



Blount County Government

359 Court Street
Maryville, TN 37804-5906

Meeting Minutes - Draft

Board of Commissioners

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Thursday, August 17, 2023

6:30 PM

Blount County Courthouse, Room 430

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

Zoom Meeting ID: 843 7286 2333

ROLL CALL

BE IT REMEMBERED, that the Blount County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, August 17, 2023, at 6:30 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 were absent. The Chairman declared that a quorum did exist. The following proceedings were held, to wit:

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

A. SETTING OF AGENDA.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bright, seconded by Vice Chair French, that the agenda be set.

A motion was made by Commissioner Stinnett to combine the items as follows: F.3 and F.4; F.5 thru F.9; F.12 and F.13; and F.14 thru F.16. With no objection, the Chairman declared those items to be combined.

An electronic vote was taken to set the agenda. The Chairman declared the motion to have passed by the following vote:

Yes: 18 - Akard, Anderson, Bledsoe, Bowers, Bright, Carver, Caylor, French, Giles, Hannah, King, Martin, McMahan, Mikels, Reagan, Stinnett, Webb, and Wells

No: 0

Absent: 3 - Bennett, Davis, and Jopling

Abstain: 0

B. CONSENT CALENDAR.

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

Yes: 17 - Akard, Anderson, Bledsoe, Bowers, Carver, Caylor, French, Giles, Hannah, King, Martin, McMahan, Mikels, Reagan, Stinnett, Webb, and Wells

No: 0

Absent: 3 - Bennett, Davis, and Jopling

Abstain: 1 - Bright

1. [Update on Transition Facility. \(Information Only\)](#)

The Chairman recognized CARES Committee Chairman Jerry Vagnier to present an update on the transition facility.

The information was received and filed.

2. [Minutes of Regular Commission Meeting on July 20, 2023.](#)

Attachments: [Meeting Minutes 2023-Jul-20](#)

The minutes were approved.

3. [Minutes of Zoning Public Hearing on August 8, 2023.](#)

Attachments: [ZPH Minutes 2023-Aug-08](#)

The minutes were approved.

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

Attachments: [BONDS AND OATHS RESOLUTION 23-08-011](#)
[Oaths of Deputy Sheriff 2023-Aug-17](#)
[Public Officials Bonds 2023-Aug-17](#)
[Notary Public Bonds Oaths 2023-Aug-17](#)

The Resolution was adopted.

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

Attachments: [23-222 Notaries to be Elected 2023-Aug-17](#)

The Notaries were elected.

6. [Receiving of Reports. \(Information Only\)](#)

Attachments: [Minutes of AnimalCenterAdvisoryBoard Meeting 2023-Mar-07](#)
[Minutes of BeerBoard Meeting 2023-June-06](#)
[Minutes of BudgetCommittee Meeting 2023-July-11](#)
[Minutes of HumanResourcesCommittee Meeting 2023-June-06](#)
[Minutes of InsuranceCommittee Meeting 2022-Nov-15](#)
[Minutes of PlanningCommission 2023-June-22](#)
[Minutes of PlanningCommission 2023-May-25](#)
[Perishables Report -Q4 FY23](#)
[Chancery Court FY2023 Financial Report](#)
[Trustee Report July 2023](#)
[Trustee FY2023 Financial Report](#)

The reports were received and filed.

7. [July 2023 Financial Reports. \(Information Only\)](#)

Attachments: [ARPA Utility Project Update July 2023](#)
[ARPA Tracking 7.31.23](#)
[FY23.24 Capital Exhibit](#)
[July 2023 Expense Report](#)
[July 2023 Revenue Report](#)
[YTD Expense Report as of July 31 2023](#)
[YTD Revenue Report as of July 31 2023](#)
[US BANK REPORT JULY 2023](#)

The reports were received and filed.

8. [Tennessee Comptroller of the Treasury letter of acknowledgement in receipt of the certified copy of the fiscal year 2024 budget. \(Information Only\)](#)

Attachments: [Blount County Budget-County Metro Letter 07-21-2023](#)

The information was received and filed.

