

PUTNAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



117 Putnam Drive, Suite A ♦ Eatonton, GA 31024

Minutes

Tuesday, March 16, 2021 ♦ 6:30 PM

Putnam County Administration Building – Room 203

The Putnam County Board of Commissioners met on Tuesday, March 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 6:32 p.m.

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

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 James Smith

Pastor James Smith of Wesley Chapel United Methodist Church gave the invocation.

4. Pledge of Allegiance (BW)

Chairman Webster led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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Zoning Public Hearing

5. Request by Carrie Louvonn Benjamin Kimble to rezone 5.00 acres from AG to R-1 on Glenwood Springs Road [Map 033, Parcel 029, District 1] (staff-P&D)

Ms. Carrie Kimble spoke in support of this request. No one signed in to speak against this item. Planning & Development staff recommendation was for approval with the following condition: 1) This rezoning shall be conditioned upon the resurveying and recordation of the plat as stated in Section 66-165 (e)(3) of Putnam County Code of Ordinances.

Motion to approve the request by Carrie Louvonn Benjamin Kimble to rezone 5.00 acres from AG to R-1 on Glenwood Springs Road [Map 033, Parcel 029] with the following condition: 1) This rezoning shall be conditioned upon the resurveying and recordation of the plat as stated in Section 66-165 (e)(3) of Putnam County Code of Ordinances.

Motion made by Commissioner McElhenney, Seconded by Commissioner Wooten.

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

6. Request by Colia Farley to rezone 4.12 acres from AG to R-2 at 672 Gray Road [Map 052, Parcel 024001, District 1] (staff-P&D)

Mr. Colia Farley spoke in support of this request. No one signed in to speak against this item. Planning & Development staff recommendation was for approval with the following condition: 1) This rezoning shall be conditioned upon the resurveying and recordation of the plat as stated in Section 66-165 (e)(3) of Putnam County Code of Ordinances.

Motion to approve the request by Colia Farley to rezone 4.12 acres from AG to R-2 at 672 Gray Road [Map 052, Parcel 024001] with the following condition: 1) This rezoning shall be conditioned upon the resurveying and recordation of the plat as stated in Section 66-165 (e)(3) of Putnam County Code of Ordinances.

Motion made by Commissioner McElhenney, Seconded by Commissioner Wooten.

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

7. Request by Steve Parkes and Lorrie Anne Parkes, agent for Ana Castillo and Kristofer J. Shepard, to rezone 56.31 acres from RM-3 to AG on Harmony Road [Map 098, Parcel 029, District 3] (staff-P&D)

Ms. Madison Zac spoke in support of this request. No one signed in to speak against this item. Planning & Development staff recommendation was for approval.

Motion to approve the request by Steve Parkes and Lorrie Anne Parkes, agent for Ana Castillo and Kristofer J. Shepard, to rezone 56.31 acres from RM-3 to AG on Harmony Road [Map 098, Parcel 029].

Motion made by Commissioner Sharp, Seconded by Commissioner Wooten.

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

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8. Request by North Georgia Marine LLC, agent for June B. Smith, to rezone 1.1 acres from C-1 to C-2 at 808 Harmony Road [Map 097, Parcel 066, District 3] (staff-P&D)

Mr. Lance Markham spoke in support of items 8, 9, and 10. No one signed in to speak against these items.

Planning & Development staff recommendation was for approval with the following condition: 1) This rezoning shall be conditioned upon the resurveying and recordation of the plat as stated in Section 66-165 (e)(3) of Putnam County Code of Ordinances.

Motion to approve the request by North Georgia Marine LLC, agent for June B. Smith, to rezone 1.1 acres from C-1 to C-2 at 808 Harmony Road [Map 097, Parcel 066] with the following condition: 1) This rezoning shall be conditioned upon the resurveying and recordation of the plat as stated in Section 66-165 (e)(3) of Putnam County Code of Ordinances.

Motion made by Commissioner Sharp, Seconded by Commissioner Wooten.

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

9. Request by North Georgia Marine LLC, agent for Jerry O. Smith, to rezone 1.78 acres from C-1 to C-2 at 804 Harmony Road [Map 097, Parcel 067, District 3] (staff-P&D)

10. Request by North Georgia Marine LLC, agent for Jerry O. Smith, to rezone 1 acre from C-1 to C-2 at 804 Harmony Road [Map 097, Parcel 068, District 3] (staff-P&D)

Items 9 & 10 were handled together.

