

PUTNAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



117 Putnam Drive, Suite A ♦ Eatonton, GA 31024

Minutes

Tuesday, March 21, 2023 ♦ 6:00 PM

Putnam County Administration Building – Room 203

The Putnam County Board of Commissioners met on Tuesday, March 21, 2023 at approximately 6:00 PM in the Putnam County Administration Building, 117 Putnam Drive, Room 203, Eatonton, Georgia.

PRESENT

Chairman Bill Sharp
Commissioner Gary McElhenney
Commissioner Daniel Brown
Commissioner Alan Foster
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 Sharp called the meeting to order at approximately 6:00 p.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 Wooten, Seconded by Commissioner McElhenney.

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

3. Invocation - Pastor Craig Williamson, First Baptist Eatonton

Pastor Craig Williamson of First Baptist Eatonton gave the invocation.

4. Pledge of Allegiance (BS)

Chairman Sharp led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes	Page 1 of 6	Approved
March 21, 2023		April 18, 2023

5. Special Presentation - GMC Cadets - Operation Pick Up Putnam

The Georgia Military College cadets explained their program, Picking Up Putnam, whereby they will support Putnam County and Organizations on April 15, 2023 at eight locations in order to clean up and bless the community. The presentation was made by Cadet LTC Levi Bohannon (Regimental S-3, in charge of Operations) and with him were Cadet COL Grace Gooden (Regimental Commander), Cadet LTC Heidy Bettancourt (Regimental XO), and Cadet LTC Haidy Bettancourt (1st Battalion Commander).

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

Zoning Public Hearing

6. Request by Gerald West Jr., agent for Nell J. McDonald, to rezone 5.31 acres at 331 New Phoenix Road from AG to C-2 [Map 105, Parcel 016, District 1] (staff-P&D) **Applicant is requesting to withdraw without prejudice.**

Mr. Gary West spoke in support and advised that they want to withdraw without prejudice and may apply for C1 at a later date. No one signed in to speak against this item.

Planning and Development staff recommendation was for approval to withdraw without prejudice at 331 New Phoenix Road from AG to C-2.

Motion to approve the request to withdraw without prejudice the request by Gerald West Jr., agent for Nell J. McDonald, to rezone 5.31 acres at 331 New Phoenix Road from AG to C-2 [Map 105, Parcel 016].

Motion made by Commissioner McElhenney, Seconded by Commissioner Wooten.

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

Regular Business Meeting

7. Public Comments

Ms. Erin Olson commented that there are hundreds doing short term rentals that are not on the county list and this should be regulated by the Department of Health. She also submitted a handout.

Mr. Charles Trumbo commented that changes to the Short Term Rental ordinance need to be made.

Ms. Wanda Lawson commented that Jimmy Davis Park is a racial barrier that will never go away and that the county never sought the opinion of others and violated the Constitution. She also submitted a handout.

Ms. Karen McGinnis commented that Short Term Rentals shouldn't be allowed in residential areas, that the ordinances need beefing up, and don't protect just short term rental owners, but neighbors as well.

Minutes	Page 2 of 6	Approved
March 21, 2023		April 18, 2023

- 8. Consent Agenda
 - a. Approval of Minutes - March 3, 2023 Regular Meeting (staff-CC)
 - b. Approval of Minutes - March 3, 2023 Executive Session (staff-CC)
 - c. Approval of 2023 Alcohol Licenses (staff-CC)

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda.

Motion made by Commissioner McElhenney, Seconded by Commissioner Foster.

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

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

- 9. Authorization for Chairman to sign Resolution for Hazard Mitigation Plan 2022-2027 (PCSO)

County Manager Van Haute explained that this plan is updated every five years and allows the county to get reimbursed for emergencies from state and federal agencies.

Motion to authorize the Chairman to sign the Resolution for Hazard Mitigation Plan 2022-2027.

Motion made by Commissioner Foster, Seconded by Commissioner Wooten.

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

(Copy of resolution made a part of the minutes on minute book page _____.)

- 10. Rescheduling or Cancellation of April 7, 2023 BOC Meeting due to Good Friday Holiday (staff-CC)

Motion to cancel the April 7, 2023 BOC meeting.

Motion made by Commissioner Wooten, Seconded by Commissioner Foster.

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

- 11. Request from Kevin Price/Liberty Marts LLC for Final Plat Subdivision Approval (staff-P&D)

Planning and Development staff recommendation was for approval of the final subdivision plat for Kevin Price/Liberty Marts LLC for Meadowcrest Phase II.

Motion to approve the request from Kevin Price/Liberty Marts LLC for Final Plat Subdivision Approval for Meadowcrest Phase II.

Motion made by Commissioner McElhenney, Seconded by Commissioner Wooten.

