

Putnam County Board of Commissioners



117 Putnam Drive, Suite A ♦ Eatonton, GA 31024

Work Session

Minutes

Friday, July 31, 2026 ♦ 1:00 PM

Putnam County Administration Building – Room 203

Opening

The Putnam County Board of Commissioners met for a work session on Friday, July 31, 2026 at approximately 1:00 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 (arrived late)

Absent:

Commissioner Jeff Wooten

Staff Present:

County Attorney Adam Nelson, Interim County Manager Byron Lombard, County Clerk Lynn Butterworth, Finance Director Jennifer Smith, Planning and Development Director Lisa Jackson

1. Welcome - Call to Order

Chairman Sharp called the meeting to order at approximately 01:02 PM.

(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 Richard Garrett.

Voting Yea: Chairman Sharp, Tom McElhenney, Richard Garrett

Voting Nay: None

Motion passed

3. Pledge of Allegiance (staff)

County Manager Lombard led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Work Session

4. Budget Discussions

Commissioner Hersey arrived at approximately 1:04 p.m.

County Manager Lombard advised that the budget requests exceeded the projected revenues by \$10-12M. The budget deficit is compounded with over expenditures in TSPLOST #2 which caused Public Works salaries to be pulled out of TSPLOST #2 and put back in the General Fund. After a lot of work and changes, the proposed budget is revenue neutral. He further advised that the final digest is not available yet but should be by the end of the day. He expects the millage rate to go to just under 6 mills and the special service district mill rate will roll back to zero. The new special tax districts for solid waste and the hospital were discussed; a \$70 fee will generate about \$1.2M.

Comments were made by Howard Sills for Sheriff, Jail, Emergency Management, E911; Thomas McClain for Fire Stations; Terrell Abernathy for Tax Commissioner.

No action was taken.

5. Putnam County Code of Ordinances - Chapter 66 - C-N Neighborhood Commercial District

County Attorney Nelson advised that he has been working on these proposed code changes for months. The purpose is to create a new zoning designation that will provide a break between agriculture or residential zoning and commercial zoning; a lesser commercial zoning. The proposed changes were reviewed. No action was taken.

Closing

6. 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 2:49 PM.

ATTEST:

Lynn Butterworth
County Clerk

B. W. "Bill" Sharp
Chairman