

PUTNAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



117 Putnam Drive, Suite A ♦ Eatonton, GA 31024

Minutes

Friday, December 6, 2024 ♦ 10:00 AM

Putnam County Administration Building – Room 203

The Putnam County Board of Commissioners met on Friday, December 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
Commissioner Jeff Wooten

ABSENT

Commissioner Tom McElhenney

STAFF PRESENT

County Attorney Adam Nelson
County Manager Paul Van Haute
County Clerk Lynn Butterworth
Deputy County Clerk Mercy Fluker

Opening

1. Welcome - Call to Order

Chairman Sharp called the meeting to order at approximately 10:00 a.m. He also introduced and welcomed new Deputy County Clerk Mercy Fluker.

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

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2. Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve the Agenda.

Motion made by Commissioner Brown, Seconded by Commissioner Wooten.

Amended motion to postpone item #10 “Authorization for Chairman to sign Development Agreement between Putnam County and The LEN Lake Oconee, LLC” until the second meeting in February 2025.

Motion made by Commissioner Hersey, Seconded by Chairman Sharp.

Voting Yea: Commissioner Hersey

Voting Nay: Commissioner Brown, Commissioner Wooten

Motion defeated

County Attorney Nelson requested to table item #10 “Authorization for Chairman to sign Development Agreement between Putnam County and The LEN Lake Oconee, LLC” because the agreement is not ready at this point; the other party has not responded to the proposal.

Amended motion to approve the agenda with the tabling of item #10 “Authorization for Chairman to sign Development Agreement between Putnam County and The LEN Lake Oconee, LLC.”

Motion made by Commissioner Brown, Seconded by Commissioner Hersey.

Voting Yea: Commissioner Brown, Commissioner Hersey, Commissioner Wooten

3. Invocation

Pastor Jonathon Dawson, Lakepoint Community Church, gave the invocation.

4. Pledge of Allegiance (JW)

Commissioner Wooten led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Code of Ordinances Public Hearing

5. Proposed adoption of changes to the Putnam County Code of Ordinances - Chapter 54 (Taxation)

No one signed in to speak for or against this item.

County Attorney Nelson explained the proposed code changes.

Motion to adopt the proposed changes to the Putnam County Code of Ordinances – Chapter 54 (Taxation).

Motion made by Commissioner Brown, Seconded by Commissioner Wooten.

Voting Yea: Commissioner Brown, Commissioner Hersey, Commissioner Wooten

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

Road Abandonment Public Hearing

6. Proposed Abandonment of a portion of Napier Mill Road

No one signed to speak for or against this item.

No action taken.

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Regular Business Meeting

7. Public Comments

Mr. Charles Gray commented on the rezoning request by Tri County EMC on Highway 16.
Mr. John Rollins commented on accountability for the wrecker services in Putnam County.

8. Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of Minutes - November 19, 2024 Regular Meeting (staff-CC)
- b. Authorization for Chairman to sign Agreement between Putnam County Transit and Georgia Department of Transportation for Transit Trust Fund Program Allocation (staff-Transit)
- c. Approval of 2024-2025 Alcohol License for Welcome to the Lake (staff-CC)

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda.

Motion made by Commissioner Hersey, Seconded by Commissioner Wooten.

Voting Yea: Commissioner Brown, Commissioner Hersey, Commissioner Wooten

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9. Authorization for Chairman to sign Resolution to name the crossroads at Pea Ridge Road and Oconee Springs Road to Beall's Crossing (staff-CM)

Ms. Margaret Ehrlich and Mr. Frank Gorley thanked the board and County Manager Van Haute for this recognition. Ms. Ehrlich also submitted a compendium of historical information on Mrs. Beall's mill.

Motion to authorize the Chairman to sign the Resolution to name the crossroads at Pea Ridge Road and Oconee Springs Road to Beall's Crossing.

Motion made by Commissioner Brown, Seconded by Commissioner Wooten.

County Manager Van Haute read the resolution.

Voting Yea: Commissioner Brown, Commissioner Hersey, Commissioner Wooten

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

10. Authorization for Chairman to sign Development Agreement between Putnam County and The LEN Lake Oconee, LLC (staff-CA)

Tabled

11. Authorization for Chairman to sign ACCG Defined Benefit Resolution (staff-CM)

County Manager Van Haute explained that we are funded at 100.1% of our pension, which is tremendous news.

Motion to authorize the Chairman to sign the ACCG Defined Benefit Resolution.

Motion made by Commissioner Brown, Seconded by Commissioner Hersey.

Voting Yea: Commissioner Brown, Commissioner Hersey, Commissioner Wooten

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12. Approval of 2025 BOC Meeting Schedule (staff-CC)

The only conflict is the meeting which falls on Friday, July 4, 2025. That meeting will be cancelled.

Motion to approve the 2025 BOC Meeting Schedule.

Motion made by Commissioner Wooten, Seconded by Commissioner Hersey.

Voting Yea: Commissioner Brown, Commissioner Hersey, Commissioner Wooten

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

Reports/Announcements

13. County Manager Report

County Manager Van Haute reported the following:

- Bid opening for TSPLOST was on December 5, 2024; three bids were received; the low bid was \$15.1M; bond market approved us at \$23M; assembling another list of roads to add to the original list

14. County Attorney Report

No report, but did request an Executive Session for real estate.

15. Commissioner Announcements

Commissioner Brown: none

Commissioner Hersey: none

Commissioner Wooten: none

Chairman Sharp: announced that on December 4, 2024 Richard Garrett was sworn in as District Two Commissioner for the 2025-2028 term; he also invited everyone to The Ballad of Bethlehem - Christmas on the Avenue presented by churches on located on Madison Avenue, it is Sunday, December 8, 2024 and there is no charge for admittance.

Executive Session

16. 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 Hersey, Seconded by Commissioner Wooten.

Voting Yea: Commissioner Brown, Commissioner Hersey, Commissioner Wooten

Meeting closed at approximately 10:52 a.m.

17. Reopen meeting following Executive Session

Motion to reopen the meeting following Executive Session.

Motion made by Commissioner Wooten, Seconded by Commissioner Hersey.

Voting Yea: Commissioner Brown, Commissioner Hersey, Commissioner Wooten

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Meeting reconvened at approximately 11:40 a.m.

18. Authorize Chairman to sign 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 Hersey.

Voting Yea: Commissioner Brown, Commissioner Hersey, Commissioner Wooten

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

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

County Attorney Nelson advised that one real estate matter was discussed with no action taken.

Closing

20. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion made by Commissioner Brown, Seconded by Commissioner Hersey.

Voting Yea: Commissioner Brown, Commissioner Hersey, Commissioner Wooten

Meeting adjourned at approximately 11:41 a.m.

ATTEST:

Lynn Butterworth
County Clerk

B. W. "Bill" Sharp
Chairman

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