

# PUTNAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



117 Putnam Drive, Suite A ♦ Eatonton, GA 31024

## Minutes

**Tuesday, April 16, 2024 ♦ 6:00 PM**

**Putnam County Administration Building – Room 203**

The Putnam County Board of Commissioners met on Tuesday, April 16, 2024 at approximately 6:00 PM in the Putnam County Administration Building, 117 Putnam Drive, Room 203, Eatonton, Georgia.

### ***PRESENT***

Chairman Bill Sharp  
Commissioner Gary McElhenney  
Commissioner Daniel Brown  
Commissioner Steve Hersey  
Commissioner Jeff Wooten

### ***STAFF PRESENT***

County Attorney Adam Nelson  
County Manager Paul Van Haute  
Deputy County Clerk Donna Todd

### **Opening**

#### **1. Welcome - Call to Order**

Chairman Sharp called the meeting to order at approximately 6:00 p.m.  
(Copy of agenda made a part of the minutes on minute book page \_\_\_\_\_.)

#### **2. Approval of Agenda**

**Motion to move the Consent Agenda to the end of the meeting so Commissioner Hersey can review the minutes.**

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

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

**Motion to approve the Agenda as amended.**

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

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

#### **3. Invocation**

Ms. Lisa Jackson gave the invocation.

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4. Pledge of Allegiance (JW)  
Commissioner Wooten led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Ordinance Public Hearing**

5. Proposed adoption of changes to the Putnam County Code of Ordinances Chapters 28 and 66 (staff-CA)

Mr. Charles Ray, Ms. Jennifer Ray, Mr. Brandon Burgess, Mr. Bill Vargo, Ms. Barbara Vargo, and Mr. Roy Stevens commented on the proposed changes.

**Motion to hold two more work sessions, one on Chapter 32 and one on Chapters 28 and 66.**

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

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

**Voting Nay: Commissioner Hersey**

**Motion to adopt the proposed changes to Chapter 66 with the following revision: Section 66-20 dwelling unit change to at least one internally contained kitchen.**

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

**Voting Yea: Commissioner Hersey**

**Voting Nay: Commissioner Brown**

**Voting Abstain: Commissioner Wooten**

Motion failed.

**Motion to adopt proposed changes to Chapter 28.**

**Motion made by Commissioner Hersey, no Second.**

Motion failed for lack of second.

**Regular Business Meeting**

6. Public Comments

Mr. Charles Ray commented on the time of the upcoming work sessions.

7. Request for waiver of late fees and interest for Ms. Andrea Chastain (TA)

Ms. Andrea Chastain advised that she didn't think she should have to pay the late fees because she went online, thought she paid it, and didn't know it wasn't paid until she got a late notice from the Tax Commissioner's office. Tax Commissioner Abernathy explained that she was billed properly and was notified appropriately.

**Motion to deny the request for waiver of late fees and interest for Ms. Andrea Chastain.**

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

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

8. Authorization for Chairman to sign Transit Drug and Alcohol Testing Policy (staff-Transit)

**Motion to authorize the Chairman to sign the Transit Drug and Alcohol Testing Policy.**

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

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

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

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9. Consent Agenda

a. Approval of Minutes - April 5, 2024 Regular Business Meeting (staff-CC)

**Motion to approve the Consent Agenda with one correction to the April 5, 2024 Minutes, item #10, General Obligation Bonds, needs to indicate that the Chairman would be authorized to sign the resolution issuing general obligation bonds.**

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

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

**Reports/Announcements**

10. County Manager Report

County Manager Van Haute reported the following:

- Employee Health Insurance renewal meeting in about two weeks in Savannah during the ACCG Annual Conference; initial cost was in excess of \$1M over what it was last year. United Health Care was better priced. Could renew with Anthem at a very high rate or go with UHC and revert back to Anthem in January.

11. County Attorney Report

No report

12. Commissioner Announcements

None

**Closing**

13. Adjournment

**Motion to adjourn the meeting.**

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

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

Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:39 p.m.

ATTEST:

Donna Todd  
Deputy County Clerk

B. W. "Bill" Sharp  
Chairman

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