



Blount County Government

359 Court Street
Maryville, TN 37804-5906

Meeting Minutes - Draft

Board of Commissioners

- 1-A Jessica Hannah 865-978-7049 jhannah@blounttn.org
1-B Earl McMahan 865-216-3160 emcmahan@blounttn.org
2-A Mike Akard 865-982-6369 makard@blounttn.org
2-B Dyran Bledsoe 865-806-7091 dbledsoe@blounttn.org
3-A Scott King 865-455-7335 sking@blounttn.org
3-B Mike Caylor 865-323-3143 maylor@blounttn.org
4-A Robbie Bennett 865-806-8869 rbennett@blounttn.org
4-B Dawn Reagan 865-567-5415 dreagan@blounttn.org
4-C John Giles 865-250-0438 jgiles@blounttn.org
5-A Jared Anderson 865-272-9455 janderson@blounttn.org
5-B Rick Carver 865-964-9945 rcarver@blounttn.org
6-A Nick Bright 865-254-0637 nbright@blounttn.org
6-B Misty Davis 865-363-1001 mddavis@blounttn.org
7-A Quentin Caldwell 865-603-3922 qcaldwell@blounttn.org
7-B Staci Martin 865-719-6765 slawhorn@blounttn.org
8-A Brad Bowers 865-659-7711 bbowers@blounttn.org
8-B Jeff Jopling 865-719-9480 jjopling@blounttn.org
9-A Ron French 865-577-8393 rfrench@blounttn.org
9-B Steve Mikels 865-755-6958 smikels@blounttn.org
10-A Linda Webb 865-389-0541 lwebb@blounttn.org
10-B David Wells 865-221-7603 dwells@blounttn.org

Thursday, May 15, 2025

6:00 PM

Blount County Courthouse, Room 430

Live stream via <https://zoom.us/join>

Zoom Meeting ID: 830 5572 9636

Opening by the Sheriff or designated deputy.

ROLL CALL

BE IT REMEMBERED, that the Blount County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, May 15, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. in the Blount County Courthouse of Maryville, Tennessee. Blount County Commission Chairman Jared Anderson called the meeting to order. An electronic roll call was taken by Blount County Clerk Gaye Hasty. There were 18 members present and 3 absent. The Chairman declared that a quorum was present. The following proceedings were held, to wit:

- Present:** 18 - Commissioner Mike Akard, Chairperson Jared Anderson, Commissioner Robbie Bennett, Commissioner Dyran Bledsoe, Commissioner Brad Bowers, Vice Chair Nick Bright, Commissioner Quentin Caldwell, Commissioner Richard Carver, Commissioner Mike Caylor, Commissioner Misty Davis, Commissioner John Giles, Commissioner Jessica Hannah, Commissioner Scott King, Commissioner Staci Martin, Commissioner Earl McMahan, Commissioner Steve Mikels, Commissioner Linda Webb, and Commissioner David Wells
- Absent:** 3 - Commissioner Ron French, Commissioner Jeff Jopling, and Commissioner Dawn Reagan

Welcome and Recognition of Special Guests.**A. SETTING OF AGENDA.**

A motion was made by Vice Chair Bright, seconded by Commissioner Wells, that the agenda be set as published. An electronic vote was taken. The Chairman declared the motion to have passed by the following vote:

Yes: 18 - Akard, Anderson, Bennett, Bledsoe, Bowers, Bright, Caldwell, Carver, Caylor, Davis, Giles, Hannah, King, Martin, McMahan, Mikels, Webb, and Wells

No: 0

Absent: 3 - French, Jopling, and Reagan

Abstain: 0

B. GENERAL CONSENT CALENDAR.

A motion was made by Commissioner Martin, seconded by Commissioner McMahan, that the General Consent Calendar be approved. An electronic vote was taken. The Chairman declared the motion to have passed by the following vote:

Yes: 18 - Akard, Anderson, Bennett, Bledsoe, Bowers, Bright, Caldwell, Carver, Caylor, Davis, Giles, Hannah, King, Martin, McMahan, Mikels, Webb, and Wells

No: 0

Absent: 3 - French, Jopling, and Reagan

Abstain: 0

1. [Resolution No. 25-05-016, A Proclamation Recognizing Pastor Doug White for Interim Pastor Services at Pleasant Grove Baptist Church.](#)

Attachments: [Doug White PGBC Interim Pastor](#)
[Doug White Proclamation](#)

The Chair recognized Commissioner Bowers, who recognized Travis Gardner to read the Proclamation aloud and present it to Pastor Doug White.

