

# PUTNAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



117 Putnam Drive, Suite A ♦ Eatonton, GA 31024

## Minutes

Friday, December 3, 2021 ♦ 9:00 AM

Putnam County Administration Building – Room 203

The Putnam County Board of Commissioners met on Friday, December 3, 2021 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 Barry Fleming  
County Manager Paul Van Haute  
County Clerk Lynn Butterworth

### **Opening**

Prior to the start of the meeting, Commissioner Brown read George Washington's Proclamation of Thanksgiving from 1789.

(Copy of proclamation made a part of the minutes on minute book page \_\_\_\_\_.)

#### 1. Welcome - Call to Order

Chairman Webster called the meeting to order at approximately 9:06 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 McElhenney.**

**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.

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4. Pledge of Allegiance (DB)

Commissioner Brown led the Pledge of Allegiance.

5. Special Presentations

a. John Harper Retirement

The commissioners presented a proclamation to Sgt. John R. Harper congratulating him on his retirement from the Putnam County Sheriff's Office.

b. Commissioner Certifications

Chairman Webster presented certificates for successfully completing the core requirements in ACCG's Lifelong Learning Academy to Commissioners Gary McElhenney, Bill Sharp, and Jeff Wooten.

Commissioner Brown presented a certificate for successfully completing the requirements for the County Operations and Management specialty track in ACCG's Lifelong Learning Academy to Chairman Billy Webster.

**Zoning Public Hearing**

6. Request by Rick McAllister, agent for Jacqueline Trinkle, to rezone 33.31 acres at 842 Harmony Road from AG to C-2 [Map 097, Part of Parcel 060, District 3]

Mr. Rick McAllister requested to withdraw this request without prejudice.

Planning and Development staff recommendation was for approval to withdraw without prejudice at 842 Harmony Road [Map 097, Part of Parcel 060, District 3].

**Motion to approve the withdrawal without prejudice of the request by Rick McAllister, agent for Jacqueline Trinkle, to rezone 33.31 acres at 842 Harmony Road from AG to C-2 [Map 097, Part of Parcel 060].**

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

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

7. Request by Rick McAllister, agent for BTC Commercial, LLC, to rezone 9.32 acres on Scott Road from C-PUD to C-2 [Map 102, Part of Parcel 002001, District 3] (staff-P&D)

Mr. Rick McAllister spoke in support of this request and has no objections to the conditions of the Planning and Zoning Commission with the exception of the 60 day time frame to file a new plat. Due to the amount of time required to get a new survey he requested this time be extended to 120 days.

No one signed in to speak against this item.

Planning and Development staff recommendation was for approval to rezone 9.32 acres on Scott Road from C-PUD to C-2 [Map 102, Part of Parcel 002001, District 3] with the following conditions:

1. The parcel must be combined with the adjacent C-2 property identified as Map 097 Parcel 065.
2. There shall be a 20-foot buffer or berm along the C-PUD property line.
3. This rezoning approval shall be conditioned upon the resurveying and recordation in the Superior Court of Putnam County of an accurate plat within 60 days of approval by the board of commissioners. A copy of the recorded plat shall be filed with the planning and

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development department director. Failure to file a plat pursuant to this subsection shall have the effect of invalidating the rezoning action as stated in Section 66-165(e)(3) of the Putnam County Code of Ordinances (no objection to the applicant's request for 120 days to file the plat).

**Motion to approve the request by Rick McAllister, agent for BTC Commercial, LLC, to rezone 9.32 acres on Scott Road from C-PUD to C-2 [Map 102, Part of Parcel 002001] with the following conditions:**

- 1. The parcel must be combined with the adjacent C-2 property identified as Map 097 Parcel 065.**
- 2. There shall be a 20-foot buffer or berm along the C-PUD property line.**
- 3. This rezoning approval shall be conditioned upon the resurveying and recordation in the Superior Court of Putnam County of an accurate plat within 120 days of approval by the board of commissioners. A copy of the recorded plat shall be filed with the planning and development department director. Failure to file a plat pursuant to this subsection shall have the effect of invalidating the rezoning action as stated in Section 66-165(e)(3) of the Putnam County Code of Ordinances**

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

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

**Code of Ordinances Public Hearing**

8. Proposed adoption of changes to the Putnam County Code of Ordinances - Chapter 66 (Zoning), Chapter 18 (Buildings and Building Regulations), Chapter 28 (Development Regulations), Chapter 32 (Fire Protection and Prevention), Chapter 50 (Solid Waste and Scrap Tires), and Appendix B (Special Events) (staff-CA, CC, P&D)

Mr. Rick McAllister commented that he would like to see the 60 day plat recordation time with one or two 30 day extensions allowed.

**Motion to adopt the changes to the Putnam County Code of Ordinances - Chapter 66 (Zoning), Chapter 18 (Buildings and Building Regulations), Chapter 28 (Development Regulations), Chapter 32 (Fire Protection and Prevention), Chapter 50 (Solid Waste and Scrap Tires), and Appendix B (Special Events).**

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

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

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

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**Commission District Map Public Hearing**

9. Proposed adoption of changes to the County Commission District Map (BOC)

Ms. Geraldine Bell and Pastor James Kilgore questioned the necessity of changing the current map.

Ms. Ann Laidlaw requested to postpone the vote until a map is proposed that creates a black majority in District 2.

