

PUTNAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



117 Putnam Drive, Suite A ♦ Eatonton, GA 31024

Minutes

Friday, March 3, 2023 ♦ 10:00 AM

Putnam County Administration Building – Room 203

The Putnam County Board of Commissioners met on Friday, March 3, 2023 at approximately 10:00 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 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 10:00 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 Foster, Seconded by Commissioner Wooten.

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

3. Invocation

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

4. Pledge of Allegiance (BS)

Chairman Sharp led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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Regular Business Meeting

5. Public Comments

Mr. Don Cottrell commented on turning 90 and told a joke.

6. Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of Minutes - February 21, 2023 Regular Meeting (staff-CC)
- b. Approval of Minutes - February 21, 2023 Executive Session (staff-CC)
- c. Approval of Revised Putnam County Transit Procurement Manual (staff-Transit)
- d. 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 procurement manual and alcohol license made a part of the minutes on minute book pages _____ to _____.)

7. Approval of 2024 Budget and 2023 Mill Rate Schedule (staff-Finance)

Motion to approve the 2024 Budget and 2023 Mill Rate Schedule.

Motion made by Commissioner Foster, Seconded by Commissioner Wooten.

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

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

8. Awarding of Solicitation #23-36001-001 Ambulance (Two) (staff-EMS)

EMS Director Brad Murphey reviewed bid (only one bid received) and explained the current status of ambulances on order; they should arrive in another 4-5 months. He further advised it would be the 2nd or 3rd quarter of 2024 before we would receive these two. The total bid amount for two ambulances is \$534,376.00. County Manager Van Haute advised that these would be paid for out of SPLOST 9.

Motion to award Solicitation #23-36001-001 to Custom Truck Body Works for two Ambulances at a total of \$534,376.00.

Motion made by Commissioner McElhenney, Seconded by Commissioner Wooten.

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

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9. Approval of Short Term Rental Study Committee Roster (tabled from last meeting)
 - a. Rescind January 6, 2023 motion forming Short Term Vacation Rental Study Committee and disband committee

County Attorney Nelson explained that for records purposes, the cleanest action is to rescind the January 6, 2023 action and start over.

Mr. Rick Brantley commented on his service on the STR study committee and how he felt it wasn't balanced or representative of Putnam County. He also commented on his negative experiences with short term rentals and the number of calls he received from others that were unhappy with short term rentals. He urged the board to disband the committee and place a moratorium on short term rentals.

Mr. Mark Willett commented that he owns a short term rental house in Great Waters and has never received any complaints from any of the neighbors, nor has law enforcement ever been called. He also commented that it is frustrating to short term rental owners for this to keep coming up, that short term rentals are a huge income to the county and have no effect on the school system.

Motion to rescind the January 6, 2023 motion forming the Short Term Vacation Rental Study Committee and disband the committee.

Motion made by Commissioner Wooten, Seconded by Commissioner Brown.

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

10. Approval to schedule a series of two special called meetings to obtain input from the public and stakeholders on potential changes to the Putnam County Short Term Vacation Rental Ordinance (AF)

Motion to schedule two special called meetings to obtain input from the public and stakeholders on potential changes to the Putnam County Short Term Vacation Rental Ordinance with one being a day meeting and one an evening meeting, to be scheduled by staff.

Motion made by Commissioner Foster, Seconded by Commissioner Wooten.

Amended motion to schedule two Town Hall meetings to obtain input from the public and stakeholders on potential changes to the Putnam County Short Term Vacation Rental Ordinance, one at the Harmony Fire Station hosted by Vice Chairman/Commissioner Brown on March 14 at 6PM and one at the Twin Bridges Fire Station hosted by Chairman Sharp on March 23 at 6PM.

Amended motion made by Commissioner Brown, Seconded by Commissioner McElhenney.

After discussion, Commissioner Brown withdrew his amended motion; the second concurred.

Voting Yea on the original motion: Commissioner McElhenney, Commissioner Brown, Commissioner Foster, Commissioner Wooten

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11. Approval of Moratorium on Variances (staff-P&D/CA)

County Attorney Nelson reviewed the proposed resolution and moratorium and advised that one change was needed to the resolution, to change the effective time from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Motion to approve the Moratorium on Variances and authorize the Chairman to sign the Resolution with the change requested by the County Attorney.

Motion made by Commissioner McElhenney, Seconded by Commissioner Brown.

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

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

Reports/Announcements

12. County Manager Report

County Manager Van Haute reported the following:

- GDOT LMIG estimates were distributed to the board; almost \$1.5M in projects needs to go down to \$950K – this will be on the next agenda
- After 18 months of waiting the new audio visual equipment has arrived and will be installed soon
- Employee medical insurance renewal numbers were received with a \$170K increase; looking at cost savings by eliminating the program with Corporate Health Partners and reducing the Brella insurance – this will be on the next agenda

13. County Attorney Report

No report, but Executive Session needed for Litigation and Real Estate

14. Commissioner Announcements

Commissioner McElhenney: none

Commissioner Brown: none

Commissioner Foster: none

Commissioner Wooten: none

Chairman Sharp: none

Executive Session

15. 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 and Real Estate.

Motion made by Commissioner Foster, Seconded by Commissioner Brown.

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

Meeting closed at approximately 10:47 a.m.

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16. Reopen meeting following Executive Session

Motion to reopen the meeting.

Motion made by Commissioner Wooten, Seconded by Commissioner Brown.

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

Meeting reopened at approximately 11:44 a.m.

17. Authorize Chairman to sign Affidavit concerning the subject matter of the closed portion of the meeting

County Attorney Nelson advised that two matters were discussed with no final action.

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

Motion made by Commissioner Foster, 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 _____.)

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

Motion to authorize the Chairman to execute the Settlement Agreement with Lauren and Josh Sprayberry and to enter into a Consent Order in the pending action and to recognize the submitted request for variance is granted as a matter of law.

Motion made by Commissioner McElhenney, 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 _____.)

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Closing

19. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion made by Commissioner McElhenney, Seconded by Commissioner Foster.

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

Meeting adjourned at approximately 11:47 a.m.

ATTEST:

Lynn Butterworth
County Clerk

B. W. "Bill" Sharp
Chairman

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