

PUTNAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



117 Putnam Drive, Suite A ♦ Eatonton, GA 31024

Minutes

Friday, January 8, 2021 ♦ 9:00 AM

Putnam County Administration Building – Room 203

The Putnam County Board of Commissioners met on Friday, January 8, 2021 at approximately 9:00 AM 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 Barry Fleming
County Manager Paul Van Haute
County Clerk Lynn Butterworth

Opening

1. Welcome - Call to Order

Chairman Webster called the meeting to order at approximately 9:02 a.m.
(Copy of agenda made a part of the minutes on minute book page _____.)

2. Approval of Agenda

Chairman Webster requested removal of agenda items 5a and 5c due to presenters and/or recipients unable to be here.

Motion to approve the agenda with the removal of items 5a and 5c.

Motion made by Commissioner Sharp, Seconded by Commissioner Brown.

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

3. Invocation

County Attorney Fleming gave the invocation.

4. Pledge of Allegiance (BS)

Commissioner Sharp led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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5. Special Presentations
 - a. Alice Walker Books - Larry Moore
 - b. Chamber of Commerce Bi-Annual Report - Maggie Milner
 - c. Georgia Public Safety Training Center Recognition

Items 5a and 5c were removed from the agenda.

The new President of the Eatonton-Putnam Chamber of Commerce, Maggie Milner, gave the Bi-Annual Chamber report.

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

Regular Business Meeting

6. Public Comments

None

7. Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of Minutes - December 15, 2020 Regular Meeting (staff-CC)
- b. Authorization for Chairman to sign Resolution giving the Tax Commissioner Authority to Receive Funds (TC)
- c. Authorization for Chairman to sign Resolution for Waiver of Penalties and Interest on Unpaid Ad Valorem Taxes (TC)
- d. Authorization for Chairman to sign Resolution Establishing Due Date for Property Taxes (TC)

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda.

Motion made by Commissioner Brown, Seconded by Commissioner Sharp.

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

8. Request by Jeffery K. Tays for Use Variance to allow for a standalone garage apartment at 155 Rock Springs Road. Presently zoned R-1R [Map 123C, Parcel 049] (staff-P&D)

Mr. Jeffrey Tays spoke in support of this request. No one signed in to speak against this item.

Motion to approve the request by Jeffery K. Tays for a Use Variance to allow for a standalone garage apartment at 155 Rock Springs Road [Map 123C, Parcel 049].

Motion made by Commissioner Sharp, Seconded by Commissioner Wooten.

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

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9. Discussion and possible action to continue Putnam General Hospital Subsidy (BW)
Chairman Webster explained that the Putnam General Hospital subsidy was only funding for the first quarter of FY21 due to the recent referendum regarding raising the millage rate to retire hospital debt. The referendum failed and the hospital has requested for the \$100,000 per quarter subsidy to continue.

County Manager Van Haute reviewed the approved budget.

Motion to table this item until the first meeting in February subject to a letter being drafted by the Chairman to the Hospital Authority outlining how they are proposing to go forward towards profitability.

Motion by Commissioner Brown, 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 _____.)

10. Chairman's Appointments (BW)

a. BOC Vice-Chairman

Commissioner Daniel Brown was reappointed as Vice-Chairman

b. Middle Georgia Regional Commission Council

Chairman Webster and Mayor Reid have approved the following to serve on the Middle Georgia Regional Commission Council: Chairman Webster as County Member, Mayor Reid as Municipal Member, Lyn Romine as Non-Public (Voting) Member, Daniel Kelhoffer and Gary Sanders as Associate (Non-Voting) Members.

c. Hospital Authority Liaison

Commissioner Brown agreed to continuing serving as the Hospital Authority Liaison

11. Appointment of County Clerk

Motion to reappoint Lynn Butterworth as County Clerk.

Motion made by Commissioner Sharp, Seconded by Commissioner Brown.

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

12. Appointment of County Attorney (BW)

Motion to reappoint Fleming & Nelson as the County Attorney.

Motion made by Commissioner McElhenney, Seconded by Commissioner Sharp.

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

13. Appointments to the Sinclair Water Authority (BW & CC)

Chairman Webster advised that he will serve on the Sinclair Water Authority in the position for Chairman or his designee.

Nomination for Tommy Jefferson to be appointed to the Sinclair Water Authority.

Nomination made by Commissioner Wooten, Seconded by Commissioner Brown.

Voting for Tommy Jefferson: Commissioner McElhenney, Commissioner Brown, Commissioner Sharp, Commissioner Wooten

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14. Appointments to the Planning & Zoning Commission (staff-CC)
Commissioner Brown, seconded by Commissioner Sharp, nominated Martha Farley to serve as the District Two representative on the Planning & Zoning Commission.
Commissioner Sharp, seconded by Commissioner Brown, nominated Tim Pierson to serve as the District Three representative on the Planning & Zoning Commission.
Commissioner McElhenney, seconded by Commissioner Brown, nominated Maurice Hill to serve as the District One representative on the Planning & Zoning Commission.
Commissioner Brown, seconded by Commissioner Wooten, nominated James Marshall to serve as the Chairman of the Planning & Zoning Commission.
Voting Yea for the slate of nominees: Commissioner McElhenney, Commissioner Brown, Commissioner Sharp, Commissioner Wooten

Reports/Announcements

15. County Manager Report

County Manager Van Haute thanked the Public Works department for their dedication, success and loyalty in the recent weeks. They were out Christmas morning and New Year’s Day making the roads safe for our citizens.

16. County Attorney Report

No report.

17. Commissioner Announcements

Commissioner McElhenney: none

Commissioner Brown: none

Commissioner Sharp: none

Commissioner Wooten: thanked the County Manager and Public Works for their hard work on the road that washed out - they did an excellent job and are very appreciated

Chairman Webster: reminded everyone of the Called Meeting on Monday, January 11, 2021 at 3:00 p.m. He also thanked the EMS and Fire department for their hard work over the busy holidays.

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Closing

18. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion made by Commissioner McElhenney, Seconded by Commissioner Wooten.

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

Meeting adjourned at approximately 10:23 a.m.

ATTEST:

Lynn Butterworth
County Clerk

Billy Webster
Chairman

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