2. [Minutes of Regular Commission Meeting on April 17, 2025.](#)

Attachments: [Minutes of Regular Commission Meeting 2025-Apr-17](#)

The minutes were approved.

3. [Approval of Bonds and Oaths.](#)

Attachments: [BONDS AND OATHS RESOLUTION 25-05-011](#)

[Oaths of Deputy Sheriff 2025-May-15](#)

[Notary Public Bonds Oaths 2025-May-15](#)

The Resolution was adopted.

4. [Notaries to be Elected.](#)

Attachments: [Notaries to be Elected 2025-May-15](#)

The notaries were elected.

5. [Receiving of Reports. \(INFORMATION ONLY\)](#)

Attachments: [JailFacilityInspectionReport 2025-Apr-2](#)

[Minutes of Beer Board 2025-Apr-10 Meeting](#)

[Minutes of Budget Committee 2025-Mar-11 Meeting](#)

[Minutes of CARES Committee 2024-Oct-22 Meeting](#)

[Minutes of Education Committee 2025-Mar-04 Meeting](#)

[Tellico Reservoir Annual Report 2024](#)

[Trustee Report March 2025](#)

The reports were received and filed.

6. [April 2025 Financial Reports. \(INFORMATION ONLY\)](#)

Attachments: [ARPA Utility Project Update April 2025](#)

[ARPA Tracking 4.30.25](#)

[FY24.25 Capital Plan Exhibit](#)

[April 2025 Expense Report](#)

[April 2025 Revenue Report](#)

[YTD Expense Report as of April 30, 2025](#)

[YTD Revenue Report as of April 30, 2025](#)

[US Bank Report April 2025](#)

The reports were received and filed.

7. [FY25-26 Budget Recommendation. \(INFORMATION ONLY\)](#)

- a. [FY25-26 Tax Rate Resolution. Referred to full commission with a favorable recommendation by the Budget Committee \(4-0\).](#)

Attachments: [FY25.26 Tax Levy Resolution Recommended](#)
[FY25.26 Tax Levy Exhibit Revenue Report](#)
[FY25.26 Tax Levy Exhibit Revenue Report Capital](#)

The information was received and filed.

- b. [FY25-26 Appropriation Resolution. Referred to full commission with a favorable recommendation by the Budget Committee \(4-0\).](#)

Attachments: [FY25.26 Appropriation Resolution Recommended](#)
[FY25.26 Appropriation Budget Exhibit Recommended](#)
[FY25.26 Appropriation Budget Exhibit Capital Recommended](#)

The information was received and filed.

- c. [FY25-26 Resolution to Establish Capital Outlay Priorities. Referred to full commission with a favorable recommendation by the Budget Committee \(4-0\).](#)

Attachments: [FY25.26 Resolution Capital Outlay Prioritization Resolution Recommended](#)
[FY25.26 Capital Outlay Exhibit](#)

The information was received and filed.

8. [Blount County Fire Protection District Board of Commissioners \(4-Year Term\) Reappointment of Tom Daffron, Seat 2. \(INFORMATION ONLY\)](#)

Attachments: [Fire Protection Appointment 2025-Daffron](#)

The information was received and filed.

C. PUBLIC INPUT ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA.

D. BUDGET CONSENT CALENDAR.

A motion was made by Commissioner Akard, seconded by Commissioner Giles, that the Budget Consent Calendar be adopted. An electronic vote was taken.

The Chairman declared the motion to have passed by the following vote:

Yes: 18 - Akard, Anderson, Bennett, Bledsoe, Bowers, Bright, Caldwell, Carver, Caylor, Davis, Giles, Hannah, King, Martin, McMahan, Mikels, Webb, and Wells

No: 0

Absent: 3 - French, Jopling, and Reagan

Abstain: 0

1. [Resolution No. 25-05-003, Budget Increase – General Services Capital - \\$35,808.00 \(Appropriate funds for the painting of the stairwells at the Blount County Justice Center\). Referred to full commission with a favorable recommendation by the Budget Committee \(4-0\).](#)

Attachments: [Resolution - Gen Svcs Justice Center Stairs paint](#)
[Amendment - Gen Svcs Justice Center Stairs Paint](#)
[Memo - Gen Svcs Justice Center Stairs Paint](#)
[Backup - Gen Svcs Justice Center Stairs quotes](#)

The Resolution was adopted.