Voting Yea: Commissioner McElhenney, Commissioner Brown, Commissioner Wooten

Voting Abstaining: Commissioner Foster. Commissioner Foster abstained because his wife is involved with the development.

(Copy of plat made a part of the minutes on minute book page _____.)

Minutes	Page 3 of 6	Approved
March 21, 2023		April 18, 2023

12. Request by Tri-County EMC for a Right-of-Way Permit for work on Dennis Station Road (staff-PW)

Mr. Justin Strickland of Tri-County EMC explained the proposed Right-of-Way work. Public Works Director Anthony Frazier advised that he has no issues, there will be minimal intrusion, and they have already discussed a cleanup plan.

Motion to approve the request by Tri-County EMC for a Right-of-Way Permit for work on Dennis Station Road.

Motion made by Commissioner Wooten, Seconded by Commissioner McElhenney.

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

(Copy of permit made a part of the minutes on minute book page _____.)

13. Authorization for staff to schedule a Public Hearing on proposed changes to the Putnam County Code of Ordinances (Chapter 66 - Zoning) (staff-CA)

Motion to authorize staff to schedule a Public Hearing on proposed changes to the Putnam County Code of Ordinances (Chapter 66 - Zoning)

Motion made by Commissioner Foster, Seconded by Commissioner McElhenney.

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

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

14. Termination of Agreement with Corporate Health Partners (staff-CM)

County Manager Van Haute explained that the performance by Corporate Health Partners has only been average and since the county is looking at a \$170K increase on medical insurance, cancelling this agreement will save \$80k. He also plans to eliminate Brella in the future for another \$40K savings. The program had success early on but has since plateaued.

Motion to terminate the agreement with Corporate Health Partners.

Motion made by Commissioner McElhenney, Seconded by Commissioner Wooten.

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

15. Approval of 2023 LMIG Projects (staff-CM)

County Manager Van Haute explained that the total LMIG projects need to be in the \$950K range and that by eliminating Sammons Parkway from the list we can get there. The new total would be \$939,277.50.

Motion to approve the 2023 LMIG Projects as outlined by the County Manager.

Motion made by Commissioner Foster, Seconded by Commissioner Wooten.

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

(Copy of project list made a part of the minutes on minute book page _____.)

Minutes	Page 4 of 6	Approved
March 21, 2023		April 18, 2023

16. Approval to transfer the Lower Harmony/Bethel Church waterline to EPWSA and authorization for County Attorney to draft agreement (staff-CM)
 County Manager Van Haute reviewed the history of this waterline and advised that the original recommendation was to give it to EPWSA. The waterline was put in to help business at Rock Eagle Technology Park and the school system. When GDOT gave notice about the widening of Highway 441, the county had to pay the costs to move the line, however we do expect to be reimbursed about 90% of those costs. He further commented that the county is not in the water business, and it should belong to the entity that knows what they are doing. The county isn't allowed to have any customers on it, therefore it is of no benefit to the county.

Motion to transfer the Lower Harmony/Bethel Church waterline to the Eatonton-Putnam Water and Sewer Authority and to authorize the County Attorney to draft an agreement.

Motion made by Commissioner Foster, Seconded by Commissioner Wooten.

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

Reports/Announcements

17. County Manager Report

County Manager Van Haute reported the following:

- The new traffic light pole and mast arm have been installed at the Scott Road intersection and are operational
- The new audio/visual system for the Public Hearing room is in the works and coming soon
- A new truck for Public Works that was ordered in 2022 will be here in May 2023
- Congressman Scott will be visiting Putnam County on April 6, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. here in our meeting room
 - (*This was later corrected to U.S. Representative Mike Collins, not Congressman Scott)
- The second annual Government Fun Day is scheduled for April 6, 2023 beginning at 9:30 a.m.
- The Chairman and County Manager met with GDOT to review the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) and the Highway 44 widening also came up; there are now five roundabouts planned in nearby Putnam and Greene counties; the two in Putnam will be at Scott Road and at the Farmers and Merchants Bank entrance
- Public Information Officer Stephanie McMullen has finished her Masters in Communications and will be graduating May 3, 2023
- Planning and Development Assistant Director Courtney Andrews will finish her Masters in Public Administration next week. She will also be graduating May 3, 2023

18. County Attorney Report

No report.

Minutes	Page 5 of 6	Approved
March 21, 2023		April 18, 2023

19. Commissioner Announcements
Commissioner McElhenney: none

Commissioner Brown: none

Commissioner Foster: none

Commissioner Wooten: none

Chairman Sharp: thanked all the commissioners for their hard work

Closing

20. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion made by Commissioner McElhenney, Seconded by Commissioner Wooten.

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

Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:10 p.m.

ATTEST:

Lynn Butterworth
County Clerk

B. W. "Bill" Sharp
Chairman

Minutes	Page 6 of 6	Approved
March 21, 2023		April 18, 2023