

# PUTNAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



117 Putnam Drive, Suite A ♦ Eatonton, GA 31024

## Minutes

Tuesday, February 16, 2021 ♦ 6:30 PM

Putnam County Administration Building – Room 203

The Putnam County Board of Commissioners met on Tuesday, February 16, 2021 at approximately 6:30 PM in the Putnam County Administration Building, 117 Putnam Drive, Room 203, Eatonton, Georgia.

### *PRESENT*

Chairman Billy Webster  
Commissioner Gary McElhenney  
Commissioner Daniel Brown  
Commissioner Bill Sharp  
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 Webster called the meeting to order at approximately 6:30 p.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 McElhenney, Commissioner Brown, Commissioner Sharp, Commissioner Wooten**

#### 3. Invocation - Pastor Jonathon Dawson, LakePoint Community Church

Pastor Jonathon Dawson, from LakePoint Community Church, gave the invocation.

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

Commissioner Wooten led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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5. Special Presentation - Alice Walker Books

Mr. Larry Moore expressed appreciation to Putnam County on behalf of Author Alice Walker. Ms. Walker wished to also pay tribute to the employees that have contributed to Rock Hawk and to the Alice Walker 75th Birthday Celebration. Mr. Moore presented signed First Edition books from Ms. Walker to the Board Members, Sheriff Howard Sills, and Public Works Director Tony Clack. In addition, two plaques with Walker’s poem “Rock Hawk” engraved on them were presented to the Board in honor of employees.

**Code of Ordinances Public Hearing**

6. Proposed adoption of changes to the Putnam County Code of Ordinances - Chapter 6 (Alcohol), Chapter 66 (Zoning), and Appendix D (Short Term Vacation Rental)

No one signed in to speak for or against the proposed changes. County Attorney Nelson reviewed the changes and answered questions.

**Motion to adopt the proposed changes to the Putnam County Code of Ordinances - Chapter 6 (Alcohol), Chapter 66 (Zoning), and Appendix D (Short Term Vacation Rental).**

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

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

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

**Regular Business Meeting**

7. Public Comments

None

8. Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of Minutes - February 5, 2021 Regular Meeting (staff-CC)
- b. Approval of Minutes - February 5, 2021 Retreat (staff-CC)
- c. Approval of 2021 Alcohol Licenses (staff-CC)

**Motion to approve the Consent Agenda.**

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

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

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9. Approval of Right-of-Way Permit Applications from Ficoa Communications for work on Old Phoenix Road NE and Pea Ridge Road SE (staff-CC)

Mr. David Brien spoke in support of the permit applications. No one signed in to speak against this item.

**Motion to approve the Right-of-Way Permit Applications from Ficoa Communications for work on Old Phoenix Road NE and Pea Ridge Road SE.**

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

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

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

10. Approval of Right-of-Way Permit Applications from ESG for work on Pea Ridge Road and Glenwood Springs Road (staff-CC)

Mr. Brice Doolittle spoke in support of the permit applications. No on signed in to speak against this item.

**Motion to approve the Right-of-Way Permit Applications from ESG for work on Pea Ridge Road and Glenwood Springs Road.**

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

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

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

11. Recommendation for Appointment to the Hospital Authority - Post 4 (staff-CC)

Commissioner McElhenney, seconded by Commissioner Brown, nominated Tom Thompson for appointment to the Hospital Authority.

Commissioner Brown, seconded by Commissioner Wooten, nominated William Cooper Rainey, Jr. for appointment to the Hospital Authority.

Commissioner Sharp, seconded by Commissioner Brown, nominated David J. Owens for appointment to the Hospital Authority.

**Chairman Webster called for the vote to recommend Tom Thompson, William Cooper Rainey, Jr., and David J. Owens for appointment to the Hospital Authority.**

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

12. Approval of Fire Truck Purchase - Pierce 100' Midmount Tower on Velocity Chassis (staff-FC)

Fire Chief McClain explained the request and answered questions.

**Motion to approve the fire truck purchase of a Pierce 100' Midmount Tower on Velocity Chassis at the cost of \$1,472,300.00.**

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

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

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13. Authorization for Chairman to sign Technical Assistance letter to MGRC regarding zoning map updates (staff-P&D)

Planning & Development Director Jackson explained that this coincides with the recent zoning ordinance changes.

**Motion to authorize the Chairman to sign a Technical Assistance letter to the MGRC regarding zoning map updates.**

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

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

(Copy of letter made a part of the minutes on minute book page \_\_\_\_\_.)

### **Reports/Announcements**

14. County Manager Report

County Manager Van Haute reported the following:

- There is a current promotion opportunity within the Fire Department. Scoring for the candidates is underway and an announcement should be made soon.
- Staff is working with the MGRC on round two of the grant for the splash pad.

15. County Attorney Report

No report.

16. Commissioner Announcements

Commissioner McElhenney: none

Commissioner Brown: none

Commissioner Sharp: commended the Recreation Department on their new magazine which was recently distributed through the local newspaper.

Commissioner Wooten: none

Chairman Webster: reminded board members about the invitation to tour the Goodwill-Augusta campus on Thursday, February 25, 2021. He is considering getting a van if enough people want to go and asked for RSVPs by Thursday, February 18, 2021.

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**Closing**

17. Adjournment

**Motion to adjourn the meeting.**

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

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

Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:36 p.m.

ATTEST:

Lynn Butterworth  
County Clerk

Billy Webster  
Chairman

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