

# PUTNAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



117 Putnam Drive, Suite A ♦ Eatonton, GA 31024

## Minutes

Friday, November 1, 2024 ♦ 10:00 AM

Putnam County Administration Building – Room 203

The Putnam County Board of Commissioners met on Friday, November 1, 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

### *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 10:01 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 Hersey.**

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

#### 3. Invocation

Pastor Jeff Birch, Lake Oconee Presbyterian Church, gave the invocation.

#### 4. Pledge of Allegiance (SH)

Commissioner Hersey led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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**Regular Business Meeting**

5. Public Comments

Mr. Richard Garrett commented on voter turnout and encouraged everyone to vote.

6. Consent Agenda

a. Approval of Minutes - October 15, 2024 Regular Meeting (staff-CC)

**Motion to approve the October 15, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes.**

Commissioner Hersey commented that he will approve the minutes but does not approve of the way the meeting was conducted.

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

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

7. Approval of Budget Amendment #3 (staff-Finance)

**Motion to approve Budget Amendment #3.**

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

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

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

8. Approval for Public Works to Purchase a 2021 LeeBoy 8530 (staff-PW)

Public Works Director Frazier answered questions.

County Manager Van Haute advised that the Putnam Development Authority has entered into a lease with ER Snell for an asphalt plant in the South Industrial Park which will give us easy access to asphalt.

**Motion to approve the purchase of a 2021 LeeBoy 8530 at a cost of \$159,000.00.**

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

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

9. Authorization for staff to schedule a Public Hearing on proposed changes to the Putnam County Code of Ordinances (Chapter 54) (staff-CA)

County Attorney Nelson explained that the expenditure of hotel motel tax funds has been discussed recently along with the Chamber of Commerce contract. The proposed amendment is just to put expenditures in accordance to state law. He also recommended removing subsection b in its entirety or changing to pennies and not percent.

Commissioner Hersey commented that he preferred "one and one half cents" instead of "twelve and one half percent."

**Motion to authorize staff to schedule a Public Hearing on proposed changes to the Putnam County Code of Ordinances (Chapter 54) with the changes as shown in the meeting packet and a revision to subsection b changing to "one and one half cents" instead of "twelve and one half percent."**

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

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

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

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**Reports/Announcements**

10. County Manager Report

County Manager Van Haute reported the following

- Congratulations to Finance Director Linda Cook for becoming the new president of GGFOA.
- Congratulations to Asst. Finance Director Jennifer Fricks for becoming a new director for GGFOA.
- Congratulations to the Finance Department for receiving the Award of Excellence for the 11<sup>th</sup> year in a row; they are on #12.
- Great news that the FY24 budget came in under budget by \$800,000; will be asking at a future meeting to reduce some of our unfunded pension liability.
- Meeting with Finance Director Cook and the Actuary on Monday to go over our pension program and for the first time in my tenure we are 100.1% funded as the actual value of assets as compared to what is in our plan.

11. County Attorney Report

No report but did request an Executive Session for one Real Estate and one Litigation matter.

12. Commissioner Announcements

Commissioner Brown: commented on the financial strength of our county and the great people managing it; he also gave credit to the school board for their millage rate and that Putnam County is #11 out of 159 counties for the lowest millage rate.

Commissioner Hersey: commented that he hopes all have voted and that today is the last day for early voting.

Commissioner Wooten: congratulated the Finance Department.

Chairman Sharp: none

**Executive Session**

13. 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 OCGA 50-14-4 for Litigation and Real Estate.**

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

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

Meeting closed at approximately 11:13 a.m.

14. 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 12:26 p.m.

15. 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 \_\_\_\_\_.)

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

No action was taken.

**Closing**

17. 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 12:28 p.m.

ATTEST:

Lynn Butterworth  
County Clerk

B. W. "Bill" Sharp  
Chairman

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