |
|------------------|-------------|-------------------|
| Minutes | Page 5 of 5 | Approved |
| February 4, 2022 | | February 15, 2022 |