

PUTNAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



117 Putnam Drive, Suite A ♦ Eatonton, GA 31024

Minutes

Tuesday, August 17, 2021 ♦ 6:30 PM

Putnam County Administration Building – Room 203

The Putnam County Board of Commissioners met on Tuesday, August 17, 2021 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 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 6:30 p.m.
(Copy of agenda made a part of the agenda.)

2. Approval of Agenda

Chairman Webster requested the addition of an agenda item under the emergency rules:
Authorization for Chairman to sign AT&T Broadband Resolution.

Motion to approve the Agenda with the requested addition.

Motion made by Commissioner Sharp, Seconded by Commissioner Wooten.

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

County Manager Van Haute took a moment to welcome back to work Paramedic Ronnie Franklin after over 100 days in the hospital.

3. Invocation - Jonathon Dawson, Lakepoint Community Church

Pastor Jonathon Dawson, Lakepoint Community Church, gave the invocation.

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4. Pledge of Allegiance (JW)

Commissioner Wooten led the Pledge of Allegiance.

5. Special Presentation - Girls Softball Proclamation

The commissioners presented a proclamation to the 2021 Putnam County, Georgia 10U GRPA Girls Fastpitch Softball All-Star Team for winning the championship in the GRPA Combined Fastpitch State Tournament.

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

Zoning Public Hearing

The Zoning Public Hearing began at approximately 6:39 p.m.

6. Request by SDH Atlanta LLC, agent for Maddox Family Partnership LLLP to rezone 29.54 acres on Old Phoenix Road from AG to R-PUD [Map 106, Parcel 002, District 2] (staff-P&D)

Mr. Jay Dell spoke in support of this request. No one signed up to speak against this item. Planning & 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 main entrance on Old Phoenix Road.

(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 approve the request by SDH Atlanta LLC, agent for Maddox Family Partnership LLLP to rezone 29.54 acres on Old Phoenix Road from AG to R-PUD [Map 106, Parcel 002] 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 main entrance on Old Phoenix Road.

(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 made by Commissioner Brown, Seconded by Commissioner Sharp.

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

7. Request by Duane Gentes to rezone 5.40 acres on Emory Drive from R-1 to R-2 [Map 111, Parcel 001044, District 4] (staff-P&D)

Mr. Duane Gentes spoke in support of this request. No one signed in to speak against this item. Planning & Development staff recommendation was for approval.

Motion to approve the request by Duane Gentes to rezone 5.40 acres on Emory Drive from R-1 to R-2 [Map 111, parcel 001044].

Motion made by Commissioner Wooten, Seconded by Commissioner Sharp.

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

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8. Request by James Stiff, Goodwill Industries of Middle Georgia, Inc., Agent for Peggy Allen & Susan Fox to rezone 66.56 acres at 916 Harmony Road from AG to C-PUD [Map 103, Parcel 001001, District 3] (staff-P&D)
9. Request by James Stiff, Goodwill Industries of Middle Georgia, Inc., Agent for Peggy Allen & Susan Fox to rezone 5 acres at 916 Harmony Road Parcel A from AG to C-PUD [Map 103, Parcel 001, District 3] (staff-P&D)

Items 8 & 9 were taken together.

Mr. Jim Stiff spoke in support of these requests. No one signed in to speak against these items. Mr. Greg Stewart signed in to ask questions regarding the gate.

Planning & Development staff recommendation was to approve with the following conditions:

- (1) The developer shall construct a deceleration lane and turn lane in accordance with the Georgia Department of Transportation Regulations for Driveway & Encroachment Control to service the two main entrances on Harmony Road. Additional right-of-way to accommodate the deceleration lane and a ten-foot shoulder shall be dedicated by the developer to the county. It shall be completed by the developer prior to the completion of phase one.
- (2) The developer shall direct construction traffic through the second main entrance located the farthest away from the intersection of Harmony Road and Hwy 44.
- (3) There shall be no car or truck entrance/exit located on Lakemore Road. There shall be a locked gate for golf cart entrance only.
- (4) Only a gated and locked Emergency Exit shall be located on Lake Drive.

Motion to approve the request by James Stiff, Goodwill Industries of Middle Georgia, Inc., Agent for Peggy Allen & Susan Fox, to rezone 66.56 acres at 916 Harmony Road from AG to C-PUD [Map 103, Parcel 001001] and 5 acres at 916 Harmony Road Parcel A from AG to C-PUD [Map103, Parcel 001] with the following conditions:

- (1) The developer shall construct a deceleration lane and turn lane in accordance with the Georgia Department of Transportation Regulations for Driveway & Encroachment Control to service the two main entrances on Harmony Road. Additional right-of-way to accommodate the deceleration lane and a ten-foot shoulder shall be dedicated by the developer to the county. It shall be completed by the developer prior to the completion of phase one.**
- (2) The developer shall direct construction traffic through the second main entrance located the farthest away from the intersection of Harmony Road and Hwy 44.**
- (3) There shall be no car or truck entrance/exit located on Lakemore Road. There shall be a locked gate for golf cart entrance only.**
- (4) Only a gated and locked Emergency Exit shall be located on Lake Drive.**

Motion made by Commissioner Sharp, Seconded by Commissioner McElhenney.

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

The Zoning Public Hearing ended at approximately 7:11 p.m.

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Budget Public Hearing

10. Presentation of Proposed FY22 Budget (staff-CM & Finance)

County Manager Van Haute presented the 2021 Mill Rate and and 2022 Proposed Budget power point.

