

PUTNAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



117 Putnam Drive, Suite A ♦ Eatonton, GA 31024

Minutes

Tuesday, October 15, 2024 ♦ 6:00 PM

Putnam County Administration Building – Room 203

The Putnam County Board of Commissioners met on Tuesday, October 15, 2024 at approximately 6:00 PM in the Putnam County Administration Building, 117 Putnam Drive, Room 203, Eatonton, Georgia.

PRESENT

Chairman Bill Sharp
Commissioner Daniel Brown
Commissioner Steve Hersey
Commissioner Jeff Wooten

STAFF PRESENT

County Attorney Tom Watkins
County Manager Paul Van Haute
County Clerk Lynn Butterworth

Opening

1. Welcome - Call to Order

Chairman Sharp called the meeting to order at approximately 6:02 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 Brown, Seconded by Commissioner Wooten.

Voting Yea: Commissioner Brown, Commissioner Hersey, Commissioner Wooten

3. Invocation

Planning and Development Director Lisa Jackson gave the invocation.

4. Pledge of Allegiance (DB)

Commissioner Brown led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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Zoning Public Hearing

5. Request by Nicholas and Jennifer Marine to rezone 5.44 acres at 133 Whitney Street from R-1R to AG [Map 101B, Parcel 095, District 3] (staff-P&D)

Attorney Jay Dell spoke in support of the request on behalf of Nicholas and Jennifer Marine.

Mr. Mark Alred spoke in support of the rezoning.

The following individuals spoke against the rezoning: Mr. Mike DePetrillo, Ms. Jeanette Burns, Mr. Don Hill.

Mr. Dell used his remaining time for rebuttal.

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

- 1. There shall be no commercial campground.
- 2. There shall be no commercial uses.
- 3. There shall be no residential subdivisions.
- 4. This parcel shall not be used for Short Term Rental.

Motion to deny the request by Nicholas and Jennifer Marine to rezone 5.44 acres at 133 Whitney Street from R-1R to AG [Map 101B, Parcel 095, District 3].

Motion made by Commissioner Hersey, Seconded by Commissioner Brown.

Voting Yea: Commissioner Hersey

Voting Nay: Chairman Sharp, Commissioner Brown, Commissioner Wooten

Motion failed.

Motion to approve the request by Nicholas and Jennifer Marine to rezone 5.44 acres at 133 Whitney Street from R-1R to AG [Map 101B, Parcel 095, District 3] with the following conditions: 1. There shall be no commercial campground; 2. There shall be no commercial uses; 3. There shall be no residential subdivisions; 4. This parcel shall not be used for Short Term Rental.

Motion made by Commissioner Brown, Seconded by Commissioner Wooten.

Amended motion made to add one additional condition: property cannot be combined with any other property.

Motion made by Commissioner Hersey, no second received.

Motion failed for lack of second.

Vote on motion to approve the request by Nicholas and Jennifer Marine to rezone 5.44 acres at 133 Whitney Street from R-1R to AG [Map 101B, Parcel 095, District 3] with the following conditions: 1. There shall be no commercial campground; 2. There shall be no commercial uses; 3. There shall be no residential subdivisions; 4. This parcel shall not be used for Short Term Rental.

Voting Yea: Chairman Sharp, Commissioner Brown, Commissioner Wooten

Voting Nay: Commissioner Hersey

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Regular Business Meeting

6. Public Comments

Mr. Nick Marine thanked County Manager Van Haute and the Public Works Department for getting some gravel spread.

Mr. Mike DePetrillo commented on the rezoning of the Marine’s property and that the owner cannot go all the way around the pond without crossing another individual’s property and to think about what adding adjoining parcels to the pond parcel could do to the neighbors.

Mr. Don Hill commented that a campground was mentioned during the Planning and Zoning meeting and that the future land use map needs to be updated for this area.

Ms. Jennifer Ray commented that the SPLOST 10 newspaper article was incorrect about the SPLOST 9 collections and that she is against SPLOST 10 with a bond.

Mr. Charles Gray commented that he supports SPLOST 10.

Commissioner Steve Hersey commented that the Chamber of Commerce published a newsletter with an article on SPLOST 10 saying that the information they printed about the "borrowing of funds" is false.

7. Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of Minutes - October 4, 2024 Regular Meeting (staff-CC)
- b. Approval of Minutes - October 4, 2024 Executive Session (staff-CC)
- c. Approval of 2024 Alcohol Licenses (staff-CC)
- d. Authorization for Chairman to sign ACCG Safety Discount Verification Form (staff-HR) one additional alcohol license - BP Hwy 11

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda.

Motion made by Commissioner Wooten, Seconded by Commissioner Brown.

Voting Yea: Commissioner Brown, Commissioner Hersey, Commissioner Wooten
(Copy of documents made a part of the minutes on minute book pages _____ to _____.)

8. Land Use Assessment Report - George Kelecheck

Mr. George Kelecheck, a Supervisor on the Rockdale County Soil and Water Conservation District Board and a Putnam County property owner, gave a presentation on the importance and necessity of planning commercial and residential development in counties. Mr. Kelecheck shared two informative videos. The first was entitled "The Value of Downtown" that talked about helping cities look at land use, urban design, and economics (youtube.com/watch?v=HVD01WUm0oA). The second video called "Citizen Farmer Academy" brings together the AG education aspect with the DeKalb County Land Use Assessment (no link available). Mr. Kelecheck also provided a handout that covered a DeKalb Environmental Justice Commission meeting.

Joining Mr. Kelecheck was Mr. Greg Ramsey, Chief of Design at Village Habitat Design. He presented a PowerPoint of the DeKalb County Village Conservation District. The purpose of a Conservation Village Community is the promote walkable, resilient village development surrounded by protected conservation land expanded trail systems and productive farmland.

No action was taken.

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9. Jimmy Davis Park Partnership Advisory Council Report - Janie Reid

Mr. Richard Garrett commented that he was pleased the committee had produced its final report and that the recommendations make sense. Additionally, he commented that the gates seem to be locked all the time, the fee to rent the building is too high, the committee needs to be reinstated and add new members, and public comments should be allowed at their meetings. Mrs. Karen Henry Garrett commented that she had been to some of the advisory council meetings and could not hear well and that citizens should be allowed to talk because community feedback is needed.

Councilwoman Janie Reid presented the second quarterly report of the JDPPAC. The report included the final three-year comprehensive plan for the revitalization and upkeep of Jimmy Davis Park.

No action was taken.

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

10. Approval of beginning the process of Road Abandonment for a segment of Napier Mill Road (staff-PW)

Public Works Director Anthony Frazier explained the request and answered questions. Motion to approve the beginning of the process of Road Abandonment for a portion of Napier Mill Road.

Motion made by Commissioner Wooten, Seconded by Commissioner Brown.

Voting Yea: Commissioner Brown, Commissioner Hersey, Commissioner Wooten

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

Reports/Announcements

11. County Manager Report

County Manager Van Haute reported the following:

- LMIG projects for this year are getting underway; work should begin Thursday. The following roads are on the list: Beaver Road, Hoot Owl Lane, New Phoenix Road from Wards Chapel Road to Old Phoenix Road and Long Shoals Avenue.
- Finance Director Linda Cook has received the Certificate of Excellence for 11 years in a row.

12. County Attorney Report

No report.

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13. Commissioner Announcements

Commissioner Brown: congratulated Finance Director Cook for being elected as president of the GGFOA; announced a District Two forum on Thursday at Butler Baker and the 24th at The Plaza.

Commissioner Hersey: reminded everyone that today is first day of early voting and encouraged everyone to please vote; announced a District One forum, sponsored by the Republican Party, on Thursday at 6:00 PM at El Sitio Mexican Grill.

Commissioner Wooten: expressed his pride in the Public Works Department and advised that he is always getting compliments of Lisa Jackson and the Planning and Development Department.

Chairman Sharp: expressed his price in the entire staff.

Closing

14. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion made by Commissioner Wooten, Seconded by Commissioner Brown.

Voting Yea: Commissioner Brown, Commissioner Hersey, Commissioner Wooten

Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:36 p.m.

ATTEST:

Lynn Butterworth
County Clerk

B. W. "Bill" Sharp
Chairman

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