

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE ETOWAH COUNTY COMMISSION
ETOWAH COUNTY, ALABAMA
May 19th, 2020**

The Etowah County Commission met in a regular meeting on the 19th Day of May, 2020. Commissioner Tim Ramsey called the meeting to order at 10:05 am and led in the Prayer and the Pledge to the Flag.

PUBLIC COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS: Scott Hassell, Judge of Probate, expressed his appreciation at how well everything went on May 4th (the first day the Courthouse was opened to the public since March 30th). There were over 1300 citizens that came through the building and the average wait time was about an hour. “Everyone worked together from the beginning” and there were no problems with the employees or the public, in spite of the wait time. (Preparations were made in advance with everyone except handicapped using the same door so the Security Personnel could control the number of people in the building. The floors were marked to insure social distancing.) Judge Hassell said everyone worked together as expected.

Linda Barrett-Vaughan, Revenue Commissioner, thanked everyone for their cooperation in getting the courthouse re-opened to the public. She thanked her employees and also the customers for being patient. She said they were still very busy with 741 transactions in tags yesterday (and on their busiest day since re-opening they did 800 transactions). The money for tags for the previous months is coming in – just a little late. Also the Property Tax Sale date will be in June this year. The delinquent property tax list ran in the Gadsden Times for 3 weeks and since the property tax was due by December 31st, 2019, it was not affected by the Covid pandemic so the late date on this tax was not extended.

After Commissioner Inzer asked about the Star ID Driver’s License deadline, Judge Hassell explained that the deadline to get the Star ID for travel has been extended but anyone can also use a passport in place of getting the Star ID so this is another option if you plan to travel and prefer the added precaution. The Star ID license can only be obtained at the ALEA offices and they are currently overwhelmed with long wait times.

PUBLIC COMMENTS FROM ELECTED OFFICIALS AND OTHERS: None.

CALL OF ROLL TO ESTABLISH A QUORUM: The roll was called to establish a quorum. The following 5 out of 6 Commission members responded to their names and accordingly a quorum was present (with Commissioner Payne attending the meeting by Phone):

District 1 – Joey Statum	District 4 – Tim Ramsey
District 2 – Johnny Grant	
District 3 – Larry V. Payne	District 6 – Craig Inzer

Absent: Jeffery Washington – District 5

ANNOUNCEMENTS: None.

AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS, PROCLAMATIONS: None.

CONSENT AGENDA: Upon motion of Commissioner Craig Inzer, seconded by Commissioner Joey Statum, with all other members present voting “yes”, the following resolution was passed and adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ETOWAH COUNTY COMMISSION: That the following items on the Consent Agenda were approved as presented:

CONSENT AGENDA: All items designated as “Consent” are considered to be routine and non-controversial and will be approved by one motion. No separate discussion of these items will be permitted unless a Commissioner so requests. If so, such item(s) will revert to New Business.

- A. That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting dated May 5th, 2020, of the Etowah County Commission be, and the same are hereby approved as written.
- B. The Proposed Agenda for May 19th, 2020.
- C. Reported Financial Transactions.
- D. To place the name of Lloyd Lehr, in the Sheriff’s Office job slot of Detention Deputy effective May 18th, 2020. This is a replacement to be paid from the ICE Fund, at an hourly rate of \$12.60.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 19th DAY OF MAY, 2020.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Upon motion of Commissioner Craig Inzer, seconded by Commissioner Johnny Grant, with all other members voting “yes”, the following resolution was adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ETOWAH COUNTY COMMISSION: That the following item was approved:

The request of Melissa Lett, Purchasing Accountant, to let a new bid for HVAC Improvements for the Etowah County Jail.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 19th DAY OF MAY, 2020.