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

11. Comments from Commissioners and/or Staff

Commissioner Sharp thanked County Manager Van Haute for the presentation and thanked Public Safety and Public Works employees.

Commissioner Brown thanked the employees for keeping things running smoothly and protecting the good quality of life here and commented that there are a lot of good people who live in Putnam County.

Chairman Webster thanked County Manager Van Haute for the presentation and thanked the department heads and employees for all their hard work during this past year.

12. Comments from the Public

The following individuals commented on the budget allocation to Putnam General Hospital: Ms. Georgia Smith, Mr. Tony Franklin, Ms. Rebecca Rocker, Ms. Pam Douglas, Mr. Alan Horton, Ms. Anita Morris, Ms. Janie Reid and Mr. Tom Thompson.

Mr. Richard Garrett and Ms. Karen Henry-Garrett commented on the Sheriff's Office budget and body cameras and the Jimmy Davis Park budget.

Regular Business Meeting

13. Public Comments

Mr. Fred Lowe commented on Jimmy Davis Park.

14. Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of Minutes - August 6, 2021 Regular Meeting (staff-CC)
- b. Approval of Minutes - August 6, 2021 Executive Session (staff-CC)
- c. Approval of Minutes - August 6, 2021 Budget Work Session (staff-CC)

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda.

Motion made by Commissioner Sharp, Seconded by Commissioner Wooten.

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

15. Request for Final Plat Subdivision Approval for Eagles Rest at Cuscowilla Cottages (staff-P&D)

Motion to approve final plat subdivision for Eagles Rest at Cuscowilla Cottages.

Motion made by Commissioner Sharp, Seconded by Commissioner Wooten.

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

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

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16. Petition to waive final six-month time interval regarding the Application for Rezoning from Danny Copelan at 931 Pea Ridge Road [Map 092, Parcel 017001001] (DB)

Mr. Russell Wall spoke in support of this request.

Motion to approve the petition to waive the final six-month time interval regarding the application for rezoning from Danny Copelan at 931 Pea Ridge Road.

Motion made by Commissioner Brown, Seconded by Commissioner Wooten.

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

17. Approval of Changes to the Personnel Policy (staff-HR & CM)

Chairman Webster asked the board to table this item for further review.

Motion to table this item until the next meeting.

Motion made by Commissioner Sharp, Seconded by Commissioner Wooten.

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

18. Approval of American Rescue Plan (ARP) Hazard Pay for Putnam County Employees (staff-CM)

County Manager Van Haute explained the costs associated with providing a one-time hazard pay to Putnam County employees and requested to also include Putnam General Hospital employees at the non-public safety rate. He advised that this is in line with allowed expenditures.

Motion to approve American Rescue Plan (ARP) hazard pay for Putnam County employees and Putnam General Hospital employees.

Motion made by Commissioner McElhenney, Seconded by Commissioner Sharp.

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

19. Discussion on Projects for State Rescue Money (BW)

Chairman Webster explained that the State of Georgia has received direct funding through the ARPA which is separate from the funding that counties and cities have received. Grant requests should be from one of these areas: Broadband Infrastructure, Negative Economic Impact, or Water/Sewer Infrastructure. Applicants file their own requests and applications are due by August 31, 2021. He advised commissioners that if they know of anyone who needs to apply to please do so quickly. No action was taken.

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19.1. Authorization for Chairman to sign AT&T Broadband Resolution.

Chairman Webster explained that AT&T has requested the county's support in their application to the state for ARPA funds. They advised that there are 4000 unserved living units without broadband in our area and they are requesting \$30M from the state and putting in \$6M of their own money. They would welcome some matching funds from the county but just asking for county endorsement at this time.

Motion to authorize the Chairman to sign the AT&T Broadband Resolution as presented without county funding match at this time.

Motion made by Commissioner Wooten, 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

20. County Manager Report

County Manager Van Haute reported the following:

- thank you to the board on behalf of the staff for the rescue pay and for supporting them
- met with Councilwoman Janie Reid and Mr. Brandon Riley recently. They are co-chairs of the new Jimmy Davis Park Working Group. They plan to meet again soon and lay out a game plan. The co-chairs will appoint additional members.

21. County Attorney Report

No report.

22. Commissioner Announcements

Commissioner McElhenney: thanked the employees for their cooperation and looking after business and taking care of things

Commissioner Brown: none

Commissioner Sharp: commented that he is proud of the county workforce, who do so much for so many with just a little

Commissioner Wooten: commented that he is proud of the dedicated department heads and employees for working within the budget and treating it as if it was their own money

Chairman Webster: thanked the County Manager and Finance Department for their work on the budget and all the other department heads and employees and commented that the board will try to approve a budget that will allow everyone to do their jobs. He also stated that he is proud to be part of this community.

Executive Session

23. Enter Executive Session as allowed by O.C.G.A. 50-14-4 for Personnel, Litigation, or Real Estate

Executive Session not needed.

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24. Reopen meeting and execute Affidavit concerning the subject matter of the closed portion of the meeting
Executive Session not held.

25. Action, if any, resulting from the Executive Session
Executive Session not held.

Closing

26. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion made by Commissioner Sharp, Seconded by Commissioner McElhenney.

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

Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:36 p.m.

ATTEST:

Lynn Butterworth
County Clerk

Billy Webster
Chairman

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