

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE ETOWAH COUNTY COMMISSION
ETOWAH COUNTY, ALABAMA
April 21st, 2020**

The Etowah County Commission met in a virtual meeting in accordance with the CDC Guidelines regarding social distancing via virtual meetings and/or other alternatives. The meeting took place on April 21st, 2020 at 10:00am and was called to order by Commissioner Washington. Shane Ellison, CAO, led in the Prayer and the Pledge to the Flag.

The link for the meeting was sent to the Gadsden Times and was also emailed to everyone that requests/receives the Agenda for the Commission Meetings. The meeting was recorded and the video of the meeting was posted on the Etowah County official website on April 21st, 2020.

PUBLIC COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS: The public had the ability to type in questions to the meeting host and there were no questions asked at this time.

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 and quorum was present:

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

Absent: Commissioner Larry V. Payne, District 3

ANNOUNCEMENTS: None.

AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS, PROCLAMATIONS: None.

CONSENT AGENDA: Upon motion of Commissioner Statum, seconded by Commissioner Ramsey, 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 April 7th, 2020, of the Etowah County Commission be, and the same are hereby approved as written.
- B. The Proposed Agenda for April 21st, 2020.
- C. Reported Financial Transactions. A copy of the Credit Card Purchasing Charges from February 26, 2020 through March 18th, 2020 has been filed in Attachment Book 11, Page 007.
- D. To place the name of Jacob Whisenant, in the Sheriff’s Office job slot of Detention Deputy effective April 20th, 2020. This is a replacement to be paid from the ICE Fund, at an hourly rate of \$12.60.
- E. To place the name of Brittany Hand, in the Sheriff’s Office job slot of Detention Deputy effective April 27th, 2020. This is a replacement to be paid from the ICE Fund, at an hourly rate of \$12.60.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 21st DAY OF APRIL, 2020.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Upon motion of Commissioner 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 the request of Melissa Lett, Purchasing Accountant, to let Bid No. FY 2019-2020-14 for Little Canoe Creek Industrial Park Mass Grading Project.

Commissioner Inzer asked a couple of questions about what was included and Marilyn Lott also explained that GMC will oversee the Bid with the Commission making the final decision. The bid requests will be based on 60 acres with a backup option for 50 acres and will probably be bid at the end of May. This will allow flexibility if the cost is more than anticipated.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 21st DAY OF APRIL, 2020.

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 approve the "Proclamation of Existence of a Local Emergency" dated April 15th, 2020 and to authorize the Commission President to execute the document. This local emergency is due to extreme winds and tornados that occurred on April 12th – 13th, 2020, including flash floods with continued flooding in the following days. A copy of this Proclamation has been filed in Attachment Book 11, Page 008.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 21st DAY OF APRIL, 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 asked Tim Graves / Robert Nail if it looked like there will be enough damage from the tornado for this area to be declared an emergency. Tim Graves said it would meet the minimum requirements and Robert said they were still gathering data but it looked favorable.

Sheriff Horton discussed the Courthouse being closed until the 30th of April and also discussed some hearings that were being held in the Judicial Building. So far the Jail remains COVID-Free and they have been providing masks for the inmates. They moved 5 State inmates out yesterday and 2 today. He also discussed a Personnel Policy with Jeff Little and said they had extra patrols during the storms. He had talked to the Mayor a couple of days ago and he was concerned with getting the debris removed (Reece City). He also requested hazardous duty pay for his deputies and correctional offices for the COVID because several municipalities in the county are paying it to their law enforcement. He said he had already spent about \$5800 in payroll and supplies during the storm.

Commissioner Ramsey said he would like to find a way to pay the law enforcement the hazardous pay because of the stress of dealing with the public during the COVID Pandemic.

Commissioner Inzer agreed with trying to pay law enforcement hazardous pay due to COVID.

Shane said he would get with Kevin Dollar and Jeff Little and put together some options. Commissioner Johnny Grant added that he also supported giving hazardous pay to the county law enforcement.

Commissioner Washington said the grant was approved that Lana Gaskin was working on and the Sheriff said they had bought a fogger to be used in the Jail and could possibly be used in other areas depending on availability of the chemicals and after they have taken care of the Jail first. Commissioner Ramsey said he would like to see it used at Community Centers and Volunteer Fire Departments as well as places where the citizens are working as volunteers.

Commissioner Johnny Grant said he appreciated the hard work from the Road Department and also appreciated what the Sheriff was doing. He thanked the Courthouse employees that have been working through the pandemic.

Commissioner Inzer said there were mixed signals coming from the Governor's Office because of information being posted by the Lieutenant Governor but hopefully that will be cleared up soon. He thanked the Sheriff for helping with some communication issues dealing with his District. He thanked the Courthouse, Revenue Commissioner, and Probate Judge saying they needed to make the right decisions for the Courthouse. He thanked Tim Graves and Robert Nail and also the Power Company for all their hard work after the storms.

Commissioner Statum agrees with the other Commissioners and said he is praying for everyone.

Commissioner Washington thanked everyone including the First Responders, Doctors, and Nurses and also thanked the Staff for all they do. He said we are working together in Etowah County and asked everyone to remain diligent and to stay safe. He thanked Tim Graves and Robert Nail for what they did handling the storm damage and also thanked Deborah Gaither. He said God can bring us through. He said he was not in favor of just going back to normal.

Linda Barrett-Vaughan said the State has extended the deadline for tags/titles to May 15th and they are doing great with online collections on a daily basis. She encouraged the public to continue using the mail.

Shane Ellison discussed the Advanced Disposal date for putting out the quarterly open top containers. The Commissioners requested the date stay on May 2nd if possible. He said they were also sending out 'Request For Proposals' to the area banks for a new loan for the Sheriff's Office Fleet Replacement Program and to purchase the additional Ford Explorers. The request is for \$300,000 for the Fleet Replacement and \$140,000 for the Ford Explorers. He reminded everyone that Governor Ivey's 'stay in place' order is in effect until April 30th at 5:00 pm.

ADJOURN: The Chair then entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. Upon motion of Commissioner Ramsey, seconded by Commissioner Johnny Grant, with all other members voting “yes”, the motion was passed. The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 am.

Joey Statum, Commissioner, District 1

Tim Ramsey, Commissioner, District 4

Johnny Grant, Commissioner, District 2

Jeffery Washington, President, Commissioner, District 5

ABSENT

Larry V. Payne, Commissioner, District 3

Craig Inzer, Jr., Commissioner, District 6