

PUTNAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



117 Putnam Drive, Suite A ♦ Eatonton, GA 31024

Minutes

Tuesday, August 20, 2024 ♦ 6:00 PM

Putnam County Administration Building – Room 203

The Putnam County Board of Commissioners met on Tuesday, August 20, 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 6:00 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 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 (BS)

Chairman Sharp led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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Budget Public Hearing

5. Presentation of Proposed FY25 Budget (staff-CM & Fin)

County Manager Van Haute made presentation.

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

6. Comments from Commissioners and/or Staff

None

7. Comments from the Public

Ms. Jennifer Ray commented on the PDA budget.

Mr. Richard Garrett commented on a “totals” only budget document, the historical data of departments and the Putnam General Hospital budget.

Ms. Karen Henry-Garrett thanked Putnam General Hospital and Commissioner Hersey.

Mr. William Vargo thanked the board for their work on the budget and commented on emails to the commissioners.

Regular Business Meeting

8. Public Comments

Mr. Don Sadler commented on communication problems and thanked the Clerk for getting information on the Jimmy Davis Park Partnership Advisory Council meetings.

Ms. Jennifer Ray commented on communication and emails.

Mr. William (Bill) Morrow commented on tax rates and the Len Resort.

Ms. Caroline Morrow commented on the Len Resort.

9. Consent Agenda

a. Approval of Minutes - April 16, 2024 Regular Meeting (staff-CC)

b. Approval of Minutes - May 21, 2024 Regular Meeting (staff-CC)

c. Approval of Minutes - June 7, 2024 Regular Meeting (staff-CC)

d. Approval of Minutes - June 7, 2024 Work Session (staff-CC)

e. Approval of Minutes - June 11, 2024 Work Session (staff-CC)

f. Approval of Minutes - July 31, 2024 Called Meeting (staff-CC)

g. Approval of Minutes - August 2, 2024 Regular Meeting (staff-CC)

h. Approval of Minutes - August 2, 2024 Work Session (staff-CC)

Mr. Billy Webster commented on the June 7, 2024 Regular Meeting minutes and the removal of the special presentation for Jayden Daniel with no notice given for a future date. He also commented on the August 2, 2024 Work Session and a comment from Commissioner Brown regarding a meeting with Senator Jon Ossoff.

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda.

Motion made by Commissioner Brown, Seconded by Commissioner Wooten.

Voting Yea: Commissioner Brown, Commissioner Hersey, Commissioner Wooten

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10. Request for Right of Way Permit from Oconee Overlook, LLC c/o Lauren K. Sprayberry (staff-PW)

Public Works Director Frazier explained that Oconee Overlook LLC is requesting permission to remove three pine trees from the county right of way in the vicinity of 149 Collis Rod to allow for the installation of the construction entrance of the Len Resort project.

Motion to postpone the request for Right of Way Permit from Oconee Overlook, LLC c/o Lauren K. Sprayberry until the construction permit is obtained by Oconee Overlook.

Motion made by Commissioner Hersey

After some discussion, Commissioner Hersey withdrew the motion for the time being.

Mr. Rick McAllister explained that the site needs access for large machinery and there are too many trees along the right of way and they are just wanting a construction entrance to keep mud off Collis Road.

Mr. Josh Sprayberry commented that the development agreement states they can't use Collis Marina Road and that they are trying to look out for public safety by removing trees. They also need to haul in supplies for the granite seawall and bring in rip rap. He further explained that they are working on obtaining the land disturbance permit currently and that this is estimated to be a 20 month construction project.

Motion to postpone the request for Right of Way Permit from Oconee Overlook, LLC c/o Lauren K. Sprayberry until the land disturbance permit is issued.

Motion made by Commissioner Hersey.

No second was received. Motion fails.

Motion to approve the request for a Right of Way Permit from Oconee Overlook, LLC c/o Lauren K. Sprayberry.

Motion made by Commissioner Brown, Seconded by Commissioner Wooten.

