

# PUTNAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



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117 Putnam Drive, Suite A ♦ Eatonton, GA 31024

## Special Called Meeting

### Minutes

Thursday, March 23, 2023 ♦ 6:00 PM

Putnam County Administration Building – Room 203

The Putnam County Board of Commissioners met on Thursday, March 23, 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 6:01 p.m.

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

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Commissioner Brown led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Reading of the Rules

County Attorney Nelson read the rules of the meeting.

STR Called Meeting Minutes	Page 1 of 2	Approved
March 23, 2023		April 18, 2023

**Called Meeting**

4. Discussion on Short Term Vacation Rental Ordinance (Appendix D)

Sheriff Howard Sills advised that he was not here as an advocate of short term rentals or against them; he was here for enforcement issues and problems that have been experienced. Problems such as: STRs that turn into house parties, gangs renting STRs, parking in the road, etc. He provided some suggestions for a revised ordinance: require the homeowner to provide the guest with a copy of the rental contract which they must be able to present to Sheriff’s deputies; the rental contract must specify the maximum number of people on the premises for the term of the contract (violation if they don’t have it); if more people are present than the maximum (violation) and people can be ordered to leave down to the maximum number; if people refuse to leave they could be charged with disorderly conduct or an act of criminal trespass; make a provision where renters cannot charge admission of any kind.

The following individuals spoke in support of short term rentals:

Steve Kollross (submitted handout), John Foster, Jo Jones, Kerri Smith, Greg Pierce, Laura York, Kiersten Tuel, Jordan Stewart, Vince Maiello (submitted handout), Morgan Willett, Garrett Willett, Maggie Milner, Mark Willett, Bonnie Hopkins, Jan Elliott.

The following individuals spoke against short term rentals:

John Sprague Williams, Dee Swymer, Pamela Brummond, Tommy Jefferson, Brian Morris, Michael Buhler, Mike Sleeth (submitted handout), Joshua Shannon, Steve Reeder, Marilyn Smolinski, Stephen Mallinson, Deb Mallinson, Judy Carman, Gary Clayton, Patty Turpin, Erin Olson, Pete Wardlaw, Jim Langendorfer, Claude Morris, Susan Stead, Camille Lowe, Jon Feltham.

Chairman Sharp thanked everyone for attending.

**Closing**

5. 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 7:49 p.m.

ATTEST:

Lynn Butterworth  
County Clerk

B. W. “Bill” Sharp  
Chairman

STR Called Meeting Minutes	Page 2 of 2	Approved
March 23, 2023		April 18, 2023