Chairman Webster explained that the district map had to be changed because the 2020 Census shows that the county population increased and city population decreased. A new map must be redrawn to equalize the districts so there is the same number of people in each district (or as close as possible).

County Attorney Fleming also stated that it is required by law to make sure there is an equal number of people in each district, and this is done after each census.

**Motion to approve the Putnam County Commission District map identified as Plan 2 Draft Map and authorize staff to forward the approved map to the Reapportionment office in Atlanta.**

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

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

(Copy of map made a part of the minutes on minute book page \_\_\_\_\_.)

**Regular Business Meeting**

10. Public Comments

Mr. Duane Gentes expressed concerns with construction of a pond by a neighbor.

11. Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of Minutes - November 5, 2021 Regular Meeting (staff-CC)
- b. Approval of Minutes - November 5, 2021 Executive Session (staff-CC)
- c. Ratification of the Revised IGA between Putnam County Hospital Authority and Putnam County (staff-CM)

**Motion to approve the Consent Agenda.**

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

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

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

12. Request for Final Plat Subdivision Approval by The Verde Corporation/James Jenkins (staff-P&D)

Planning & Development Director Jackson advised that this is the final plat for Plantation Pines Business Park and that they followed all procedures and have passed all inspections.

**Motion to approve the Final Plat Subdivision by the Verde Corporation/James Jenkins.**

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

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

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

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13. Authorization for Chairman to sign the Revised Drug and Alcohol Testing Policy for Putnam County Transit (staff-Transit)

County Manager Van Haute explained that this is a requirement from GDOT.

**Motion to authorize the Chairman to sign the Revised Drug and Alcohol Testing Policy for Putnam County Transit.**

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

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

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

14. Authorization for Chairman to sign the Restated ACCG 401(a) Defined Contribution Plan Adoption Agreement and Resolution to Adopt Restated Defined Contribution Plan (staff-CM)

County Manager Van Haute explained that this is required to remain complaint with IRS guidelines.

**Motion to authorize the Chairman to sign the Restated ACCG 401(a) Defined Contribution Plan Adoption Agreement and Resolution to Adopt Restated Defined Contribution Plan.**

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

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

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

15. Authorization for Chairman to sign Seventh Amendment to the Exclusive Contract for Solid Waste and Recycling Collection Service (staff-CM)

County Manager Van Haute explained that this increase of approximately \$600,000 is due in part to lost revenue during COVID and the increase in fuel prices.

**Motion to authorize the Chairman to sign the Seventh Amendment to the Exclusive Contract for Solid Waste and Recycling Collection Service.**

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

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

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

16. Discussion and possible action regarding the LMIG projects for 2022 (staff-CM)

County Manager Van Haute advised that we are requesting LMIG funds for Pea Ridge Road.

**Motion to approve the 2022 LMIG submission.**

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

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

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17. Request for Road Acceptance from Jimmy Anderson for Harmony Farms Drive (staff-CC)  
Mr. Jimmy Anderson spoke in support of this request and advised that he has been working with Planning and Development and Public Works.

**Motion to accept Harmony Farms Drive for county maintenance.**

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

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

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

18. Approval of 2022 BOC Meeting Schedule (staff-CC)

**Motion to approve the 2022 BOC meeting schedule.**

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

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

(Copy of schedule made a part of the minutes on minute book page \_\_\_\_\_.)

### **Reports/Announcements**

19. County Manager Report

County Manager Van Haute reported the following:

- Experiencing new vehicle delays; manufacturers are not taking orders for 2022; all departments are working on a plan for the next couple of years
- Oconee Springs Park Event Center is moving forward; the framing is up
- Work on the Dennis Station Road shoulder (near Interfor) is starting today
- Scott road - mast poles and arms delayed again for 60-90 days
- GDOT is moving the water line on Highway 441 from Bethel Church Road to Rock Eagle Technology Park
- Thanks to the commissioners for attending the Leadership Putnam program yesterday
- Thanks to Fleming & Nelson for helping with a recent indigent death
- Reminder of the 1pm solar farm ribbon cutting today

20. County Attorney Report

No report.

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21. Commissioner Announcements

Commissioner McElhenney: thanked the County Manager and staff for doing a good job with special thanks to the road department for being super helpful

Commissioner Brown: echoed the comments of Commissioner McElhenney

Commissioner Sharp: none

Commissioner Wooten: echoed the comments of Commissioner McElhenney and added a special note of appreciation for Lisa Jackson's patience

Chairman Webster: advised that the Fire Chief is seeking vehicle donations for extrication practice

**Executive Session**

22. 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 Sharp.**

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

Meeting closed at approximately 11:02 a.m.

23. Reopen meeting and execute Affidavit concerning the subject matter of the closed portion of the meeting

**Motion to reopen the meeting and execute the Affidavit concerning the subject matter of the closed portion of the meeting.**

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

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

(Copy of affidavit made a part of the minutes on minute book page \_\_\_\_\_.)

Meeting reopened at approximately 11:54 a.m.

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

No action was taken.

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**Closing**

25. Adjournment

**Motion to adjourn the meeting.**

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

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

Meeting adjourned at approximately 11:56 a.m.

ATTEST:

Lynn Butterworth  
County Clerk

Billy Webster  
Chairman

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