

PUTNAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



117 Putnam Drive, Suite A ♦ Eatonton, GA 31024

Minutes

Tuesday, May 16, 2023 ♦ 6:00 PM

Putnam County Administration Building – Room 203

The Putnam County Board of Commissioners met on Tuesday, May 16, 2023 at approximately 6:00 PM in the Putnam County Administration Building, 117 Putnam Drive, Room 203, Eatonton, Georgia.

PRESENT

Chairman Bill Sharp
Commissioner Gary McElhenney
Commissioner Daniel Brown
Commissioner Alan Foster
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 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 Foster, Seconded by Commissioner Wooten.

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

3. Invocation

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

4. Pledge of Allegiance (GM)

Commissioner McElhenney led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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5. Special Presentation - Recognition of Recent Graduates
 - a. Stephanie McMullen - Putnam County Public Information Officer - Master in Communication
 - b. Courtney Andrews - Putnam County Planning & Development Assistant Director - Master in Public Administration

Planning and Development Assistant Director Courtney Andrews and Public Information Officer Stephanie McMullen were recognized and congratulated for earning their master’s degrees while working fulltime and raising families.

6. Special Presentation - Middle Georgia Regional Commission - Putnam Tourism Report
Mr. Greg Boike, Director of Public Administration at the Middle Georgia Regional Commission, gave a report on tourism and overnight visitor impacts in Putnam County.
(Copy of report made a part of the minutes on minute book pages _____ to _____.)

7. Special Presentation - Jimmy Davis Park Report

County Manager Paul Van Haute gave an update on Jimmy Davis Park.

- Moving the County Extension office to JDP didn't work out
- County Manager was tasked with security and finding the next opportunity
- Obtained quotes for 2100 linear feet of fencing and two 20 foot gates
 - The quote for a perforated metal fence was over \$500K
 - The quote for a wrought iron fence was in excess of \$160K with the county doing the labor
 - A concrete wall was discussed but ruled out; it would've been expensive too
- Currently still looking at fencing and other improvements and clearing out some trees to get some sun on the walking trail
- Chairman Sharp and County Manager Van Haute met with Mr. Maurice Hill about an opportunity to put seniors out there and an after school program for the children. Mr. Hill has worked with the school system and some local businesses and the possibility of students in the STEM program making solar traffic signs for the county was discussed. It would offer a learning opportunity for the students, the chance for additional solar signage for the citizens and save money on the cost of the signs
- Obtained a quote for fencing around the basketball court at \$30K
- The Recreation Department budget for FY24 will include staff at JDP

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Zoning Public Hearing

8. Request by Gerald L. West Jr., agent for Nell J. McDonald, to rezone 5.31 acres at 331 New Phoenix Road from AG to C-1 [Map 105, Parcel 016, District 1] (staff-P&D)

Mr. Scott Swann (new agent) spoke in support of this request and requested to table this item until the June 20, 2023 BOC meeting in order to work with Mr. Rick McAllister so he can present a conceptual site plan.

Motion to send the request by Gerald L. West Jr., agent for Nell J. McDonald, to rezone 5.31 acres at 331 New Phoenix Road from AG to C-1 [Map 105, Parcel 016] back to the Planning and Zoning Commission to hear the new presentation.

Motion made by Commissioner McElhenney, Seconded by Commissioner Wooten.

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

The following individuals spoke against this item: Willie Manville, Amy Manville (submitted handout), Lauren Holder, John Bloodworth, and Kay Greene.

Kay Stevens spoke in support of this request.

9. Request by Steven A. Rowland, agent for Norman E. Coleman, to rezone 56.70 acres at 886 Milledgeville Road from C-1 to C-2 [Map 087, Parcel 028, District 4] (staff-P&D)

APPLICANT IS REQUESTING TO WITHDRAW WITHOUT PREJUDICE

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

Planning and Development staff recommendation was for approval to withdraw without prejudice.

Motion to approve the request to withdraw without prejudice the request by Steven A. Rowland, agent for Norman E. Coleman, to rezone 56.70 acres at 886 Milledgeville Road from C-1 to C-2 [Map 087, Parcel 028].

Motion made by Commissioner Wooten, Seconded by Commissioner McElhenney.

