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 mcaylor@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, November 20, 2025 **6:00 PM** **Blount County Courthouse, Room 430**

ROLL CALL

BE IT REMEMBERED, that the Blount County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, November 20, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. in the Blount County Courthouse of Maryville, Tennessee. The meeting was called to order by Blount County Commission Chairman Jared Anderson. An electronic roll call was taken by Blount County Clerk Gaye Hasty. There were 20 members present, and 1 absent. The Chairman declared that a quorum was present. The following proceedings were held, to wit:

Present: 20 - Commissioner Mike Akard, Commissioner Jared Anderson, Commissioner Robbie Bennett, Commissioner Dyran Bledsoe, Commissioner Brad Bowers, Commissioner Nick Bright, Commissioner Quentin Caldwell, Commissioner Richard Carver, Commissioner Mike Caylor, Commissioner Misty Davis, Commissioner Ron French, Commissioner John Giles, Commissioner Jessica Hannah, Commissioner Jeff Jopling, Commissioner Scott King, Commissioner Staci Martin, Commissioner Earl McMahan, Commissioner Dawn Reagan, Commissioner Linda Webb, and Commissioner David Wells

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Steve Mikels

A. SETTING OF AGENDA.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bright, seconded by Commissioner Martin, that the agenda be set.

Commissioner Akard requested that Budget Consent Calendar items D.1, D.2, and D.3. be removed from the Budget Consent Calendar for individual consideration. The Chairman declared those items would be individually considered from the Budget Consent Calendar.

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

Yes: 20 - Akard, Anderson, Bennett, Bledsoe, Bowers, Bright, Caldwell, Carver, Caylor, Davis, French, Giles, Hannah, Jopling, King, Martin, McMahan, Reagan, Webb, and Wells

No: 0

Absent: 1 - Mikels

Abstain: 0

B. GENERAL CONSENT CALENDAR.

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

Yes: 20 - Akard, Anderson, Bennett, Bledsoe, Bowers, Bright, Caldwell, Carver, Caylor, Davis, French, Giles, Hannah, Jopling, King, Martin, McMahan, Reagan, Webb, and Wells

No: 0

Absent: 1 - Mikels

Abstain: 0

1. Minutes of Commission in Regular Session on October 16, 2025.

Attachments: 2058_M_Board_of_Commissioners_25-10-16_Meeting_Minutes

The minutes were approved.

2. Minutes of Commission in Called Session on October 9, 2025.

Attachments: Called Commission Meeting Minutes 2025-Oct-9

The minutes were approved.

3. Approval of Bonds and Oaths.

Attachments: BONDS AND OATHS RESOLUTION 25-11-011
Oath of Deputy Sheriff 2025-Nov-20
Notary Public Bonds and Oaths 2025-Nov-20

The Resolution was adopted.

4. Notaries to be Elected.

Attachments: Notaries to be Elected 2025-Nov-20

The notaries were elected.

5. Receiving of Reports. (INFORMATION ONLY)

Attachments: Minutes of Beer Board 2025-Sep-18
Minutes of Budget Committee 2025-Sep-11
Minutes of Planning Commission 2025-Aug-28
Minutes of Planning Commission 2025-Sep-25
Trustee Monthly Report September 2025

The reports were received and filed.

6. October 2025 Financial Reports. (INFORMATION ONLY)

Attachments: ARPA Utility Project Update October 2025
ARPA Tracking 10.31.25
FY25.26 Proposed Capital Plan
October 2025 Expense Report
October 2025 Revenue Report
YTD Expense Report as of October 31, 2025
YTD Revenue Report as of October 31, 2025
U S Bank Report October 2025

The reports were received and filed.

7. Blount County Fire Protection District Board of Commissioners Interim Appointment of Jerry Phillips, Seat 1. (INFORMATION ONLY)

Attachments: BCFPD Seat 1 Appt of Jerry Phillips

The mayoral appointment was received and filed.

8. Blount County Fire Protection District Board of Commissioners Interim Appointment of Tom Daffron, Seat 2. (INFORMATION ONLY)

Attachments: BCFPD Seat 2 Appt of Tom Daffron

The mayoral appointment was received and filed.