Planning & Development staff recommendation was for approval with the following condition: 1) This rezoning shall be conditioned upon the resurveying and recordation of the plat as stated in Section 66-165 (e)(3) of Putnam County Code of Ordinances.

Motion to approve the requests by North Georgia Marine LLC, agent for Jerry O. Smith, to rezone 1.78 acres and 1 acre from C-1 to C-2 at 804 Harmony Road [Map 097, Parcels 067 and 068] with the following condition: 1) This rezoning shall be conditioned upon the resurveying and recordation of the plat as stated in Section 66-165 (e)(3) of Putnam County Code of Ordinances.

Motion made by Commissioner Sharp, Seconded by Commissioner McElhenney.

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

Regular Business Meeting

11. Public Comments

Ms. Erin Keating, Mr. Richard Garrett, Ms. Karen Henry Garrett, and Ms. Ann Laidlaw spoke against County Attorney Fleming and his actions as the Chairman of the State Legislature's Special Committee on Election Integrity.

Public Works Director Tony Clack commented on the work done by Public Works and the issues they face complicating their work.

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12. Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of Minutes - March 5, 2021 Regular Meeting (staff-CC)
- b. Approval of Minutes - March 5, 2021 Executive Session (staff-CC)
- c. Approval of 2021 Alcohol Licenses (staff-CC)

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda.

Motion made by Commissioner Brown, Seconded by Commissioner McElhenney.

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

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

13. Discussion and possible action regarding Drug Court Coordinators (BW)

Judge Brenda Trammell explained the request to make Drug Court Coordinators county employees would allow them the same benefits as other county employees and the state would fully reimburse all costs. Judge Alison Burleson distributed a handout about the work of the Drug Court.

Motion to create two positions of Drug Court Coordinators as county employees on contingency that costs for such employees do not exceed \$52,530 plus benefits each and that the State continue to reimburse salary and benefit costs.

Motion made by Commissioner Brown, Seconded by Commissioner Sharp.

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

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

14. Discussion and possible action on Anchors Marina Release and Settlement Agreement (BW)

County Attorney Nelson reminded the board about the release and settlement agreement with Anchors Marina that was approved on January 22, 2021 and advised that the board needs to consider a motion that will acknowledge that requirements have been met and grant the certificate of occupancy.

Mr. Brandon Burgess and Mr. Josh Sprayberry signed in to answer any questions.

Motion to adopt a finding that 1054 Lake Oconee Parkway has complied with the requirements of the Release and Settlement Agreement and to issue a Certificate of Occupancy for the boat storage facility.

Motion made by Commissioner Sharp, Seconded by Commissioner McElhenney.

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

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

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15. Request by James H. Jenkins, Jr. for Road Acceptance of Greenway Drive (staff-CC-P&D-PW)

Public Works Director Clack advised that the road was built to county standards. County Attorney Nelson advised that the bond is correct based on county ordinances. Planning & Development Director Jackson recommended adding striping as a condition of acceptance.

Motion to approve the request by James H. Jenkins, Jr. for Road Acceptance of Greenway Drive as shown on the submitted plat with condition of striping the road.

Motion made by Commissioner Wooten, Seconded by Commissioner Brown.

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

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

16. Approval of Right-of-Way Permit Applications from Ficoa Communications for work on Harmony Road, Scott Road, and Scott Oak Road (staff-CC)

Motion to approve the Right-of-Way permit application from Ficoa Communications for work on Harmony Road, Scott Road, and Scott Oak Road.

Motion made by Commissioner Sharp, Seconded by Commissioner McElhenney.

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

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

17. Authorization for Chairman to sign Technical Assistance Letter to the Middle Georgia Regional Commission regarding Redistricting (staff-CM)

Motion to authorize the Chairman to sign the Technical Assistance Letter to the Middle Georgia Regional Commission regarding redistricting.

Motion made by Commissioner Brown, Seconded by Commissioner Sharp.

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

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

18. Authorization for Chairman to sign Technical Assistance Letter to the Middle Georgia Regional Commission regarding a Flow Chart Update for Commercial Development (staff-CM)

Motion to authorize the Chairman to sign the Technical Assistance Letter to the Middle Georgia Regional Commission regarding a Flow Chart Update for Commercial Development.

Motion made by Commissioner McElhenney, 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 _____.)