Upon motion of Commissioner Joey Statum, seconded by Commissioner Johnny Grant, with all other members voting “yes”, the following resolution was adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ETOWAH COUNTY COMMISSION: That the following item was approved:

A. To approve the following Proposed Budget Amendment for the Sheriff’s Office:

Increase: Expenditures

Motor Vehicles (001.52100-551)	\$216,860
Repairs & Maintenance – Motor Vehicles (001.52100-234)	10,000
Uniforms (001.52100.203)	684
Vehicle License Plates (001.52100-407)	9
Insurance – Motor Vehicles (001.52100-272)	11,107

Increase: Revenues

Sale of Capital Assets (001.61210-000)	28,345
Issuance of Long Term Debt (001.61340)	140,000

Decrease: Expenditures

Other Equipment (001.52100-549)	26,200
Equipment<Threshold (001.52100-471)	32,315
Other Miscellaneous Supplies (001.52100-219)	452
Membership Dues & Fees (001.52100-171)	241
Fuel (001.52100-212)	11,107

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 19th DAY OF MAY, 2020.

A motion was made to add the following item - all Commissioners present agreed for this item to be added to the agenda.

Upon motion of Commissioner Joey Statum, seconded by Commissioner Joey Statum, with all other members voting “yes”, the following resolution was adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ETOWAH COUNTY COMMISSION: That the following item was approved:

The request of Randall Johnson, Commander of Etowah County Drug Enforcement Unit, to declare the following vehicles as surplus:

- 1- 2010 Chevrolet Tahoe LT, Black, VIN# 1GNUKAE06AR130122
- 2- 2010 Chevrolet Tahoe LT, Gray, VIN# 1GNUKAE03AR131812

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 19th DAY OF MAY, 2020.

REPORTS FROM THE STAFF:

- Chief Administrative Officer:** No Report.
- County Engineer:** No Report.
- County Attorney:** No Report.
- Other:** No Report.

SCHEDULED PUBLIC HEARINGS: None

DISCUSSION BY COMMISSIONERS: Commissioner Statum thanked Kevin for the work on the budget and also thanked Shane and the other Commissioners.

Commissioner Grant talked about the ACCA Board of Directors Meeting and a discussion they had involving the Simplified Sellers Use Tax and Morgan County. Morgan County is involved in a lawsuit and other counties may be asked to join. (This is not something we have to deal with at this time and there will be time to discuss with others about the best choice for Etowah County if it comes to that.) Also, the Board of Directors had discussed jail/ inmates’ situation but this will not affect the counties at this time.

Commissioner Payne said he appreciated everyone and said it would be good to get together again soon.

Commissioner Inzer thanked Shane and asked questions about the HVAC bid for the jail and said he had received calls and questions from some local and state-wide contractors. He said he would forward the information to them to insure we will get good competitive bids. He asked everyone to keep supporting local businesses and he appreciates the support he has received in his business. He said some of the businesses were still not opened up and some will probably go out of business but he was just asking the public to help these business owners any way they can. He is hoping we can get back to having meetings at the courthouse.

Shane asked at that time if everyone was okay with having the regular schedule at the June 2nd meeting with a work session at 9:00 and a meeting at 10:00 – to be held at the Chamber and all Commissioners were okay with that.

Commissioner Ramsey said he had talked to Dr. Cosby and the need for more money to help with long distance learning capabilities and if covid money could be used for that purpose. He also talked about the SSUT and how it was a huge part of the budget so we needed to stay on top of any developments concerning these funds. He discussed the latest Covid data and said a lot of people tested positive last week. He thanked the Road Department and said he appreciated their hard work and he also thanked the staff in the Revenue Department and the entire Courthouse for all they do.

NACo is cancelling the National Convention in Orlando in July due to the Covid pandemic but at this time, the ACCA Conference in August is still scheduled to take place.

ADJOURN: The Chair then entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. Upon motion of Commissioner Joey Statum, seconded by Commissioner Craig Inzer, with all other members voting “yes”, the motion was passed. The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 am.

Joey Statum, Commissioner, District 1

Tim Ramsey, Commissioner, District 4

Johnny Grant, Commissioner, District 2

ABSENT

Jeffery Washington, President, Commissioner, District 5

Larry V. Payne, Commissioner, District 3

Craig Inzer, Jr., Commissioner, District 6