

PUTNAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



117 Putnam Drive, Suite A ♦ Eatonton, GA 31024

Agenda

Tuesday, October 18, 2022 ♦ 6:30 PM

Putnam County Administration Building – Room 203

Opening

1. Welcome - Call to Order
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Invocation - Pastor David Wofford, Eatonton First United Methodist Church
4. Pledge of Allegiance (staff)

Regular Business Meeting

5. Public Comments
6. Consent Agenda
 - a. Approval of Minutes - October 7, 2022 Regular Meeting (staff-CC)
7. Discussion and possible action regarding Senior Tax Relief (BW)
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)
9. Authorization for Chairman to sign a letter in support of the Coalition Against Bigger Trucks (BW)

Reports/Announcements

10. County Manager Report
11. County Attorney Report
12. Commissioner Announcements

Closing

13. Adjournment

The Board of Commissioners reserves the right to continue the meeting to another time and place in the event the number of people in attendance at the meeting, including the Board of Commissioners, staff, and members of the public exceeds the legal limits. The meeting cannot be closed to the public except by a majority vote of a quorum present for the meeting. The board can vote to go into an executive session on a legally exempt matter during a public meeting even if not advertised or listed on the agenda. Individuals with disabilities who require certain accommodations in order to allow them to observe and/or participate in this meeting, or who have questions regarding the accessibility of the meeting or the facilities are required to contact the ADA Compliance Officer, at least three business days in advance of the meeting at 706-485-2776 to allow the County to make reasonable accommodations for those persons.

File Attachments for Item:

6. Consent Agenda

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

PUTNAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



117 Putnam Drive, Suite A ♦ Eatonton, GA 31024

Minutes

Friday, October 7, 2022 ♦ 9:00 AM

Putnam County Administration Building – Room 203

The Putnam County Board of Commissioners met on Friday, October 7, 2022 at approximately 9:00 AM in the Putnam County Administration Building, 117 Putnam Drive, Room 203, Eatonton, Georgia.

PRESENT

- Chairman Billy Webster
- Commissioner Daniel Brown
- Commissioner Bill Sharp
- Commissioner Jeff Wooten

ABSENT

- Commissioner Gary McElhenney

STAFF PRESENT

- County Attorney Adam Nelson
- County Manager Paul Van Haute
- County Clerk Lynn Butterworth

Opening

1. Welcome - Call to Order

Chairman Webster called the meeting to order at approximately 9:02 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 Sharp, Seconded by Commissioner Wooten.

Voting Yea: Commissioner Brown, Commissioner Sharp, Commissioner Wooten

3. Invocation

County Attorney Adam Nelson gave the invocation.

4. Pledge of Allegiance (staff)

County Manager Paul Van Haute led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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Regular Business Meeting

5. Public Comments

None

6. Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of Minutes - September 20, 2022 Regular Meeting (staff-CC)
- b. Approval of Minutes - September 20, 2022 Executive Session (staff-CC)
- c. Authorization for Chairman to sign GDOT Section 5311 Program Formula Funds for Rural Transit FY2024 Grant Application (Transit)

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda.

Motion made by Commissioner Sharp, Seconded by Commissioner Brown.

Voting Yea: Commissioner Brown, Commissioner Sharp, Commissioner Wooten
(Copy of application made a part of the minutes on minute book pages _____ to _____.)

7. Authorization for Chairman to sign Probation Services Agreement between Judicial Alternatives of Georgia (JAG) and Putnam County State Court (State Ct Judge)

Motion to authorize the Chairman to sign the Probation Services Agreement between Judicial Alternatives of Georgia (JAG) and Putnam County State Court.

Motion made by Commissioner Sharp, Seconded by Commissioner Wooten.

Voting Yea: Commissioner Brown, Commissioner Sharp, Commissioner Wooten
(Copy of agreement made a part of the minutes on minute book pages _____ to _____.)

8. Approval of Change to the Environmental Health Food Service Fee Structure (Health Dept)

Motion to approve the change to the Environmental Health Food Service Fee Structure.

Motion made by Commissioner Wooten, Seconded by Commissioner Brown.

Voting Yea: Commissioner Brown, Commissioner Sharp, Commissioner Wooten
(Copy of new fees made a part of the minutes on minute book pages _____ to _____.)

9. Appointment to the Department of Family and Children Services Board (staff-CC)

Ms. Roxanne Waller was nominated for appointment to the Department of Family and Children Services Board.

Nomination made by Commissioner Brown, Seconded by Commissioner Sharp.