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19. Appointment to the Central Georgia Joint Development Authority (staff-CC)
Mr. Kevin Beasley was nominated for appointment to the Central Georgia Joint Development Authority.
Nomination made by Commissioner Brown, Seconded by Commissioner Sharp.
Voting Yea for Kevin Beasley: Commissioner McElhenney, Commissioner Brown, Commissioner Sharp, Commissioner Wooten

20. Appointment to the Putnam Development Authority (staff-CC)
Mr. Brice Doolittle was nominated for appointment to the Putnam Development Authority.
Nomination made by Commissioner Brown, Seconded by Commissioner Sharp.
Voting Yea for Brice Doolittle: Commissioner McElhenney, Commissioner Brown, Commissioner Sharp, Commissioner Wooten

21. Appointments to the Board of Assessors (staff-CC)
Mr. John Chaklos was nominated for appointment to the Board of Assessors for filling his vacant seat.
Nomination made by Commissioner Wooten, Seconded by Commissioner Brown.
Voting Yea for John Chaklos: Commissioner McElhenney, Commissioner Brown, Commissioner Sharp, Commissioner Wooten

Mr. Evan Reese was nominated for appointment to the Board of Assessors for filling his vacant seat.
Nomination made by Commissioner Wooten, Seconded by Commissioner McElhenney.
Voting Yea for Evan Reese: Commissioner McElhenney, Commissioner Brown, Commissioner Sharp, Commissioner Wooten

Mrs. Virginia Daley was nominated for appointment to the Board of Assessors for filling Ron Gilpin's vacant seat.
Nomination made by Commissioner Brown, Seconded by Commissioner Wooten.
Voting Yea for Virginia Daley: Commissioner McElhenney, Commissioner Brown, Commissioner Sharp, Commissioner Wooten

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22. Recommendations for Appointment to the Hospital Authority - Post 7 (staff-CC)
 Commissioner Sharp, seconded by Commissioner Brown, nominated Robert Betzel for appointment to the Hospital Authority.
 Commissioner Wooten, seconded by Commissioner McElhenney, nominated William Cooper Rainey, Jr. for appointment to the Hospital Authority.
 Commissioner McElhenney, seconded by Commissioner Sharp, nominated David J. Owens for appointment to the Hospital Authority.
 Commissioner Brown, seconded by Commissioner Wooten, nominated Nancy Chaklos for appointment to the Hospital Authority.

Chairman Webster called for the vote to recommend Robert Betzel, William Cooper Rainey, Jr., David J. Owens, and Nancy Chaklos for appointment to the Hospital Authority.

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

23. Discussion and possible action regarding TSPLOST and authorization for County Manager to move ahead with a schedule (BW)

Motion to authorize the County Manager to move forward with the TSPLOST schedule in order to have this on the ballot in November 2021.

Motion made by Commissioner McElhenney, Seconded by Commissioner Sharp.

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

Reports/Announcements

24. County Manager Report

County Manager Van Haute reporting the following:

- Repair work on the Crooked Creek bridge should start in the next 3-4 weeks
- Citizen driven Public Works issues should be referred to the Public Works website

25. County Attorney Report

No report.

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26. Commissioner Announcements

Commissioner McElhenney: commented that he would like to see a Director put in for the PDA and requested that they start taking applications. County Attorney Nelson explained that the BOC cannot direct the PDA in what to do but can encourage their actions.

Commissioner Brown: none

Commissioner Sharp: commented that he would like to start attending the PDA meetings.

Commissioner Wooten: thanked the Public Works employees for their work.

Chairman Webster: requested that the board members start thinking about how to organize the TSPLOST and selecting the roads for striping and paving. He also advised that proclamations will be given to some of the Gatewood School State Champion teams and a date is needed that works for everyone; March 30, 2021 was selected.

Executive Session

27. 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 and Litigation.

Motion made by Commissioner Sharp, Seconded by Commissioner Wooten.

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

Meeting closed at approximately 8:38 p.m.

28. Reopen meeting and execute Affidavit concerning the subject matter of the closed portion of the meeting

Motion to reopen the meeting and authorize the Chairman to execute the Affidavit concerning the subject matter of the closed portion of the meeting.

Motion made by Commissioner Brown, Seconded by Commissioner Wooten.

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

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

Meeting reopened at approximately 9:21 p.m.

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

No action was taken.

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Closing

30. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion made by Commissioner McElhenney, Seconded by Commissioner Sharp.

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

Meeting adjourned at approximately 9:22 p.m.

ATTEST:

Lynn Butterworth
County Clerk

Billy Webster
Chairman

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