

# PUTNAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



117 Putnam Drive, Suite A ♦ Eatonton, GA 31024

## Minutes

Friday, February 3, 2023 ♦ 9:00 AM

Putnam County Administration Building – Room 203

The Putnam County Board of Commissioners met on Friday, February 3, 2023 at approximately 9:00 AM 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 Barry Fleming  
County Manager Paul Van Haute  
County Clerk Lynn Butterworth

### **Opening**

1. Welcome - Call to Order

Chairman Sharp 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 McElhenney, Seconded by Commissioner Wooten.**

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

(Commissioner Brown not present.)

3. Invocation

Pastor Pete Mattix, Lake Country Baptist Church, gave the invocation.

4. Pledge of Allegiance (JW)

Commissioner Wooten led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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**Code of Ordinances Public Hearing**

5. Proposed adoption of changes to the Putnam County Code of Ordinances - Chapter 2 (Administration)

Chairman Sharp reviewed the proposed changes.

(Commissioner Brown arrived at approximately 9:05 a.m.)

No one signed in to speak on the proposed changes.

**Motion to adopt the changes to the Putnam County Code of Ordinances – Chapter 2 (Administration).**

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

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

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

**Regular Business Meeting**

6. Public Comments

Ms. Patricia Hurt commented on Jimmy Davis Park and thanked the board for working on improvements.

7. Consent Agenda

a. Approval of Minutes - January 17, 2023 Regular Meeting (staff-CC)

b. Approval of Minutes - January 17, 2023 Executive Session (staff-CC)

c. Approval of 2023 Alcohol Licenses (staff-CC)

d. Approval of Final Plat Application and Plans for Plantation Pines Phase 3 (staff-P&D)

**Motion to approve the Consent Agenda.**

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

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

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

8. Presentation of 2022 Audit Report

Mr. Pat Muse of McNair, McLemore, Middlebrooks & Co., LLC presented the FY22 Audit results. No action was taken.

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

9. Presentation of Chamber of Commerce Annual Report

President Maggie Milner presented the 2022 Annual Report of the Eatonton-Putnam Chamber of Commerce. No action was taken.

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

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10. Approval of 2023 Contract with Eatonton-Putnam Chamber of Commerce (staff-CC)  
**Motion to approve the 2023 Contract with the Eatonton-Putnam Chamber of Commerce dba/Visit Eatonton.**

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

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

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

11. Request by AT&T for a Right-of-Way Permit for Greensboro Road and Loch Way (staff-PW)

Public Works Foreman Anthony Frazier explained the request and answered questions. He advised that the permit will be for Loch Way only since Greensboro Road is a state road.

**Motion to approve the request by AT&T for a Right-of-Way Permit for Loch Way.**

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

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

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

12. Request by Tyrone Turner for a Right-of-Way Permit for 143 Napier Road (staff-PW)  
approve

Mr. Tyrone Turner submitted a handout, explained the request and answered questions.

**Motion to approve the request by Tyrone Turner for a Right-of-Way Permit for 143 Napier Road.**

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

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

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

13. Request by Charter Spectrum for a Right-of-Way Permit for Parks Mill Road (staff-PW)

Public Works Foreman Anthony Frazier explained the request and answered questions.

**Motion to approve the request by Charter Spectrum for a Right-of-Way Permit for Parks Mill Road.**

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

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

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

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14. Discussion and possible action concerning GDOT Highway 44 Project (BS)

Chairman Sharp advised that he has received a lot of inquiries on the GDOT Highway 44 Project and that citizens want to have a say on the widening project.

Mr. Brian Quinn distributed a handout and advised that he would like to see GDOT pause their plan to allow public input and is looking for the Board of Commissioners support to hear from constituents.

Ms. Laura Dent commented that she supports a wider road but is concerned about the proposed concrete median in road and vehicles, especially trucks and trailers, having to make U-turns.

Chairman Sharp suggested writing a letter to the Governor and State Representatives similar to the letter the Greene County Board of Commissioners sent. Mr. Quinn advised that the Greene County letter does not support hearing from the constituents.

**Motion to ask staff to craft a letter to GDOT and state officials asking them to pause and reflect on the current plans for Highway 44, especially from Carey Station Road to Alexander Road, and take into consideration the comments by citizen groups and local businesses and that plans be reviewed and altered to insure the best outcome.**

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

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

15. Discussion and possible action concerning Jet Ski Rentals at Oconee Springs Park (BS)

Jet ski and boat rentals

Oconee Springs Park Director Lonnie Campbell explained that allowing jet ski and/or boat rentals from the park is not feasible because they do not have enough room or boat slips. There are currently only 16 total slips: four are designated for gas and eight are reserved for the cabins, which only leaves four for the 40 campsites. No action was taken.

**Reports/Announcements**

16. County Manager Report

County Manager Van Haute reported that Oconee Springs Park personnel recently attended a Boat/RV show and distributed 500 pieces of literature each day; they plan to attend another show in Perry later this year. The park had 3200 families that stayed there last year, and they also posted a profit.

17. County Attorney Report

No report but requested an Executive Session for a real estate matter.

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18. Commissioner Announcements

Commissioner McElhenney: thanked Finance Director Linda Cook and her staff for the good job they do. He also thanked County Manager Van Haute and commented on a recent trip they took to look at some Coroner equipment. He advised the other board members that they all need to seriously look for ways to help financially and otherwise.

Commissioner Brown: commented that trash on roadsides is horrible and he wishes people would stop throwing trash out of their cars.

Commissioner Foster: reported on the first meeting of the STR Study Committee, that it went well and thanked Committee Chair Maggie Milner for organizing it. He advised the second meeting is coming up soon.

Commissioner Wooten: thanked the Public Works Department for all their help in trying to keep our roads cleaned. He also thanked Planning & Development Director Lisa Jackson for making sure things are done right.

Chairman Sharp: none

**Executive Session**

19. 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 Real Estate.**

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

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

Meeting closed at approximately 10:45 a.m.

20. Reopen meeting following Executive Session

**Motion to reopen the meeting.**

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

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

**Voting Nay: Commissioner Foster**

Meeting reconvened at approximately 11:24 a.m.

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21. Execute Affidavit concerning the subject matter of the closed portion of the meeting  
**Motion to authorize the Chairman to sign the Affidavit concerning the subject matter of the closed portion of the meeting.**

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

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

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

22. Action, if any, resulting from the Executive Session  
No final action was taken.

**Closing**

23. Adjournment

**Motion to adjourn the meeting.**

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

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

Meeting adjourned at approximately 11:26 a.m.

ATTEST:

Lynn Butterworth  
County Clerk

B. W. "Bill" Sharp  
Chairman

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