C. PUBLIC INPUT ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA.

D. BUDGET CONSENT CALENDAR.

Commissioner Reagan requested that item D.5 be considered individually. The Chairman declared the item would be removed from the Budget Consent Calendar and individually considered.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hannah, seconded by Commissioner Giles, that the Budget Consent Calendar items D.4, D.6, D.7, and D.8 be adopted. An electronic vote was taken. The Chairman declared the motion to have passed by the following vote:

Yes: 20 - Akard, Anderson, Bennett, Bledsoe, Bowers, Bright, Caldwell, Carver, Caylor, Davis, French, Giles, Hannah, Jopling, King, Martin, McMahan, Reagan, Webb, and Wells

No: 0

Absent: 1 - Mikels

Abstain: 0

1. Resolution No. 25-11-005, Budget Increase – Schools - $71,500.00 (Appropriate Education Capital funds for a full depth parking lot replacement at William Blount High School.) Referred to full commission with a favorable recommendation by the Budget Committee (5-0).

Attachments: Resolution - WBHS Parking Lot

Amendment - WBHS Parking Lot

Memo - WBHS Parking Lot

Backup - WBHS Parking Lot

A motion was made by Commissioner Bright, 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: 20 - Akard, Anderson, Bennett, Bledsoe, Bowers, Bright, Caldwell, Carver, Caylor, Davis, French, Giles, Hannah, Jopling, King, Martin, McMahan, Reagan, Webb, and Wells

No: 0

Absent: 1 - Mikels

Abstain: 0

2. Resolution No. 25-11-006, Budget Increase – Schools - $71,472.00 (Appropriate Education Capital funds to conduct feasibility study on the property located directly across from Walland Elementary School.) Referred to full commission with a favorable recommendation by the Budget Committee (5-0).

Attachments: Resolution - WES Feasibility Study
Amendment - WES Feasibility Study
Memo - WES Feasibility Study
Backup - WES Feasibility Study

A motion was made by Commissioner Davis, 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: 20 - Akard, Anderson, Bennett, Bledsoe, Bowers, Bright, Caldwell, Carver, Caylor, Davis, French, Giles, Hannah, Jopling, King, Martin, McMahan, Reagan, Webb, and Wells

No: 0

Absent: 1 - Mikels

Abstain: 0

3. Resolution No. 25-11-007, Budget Adjustment – Emergency Management - $31,000.00 (Adjust EMA Grant funding for the State Homeland Security Program Grant to match increased amount expected to be received.) Referred to full commission with a favorable recommendation by the Budget Committee (5-0).

Attachments: Resolution - State Homeland Security Program Grant
Amendment - State Homeland Security Program Grant
Memo - State Homeland Security Program Grant
Grant Worksheet - State Homeland Security Program Grant
Backup - State Homeland Security Program Grant

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

Yes: 20 - Akard, Anderson, Bennett, Bledsoe, Bowers, Bright, Caldwell, Carver, Caylor, Davis, French, Giles, Hannah, Jopling, King, Martin, McMahan, Reagan, Webb, and Wells

No: 0

Absent: 1 - Mikels

Abstain: 0

4. Resolution No. 25-11-008, Budget Increase – Schools - $29,000.00 (Appropriate Education Capital funds to purchase a vehicle for the Family Resource Center.) Referred to full commission with a favorable recommendation by the Budget Committee (5-0).

Attachments: Resolution - FRC Vehicle
Amendment - FRC Vehicle
Memo - FRC Vehicle
Backup - FRC Vehicle

The Resolution was adopted.

5. Resolution No. 25-11-009, Budget Increase - Schools - $21,000.00 (Appropriate general purpose school funds to transfer to Blount County Government for interim CFO services.) Referred to full commission with a favorable recommendation by the Budget Committee (5-0).

Attachments: Resolution - Temporary CFO Supplement
Amendment - Temporary CFO Supplement
Memo - Temporary CFO Supplement

A motion was made by Commissioner McMahan, seconded by Commissioner French, that the Resolution be adopted.

A motion was made by Commissioner King to amend the Resolution by increasing the amount from $21,000.00 to $60,000.00. Commissioner French raised a point of order, stating that the motion was out of order because the proposed amendment would need to be referred back to the School Board for consideration. The Chairman ruled the point of order well taken. There was no objection to the ruling of the Chairman.

An electronic vote was taken to adopt the Resolution as presented. The Chairman declared the motion to have passed by the following vote:

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

No: 2 - Bowers, and Reagan

Absent: 1 - Mikels

Abstain: 0

6. Resolution No. 25-11-010, Budget Increase – BCSO - $17,471.99 (Appropriate Insurance recovery funds for a Sheriff's Office vehicle that was involved in an accident) Referred to full commission with a favorable recommendation by the Budget Committee (5-0).