E. ELECTIONS, APPOINTMENTS, AND CONFIRMATIONS.

1. [Agriculture Extension Committee \(2-Year Term\) Appointment of Farm Women Salena Waters.](#)

Attachments: [Ag Committee appointment April 2025](#)

A motion was made by Vice Chair Bright, seconded by Commissioner McMahan, that the appointment be approved. An electronic vote was taken. The Chairman declared the motion to have passed by the following vote:

Yes: 18 - Akard, Anderson, Bennett, Bledsoe, Bowers, Bright, Caldwell, Carver, Caylor, Davis, Giles, Hannah, King, Martin, McMahan, Mikels, Webb, and Wells

No: 0

Absent: 3 - French, Jopling, and Reagan

Abstain: 0

2. [Blount County Public Library Board of Trustees \(3-Year Term\) Re-appointment of Shawn Graham.](#)

Attachments: [BCPL trustee applications and resumes for County Commission consideration](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner McMahan, seconded by Commissioner Caldwell, that the reappointment be approved. An electronic vote was taken. The Chairman declared the motion to have passed by the following vote:

Yes: 17 - Akard, Anderson, Bennett, Bledsoe, Bowers, Bright, Caldwell, Carver, Caylor, Davis, Giles, King, Martin, McMahan, Mikels, Webb, and Wells

No: 0

Absent: 3 - French, Jopling, and Reagan

Abstain: 1 - Hannah

3. [Blount County Public Library Board of Trustees \(3-Year Term\) Appointment of 2 Members: Anna Graham \(educational and leadership experience, served on the Director search committee\); Megahn Womack \(fund raising experience\); Kathleen Christy \(retired reference librarian - BCPL\); and Dawn Russell \(educator\).](#)

Attachments: [BCPL trustee applications and resumes for County Commission consideration](#)
[Graham Trustee Info](#)
[Womack Trustee Info](#)
[Christy Trustee Info](#)
[Russell Trustee Info](#)

The Chair opened the floor for nominations of the Blount County Public Library Board of Trustees. A motion was made by Vice Chair Bright, seconded by Commissioner Davis, that the appointments be postponed until the June commission meeting. An electronic vote was taken. The Chairman declared the motion to have passed by the following vote:

Yes: 17 - Akard, Anderson, Bennett, Bledsoe, Bowers, Bright, Caldwell, Carver, Caylor, Davis, Giles, Hannah, King, Martin, McMahan, Mikels, and Webb

No: 1 - Wells

Absent: 3 - French, Jopling, and Reagan

Abstain: 0

4. [Sheriff's Merit Board \(3-Year Term\) Appointment of Troy Galyon to Fill vacancy of Richard Julian.](#)

Attachments: [Galyon Resume](#)
[Blount County Government Mail - FW Galyon Resume](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner Akard, seconded by Commissioner Mikels, that the appointment be approved. An electronic vote was taken. The Chairman declared the motion to have passed by the following vote:

Yes: 18 - Akard, Anderson, Bennett, Bledsoe, Bowers, Bright, Caldwell, Carver, Caylor, Davis, Giles, Hannah, King, Martin, McMahan, Mikels, Webb, and Wells

No: 0

Absent: 3 - French, Jopling, and Reagan

Abstain: 0

F. UNFINISHED BUSINESS.

G. NEW BUSINESS.

1. [Resolution No. 25-05-001, Budget Increase – Schools - \\$2,185,501.60 \(Appropriate funds for the purchase of new science textbooks for grades K through 12\). Referred to full commission with a favorable recommendation by the Budget Committee \(4-0\).](#)

Attachments: [Resolution - Schools Science Text Books](#)
[Amendment - Schools Science Text Books](#)
[Memo - Schools Science Text Books](#)
[Backup - Science Adoption Quotes 2025](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner Martin, seconded by Commissioner Carver, that the Resolution be adopted. An electronic vote was taken. The Chairman declared the motion to have passed by the following vote:

Yes: 18 - Akard, Anderson, Bennett, Bledsoe, Bowers, Bright, Caldwell, Carver, Caylor, Davis, Giles, Hannah, King, Martin, McMahan, Mikels, Webb, and Wells

No: 0

Absent: 3 - French, Jopling, and Reagan

Abstain: 0

2. [Resolution No. 25-05-012, A Resolution Supporting the Dissolution of the Blount County CARES \(Corrections And REcovery Saves\) Committee.](#)

Attachments: [Resolution to Dissolve CARES](#)
[April 22, 2025 CARES Committee Minutes](#)

A motion was made by Vice Chair Bright, seconded by Commissioner Webb, that the Resolution be adopted. An electronic vote was taken. The Chairman declared the motion to have passed by the following vote:

Yes: 18 - Akard, Anderson, Bennett, Bledsoe, Bowers, Bright, Caldwell, Carver, Caylor, Davis, Giles, Hannah, King, Martin, McMahan, Mikels, Webb, and Wells

