

PUTNAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



117 Putnam Drive, Suite A ♦ Eatonton, GA 31024

Minutes

Tuesday, October 18, 2022 ♦ 6:30 PM

Putnam County Administration Building – Room 203

The Putnam County Board of Commissioners met on Tuesday, October 18, 2022 at approximately 6:30 PM 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

STAFF ABSENT

County Clerk Lynn Butterworth

Opening

1. Welcome - Call to Order

Chairman Webster called the meeting to order at approximately 6:30 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 Sharp, Seconded by Commissioner Wooten.

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

3. Invocation

Rev. Ed Baker of Union Chapel Methodist Church and Concord Methodist Church gave the invocation.

Minutes	Page 1 of 5	Approved
October 18, 2022		November 4, 2022

4. Pledge of Allegiance (staff)

County Manager Paul Van Haute led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Regular Business Meeting

5. Public Comments

None

6. Consent Agenda

a. Approval of Minutes - October 7, 2022 Regular Meeting (staff-CC)

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

7. Discussion and possible action regarding Senior Tax Relief (BW)

Dr. Steve Hersey presented a proposal for property tax relief for seniors 70 years or older to increase the standard homestead exemption from \$10,000 to \$40,000.

Mr. Dale Bills commented that senior tax relief is a welcome idea, but more thought needs to be put into this proposal.

Motion to see what the school board would do, and we would probably go along with them if they decided they wanted to do this because it's affecting them also.

Motion made by Commissioner Wooten.

Motion restated to present this to the school board and let them go over it and they come back to us and let us know how they feel about it and however they feel about it we would go along with them.

Motion restated by Commissioner Wooten.

Dr. Hersey advised that he spoke to Dr. Weiner of the school board, and he is against exemption from school taxes for seniors and feels the rest of the school board is of a like mind. He advised that Dr. Weiner is planning to do a public hearing in December on this issue and then have his board make a decision about which way to go. Dr. Hersey commented that a meeting of representatives from the school board and the board of commissioners before December would be a good idea.

Chairman Webster recommended tabling any action until meeting with the school board and seeing what their feelings are. After the meeting of representatives, a report can be given to the BOC for action at that time.

Commissioner Sharp inquired if the City of Eatonton needed to be involved in the discussions too. Dr. Hersey advised that the City does not have a Homestead Exemption on city property taxes.

Minutes	Page 2 of 5	Approved
October 18, 2022		November 4, 2022

Commissioner Wooten added to his motion that if the school board and the Board of Commissioners can come to some kind of agreement, that it will not have to come back to the BOC for an ok, because whatever they are good with is okay.

Chairman Webster restated the motion for clarification: Motion to move forward with the resolution presented by Dr. Hersey contingent upon the school board also agreeing to the conditions that have been outlined. This was okay with Commissioner Wooten.

Motion made by Commissioner Wooten, Seconded by Commissioner Brown.

Voting Yea: Commissioner Wooten

Voting Nay: Commissioner McElhenney, Commissioner Brown, Commissioner Sharp

Per Chairman Webster, the motion did not pass, the BOC will not pursue any further.
(Copy of presentation made a part of the minutes on minute book pages _____ to _____.)

8. Authorization for Staff to schedule a Public Hearing on proposed changes to the Putnam County Code of Ordinances - Chapter 66 (Zoning) C-1 Commercial District (staff-P&D)

Motion to authorize staff to schedule a Public Hearing on proposed changes to the Putnam County Code of Ordinances - Chapter 66 (Zoning) C-1 Commercial District.

Motion made by Commissioner Sharp, Seconded by Commissioner Brown.

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

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

9. Authorization for Chairman to sign a letter in support of the Coalition Against Bigger Trucks (BW)

Chairman Webster advised that this concerns letters to our Senators and Representative in opposition to an increase in the amount of weight trucks can carry on our roads.

Motion to authorize the Chairman to sign a letter of support of the Coalition Against Bigger Trucks.

Motion made by Commissioner McElhenney, Seconded by Commissioner Sharp.

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

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

Reports/Announcements

10. County Manager Report

County Manager Van Haute reported the following:

- Update on landfill status: the county has been working with EPD over the last nine months and have done various remediation at the landfill from minor to medium and now we are going to be at major renovations at the landfill site; we have received bids in excess of \$1.2M to redo the entire landfill cap; the products inside the landfill are a living micro organism and as the cap grows and shrinks there are breaks and the slope doesn't keep water running off anymore so water sits on top and disintegrates the clay cap; this will be on the next meeting agenda.

Minutes	Page 3 of 5	Approved
October 18, 2022		November 4, 2022

- Asked Fire Chief McClain to come up and explain a situation that needs resolving before November 1st. Chief McClain explained that his 2023 budget includes funds for a replacement engine which we would plan to receive in 2025; when budgeted lead times were 24-27 months; today lead times are 32-38 months; the manufacturer has a price increase that takes effect on November 1st of 6.5%; the truck he would like to purchase to receive in 2025 is the same that he purchased to receive in 2023 which cost \$701,500; the same truck now comes in at \$744K and if we pay for it when we order it like we have done in the past we get a \$39K prepay discount which brings the price down to \$705K which is only a \$3500 increase over the same truck last year, but we have to get the PO to them before November 1st and that is why he's coming today a little early to ask for that money a little sooner in the budget year than anticipated; will be using SPLOST 9 funds for this project.
Chairman Webster inquired of the board if it is ok for the county manager to authorize the purchase of this vehicle and have the board ratify this at the next meeting. There were no objections.
- We are seeing trash pile up at all the convenience centers, most notably Dennis Station, Wards Chapel and Flatrock; this is also impeding the public works team from adding several cans in the ground at Flatrock; meeting with Waste Management area manager here on Thursday to get issues resolved; trash budget increased about \$600K last year and centers look as terrible as they ever have.

11. County Attorney Report
No report.

12. Commissioner Announcements
Commissioner McElhenney: none

Commissioner Brown: none

Commissioner Sharp: none

Commissioner Wooten: commented that he looked at the convenience centers this weekend and wondered about the trash but wanted to praise public works for the great job they have done with the in ground containers.

Chairman Webster: none

Minutes	Page 4 of 5	Approved
October 18, 2022		November 4, 2022

Closing

13. 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 7:37 p.m.

ATTEST:

Lynn Butterworth
County Clerk

Billy Webster
Chairman

Minutes	Page 5 of 5	Approved
October 18, 2022		November 4, 2022