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

10. Request by Steven A. Rowland, agent for Norman E. Coleman, to rezone 4.70 acres on Milledgeville Road from C-1 to C-2 [Map 087, Parcel 029, District 4] (staff-P&D)

APPLICANT IS REQUESTING TO WITHDRAW WITHOUT PREJUDICE

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

Planning and Development staff recommendation was for approval to withdraw without prejudice.

Motion to approve the request to withdraw without prejudice the request by Steven A. Rowland, agent for Norman E. Coleman, to rezone 4.70 acres on Milledgeville Road from C-1 to C-2 [Map 087, Parcel 029].

Motion made by Commissioner Wooten, Seconded by Commissioner Brown.

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

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Regular Business Meeting

11. Public Comments

Ms. Patricia Hurt commented on Jimmy Davis Park and asked if the grass could be cut by the county on a regular basis.

Mr. Richard Garrett commented on Jimmy Davis Park stating that the vandalism happens because the park is so run down, that it needs to be a park and needs staff, that the county needs to consult the community, and to treat it like the other parks owned by the county.

Mr. Charles Trumbo commented that he is neutral on the short term rental issue as long as the quality of life of the citizens is not jeopardized. He also commented on Jimmy Davis Park advising that grant money is available on the federal level that can take care of the park.

Mr. J.D. Jones commented on Jimmy Davis Park stating that vandalism and crime is always brought up by the county and that Brer Rabbit has been stolen multiple times with no talk of a fence being erected around it; he asked for compassion for the community and commented that the trash cans are chained to posts and hard to empty and that he has been cutting the grass and hauling the trash.

12. Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of Minutes - April 18, 2023 Regular Meeting (staff-CC)
- b. Approval of Minutes - April 29, 2023 Called Meeting (staff-CC)
- c. Approval of Minutes - May 8, 2023 Work Session (staff-CC)
- d. Approval of 2023 Alcohol License(s) (staff-CC)

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda.

Motion made by Commissioner McElhenney, Seconded by Commissioner Foster.

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

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

Meeting was recessed at approximately 7:14 p.m.

Meeting reconvened at approximately 7:20 p.m.

13. Request for Approval of Right-of-Way Permit from AnSCO (AT&T) for work to be done on ROW of Harmony Road and Sammons Industrial Parkway (staff-PW)

Public Works Director Frazier explained work to be done in the right-of-way.

Motion to approve the request for a Right-of-Way permit from AnSCO (AT&T) for work to be done on the ROW of Harmony Road and Sammons Industrial Parkway.

Motion made by Commissioner Foster, Seconded by Commissioner Wooten.

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

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14. Request for Approval of Right-of-Way Permit for AT&T for work to be done on ROW of Harmony Road and Greensboro Road (staff-PW)

Public Works Director Frazier explained work to be done in the right-of-way.

Motion to approve the request for a Right-of-Way permit from AT&T for work to be done on the ROW of Harmony Road and Greensboro Road.

Motion made by Commissioner Foster, Seconded by Commissioner Wooten.

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

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

15. Request for Approval of Right-of-Way Permit for Tri-County EMC for work to be done on ROW of Parks Mill Road (staff-PW)

Mr. Justin Strickland explained the work to be done in the right-of-way.

Motion to approve the request for a Right-of-Way permit from Tri-County EMC for work to be done on the ROW of Parks Mill Road.

Motion made by Commissioner McElhenney, Seconded by Commissioner Wooten.

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

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

16. Authorization for Chairman to sign Amendment to Probation Service Contract between Judicial Alternatives and Putnam County Superior Court (staff-CM)

County Manager Van Haute advised that the amendment to the original agreement is due to higher fees for the offenders.

Motion to authorize the Chairman to sign the Amendment to the Probation Service Contract between Judicial Alternatives and Putnam County Superior Court.

Motion made by Commissioner Foster, Seconded by Commissioner McElhenney.

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

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

17. Authorization for Chairman to sign Amendment to Probation Service Contract between Judicial Alternatives and Putnam County State Court (staff-CM)

County Manager Van Haute advised that the amendment to the original agreement is due to higher fees for the offenders.