No: 0

Absent: 3 - French, Jopling, and Reagan

Abstain: 0

3. [Resolution No. 25-05-013, Resolution to Amend the Zoning Map of Blount County, Tennessee, From R-1\(Rural District 1\) to RAC \(Rural Arterial Commercial District\) for a 3.19 Acre Portion of a 5.01 Acre Tract of Land Located at 5202/5204 US Hwy 411 S, Blount County, TN. \(Tax Map 100 Parcel 009.03\)](#)

Attachments: [25-05-013 Resolution 5202 US Hwy 411S](#)
[Request ZPH - R1-RAC 5202-5204 US411S](#)
[Draft Resolution - R1-RAC 5202-5204 US411S](#)
[Report of Action 2025-Mar-27](#)
[Staff Memo - R1-RAC 5202-5204 US411S](#)
[Public Notice for Rezoning - 5202-5204 US Hwy 411S](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner Carver, seconded by Commissioner Giles, that the Resolution be adopted. An electronic vote was taken. The Chairman declared the motion to have passed by the following vote:

Yes: 18 - Akard, Anderson, Bennett, Bledsoe, Bowers, Bright, Caldwell, Carver, Caylor, Davis, Giles, Hannah, King, Martin, McMahan, Mikels, Webb, and Wells

No: 0

Absent: 3 - French, Jopling, and Reagan

Abstain: 0

4. [Resolution No. 25-05-014, A Resolution of the Blount County Commission Requesting a Review of Certain State Laws Related to the Safety of Children by the Tennessee General Assembly.](#)

Attachments: [Criminal Statute Review Resolution](#)

A motion was made by Vice Chair Bright, seconded by Commissioner Giles, that the Resolution be adopted.

A motion was made by Commissioner Caldwell, seconded by Vice Chair Bright, that the Resolution be amended by adding a sixth point under "THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED..." that states, "6. Amending state law to provide more severe punishment for the person or persons that knowingly cover up, allow or fail to report abuse involving children in the school system." An electronic vote was taken. The Chairman declared the motion to have passed by the following vote:

Yes: 18 - Akard, Anderson, Bennett, Bledsoe, Bowers, Bright, Caldwell, Carver, Caylor, Davis, Giles, Hannah, King, Martin, McMahan, Mikels, Webb, and Wells

No: 0

Absent: 3 - French, Jopling, and Reagan

Abstain: 0

An electronic vote was taken that the Resolution be adopted as amended. The Chairman declared the motion to have passed by the following vote:

Yes: 18 - Akard, Anderson, Bennett, Bledsoe, Bowers, Bright, Caldwell, Carver, Caylor, Davis, Giles, Hannah, King, Martin, McMahan, Mikels, Webb, and Wells

No: 0

Absent: 3 - French, Jopling, and Reagan

Abstain: 0

5. [Resolution No. 25-05-015, A Resolution by the Blount County Board of Commissioners Expressing its Extreme Concern, Displeasure, and Disappointment with Local Institutions Regarding Recent Decisions Concerning a Former Teacher's Admitted Crimes Against Children.](#)

Attachments: [Post Dalton Sentencing AMENDED May-08-25](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner Akard, seconded by Commissioner Giles, that the Resolution be adopted

A motion was made by Commissioner Mikels, seconded by Commissioner Carver, that the Resolution be amended by striking the second "BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED..." clause that tasks the county mayor with notifying the other 94 counties in Tennessee of this offense. An electronic vote was taken. The Chairman declared the motion to have passed by the following vote:

Yes: 14 - Anderson, Bennett, Bledsoe, Bowers, Bright, Caldwell, Carver, Caylor, Davis, Martin, McMahan, Mikels, Webb, and Wells

No: 4 - Akard, Giles, Hannah, and King

Absent: 3 - French, Jopling, and Reagan

Abstain: 0

An electronic vote was taken that the Resolution be adopted as amended. The Chairman declared the motion to have passed by the following vote:

Yes: 18 - Akard, Anderson, Bennett, Bledsoe, Bowers, Bright, Caldwell, Carver, Caylor, Davis, Giles, Hannah, King, Martin, McMahan, Mikels, Webb, and Wells

No: 0

Absent: 3 - French, Jopling, and Reagan

Abstain: 0

H. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND STATEMENTS.

I. PUBLIC INPUT ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA.

J. ADJOURNMENT.

The Chairman declared that with no further business and without objection the meeting would be adjourned. Hearing no objection, the Blount County Board of Commissioners, having met in regular session on Thursday, May 15, 2025, adjourned at 7:00 p.m.