C. PUBLIC INPUT ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA.

D. ELECTIONS, APPOINTMENTS, AND CONFIRMATIONS.

1. [Confirmation of Mayoral Appointment for Blount County Purchasing Agent Charles Rafford.](#)

Attachments: [Appointment of Charles Rafford Memo 2023](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner Carver, seconded by Commissioner Giles, 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, Bledsoe, Bowers, Bright, Carver, Caylor, French, Giles, Hannah, King, Martin, McMahan, Mikels, Reagan, Stinnett, Webb, and Wells

No: 0

Absent: 3 - Bennett, Davis, and Jopling

Abstain: 0

E. UNFINISHED BUSINESS.

F. NEW BUSINESS.

1. [Resolution No. 23-08-001. Budget Increase - County Buildings - \\$32,500.00 \(Appropriate Capital funds to hire roofing engineer for roof replacement for probation and recovery court building\). Referred to full commission with a favorable recommendation by the Budget Committee \(5-0\).](#)

Attachments: [Resolution County Bldgs Probation Roof2](#)
[Amendment County Bldgs Probation Roof](#)
[Memo County Bldgs Probation Roof Budget](#)

[Background Roof Specification Design and Project Monitoring - Probation \(2\)](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner Akard, 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, Bledsoe, Bowers, Bright, Carver, Caylor, French, Giles, Hannah, King, Martin, McMahan, Mikels, Reagan, Stinnett, Webb, and Wells

No: 0

Absent: 3 - Bennett, Davis, and Jopling

Abstain: 0

2. [Resolution No. 23-08-002. Budget Increase - Elections - \\$14,600.00 \(Appropriate general county fund balance to support legislative change to voting machines; update ballot scanners and renew maintenance agreements.\) These expenses are reimbursable by the state. Referred to full commission with a favorable recommendation by the Budget Committee \(5-0\).](#)

Attachments: [Resolution Elections Ofc Supplies & Maintenance Agreements](#)
[Amendment Elections - Ofc Supplies & Main Agree](#)
[Memo Elections - Ofc Supplies & Main Agree](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner Reagan, seconded by Commissioner Akard, 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, Bledsoe, Bowers, Bright, Carver, Caylor, French, Giles, Hannah, King, Martin, McMahan, Mikels, Reagan, Stinnett, Webb, and Wells

No: 0

Absent: 3 - Bennett, Davis, and Jopling

Abstain: 0

3. [Resolution No. 23-08-003. Budget Increase - Schools - \\$300,000.00 \(Appropriate education capital funds for contingency allowances on capital projects\). Referred to full commission with a favorable recommendation by the Budget Committee \(5-0\).](#)

Attachments: [Resolution 177 Schools Contingencies](#)
[Amendment 177 Schools Contingencies](#)
[Memo 177 Schools Contingencies](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Commissioner Akard, that the Resolutions in items F.3 and F.4 be adopted. An electronic vote was taken. The Chairman declared the motion to have passed by the following vote:

Yes: 18 - Akard, Anderson, Bledsoe, Bowers, Bright, Carver, Caylor, French, Giles, Hannah, King, Martin, McMahan, Mikels, Reagan, Stinnett, Webb, and Wells

No: 0

Absent: 3 - Bennett, Davis, and Jopling

Abstain: 0

4. [Resolution No. 23-08-004. Budget Increase - Schools - \\$53,000.00 \(Appropriate education capital funds for roof design, bid specifications, and consultation oversight of new roof for Friendsville and Walland Elementary gymnasiums\). Referred to full commission with a favorable recommendation by the Budget Committee \(5-0\).](#)

Attachments: [Resolution 177 Schools Roof Architect Fville and Walland gyms](#)
[Amendment 177 Schools Roof Architect Fville & Walland gyms](#)
[Memo 177 Schools Roof Architect Fville & Walland gyms](#)

This Resolution was combined with item F.3 at the setting of agenda and was adopted.

5. [Resolution No. 23-08-005. Budget Increase - Highway - \\$32,208.00 \(Appropriate Insurance recovery funds to repair the traffic signal at Big Springs and William Blount Roads\). Referred to full commission with a favorable recommendation by the Budget Committee \(5-0\).](#)

Attachments: [Resolution-Hwy Ins Recovery Funds](#)
[Amendment hwy Ins Recovery Funds](#)
[Memo-Hwy Ins Recovery Funds](#)
[Backup-Hwy Ins Recovery Funds](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner Carver, seconded by Vice Chair French, that the Resolutions in items F.5, F.6, F.7, F.8 and F.9 be adopted.

A motion was made by Commissioner Akard to vote on item F.7 separately. There was no objection.