Voting Yea: Chairman Sharp, Commissioner Brown, Commissioner Wooten

Voting Nay: Commissioner Hersey

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

11. Authorization for Chairman to sign Revised Final Plat for Maddox Station (staff-P&D)

Staff recommendation is for approval of the final plat for Maddox Station Subdivision, consisting of 54 residential lots as presented with the following condition: the Sewer pipe fencing must be installed and inspected within 90 days of approval (11-18-24).

Motion to authorize the Chairman to sign the revised Final Plat for Maddox Station.

Motion made by Commissioner Brown, Seconded by Commissioner Wooten.

Commissioner Hersey asked Fire Chief McClain to explain about provisions for fire protection. Chief McClain advised that Piedmont Water doesn't have the capability of providing fire protection; they have water for houses only. He also advised that the developer installed two dry hydrants that will be accessible to the fire department from retention ponds and that infrastructure for fire hydrants is being put in place for the future.

Voting Yea: Commissioner Brown, Commissioner Hersey, Commissioner Wooten

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

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12. Request for final plat subdivision approval - Blue Heron Cove Phase 4 Units 20A - 27A, 7B-10B (staff-P&D)

Mr. Rick McAllister advised he was here for any questions and that this is the third and final plat for Phase 4 (overall 37 buildings, all complete).

Staff recommendation is for approval of the final plat for Blue Heron Cove Phase 4 Units 20A-27A and 7B-10B as presented.

Motion to authorize the Chairman to sign the final plat for Blue Heron Cove Phase 4 Units 20A – 27A and 7B-10B.

Motion made by Commissioner Wooten, Seconded by Commissioner Hersey.

Voting Yea: Commissioner Brown, Commissioner Hersey, Commissioner Wooten

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

13. Authorization for Chairman to sign Amended Resolution Calling for an Election to Impose a County Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (staff-CA)

Mr. Billy Webster commented on the ads in the newspaper and the city projects.

Ms. Jennifer Ray signed up to speak but passed her turn.

Mr. William Vargo commented on the different versions and spending issues.

County Attorney Watkins explained that the ad was published, and Commissioner Hersey brought an error to everyone’s attention. It was discovered that numbers from a previous resolution were inadvertently used and that out of an abundance of caution and to correct the error the item is coming back to the Board of Commissioners and will be re-advertised.

Motion to postpone the resolution and call until a District One commissioner is seated.

Motion made by Commissioner Hersey.

No second was received. Motion fails.

Motion to authorize the Chairman to sign the Amended Resolution Calling for an Election to Impose a County Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax.

Motion made by Commissioner Brown, Seconded by Commissioner Wooten.

Amended motion to approve the resolution with the following changes: strike section B and other references to issuance of general obligation bonds in call letter, last paragraph on ballot and others.

No second was received. Motion fails.

Commissioner Brown called for the question. Commissioner Hersey objected. Commissioner Brown withdrew.

Voting Yea: Chairman Sharp, Commissioner Brown, Commissioner Wooten

Voting Nay: Commissioner Hersey

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

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Reports/Announcements

14. County Manager Report
No report.

15. County Attorney Report
No report.

16. Commissioner Announcements
Commissioner Brown: congratulated Vince Hancock on his recent medal wins.

Commissioner Hersey: none

Commissioner Wooten: commented on a bad wreck he saw about a week ago and how the response from Fire/Rescue/EMS was unbelievable; they did great job and handled everything superbly; also did a great job handling traffic; we have great teams in this county that go above and beyond.

Chairman Sharp: commented on the incredible Georgia Heart hospital program. He advised that state income tax will go to the hospital and encouraged everyone to sign up at PGH and see Brandy Jones for any questions. Last year 139 people contributed, and this year is only 79 so far.

Closing

17. 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 7:54 p.m.

ATTEST:

Lynn Butterworth
County Clerk

B. W. "Bill" Sharp
Chairman

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