

PUTNAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



117 Putnam Drive, Suite A ♦ Eatonton, GA 31024

Minutes

Tuesday, January 18, 2022 ♦ 6:30 PM

Putnam County Administration Building – Room 203

The Putnam County Board of Commissioners met on Tuesday, January 18, 2022 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 Clerk Lynn Butterworth

Opening

1. Welcome - Call to Order

Chairman Webster called the meeting to order at approximately 6:31 p.m.
(Copy of agenda made a part of the minutes on minute book page _____.)

2. Approval of Agenda

Chairman Webster advised that there was an item that needed to be added to the agenda for urgent action: "Authorization for Chairman to sign Resolution Requesting Local Legislation to assign Prosecution of all Criminal Prosecutions to the District Attorney."

Motion to approve the agenda with additional item as stated.

Motion made by Commissioner Sharp, Seconded by Commissioner Wooten.

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

3. Invocation

Pastor James Smith gave the invocation.

4. Pledge of Allegiance (BS)

Commissioner Bill Sharp led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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Regular Business Meeting

5. Request by W. David (Danny) Copelan to rezone 5.00 acres from AG to C-1 at 931 Pea Ridge Road [Map 092, Parcel 017001001, District 2] (staff-P&D)

Mr. Russell Wall spoke in support of this request, explaining the history of the request and plans and also addressed the concerns of the opponents. He also distributed handout with a photo of what the store might look like.

Mr. Jasper Copelan also spoke in support of this request.

Ms. Heidi King and Ms. Lesa Adams spoke against this item.

Planning and Development staff recommendation was for approval with the following conditions:

(1) The developer shall construct a deceleration lane in accordance with the Georgia Department of Transportation Regulations for Driveway & Encroachment Control to service the entrance on Pea Ridge Road of the development.

(2) Additional right-of-way to accommodate the deceleration lane and a ten-foot shoulder shall be dedicated by the developer to the county.

Motion to deny the request by W. David (Danny) Copelan to rezone 5.00 acres from AG to C-1 at 931 Pea Ridge Road [Map 092, Parcel 017001001].

Motion made by Commissioner Brown, Seconded by Commissioner McElhenney.

Voting Yea: Commissioner McElhenney, Commissioner Brown, Commissioner Wooten

Voting Nay: Commissioner Sharp

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

Regular Business Meeting

6. Public Comments

None

7. Consent Agenda

a. Approval of Minutes - January 7, 2022 Regular Meeting (staff-CC)

b. Approval of Minutes - January 7, 2022 Executive Session (staff-CC)

c. Approval of Minutes - January 12, 2022 Called Meeting (staff-CC)

d. Approval of Minutes - January 12, 2022 Executive Session (staff-CC)

e. Correction of Funding Source for Motions from October 19, 2021 and December 21, 2021 BOC Meetings (staff-Finance)

f. Approval of 2022 Alcohol Licenses (staff-CC)

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda.

Motion made by Commissioner McElhenney, Seconded by Commissioner Sharp.

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 _____.)

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8. Request for Waiver of Interest from Robert & Mark Greaves (Tax Commissioner)
Motion to approve the Waiver of Interest request from Robert & Mark Greaves.
Motion made by Commissioner Brown, Seconded by Commissioner McElhenney.
Voting Yea: Commissioner McElhenney, Commissioner Brown, Commissioner Sharp, Commissioner Wooten
 (Copy of documents made a part of the minutes on minute book pages _____ to _____.)

9. Request from Solicitor General regarding Victim Witness & Assistance Fund (SG)
 Solicitor General Russell Thomas explained that the Victim Witness & Assistance Fund program began in 2009 and was handled by the County Finance Department. In 2015 it was changed to his office to handle and he is now requesting that it go back to being handled by the County Finance Department.
Motion to table this request until the February 4, 2022 BOC meeting.
Motion made by Commissioner Sharp, Seconded by Commissioner Wooten.
Voting Yea: Commissioner McElhenney, Commissioner Brown, Commissioner Sharp, Commissioner Wooten

10. Approval of Capital Item Purchases for Public Works (staff-PW)
 Public Works Director Tony Clack thanked his staff for their hard work during the recent bad weather and reviewed the capital item purchase request and cost increases since the budget was approved. He is requesting approval to place these items on order because the lead time is 6-12 months. He also requested to remove the CAT CW16 Compactor at this time (\$103,546.00) and add another Skid Steer at \$89,154 and a Boom Mower at \$195,151.58, making the total request \$1,136,949.58. he advised this will be paid using TSPLOST funds.
Motion to approve the Capital Item Purchases for Public Works as outlined in the amount of \$1,136,950.00.
Motion made by Commissioner Sharp, Seconded by Commissioner Wooten.
Voting Yea: Commissioner McElhenney, Commissioner Brown, Commissioner Sharp, Commissioner Wooten
 (Copy of documents made a part of the minutes on minute book pages _____ to _____.)

11. Awarding of Solicitation 21-61221-002 Recreation Roof (staff-CM & Rec)
Motion to award Solicitation 21-61221-002 Recreation Roof to Skyline Construction Services at \$203,410.00.
Motion made by Commissioner McElhenney, Seconded by Commissioner Brown.
Voting Yea: Commissioner McElhenney, Commissioner Brown, Commissioner Sharp, Commissioner Wooten

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12. Setting of Qualifying Fees for 2022 General Election (staff-Finance)

Motion to approve the Qualifying Fees for the 2022 General Election as shown in the meeting package.

Motion made by Commissioner Wooten, Seconded by Commissioner Sharp.

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

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

13. Proposed adoption of changes to the County Commission District Map (BW)

Chairman Webster explained that the board voted on a new Commission District Map at the December 3, 2021 meeting and that after listening to comments made at that meeting, another map has been generated.

Attorney Nelson added that this new map will be forward to legislators to consider in this session.

Ms. Ann Laidlaw and Mr. Richard Garrett expressed support of the new map which creates a black majority in District 2.

Motion to adopt the changes to the Putnam County Commission District Map as shown in the meeting package and transmit it to the Apportionment Office and legislative delegation.

Motion made by Commissioner Sharp, Seconded by Commissioner Brown.

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

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

14. Authorization for Chairman to sign Resolution Requesting Local Legislation to assign

Prosecution of all Criminal Prosecutions to the District Attorney

Chairman Webster explained the urgency to get this done while the legislation is in session and that any change would not take place until the end of the current term of the Solicitor General, which is December 31, 2022. If not approved during the session, it would not be able to take affect for another four years.

Motion to Authorize the Chairman to sign the Resolution Requesting Local Legislation to assign Prosecution of all Criminal Prosecutions brought in the State Court of Putnam County to the District Attorney for the Ocmulgee Judicial Circuit.

Motion made by Commissioner Brown, Seconded by Commissioner McElhenney.

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

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

Reports/Announcements

15. County Manager Report

No report - County Manager absent.

16. County Attorney Report

No report.

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17. Commissioner Announcements
Commissioner McElhenney: none

Commissioner Brown: none

Commissioner Sharp: thanked the County Manager and Public Works staff for the work improving the recycle centers.

Commissioner Wooten: also thanked Public Works for the work at the recycle centers.

Chairman Webster: echoed those comments and added thanks for their work during the recent bad weather; he also thanked all the staff for stepping up and making the commissioners proud.

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 7:59 p.m.

ATTEST:

Lynn Butterworth
County Clerk

Billy Webster
Chairman

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