

PUTNAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



117 Putnam Drive, Suite A ♦ Eatonton, GA 31024

Minutes

Tuesday, October 21, 2025 ♦ 6:00 PM

Putnam County Administration Building – Room 203

The Putnam County Board of Commissioners met on Tuesday, October 21, 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 Kurt Worthington
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 Garrett, Seconded by Commissioner McElhenney.

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

3. Invocation

County Attorney Kurt Worthington gave the invocation.

4. Pledge of Allegiance (SH)

Commissioner Hersey led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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5. Special Presentation - Operation Green Light for Veterans 2025 Proclamation
The commissioners presented a proclamation recognizing Operation Green Light for Veterans 2025.

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

Zoning Public Hearing

Chairman Sharp opened the Zoning Public Hearing at approximately 6:05 p.m.

6. Request by Tyler & Allie Mathis to rezone 1.0 acres at 166 Dennis Station Road from AG to R-1. [Map 060, Part of Parcel 026004 001, District 4] **APPLICANT IS REQUESTING TO WITHDRAW WITHOUT PREJUDICE** (staff-P&D)

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

Motion to approve the request for withdrawal without prejudice for the request by Tyler & Allie Mathis to rezone 1.0 acres at 166 Dennis Station Road from AG to R-1. [Map 060, Part of Parcel 026004 001, District 4].

Motion made by Commissioner Wooten, Seconded by Commissioner McElhenney.

Voting Yea: Commissioner McElhenney, Commissioner Garrett, Commissioner Wooten

Voting Nay: Commissioner Hersey

Chairman Sharp closed the Zoning Public Hearing and opened the Ordinance Public Hearing at approximately 6:15 p.m.

Ordinance Public Hearing

7. Proposed adoption of changes to the Putnam County Code of Ordinances - Chapter 1 (General Provisions) (staff-CA)

No one signed in to speak.

Motion to adopt the proposed changes to the Putnam County Code of Ordinances - Chapter 1 (General Provisions).

Motion made by Commissioner Hersey, Seconded by Commissioner Garrett.

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

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

Chairman Sharp closed the Ordinance Public Hearing at approximately 6:19 p.m.

Regular Business Meeting

8. Public Comments

Mr. Bill Vargo distributed a handout to the commissioners and commented on the recent District 3 report he received in his email.

Ms. Barb Vargo commented on the upcoming development work session, the current development moratorium, and the mill rate.

Mr. Billy Webster distributed a handout to the commissioners, displayed a video and pictures of the intersection at Dennis Station Road and Twin Bridges Road, and commented on intersection improvements.

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

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9. Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of Minutes - October 3, 2025 Regular Business Meeting (staff-CC)
- b. Authorization for Chairman to sign ACCG Safety Discount Verification Form (staff-HR)

Commissioner Hersey requested to discuss each item from the consent agenda as separate items.

Motion to approve consent agenda item a (Approval of Minutes - October 3, 2025 Regular Business Meeting).

Motion made by Commissioner Hersey, Seconded by Commissioner Garrett.

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

Motion to approve consent agenda item b (Authorization for Chairman to sign ACCG Safety Discount Verification Form).

Motion made by Commissioner Garrett, Seconded by Commissioner McElhenney.

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

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

10. Discussion of how the Rollback Rate for FY26 went from 5.692 mills to 6.001 mills (SH)
The commissioners discussed the 2025 tax millage rate, including comments about the delay in setting the millage rate, the difference from the preliminary calculations, and school board and city taxes.

County Manager Van Haute read an email from Tax Commissioner Terrell Abernathy in response to Commissioner Hersey's concerns.

No action taken.

Reports/Announcements

11. County Manager Report

County Manager Van Haute reported that the City of Eatonton was chosen as the first stop for the 2026 Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition at the Georgia Writers Museum to celebrate the 250th Anniversary of the United States of America. They are unable to accommodate the exhibition so they are coming to speak before the board at the November 7, 2025 meeting to request using the large BOC public hearing room. This would tie up the room in April and May 2026.

12. County Attorney Report

No report.

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13. Commissioner Announcements

Commissioner McElhenney: announced he is meeting with Public Works Director Frazier this Thursday to get a list of roads together for repairs

Commissioner Garrett: reminded everyone that early voting is going on in the city and the county, and encouraged everyone to attend the Butler Baker Alumni Committee's OctoberFest this Saturday from 11am-6pm on Alice Walker Drive

Commissioner Hersey: commented "how bout them dawgs"

Commissioner Wooten: expressed appreciation for all of the county employees and commented that we live in a good place and need to manage our growth

Chairman Sharp: asked everyone to pray for County Clerk Butterworth

Closing

14. 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 7:17 p.m.

ATTEST:

Mercy Fluker
DeputyCounty Clerk

B. W. "Bill" Sharp
Chairman

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