

# Putnam County Board of Commissioners



117 Putnam Drive, Suite A ♦ Eatonton, GA 31024

## Called Meeting

### Minutes

**Friday, June 26, 2026 ♦ 2:00 PM**

Putnam County Administration Building – Room 203

### Opening

The Putnam County Board of Commissioners met for a Called Meeting on Friday, June 26, 2026 at approximately 2:00 PM in the Putnam County Administration Building, 117 Putnam Drive, Room 203, Eatonton, Georgia.

#### Present:

Chairman Bill Sharp, Commissioner Tom McElhenney, Commissioner Richard Garrett, Commissioner Steve Hersey

#### Absent:

Commissioner Jeff Wooten

#### Staff Present:

County Attorney Adam Nelson, Interim County Manager Byron Lombard, County Clerk Lynn Butterworth, Deputy County Clerk Mercy Fluker

#### 1. Welcome - Call to Order

Chairman Sharp called the meeting to order at approximately 2:00 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 Tom McElhenney, Seconded by Steve Hersey.**

**Voting Yea: Tom McElhenney, Richard Garrett, Steve Hersey**

**Voting Nay: None**

**Motion Passed**

#### 3. Pledge of Allegiance (BS)

Chairman Sharp led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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### 4. Approval of 2026 Alcohol License (staff-CC)

Ms. Delite Woodard signed in to speak but was not present at the meeting.

**Motion to approve the 2026 retail beer, wine, and liquor license for Longshoals Liquor, Inc. in the name of Munir Kothia as the holder of the license.**

**Motion made by Tom McElhenney, Seconded by Richard Garrett.**

**Voting Yea: Tom McElhenney, Richard Garrett, Steve Hersey**

**Voting Nay: None**

**Motion Passed**

(Copy of license made a part of the minutes on minute book page \_\_\_\_\_.)

### 5. Discussion and possible action regarding a resolution to impose a moratorium on permanent signage (Putnam County Code of Ordinances - Chapter 48 (Signs)) (staff-CM)

County Manager Lombard discussed that the current sign ordinance is permissive and that this proposed moratorium only applies to permanent signs, not election signs or temporary signs. This will give the county an opportunity to consider what is wanted regarding size, illumination, etc.

**Motion to adopt the Resolution to Impose a Moratorium on Permanent Signage and to waive the reading of the Resolution.**

**Motion made by Tom McElhenney, Seconded by Richard Garrett.**

**Voting Yea: Tom McElhenney, Richard Garrett, Steve Hersey**

**Voting Nay: None**

**Motion Passed**

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

### 6. Approval of 2026 LMIG and LRA Project Lists (staff-CM)

Mr. Bill Vargo signed up to speak, but passed.

Mr. Billy Webster distributed copies of TSPLOST #2 Fund handout and commented on the funding mechanism.

**Motion to approve the 2026 LMIG and LRA Projects and to authorize these projects to be placed out for competitive bidding.**

**Motion made by Richard Garrett, Seconded by Tom McElhenney.**

**Voting Yea: Bill Sharp, Tom McElhenney, Richard Garrett**

**Voting Nay: Steve Hersey**

**Motion Passed**

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7. Approval of Putnam County's TSPLOST #3 Project List (staff-CM)

County Manager Lombard advised that this list of projects will be included in the Intergovernmental Agreement with the city that will be discussed at the June 30, 2026 joint meeting.

**Motion to approve the wording of the County's "Description of Projects" for inclusion in Exhibit A of the proposed TSPLOST #3 Intergovernmental Agreement between the County and the City of Eatonton.**

**Motion made by Richard Garrett, Seconded by Tom McElhenney.**

**Voting Yea: Tom McElhenney, Richard Garrett, Steve Hersey**

**Voting Nay: None**

**Motion Passed**

(Copy of project list made a part of the minutes on minute book page \_\_\_\_\_.)

8. Discussion and possible action regarding irrigation at Uncle Remus Golf Course (staff-CM)

Mr. Billy Webster asked if the funding for this project was coming from SPLOST #9 and discussed spending from SPLOST #9.