Motion to authorize the Chairman to sign the Amendment to the Probation Service Contract between Judicial Alternatives and Putnam County State Court.

Motion made by Commissioner Foster, Seconded by Commissioner Wooten.

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

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18. Submission of Names for Appointment to Hospital Authority Board - Post 5 (staff-CC)
Commissioner McElhenney nominated Rebecca Rocker for submission for appointment to the Hospital Authority Board-Post 5. Seconded by Commissioner Brown.
Commissioner Foster nominated Marilyn Simon and Richard Garrett for submission for appointment to the Hospital Authority Board-Post 5. Seconded by Commissioner Brown.
Voting Yea for Rebecca Rocker, Marilyn Simon, and Richard Garrett: Commissioner McElhenney, Commissioner Brown, Commissioner Foster, Commissioner Wooten

19. Appointment to the Region 5 EMS Council (staff-CC)
Motion to reappoint Thomas McClain to the Region 5 EMS Council.
Motion made by Commissioner McElhenney, Seconded by Commissioner Wooten.
Voting Yea: Commissioner McElhenney, Commissioner Brown, Commissioner Foster, Commissioner Wooten

20. Confirmation of Appointments to the Central Georgia Joint Development Authority (staff-CC)
Motion to confirm the appointments of Patty Burns and Brice Doolittle to the Central Georgia Joint Development Authority.
Motion made by Commissioner Foster, Seconded by Commissioner Brown.
Voting Yea: Commissioner McElhenney, Commissioner Brown, Commissioner Foster, Commissioner Wooten

21. Appointments to the Putnam Development Authority (staff-CC)
Motion to appoint Walter C. Rocker III to the Putnam Development Authority.
Motion made by Commissioner McElhenney, Seconded by Commissioner Brown.
Voting Yea: Commissioner McElhenney, Commissioner Brown, Commissioner Foster, Commissioner Wooten

Motion to appoint Mylle H. Mangum to the Putnam Development Authority.
Motion made by Commissioner Brown, Seconded by Commissioner Wooten.
Voting Yea: Commissioner McElhenney, Commissioner Brown, Commissioner Foster, Commissioner Wooten

22. Approval of Fire Department Mutual Aid Agreements (staff-Fire)
Chief McClain explained that four of the six surrounding jurisdictions have signed mutual aid agreements: Greene County, Hancock County, Jones County, and Morgan County.
Motion to approve the Fire Department Mutual Aid Agreements with Greene, Hancock, Jones, and Morgan Counties.
Motion made by Commissioner McElhenney, Seconded by Commissioner Wooten.
Voting Yea: Commissioner McElhenney, Commissioner Brown, Commissioner Foster, Commissioner Wooten

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23. Approval of the application for deannexation on behalf of: Thompson Investment Holdings, LLLP; Timothy O Camp; Tom Thompson, Jr.; Cary Walton; David W. and Tracy A. Stickley; and Shannon M. Long (staff-CM)

County Manager Van Haute explained that Governor Kemp signed this new legislation on May 2, 2023 which allows for municipal deannexation of property by application of property owners and that the county received two applications from city property owners requesting deannexation of ten properties each.

Mr. Tom Thompson submitted a handout and explained the history of his properties being annexed by the city and his request for deannexation.

Mr. Cary Walton spoke in support of the requests for deannexation commenting that there were no ad valorem taxes when the annexation happened at first, but that taxes have since been enacted and increased.

Motion to approve the applications for deannexation from Thompson Investment Holdings, LLLP; Timothy O Camp; Tom Thompson, Jr.; Cary Walton; David W. and Tracy A. Stickley; and Shannon M. Long and authorize the Chairman to sign the Resolutions.

Motion made by Commissioner Brown, Seconded by Commissioner McElhenney.

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

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

Reports/Announcements

24. County Manager Report

No report

25. County Attorney Report

No report

26. Commissioner Announcements

Commissioner McElhenney: none

Commissioner Brown: none

Commissioner Foster: none

Commissioner Wooten: none

Chairman Sharp: none

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Closing

27. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion made by Commissioner McElhenney, Seconded by Commissioner Wooten.

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

Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:57 p.m.

ATTEST:

Lynn Butterworth
County Clerk

B. W. "Bill" Sharp
Chairman

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