

PUTNAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

1



117 Putnam Drive, Suite A ♦ Eatonton, GA 31024

Called Meeting

Agenda

Tuesday, March 24, 2020 ♦ 4:00 PM

Putnam County Administration Building – Room 203

Opening

1. Call to Order

Called Meeting

2. Authorization for Chairman to sign Resolution Under a State of Local Emergency (BW)

Closing

3. Adjournment

The Board of Commissioners reserves the right to continue the meeting to another time and place in the event the number of people in attendance at the meeting, including the Board of Commissioners, staff, and members of the public exceeds the legal limits. The meeting cannot be closed to the public except by a majority vote of a quorum present for the meeting. The board can vote to go into an executive session on a legally exempt matter during a public meeting even if not advertised or listed on the agenda. Individuals with disabilities who require certain accommodations in order to allow them to observe and/or participate in this meeting, or who have questions regarding the accessibility of the meeting or the facilities are required to contact the ADA Compliance Officer, at least three business days in advance of the meeting at 706-485-2776 to allow the County to make reasonable accommodations for those persons.

Item Attachment Documents:

2. Authorization for Chairman to sign Resolution Under a State of Local Emergency (BW)

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RESOLUTION DURING LOCAL STATE OF EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared the ongoing Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic of sufficient severity and magnitude to warrant an emergency declaration for all states pursuant to Section 501(b) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. 5121-5207; and

WHEREAS, on March 14, 2020, Georgia Governor Brian Kemp declared a public health emergency for the State of Georgia, which was ratified by the Georgia General Assembly on March 16, 2020; and

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020, the Mayor and Council declared by unanimous vote that a state of local emergency exists within the City of Eatonton; and

WHEREAS, on March 17, 2020 the Board of Commissioners of Putnam County adopted a resolution declaring a state of local emergency; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 38-3-28, the Board is authorized to provide for the health and safety of persons and property and to direct and coordinate the development of emergency management plans and programs in accordance with the policies and plans set by the federal and state emergency management agencies; and

WHEREAS, the CDC expects that additional cases of COVID-19 will be identified in the coming days, including more cases in the United States, and that person-to-person spread is likely to continue to occur; and

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020, the CDC advised that during the next fifteen (15) days, all events in the United States of ten (10) or more people should be cancelled or held virtually; and

WHEREAS, the current number of COVID-19 cases in Georgia is 1026 with 32 deaths and those numbers are increasing daily; and

WHEREAS, medical professionals have advised that if COVID-19 continues to spread in Georgia at a rate comparable to that rate of spread in other affected areas, it may greatly strain the resources and capabilities of county and municipal governments, including public health agencies, that provide essential services for containing and mitigating the spread of contagious diseases, such as COVID-19, and the situation may become too large in scope to be handled in its entirety by the normal county and municipal operating services in some parts of the State, and this situation may spread to other parts of this State; and

WHEREAS, it has been evidenced that some people within Putnam County continue to congregate in large numbers in enclosed spaces where social distancing cannot be effectuated; and

WHEREAS, to prevent or minimize injury to people resulting from this pandemic, we find that certain actions are required, including but not limited to, the social distancing measures set forth herein; and

WHEREAS, the Putnam County Board of Commissioners most stringently urges all citizens who are able to stay at home, to do so and comply with all of the directives and practices that have been disseminated by our healthcare providers.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as follows:

1. That, all public or private community gatherings of more than ten (10) people anywhere within Putnam County, Georgia are prohibited for the duration of the declared state of local emergency. A community gathering is defined as any indoor or outdoor event or convening, subject to the exceptions below, that brings together or is likely to bring together ten (10) or more persons at the same time in a single room or other single confined or enclosed space, such as an auditorium, stadium (indoor or outdoor), tent arena or event center, music venue, meeting, hall, conference center, large cafeteria, or any other confined indoor and outdoor space. A community gathering does not include the following or similar uses, so long as persons attending the community gathering are generally not within six (6) feet of each other for extended periods: (1) office or manufacturing space, child-care facilities, residential buildings or any type of temporary sheltering or housing; (2) grocery stores or pharmacies; and (3) hospital or medical facilities.
2. Notwithstanding the previous paragraph, the following business-use categories will be regulated as follows: (1) restaurants open to the public shall close except to provide take out, drive-through, or curbside service to include alcoholic beverages in sealed containers which they are otherwise licensed to dispense; (2) all business locations with on-premises consumption of alcoholic beverage licenses which are not also restaurants shall be closed for business; (3) all establishments providing body care services which require close physical contact between the provider and client such as barbering, hair design, cosmetology, esthetics, massage therapy (except for medically licensed physical therapy), tattooing or nail care shall be closed for business; (4) all indoor recreation facilities, to include gyms, health studios, indoor amusement facilities, pool halls and theatres shall be closed for business; and (5) all other retail sales establishments (including grocery stores or pharmacies addressed above) will be permitted to remain open.
3. Cafeterias in hospitals, nursing homes, or similar facilities shall not be subject to these restrictions and may continue normal operations.

These emergency ordinances shall become effective beginning on March 25, 2020 at 12:00 p.m. and shall remain in effect until April 6, 2020 at 12:00 p.m. unless further extended by further action of the Board and is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by any party against Putnam County, Georgia, its departments, agencies, or entities, its officers, employees, or agents, or any other person.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this resolution has been duly adopted by the governing authority of Putnam County on the 24th day of March 2020.

Chairman Billy Webster

Attest:

Clerk

(SEAL)