Uncle Remus Golf Course Director Michael Benton was available to answer questions.

County Manager Lombard explained the need for the project and that it would require a 10-week closure of the course. He advised that some of the funding would come from SPLOST #9 (approximately \$413K) with the remaining coming from SPLOST #10. This project will require a formal bid process.

**Motion to authorize staff to move forward with the formal bid process to obtain competitive bids on the Irrigation System Project for the Uncle Remus Golf Course.**

**Motion made by Richard Garrett, Seconded by Tom McElhenney.**

**Voting Yea: Tom McElhenney, Richard Garrett, Steve Hersey**

**Voting Nay: None**

**Motion Passed**

9. Discussion and possible action regarding the establishment of a Solid Waste Tax District (staff-CM)

County Manager Lombard discussed the possibility of using a special tax district to fund solid waste services in the county and provided the board with four options:

- Option #1: Leave the expenses as is on the property tax system.
- Option #2: Assess the disposal expenses only on the fee system, which would be assessed against all residentially improved parcels countywide.
- Option #3: Assess the collection expenses only on the fee system, which would only be assessed on residentially improved parcels in the unincorporated areas of the County.
- Option #4: Convert both the disposal expenses (Option #2) and the collection expenses (Option #3) to the fee system.

**Motion to adopt Resolution Number 2026.6.26(a) Creating a Special Tax District for the Provision of Funding Solid Waste Disposal Services, Providing for the Levy and Collection of Fees, Assessments, and/or Taxes Within Said District, and for other Lawful Purposes, and to Waive the Reading of the Resolution.**

**Motion made by Tom McElhenney, Seconded by Richard Garrett.**

**Voting Yea: Tom McElhenney, Richard Garrett, Steve Hersey**

**Voting Nay: None**

**Motion Passed**

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

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**Motion to amend to include a \$50 fee for solid waste collections.**

**Motion made by Steve Hersey, No Second received.**

**Motion died for lack of a second.**

**Motion to adopt Resolution Number 2026.6.26(b) Creating a Special Tax District for the Provision of Funding Solid Waste Collection Services, Providing for the Levy and Collection of Fees, Assessments, and/or Taxes Within Said District, and for other Lawful Purposes, and to Waive the Reading of the Resolution provided that there is a corresponding reduction in the millage rate in the Special Services District that is equivalent to the revenue generated by the fee.**

**Motion made by Steve Hersey, Seconded by Tom McElhenney**

**Voting Yea: Tom McElhenney, Richard Garrett, Steve Hersey**

**Voting Nay: None**

**Motion Passed**

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

10. Discussion and possible action regarding the establishment of a Hospital Tax District (staff-CM)  
Mr. Williams Vargo distributed a handout and commented on the funds given to Putnam General Hospital every year and indigent care.

County Manager Lombard explained the purpose of a special tax district and the benefit of added transparency.

**Motion to adopt Resolution Number 2026.6.26(c) Creating a Special Tax District for the Provision of Funding for Hospital-Based Indigent Care Services for the Citizens of Putnam County, and for an Operating Subsidy for Putnam General Hospital, Providing for the Levy and Collection of Taxes and Fees Within Said District, and for other Lawful Purposes, and to Waive the Reading of the Resolution.**

**Motion made by Tom McElhenney, Seconded by Richard Garrett.**

**Voting Yea: Tom McElhenney, Richard Garrett, Steve Hersey**

**Voting Nay: None**

**Motion Passed**

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## Closing

11. Adjournment

**Motion to adjourn the meeting.**

**Motion made by Tom McElhenney, Seconded by Richard Garrett.**

**Voting Yea: Tom McElhenney, Richard Garrett, Steve Hersey**

**Voting Nay: None**

**Motion Passed**

Meeting adjourned at approximately 4:13 p.m.

ATTEST:

Lynn Butterworth  
County Clerk

B. W. “Bill” Sharp  
Chairman

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