An electronic vote was taken to adopt items F.5, F.6, F.8 and F.9. The Chairman declared the motion to have passed by the following vote:

Yes: 18 - Akard, Anderson, Bledsoe, Bowers, Bright, Carver, Caylor, French, Giles, Hannah, King, Martin, McMahan, Mikels, Reagan, Stinnett, Webb, and Wells

No: 0

Absent: 3 - Bennett, Davis, and Jopling

Abstain: 0

6. [Resolution No. 23-08-006. Budget Increase - Highway - \\$58,036.98 \(Appropriate highway capital funds for two road message boards for upcoming highway projects\). Referred to full commission with a favorable recommendation by the Budget Committee \(5-0\).](#)

Attachments: [Resolution-Hwy Message Boards](#)
[Amendment-Hwy Message Boards](#)
[Memo-Hwy Message Boards](#)

This Resolution was combined with item F.5 at the setting of agenda and was adopted.

7. [Resolution No. 23-08-007. Budget Increase - Highway - \\$1,000,000.00 \(Appropriate Multimodal grant awarded funds to continue design phase for the walking trail from Helton Road to Melrose Bridge; project requires 5% match\). Referred to full commission with a favorable recommendation by the Budget Committee \(4-1\).](#)

Attachments: [Resolution-Hwy Multimodal Grant for Walking Trail](#)
[Amendment-Hwy Multimodal Grant Walking Trail](#)
[Memo-Hwy Multimodal Grant Walking Trail](#)
[Multimodal Approval from Commission](#)

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

Yes: 13 - Anderson, Bledsoe, Carver, Caylor, French, Giles, Martin, McMahan, Mikels, Reagan, Stinnett, Webb, and Wells

No: 5 - Akard, Bowers, Bright, Hannah, and King

Absent: 3 - Bennett, Davis, and Jopling

Abstain: 0

8. [Resolution No. 23-08-008. Budget Increase - Highway - \\$43,713.20 \(Appropriate highway capital fund balance for a set of automatic signal lights to support upcoming highway projects\). Referred to full commission with a favorable recommendation by the Budget Committee \(5-0\).](#)

Attachments: [Resolution-Hwy Signal Lights](#)
[Amendment-Hwy Signal Lights](#)
[Memo-Hwy Signal Lights](#)

This Resolution was combined with item F.5 at the setting of agenda and was adopted.

9. [Resolution No. 23-08-009. Budget Increase - Highway - \\$3,763,642.40 \(Re-appropriate the use of highway capital fund balance from FY23 to FY24 for ongoing highway projects and previously approved equipment purchases\). Referred to full commission with a favorable recommendation by the Budget Committee \(5-0\).](#)

Attachments: [Resolution-Hwy Reappropriate Projects](#)
[Amendment Hwy Reappropriate Projects](#)
[Memo-Hwy Reappropriate Projects](#)

This Resolution was combined with item F.5 at the setting of agenda and was adopted.

10. [Resolution No. 23-08-010. To authorize a two-dollar filing fee for documents filed electronically in the Register of Deeds' Office in Blount County, Tennessee. Referred to full commission with a favorable recommendation by the Budget Committee \(5-0\).](#)

Attachments: [Resolution 23_08_010 Reg of Deeds ROD Efile fee Resolution](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner Reagan, seconded by Vice Chair French, 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, Bledsoe, Bowers, Bright, Carver, Caylor, French, Giles, Hannah, King, Martin, McMahan, Mikels, Reagan, Stinnett, Webb, and Wells

No: 0

Absent: 3 - Bennett, Davis, and Jopling

Abstain: 0

11. [Resolution No. 23-08-012, A Resolution that Approves Blount County, Tennessee, Human Resources Department Agreements that Extend Beyond the End of the Fiscal Year Term.](#)

Attachments: [Resolution for HR Agmts extending beyond FY - 8.17.23](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner Giles, 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, Bledsoe, Bowers, Bright, Carver, Caylor, French, Giles, Hannah, King, Martin, McMahan, Mikels, Reagan, Stinnett, Webb, and Wells

No: 0

Absent: 3 - Bennett, Davis, and Jopling

Abstain: 0

12. [Resolution No. 23-08-013, A Resolution to Adopt the Medical Premium Rate Structure for Blount County, Tennessee, Effective January 1, 2024. Referred to full commission with a favorable recommendation by the Insurance Committee \(4-0\).](#)

Attachments: [RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE MEDICAL PREMIUM RATE STRUCTURE FOR 2024](#)
[Minutes of Insurance Committee 2023-Jul-18](#)
[Minutes of HR Committee 2023-Jul-18](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Commissioner Akard, that the Resolutions in items F.12 and F.13 be adopted. An electronic vote was taken. The Chairman declared the motion to have passed by the following vote:

Yes: 17 - Akard, Anderson, Bledsoe, Bowers, Bright, Carver, Caylor, French, Giles, Hannah, King, Martin, McMahan, Mikels, Stinnett, Webb, and Wells

No: 0

Absent: 3 - Bennett, Davis, and Jopling

Abstain: 1 - Reagan

13. [Resolution No. 23-08-014, A Resolution to Adopt the Dental Premium Rate Structure for Blount County, Tennessee, Effective January 1, 2024. Referred to full commission with a favorable recommendation by the Insurance Committee \(4-0\).](#)

Attachments: [RESOLUTION APPROVING THE DENTAL PREMIUM RATE STRUCTURE EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2024](#)
[Minutes of Insurance Committee 2023-Jul-18](#)
[Minutes of HR Committee 2023-Jul-18](#)

This Resolution was combined with item F.12 at the setting of agenda and was adopted.

14. [Resolution No. 23-08-015, A Resolution Amending the Blount County, Tennessee, Employee Handbook. Referred to full commission with a favorable recommendation by the Human Resources Committee \(11-0\).](#)

Attachments: [A RESOLUTION AMENDING THE BLOUNT COUNTY TN EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK 2023](#)
[Exhibit A - BCG Handbook 2023](#)
[Summary of Proposed Changes to the Blount County Handbook](#)
[Minutes of HR Committee 2023-Jul-18](#)

A motion was made by Vice Chair French, seconded by Commissioner Carver, that the Resolutions in items F.14, F.15 and F.16 be adopted. An electronic vote was taken. The Chairman declared the motion to have passed by the following vote:

Yes: 18 - Akard, Anderson, Bledsoe, Bowers, Bright, Carver, Caylor, French, Giles, Hannah, King, Martin, McMahan, Mikels, Reagan, Stinnett, Webb, and Wells

No: 0

Absent: 3 - Bennett, Davis, and Jopling

Abstain: 0

15. [Resolution No. 23-08-016, A Resolution Amending the Highway Department's Addendum to the Blount County, Tennessee, Handbook. Referred to full commission with a favorable recommendation by the Human Resources Committee \(10-0\).](#)

Attachments: [A RESOLUTION AMENDING THE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT'S ADDENDUM TO THE BLOUNT COUNTY, TN HANDBOOK](#)
[Exhibit A - BC Highway Dept Handbook Addendum \(1\)](#)
[Summary of Proposed Changes to the BCHD Supplemental Handbook \(1\)](#)
[Minutes of HR Committee 2023-Jul-18](#)

This Resolution was combined with item F.14 at the setting of agenda and was adopted.

16. [Resolution No. 23-08-017, A Resolution Amending the Blount County Sheriff's Office Employee Policy and Procedure Manual. Referred to full commission with a favorable recommendation by the Human Resources Committee \(10-0\).](#)

Attachments: [A RESOLUTION AMENDING THE BLOUNT COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE EMPLOYEE POLICY AND PROCEDURE MANUAL](#)
[Exhibit A - BCSO HR Manual 2023](#)
[Summary of Proposed Changes to the Blount County Sheriff's Office Employee Handbook](#)
[Minutes of HR Committee 2023-Jul-18](#)

This Resolution was combined with item F.14 at the setting of agenda and was adopted.

17. [Resolution No. 23-08-018, A Resolution to Amend the Zoning Resolution of Blount County, Tennessee by Modifying Article 7 to Add a New Section Which Further Defines and Regulates Cluster Development.](#)

Attachments: [23-08-018 RESOLUTION 7.20 cluster development - FINAL](#)
[Cluster7.20draft to CC_052523](#)
[NOTICE OF ZONING PUBLIC HEARING 2023-AUG-08](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner Bright, 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, Bledsoe, Bowers, Bright, Carver, Caylor, French, Giles, Hannah, King, Martin, McMahan, Mikels, Reagan, Stinnett, Webb, and Wells

No: 0

Absent: 3 - Bennett, Davis, and Jopling

Abstain: 0

G. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND STATEMENTS.

H. PUBLIC INPUT ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA.

I. ADJOURNMENT.

The Chairman declared the meeting to be adjourned. The Blount County Board of Commissioners having met in regular session on Thursday, August 17, 2023, adjourned at 7:24 p.m.