

# PUTNAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



117 Putnam Drive, Suite A ♦ Eatonton, GA 31024

## Minutes

**Tuesday, April 15, 2025 ♦ 6:00 PM**

*Putnam County Administration Building – Room 203*

The Putnam County Board of Commissioners met on Tuesday, April 15, 2025 at approximately 6:00 PM in the Putnam County Administration Building, 117 Putnam Drive, Room 203, Eatonton, Georgia.

### *PRESENT*

Chairman Bill Sharp  
Commissioner Tom McElhenney  
Commissioner Richard Garrett  
Commissioner Steve Hersey  
Commissioner Jeff Wooten

### *STAFF PRESENT*

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

### *STAFF ABSENT*

County Clerk Lynn Butterworth

### **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 approve the agenda.**

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

**Voting Yea: Commissioner McElhenney, Commissioner Garrett, Commissioner Hersey, Commissioner Wooten**

3. Invocation

Pastor Matt Brown from LifePoint Worship Center gave the invocation.

4. Pledge of Allegiance (SH)

Commissioner Hersey led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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## **Zoning Public Hearing**

Chairman Sharp opened the Zoning Public Hearing at approximately 6:02 p.m.

5. Request by Larry Harris, agent for Rise and Shine Development Group, LLC, to rezone 3 acres at 628 Dennis Station Road from AG to R-2. [Map 082, Parcel 013, District 4] (staff-P&D)

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

Planning and Development staff recommendation was for approval to rezone 3 acres at 628 Dennis Station Road from AG to R-2. [Map 082, Parcel 013, District 4] with the following condition:

1. This rezoning approval shall be conditioned upon the resurveying and recordation in the Superior Court of Putnam County of an accurate plat within 60 days of approval by the board of commissioners. A copy of the recorded plat shall be filed with the planning and development department director. Failure to file a plat pursuant to this subsection shall have the effect of invalidating the rezoning action as stated in Section 66-165(e)(3) of the Putnam County Code of Ordinances.

**Motion to approve request by Larry Harris, agent for Rise and Shine Development Group, LLC, to rezone 3 acres at 628 Dennis Station Road from AG to R-2. [Map 082, Parcel 013, District 4] with the following condition:**

1. **This rezoning approval shall be conditioned upon the resurveying and recordation in the Superior Court of Putnam County of an accurate plat within 60 days of approval by the board of commissioners. A copy of the recorded plat shall be filed with the planning and development department director. Failure to file a plat pursuant to this subsection shall have the effect of invalidating the rezoning action as stated in Section 66-165(e)(3) of the Putnam County Code of Ordinances.**

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

**Motion amended to require as a condition of the rezoning that the recorded plat show a subdivision into three separate parcels.**

**Amended motion made by Commissioner Hersey, Seconded by Commissioner Garrett.**

**Secondary amendment made to require as a condition of the rezoning that the recorded plat show no more than three separate lots.**

**Amended motion amended by Commissioner Hersey, Accepted by Commissioner Garrett.**

Staff confirmed that it would not be possible - within the county's R-2 development standards - to build more than three residences on this property. Property owners are free to develop their land within the terms of the applicable zoning.

**Commissioner McElhenney called for the question. Commissioner Hersey objected.**

**Voting Yea: Commissioner McElhenney, Commissioner Garrett, Commissioner Wooten**

**Voting Nay: Commissioner Hersey**

**Vote on secondary amendment:**

**Voting Yea: Commissioner McElhenney, Commissioner Hersey**

**Voting Nay: Commissioner Garrett, Commissioner Wooten, Chairman Sharp**

**Secondary amendment motion fails.**

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**Vote on original motion:**

**Voting Yea: Commissioner McElhenney, Commissioner Garrett, Commissioner Wooten**

**Voting Nay: Commissioner Hersey**

Chairman Sharp closed the Zoning Public Hearing at approximately 6:31 p.m.

**Regular Business Meeting**

**6. Public Comments**

Ms. Erin Olsen commented on overflowing trash at an unlicensed short term rental property.

**7. Consent Agenda**

a. Approval of Minutes - April 4, 2025 Regular Meeting (staff-CC)

b. Approval of Minutes - April 11, 2025 Work Session (staff-CC)

**Motion to approve the Consent Agenda.**

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

**Voting Yea: Commissioner McElhenney, Commissioner Garrett, Commissioner Hersey, Commissioner Wooten**

**8. Submission of Names for Appointment to the Hospital Authority-Post 7 (staff-CC)**

**Motion to nominate Phillip Ethridge, Rachel Deraney Harvey, and Robert D. Betzel for appointment to Post 7 of the Hospital Authority.**

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

**Voting Yea: Commissioner McElhenney, Commissioner Garrett, Commissioner Hersey, Commissioner Wooten**

**9. Approval for Putnam County Fire Rescue to Purchase a Pierce Custom PUC Pumper (staff-Fire)**

Chief McClain explained the apparatus replacement plan and that funding for this request is available through SPLOST 9 collections.

**Motion to approve Putnam County Fire Rescue to Purchase a Pierce Custom PUC Pumper at the presented price.**

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

**Voting Yea: Commissioner McElhenney, Commissioner Garrett, Commissioner Hersey, Commissioner Wooten**

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

**Reports/Announcements**

**10. County Manager Report**

No report.

**11. County Attorney Report**

No report.

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12. Commissioner Announcements

Commissioner McElhenney: thanked Chief McClain for looking after fire services.

Commissioner Garrett echoed Commissioner McElhenney and gave a reminder of the second Town Hall meeting scheduled for Thursday at the Lutheran Church Community Center at 5:00 p.m., encouraged everyone to come.

Commissioner Hersey: none

Commissioner Wooten: thanked Public Works for working hard in the heavy rains, getting trees out of the roads and keeping traffic moving, encouraged everyone to thank them when you see them.

Chairman Sharp: thanked Putnam County Fire Rescue for rescuing the horse out of the pond this past week and reminded everyone of the Town Hall meeting on Harmony Road GA, LLC scheduled for Thursday, April 17<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. at the Lake Oconee Lutheran Church Community Center.

**Closing**

13. Adjournment

**Motion to adjourn the meeting.**

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

**Voting Yea: Commissioner McElhenney, Commissioner Garrett, Commissioner Hersey, Commissioner Wooten**

Meeting adjourned at approximately 6:46 p.m.

ATTEST:

Lynn Butterworth  
County Clerk

B. W. "Bill" Sharp  
Chairman

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