

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE ETOWAH COUNTY COMMISSION
ETOWAH COUNTY, ALABAMA
August 3, 2021**

Commissioner Jamie Grant called the meeting to order on the 4rd Day of August, 2021 at 9:05 am with Commissioner Jeffery Washington asking the Prayer and leading the Pledge to the Flag.

CALL OF ROLL TO ESTABLISH A QUORUM: The following 6 out of 6 Commission members were at the meeting and accordingly a quorum was present:

District 1 – Joey Statum	District 4 – Tim Ramsey
District 2 – Johnny Grant	District 5 – Jeffery Washington
District 3 – Jamie Grant	District 6 – Craig Inzer

PUBLIC HEARING: None.

PUBLIC COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS: Eddie Nichols talked to the Commissioners about his Dream Center and the program’s successes. He also talked about the upcoming vision and what they planned to do in the future.

PUBLIC COMMENTS FROM ELECTED OFFICIALS AND OTHERS: None.

AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS, PROCLAMATIONS, OR ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Commissioner Jamie Grant read the announcements and reviewed the locations of the open-top containers for Advanced Disposal.

Advanced Disposal will have open top containers at four locations between 7:00 am and 12:00 pm for residential cleanup of household trash on **Saturday, August 7, 2021.** They do not accept tires, batteries, appliances or hazardous waste.

Locations of containers:

Leeth Gap and Sardis Road – across from old County Shop
Intersection of Hwy 278 & Hwy 132
Whorton Bend Volunteer Fire Department
Gaston High School at Hwy 411 North

Upon motion of Commissioner Ramsey, seconded by Commissioner Inzer, 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:

To recess in order to have a Work Session at 9:15 am.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 3rd DAY OF AUGUST, 2021.

Upon motion of Commissioner Statum, seconded by Commissioner Inzer, 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:

To call the Etowah County Commission Meeting back to order after the recess at 9:45 am.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 3rd DAY OF AUGUST, 2021.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

Consent Agenda:

Upon motion of Commissioner Statum, seconded by Commissioner Johnny Grant, 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 Meetings dated July 6, 2021 and July 20, 2021, of the Etowah County Commission be, and the same are hereby approved as written.
- B. The Proposed Agenda for August 3, 2021.

- C. Reported Financial Transactions. A copy of the Cash Disbursements and Online Transfers for July, 2021, has been filed in Attachment Book 12, Page 001.
- D. To place the name of Alan Burchfield in the Sheriff's Office job slot of Detention Deputy, effective July 29, 2021. This is a replacement to be paid from the ICE Fund, at an hourly rate of \$12.60.
- E. To place the name of Jacob King in the Sheriff's Office job slot of Detention Deputy, effective July 26, 2021. This is a replacement to be paid from the ICE Fund, at an hourly rate of \$12.60.
- F. To place the name of Joshua Queen in the Sheriff's Office job slot of Deputy Security Specialist, effective July 20, 2021. This is a replacement to be paid from the Jail Fund, at an hourly rate of \$13.25.
- G. To approve the request of the County Engineer, to hire Tony Holland as an Equipment Operator, effective August 9, 2021. This is a replacement to be paid from the Gas Tax Fund at an hourly rate of \$11.42.
- H. To approve the request of the County Engineer, to hire Clayton Pearce as an Equipment Operator, effective August 9, 2021. This is a replacement to be paid from the Gas Tax Fund at an hourly rate of \$11.42.
- I. To approve the request of the County Engineer, to hire Robert O'Bryant as an Equipment Operator, effective August 9, 2021. This is a replacement to be paid from the Gas Tax Fund at an hourly rate of \$11.42.
- J. To approve the request of Linda Barrett-Vaughan, Revenue Commissioner, transfer Addison Robinson to Revenue Assessment Clerk, effective August 3, 2021. This is a replacement to be paid from the General – Revenue Fund at an hourly rate of \$11.42.
- K. To approve the request of Melissa Lett, Purchasing Accountant, to let a new bid for a 2021 Chevrolet Equinox LS for Reappraisal.
- L. To approve the request of the Etowah County Engineer, to declare the following as surplus:

Ford 7610 Tractor with canopy	VIN# BB73635	Asset # 6676
Ford 7840 Tractor w/Batwing	VIN# BD76831	Asset# 8206
Dyno Pac Ca250PO Roller	VIN# 65321522	Asset# 8561
- M. To approve the 'Interlocal Agreement Between City of Gadsden (Alabama), Etowah County, and Etowah County Sheriff for the 2021 Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program Award for 2021. A copy of this Agreement has been filed in Attachment Book 12, Page 002.
- N. To approve the Proposal from ICS Cyber Management and to authorize the CAO to execute the document. A copy of this Agreement has been filed in Attachment Book 12, Page 003.
- O. To approve the Resolution to Adopt the 2021 Division F Phase I Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan and to authorize the Commission President to execute the document. A copy of this Resolution has been filed in Attachment Book 12, Page 004.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 3rd DAY OF AUGUST, 2021.

NEW BUSINESS:

Upon motion of Commissioner Jamie Grant, 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:

To approve the "Resolution Authorizing Detention Deputy Pay Increase" and to authorize the Commission President to execute the Resolution. A copy of this Resolution has been filed in Attachment Book 12, Page 005.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 3rd DAY OF AUGUST, 2021.

Upon motion of Commissioner Tim Ramsey, 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:

To approve a Resolution authorizing the CAO to close the Etowah County Courthouse at noon on August 6, 2021, for Alabama Power Company to replace the utility pole on 8th Street that was damaged during a recent vehicular accident. The replacement of this pole will necessitate closing of the building as power will be disconnected. In the event that Alabama Power is forced to reschedule the replacement, the CAO is authorized to reschedule the closure. Full-time courthouse employees will be paid up to four hours administrative leave to cover the closure.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 3rd DAY OF AUGUST, 2021.

Upon motion of Commissioner Statum, seconded by Commissioner Ramsey, 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 Shane Ellison, CAO, to authorize two employees, Sherri Starr in the Commission Office and Jessie Anastasia Parks in the Probate Office, to receive catastrophic sick leave donations. Both of these employees have met the eligibility requirements under the program guidelines.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 3rd DAY OF AUGUST, 2021.

REPORTS FROM THE STAFF:

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

DISCUSSION BY COMMISSIONERS:

Commissioner Inzer thanked Eddie Nichols for coming and sharing his program with everyone. He said regarding the detention deputies pay increase, we care about each department but we have to get deputies working in the jail and they currently have a shortage with no applicants to hire from.

Commissioner Washington agreed with what they are doing to help the Sheriff & Jail. He said they had a Jazz program in East Gadsden and he appreciated the Reserve Officers that were there to help protect the people. They mixed and mingled with everyone and he felt made a positive impression on the neighborhood. Everyone knew they were there to help them. He said reserves/volunteers don't get paid for what they do – purchase their own equipment and because of that Commissioner Washington is planning to donate to help their reserve program. They have to learn how to be a deputy – he is not in favor of raising the pay to be able to get someone to do a job – not in favor of them being able to hold us hostage to do their job. He wants other staff and departments to get raises and not just a few.

Commissioner Ramsey thanked Mr. Nichols for coming to the meeting and thanked Mr. Quarles for being here and showing the road pictures. He said he also met with Ms. Johnson to discuss Maple Drive. He said he thinks they need to make a change on issues with the road – their condition has a lot to do with the weather we've had to last few years and also the increase in material costs. We don't have answers but are looking at the problems and also having trouble getting people to go to work in the road department. They also have a shortage of employees. He is on board with detention deputies getting an increase and knows that has been an issue ever since he's been here. He said he appreciated the Sheriff's input.

Commissioner Statum thanked everyone for coming.

Commissioner Johnny Grant also thanked everyone for coming.

Shane Ellison, CAO, said he wanted to assure the Commissioners that he was not working behind the scenes to get a raise. He has a contract and is very thankful for his position. (Just to clarify an earlier discussion).

Commissioner Jamie Grant added that he agreed with the others and sees it as a positive change. He said 'I am the one that brought up Shane's contract when we discussed the engineer's contract. It was not Shane that brought it up.

ADJOURN: The Chair then entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. Upon motion of Commissioner Statum, seconded by Commissioner Ramsey, with all other members voting "yes", the motion was passed. The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 am.

Joey Statum, Commissioner, District 1

Tim Ramsey, Commissioner, District 4

Johnny Grant, Commissioner, District 2

Jeffery Washington, Commissioner, District 5

Jamie W. Grant, President, Commissioner, District 3

Craig Inzer, Jr., Commissioner, District 6