

# PUTNAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



117 Putnam Drive, Suite A ♦ Eatonton, GA 31024

## Minutes

Friday, September 6, 2024 ♦ 10:00 AM

Putnam County Administration Building – Room 203

The Putnam County Board of Commissioners met on Friday, September 6, 2024 at approximately 10:00 AM in the Putnam County Administration Building, 117 Putnam Drive, Room 203, Eatonton, Georgia.

### *PRESENT*

Chairman Bill Sharp  
Commissioner Daniel Brown  
Commissioner Steve Hersey (arrived late)  
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 10:03 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 Wooten, Seconded by Commissioner Brown.**

**Voting Yea: Chairman Sharp, Commissioner Brown, Commissioner Wooten**

#### 3. Invocation - Pastor David Wofford, Eatonton First United Methodist Church

Chairman Sharp took a point of personal privilege for a moment of silence for the victims and their families at the Apalachee High School in Barrow County; for Battalion Chief Chris Eddy who lost his life this week serving the citizens of Greene County-Chief Eddy was formerly a firefighter in Putnam County for several years before taking the position with Greene County-our condolences go out to the family, friends, and colleagues of Battalion Chief Eddy; and for several other county employees who are fighting injuries and illnesses, some even hospitalized.

Pastor Wofford couldn't be here. County Attorney Nelson gave the invocation.

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4. Pledge of Allegiance (staff)  
County Manager Van Haute led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Regular Business Meeting**

5. Public Comments

Mr. William Vargo thanked Chairman Sharp, County Manager Van Haute, and Finance Director Cook for meeting with him and his wife regarding SPLOST 10.

Mr. Don Sadler commented on the County Manager’s job description and the County Attorney’s job description by pointing out things he thinks they aren’t doing.

Mr. George Kelecheck distributed handouts and commented on a land use assessment from DeKalb County.

Mr. Ted Yarbrough commented on his nightclub and county alcohol license.

Mr. Wesley Farley, son of Mr. Ted Yarbrough, advised that he was unaware that the nightclub didn't have a county license.

Ms. Barbara Vargo commented on Holland & Knight, GO bonds and loans.

Mr. Richard Garrett commented on the lack of engagement by commissioners for public comments; he suggested reading the rules before each meeting; also commented on the SPLOST 10 and GO bond issue and the lack of communication and need for a public meeting to explain. (Copy of handouts made a part of the minutes on minute book pages \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_.)

6. Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of Minutes - August 20, 2024 Regular Meeting (staff-CC)
- b. Approval of Minutes - August 30, 2024 Called Meeting (staff-CC)
- c. Authorization for Chairman to sign updated Federal Transit Administration Title VI Plan for Putnam County Transit (staff-Transit)

**Motion to approve the Consent Agenda.**

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

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

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

7. Report from Putnam Development Authority - Matt Poyner, Economic Development Director

Economic Development Director Matt Poyner gave an overview of the activities of the Putnam Development Authority:

- PDA received a clean audit
- The last CD was cashed out to cover operating expenses
- The CGTC lease was renewed
- Mr. Mickey Daniel, Georgia Power Regional Community Development Manager, is moving to Savannah and will no longer be our representative
- The City of Eatonton was nominated to participate in the Georgia Power CREATE program and EDD Poyner is serving for the city
- Business surveys were conducted last spring; lots of positive feedback was received; local businesses are healthy
- Cosmo Cabinets has expansion plans

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- Putnam County is partnering with Jones County for a job fair on September 26, 2024 for high school students
- EDD Poyner is Vice Chairman of the Putnam Career Academy Board which gives a pipeline of students for local jobs
- There are some possible new businesses locating in the South Industrial Park
- ER Snell is purchasing ten acres in the South Industrial Park for an asphalt plant and it is expected to close soon; this is not a typical targeted business, but they provide sales tax revenue and purchase gas from the city
- The board is working on new signage for the South Industrial Park
- Work is underway to prep another eight acre site in the South Industrial Park
- Future PDA reports will happen quarterly

No action was taken.

8. Authorization for Chairman to sign Acknowledgement page for a Memorandum of Understanding between the Putnam Development Authority and Harmony Road GA, LLC (PDA)

Economic Development Director Poyner explained the Memorandum of Understand and the project which is a build to rent community.

**Motion to authorize the Chairman to sign the Acknowledgement page for a Memorandum of Understanding between the Putnam Development Authority and Harmony Road GA, LLC**

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

**Voting Nay: Commissioner Brown, Commissioner Hersey, Commissioner Wooten**

9. Request by Flock Safety for Right of Way Permit on Parks Mill Road (staff-PW)

**Motion to approve the request by Flock Safety for a Right of Way Permit on Parks Mill Road.**

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

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

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

10. Request by 523 Warner Road, LLC (Richard Harp) for Right of Way Permit on Park Road (staff-PW)

Public Works Director Frazier explained the request and answered questions.

**Motion to approve the request by 523 Warner Road, LLC (Richard Harp) for a Right of Way Permit on Parks Road. (Note correct spelling of road.)**

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

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

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

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11. Discussion and possible action on Generator for Sinclair Water Authority (BS)  
Project Manager Brice Doolittle explained the request and distributed some information. Sinclair Water Authority was awarded a GEMA grant for two backup emergency generators for the water plant. The original grant application was completed at the end of 2019 and was just recently awarded. SWA needs to accept the grant by today. The total cost of the project is \$674,300; however the grant is only for \$453,341, which leaves a balance of \$220,959. SWA is requesting help from Putnam County and Baldwin County in the amount of \$100,000 from each county.

**Motion to approve \$100,000 for generators for SWA contingent upon Baldwin County doing the same.**

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

**Voting Yea: Commissioner Brown, Commissioner Hersey, Commissioner Wooten**  
(Copy of handouts made a part of the minutes on minute book pages \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_.)

### **Reports/Announcements**

12. County Manager Report

No report.

13. County Attorney Report

No report.

14. Commissioner Announcements

Commissioner Wooten commented that he is proud of Putnam County; good budget for FY25 was approved; Putnam County is a good place to live; he is proud of Commissioner Hersey and Commissioner Brown for really looking ahead at things to come.

Commissioner Brown commented that SPLOST 10 "no" votes are a poor decision; he explained that this is a sales tax and the county needs the continual influx of these tax dollars; the bond issue is not set in stone, it is there in case a bond is needed; the bond would still have to go before the voters; this is a tax continuance, not a new tax; asked for citizens/businesses to support the Georgia Heart program.

Commissioner Hersey commented that the upcoming ballot says SPLOST approval and bond approval and the bond will not go back before the voters again; tying these two issues together is a bad idea.

(County Attorney Nelson advised that Commissioner Hersey is correct – the bond and SPLOST projects are tied together, however the language only provides the board the authority to issue bonds, it doesn't say that will automatically happen.)

Chairman Sharp commented on the Georgia Heart program and to contact Brandy Jones for help with the paperwork; he asked everyone to please consider giving this way.

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**Closing**

15. Adjournment

**Motion to adjourn the meeting.**

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

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

Meeting adjourned at approximately 11:57 a.m.

ATTEST:

Lynn Butterworth  
County Clerk

B. W. "Bill" Sharp  
Chairman

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