Voting Yea for Roxanne Waller: Commissioner Brown, Commissioner Sharp, Commissioner Wooten

Reports/Announcements

10. County Manager Report

County Manager Van Haute reported the following:

- Congratulate to Finance Director Linda Cook for being awarded the President’s Award from the Georgia Government Finance Officers Association; this is the third time in a row for Ms. Cook winning this award
- Improvements have been made at the Flat Rock Recycle Center including more space and more cans in the ground
- One of the ambulances hit a deer recently; it is still running, only with one headlight until it can be repaired; there are currently only three in the fleet
- The Middle Georgia Regional Commission recently sent out a DRI (Developments of Regional Impact) for a large subdivision in Morgan County; this will impact our public safety; the comment period is open for this; please add your comments
 - Fire Chief McClain commented on the new Morgan County development; it is one of the largest coming to the area; Putnam shares a fire station with Morgan in the Buckhead area and has a mutual aid with Morgan; Putnam is also expecting a new large development nearby, Kingston, which will increase calls for both Putnam and Morgan; impacts will be felt by both counties with these large developments; the Morgan County development plans to build all at once to be complete in 2031; the Putnam County Kingston development will be built in phases to be complete in 2032; may need to fine tune the mutual aid agreement as this grows
- The Fire Department pulled a pickup truck out of the lake this past week
- Monday, October 10th is Putnam County’s 215th Birthday; there is a cupcake cake in back in celebration; Putnam County is older than 37 of the states in our country

11. County Attorney Report

None

12. Commissioner Announcements

Commissioner McElhenney – absent

Commissioner Brown – none

Commissioner Sharp – none

Commissioner Wooten – none

Chairman Webster – thanked PIO Stephanie McMullen, County Manager Van Haute and all the Department Heads for the event yesterday at the Administration Building for Pre-K Week. The departments made presentations inside and the outside was set up with equipment displays and fun activities. Great job by all. He also read a comment found on the NextDoor app by Ms. Marian Zerkus who thanked the Commissioners for the outcome of the latest Fish Tales Marina rezoning request and complimented the work of the County Clerk.

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Closing

13. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion made by Commissioner Sharp, Seconded by Commissioner Wooten.

Voting Yea: Commissioner Brown, Commissioner Sharp, Commissioner Wooten

Meeting adjourned at approximately 9:44 a.m.

ATTEST:

Lynn Butterworth
County Clerk

Billy Webster
Chairman

File Attachments for Item:

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



SENIOR TAX RELIEF

A proposal



PROPOSAL

- Property Tax Relief
- Increase Standard Homestead Exemption
- \$10,000 - \$40,000
- Seniors 70 years or older
 - 1300 Qualified Properties



TAX RELIEF

- MILLAGE RATE
 - ASSESSMENTS
 - EXEMPTIONS
-
- Only Exemptions are Targeted

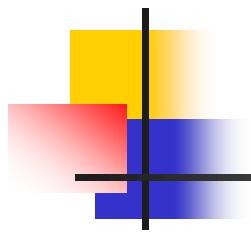


EXEMPTION

- Standard Homestead
- No Exclusions
- No Means Test
 - State - \$2K
 - Local - \$10K (1998)

TAX DIGEST

(2022)



- Gross Digest - \$2.14B
- Exemptions - \$369M
- Net Digest - \$1.77B
- Proposed Exemption - \$39M
- Proposed Net Digest - \$1.73B

COUNTY

(2022)

- Max Exemption cost - \$265K
- Cost to County - \$0
- Avg Cost to Non-Qualified - \$17/yr
 - 2.2% tax increase
 - \$22/\$1,000 County Tax
- Max Senior Savings - \$200/yr
 - Indexed to Millage Rate

SCHOOL & COUNTY

(2022)

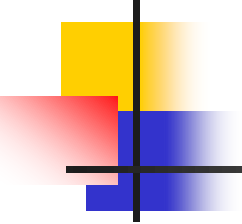
- Max Exemption Cost - \$768K
- Cost to Authority - \$0
- Avg Cost to Non-Qualified - \$48/yr
 - 2.2% tax increase
 - \$22/\$1,000 total tax
- Max Senior Savings - \$590/yr



SCHOOL TAX EXEMPTION

- Total Assessed Value - \$215M
- Cost - \$2.78M (vs \$500K)
 - 12% increase (vs 2.2%)
 - \$120/\$1,000 school tax

PROPOSAL

- 
-
- Increase Homestead Exemption
 - \$10K - \$40K
 - Seniors – 70+



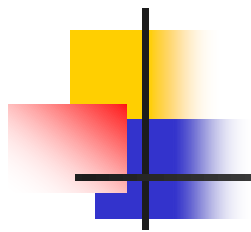
SCHEDULE

- Formulate Local Legislation - 2022
- Submit Local Legislation – 2023 Session
- Referendum – November 2023
- Effective – January 2024



SUMMARY

- Simple
- Affordable
- Targeted
- Timely



QUESTIONS

????

