

PUTNAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



117 Putnam Drive, Suite A ♦ Eatonton, GA 31024

Called Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 22, 2026 ♦ 4:00 PM

Putnam County Administration Building – Room 203

The Putnam County Board of Commissioners met for a called meeting with the Putnam Development Authority on Thursday, January 22, 2026 at approximately 4:00 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
County Clerk Lynn Butterworth
Deputy County Clerk Mercy Fluker

Opening

1. Welcome

Chairman Sharp called the called meeting to order at approximately 4:02 p.m.
(Copy of agenda made a part of the minutes on minute book page _____.)

The following members and staff of the Putnam Development Authority were present:

Chairman Walt Rocker
Attorney Kevin Brown
Economic Development Director Matt Poyner
Secretary/Treasurer Patty Burns
Member Mylle Mangum
Vice Chairman John Wojtas

Chairman Sharp explained the rules and announced that the meeting will conclude by 5:45 p.m. due to the Town Hall Meeting beginning at 6:00 p.m. He explained that each of the Putnam Development Authority members were chosen by at least 3 commissioners and thanked them for serving.

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2. Discussion on strategic operational activities

At Commissioner McElhenney’s request, County Attorney Nelson explained the creation of the Putnam Development Authority by the General Assembly in 1968, and the power still held by the Governor’s office to remove members. Each commissioner began the discussion by stating comments, questions, and concerns about the Putnam Development Authority. The members and staff of the Putnam Development Authority responded with their comments, questions, and concerns as well, to which the commissioners concluded the discussion with their final statements.

Next steps agreed upon by all parties include more open communication between the Putnam Development Authority and the public, and more formalized communication between the Putnam Development Authority and the Board of Commissioners.

Closing

3. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion made by Commissioner Wooten, Seconded by Commissioner Garrett.

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

Meeting adjourned at approximately 5:33 p.m.

ATTEST:

Mercy Fluker
Deputy County Clerk

B. W. “Bill” Sharp
Chairman

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