File Attachments for Item:

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)

EXPLANATION OF DOCUMENTS:**Red language equals added text.****~~Struck through language~~ equals deleted text.**

PART II - CODE OF ORDINANCES
Chapter 66 - ZONING
C-1 COMMERCIAL DISTRICT

Sec. 66-102. Purpose.

This is the district wherein typical community commercial uses are to be found. As a group these uses satisfy the local consumer's daily needs for professional, retail, and for goods and services as well as the needs of the transient and recreational consumers with limited residential use. It is intended that all establishments be operated wholly within permanently enclosed buildings **with the exception of three outside displays of goods or services specifically related to the C-1 business on premises.**

(Res. of 7-17-2007(4); Amend. of 4-17-2012(2))

Sec. 66-103. Uses allowed.

The uses allowed in the C-1 zoning district as a matter of right are subject to section 66-34, general requirements, of this article, to performance standards of article III, and to the requirements and development standards of this district. Uses not listed herein are not permitted in this district, except as provided in section 66-36, undefined uses, of this article. Consult article III, performance standards, or the other zoning districts if the use you seek is not listed in this district.

- (a) Allowed uses:
- Adult day care center.
 - Amusement facility.
 - Animal care, limited.
 - Assembly halls.
 - Assisted living facilities.
 - Automobile maintenance.
 - Automobile retail.
 - Automobile service station.
 - Bar/tavern/pub/lounge.
 - Brewery.
 - Brewpub.

Business or trade schools.
Catering service.
Cemetery, public.
Child day care center.
Clinic.
Cultural facilities.
Consumer good rental.
Contractor services, limited.
Convalescent service.
Convenience store.
Dwelling, security.
Emergency response facility.
Event venue.
Farm winery.
Funeral service.
Hospice care facility, general.
Hotel.
Inn.
Marinas.
Microproducer.
Mini warehouses.
Motel.
Offices.
Personal care home, congregate.
Personal care home, group.
Private schools.
Recreation, indoor (limited).
Recreation, outdoor religious facilities.
Restaurant.
Retail sales or service (indoor).
Retirement community.
Shooting range, indoor.
Transmission/communication towers.
Water treatment plant, private.

- (b) Accessory uses and structures: Accessory uses and structures customarily incidental to any permitted use.

(Res. of 7-17-2007(4); Amend. of 3-18-2008; Amend. of 4-17-2012(2); Amend. of 9-17-2013(2) ; Ord. of 12-4-2020(1) ; Ord. of 12-3-2021(1))

Sec. 66-104. Development standards.

- (a) Minimum lot size: 20,000 square feet.
- (b) Minimum lot width at the building setback line: 100 feet.
- (c) Minimum setbacks requirements are as follows:
 - (1) Front setback: 30 feet.
 - (2) Side setback: 15 feet.
 - (3) Rear setback: 20 feet.
 - (4) Setback from Lake Sinclair, Lake Oconee, creek or river: 65 feet.
 - (5) A 50-foot setback is required when any commercial use or district adjoins any residential use or district.
 - (6) State highway/main arterial road: 50 feet.
- (d) Maximum height of structures: 45 feet from the highest point of the grade.
- (e) Basic parking requirement: One space per each 200 square feet of space designated for retail sales. See chapter 28, development regulations, for other commercial uses.
- (f) Maximum lot coverage by buildings: 35 percent.
- (g) Buffer requirements:
 - (1) A berm or a 50-foot buffer is required when any commercial use or district adjoins any residential use or district and shall be included within the required setback.
 - (2) Additional buffer and screening requirements may be required based on use in accordance with article III, performance standards.
- (h) Maximum commercial floor area is computed at 15,000 square feet per acre.
- (i) **Maximum of three outside displays of goods or services specifically related to the C-1 business on premises**
 - (1) The outside display shall not be allowed in the front yard at anytime.**
 - (2) A screened privacy fence shall be erected and maintained along the property where it abuts R-zoned or residential used property.**

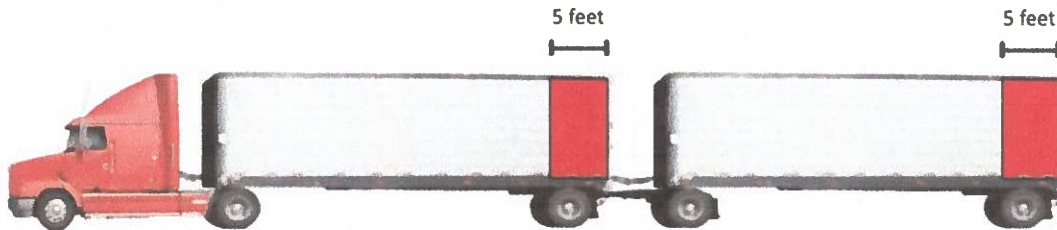
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File Attachments for Item:

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

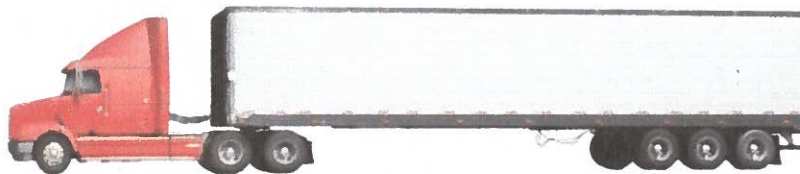
Proposed Bigger-Truck Configurations

Longer Double-Trailer Trucks



- FedEx, UPS, Amazon and a handful of other companies have lobbied for legislation that would force states to allow double-trailer trucks 91 feet in length, called “Double 33s,” on the federally designated National Network, which includes 200,000 miles of roadways. These are 10 feet longer than today’s twin-trailers and 17 feet longer than standard single-trailer trucks.
- Double 33s were removed from the transportation reauthorization bill in the U.S. Senate in November of 2015 on a 56-31 vote.
- The U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) determined in 2016 that Double 33s take 252 feet to stop—22 feet longer than today’s twin-trailer configuration.
- USDOT also found that Double 33s would result in the largest lifecycle increase in pavement damage compared to all other studied configurations. This would result in \$1.2 billion to \$1.8 billion in estimated pavement damage every year.

Heavier Single-Trailer Trucks



- Certain shippers have lobbied to allow heavier single-trailer trucks weighing 91,000 pounds—an increase of 11,000 pounds compared to today’s trucks—as part of a 10-year, 10-state pilot program.
- Legislation to allow 91,000-pound trucks was defeated in the U.S. House in 2015 on a 187-236 vote.
- These 91,000-pound trucks were found in limited state testing by USDOT in 2015 to have 47 percent higher crash rates and cause \$1.1 billion in additional bridge costs.

PUTNAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



117 Putnam Drive, Suite A ♦ Eatonton, GA 31024

October 18, 2022

Senator Jon Ossoff
United States Senate
455 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Ossoff,

I am deeply concerned to hear that there is a proposal in Congress to increase the weight and length of commercial trucks. As you know, Putnam County must maintain its local roads and bridges and spends a large portion of our budget doing so. We spend about \$250,000 per mile repaving our most heavily traveled local roads and a comparable amount to maintain our many bridges. The regular maintenance of these roads and bridges stretches our budget to the limit as is, and the thought of adding more weight and length onto them is frustrating and concerning. We already deal with a high volume of commercial trucks on our roads, specifically carrying logs, wood products, and paper. In fact, we recently had to spend about \$600,000 on an additional offramp around a paper products facility in our county due to the increase in truck traffic.

The two bills that were introduced in Congress, H.R. 8411 & H.R. 8412, would increase the weight of commercial trucks to 97,000 pounds and increase the length of double trailer trucks to 33 feet each. The Federal Highway Administration studied the impact these trucks would have on our local infrastructure and found that compared to an 80,000-pound truck, a vehicle with a weight of 84,000 pounds increases pavement damage by 25%, while a 90,000-pound truck would do 73% more damage. This means we would have to invest more of our budget into fortifying our roads as well as continuously repairing the damage that these heavier trucks will be doing to them. To put it bluntly, our budget would be hard pressed to cope with the additional cost that comes with heavier and longer trucks on our roadways.

An unfunded and uncompensated federal mandate to allow longer and heavier trucks is completely the opposite of what our county needs. I strongly urge you to oppose H.R. 8411 & H.R. 8412 and to do everything you can to convince your colleagues not to support it as well. The taxpayers of Putnam County should not be left holding the bill just so big shipping companies can make even higher record profits.

Sincerely,

Billy Webster
Putnam County Chairman

PUTNAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



117 Putnam Drive, Suite A ♦ Eatonton, GA 31024

October 18, 2022

Senator Raphael G. Warnock
United States Senate
388 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Warnock,

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Billy Webster
Putnam County Chairman

PUTNAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



117 Putnam Drive, Suite A ♦ Eatonton, GA 31024

October 18, 2022

Representative Jody B. Hice
U.S. House of Representatives
404 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Hice,

I am deeply concerned to hear that there is a proposal in Congress to increase the weight and length of commercial trucks. As you know, Putnam County must maintain its local roads and bridges and spends a large portion of our budget doing so. We spend about \$250,000 per mile repaving our most heavily traveled local roads and a comparable amount to maintain our many bridges. The regular maintenance of these roads and bridges stretches our budget to the limit as is, and the thought of adding more weight and length onto them is frustrating and concerning. We already deal with a high volume of commercial trucks on our roads, specifically carrying logs, wood products, and paper. In fact, we recently had to spend about \$600,000 on an additional offramp around a paper products facility in our county due to the increase in truck traffic.

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Putnam County Chairman