Attachments: Resolution- BCSO Insurance Recovery Check
Amendment - BCSO Insurance Recovery Check
Memo - BCSO Insurance Recovery Check
Backup - BCSO Insurance Recovery Check

The Resolution was adopted.

7. Resolution No. 25-11-013, Budget Increase – BCSO - $14,953.50 (Appropriate FY26 Tennessee Corrections Institute Equipment Grant for Training Equipment.) Referred to full commission with a favorable recommendation by the Budget Committee (5-0).

Attachments: Resolution - TCI Grant
Amendment - TCI Grant
Memo - TCI Grant
Grant Worksheet - TCI Grant
Grant Scope - TCI Grant

The Resolution was adopted.

8. Resolution No. 25-11-014, Budget Increase – Schools - $9,800.00 (Appropriate Education Capital funds to install new chain-link fence around the pre-k playground at Porter Elementary School.) Referred to full commission with a favorable recommendation by the Budget Committee (5-0).

Attachments: Resolution - Porter Playground Fence
Amendment - Porter Playground Fence
Memo - Porter Playground Fence
Backup - Porter Playground Fence

The Resolution was adopted.

E. ELECTIONS, APPOINTMENTS, AND CONFIRMATIONS.

1. Veterans Affairs Committee (4-Year Term) Re-appointment of Commander Frank C. Kusiowski, Jr., AMVETS Post 22 Representative.

Attachments: Blount County Veterans Affairs Committee - Frank Kusiowski Jr.

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

Yes: 20 - Akard, Anderson, Bennett, Bledsoe, Bowers, Bright, Caldwell, Carver, Caylor, Davis, French, Giles, Hannah, Jopling, King, Martin, McMahan, Reagan, Webb, and Wells

No: 0

Absent: 1 - Mikels

Abstain: 0

2. BCSO Corrections Disciplinary Review Board (2-Year Term) Appointments of: Lt. Sam Hall (primary), Deputy Joey Maus, Chris Cantrell, Capt. Chuck Garner, Investigator Ashley Wilson, and Deputy Reyburn Angus.

Attachments: BCSO Corrections Disciplinary Review Board Memo

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

Yes: 20 - Akard, Anderson, Bennett, Bledsoe, Bowers, Bright, Caldwell, Carver, Caylor, Davis, French, Giles, Hannah, Jopling, King, Martin, McMahan, Reagan, Webb, and Wells

No: 0

Absent: 1 - Mikels

Abstain: 0

3. Planning Commission (4-Year Term) Appointment of Josh Sullins.

Attachments: Planning Commission Recommendation Memo Re Josh Sullins 2029-Oct-31

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

Yes: 20 - Akard, Anderson, Bennett, Bledsoe, Bowers, Bright, Caldwell, Carver, Caylor, Davis, French, Giles, Hannah, Jopling, King, Martin, McMahan, Reagan, Webb, and Wells

No: 0

Absent: 1 - Mikels

Abstain: 0

F. UNFINISHED BUSINESS.

G. NEW BUSINESS.

1. Resolution No. 25-11-001, Budget Increase – Schools - $2,625,300.00 (Appropriate Education Capital funds to replace the roof at Heritage Middle School.) Referred to full commission with a favorable recommendation by the Budget Committee (5-0).

Attachments: Resolution - HMS Roof Replacement
Amendment - HMS Roof Replacement
Memo - HMS Roof Replacement

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

Yes: 20 - Akard, Anderson, Bennett, Bledsoe, Bowers, Bright, Caldwell, Carver, Caylor, Davis, French, Giles, Hannah, Jopling, King, Martin, McMahan, Reagan, Webb, and Wells

No: 0

Absent: 1 - Mikels

Abstain: 0

2. Resolution No. 25-11-002, Budget Increase – Various Departments - $644,152.00 (Re-appropriate general county funds from prior year to support ongoing Capital projects.) Referred to full commission with a favorable recommendation by the Budget Committee (5-0).

Attachments: Resolution - County Reappropriations
Amendment - County Reappropriations
Memo - Stock Creek Roads Reappropriations
Memo - County Clerk Data Processing Equipment

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: 20 - Akard, Anderson, Bennett, Bledsoe, Bowers, Bright, Caldwell, Carver, Caylor, Davis, French, Giles, Hannah, Jopling, King, Martin, McMahan, Reagan, Webb, and Wells

No: 0

Absent: 1 - Mikels

Abstain: 0

3. Resolution No. 25-11-003, Budget Increase - Schools - $464,300.00 (Appropriate general purpose school funds due to the decrease in state funding to meet mandated occupational and physical therapy services to special education students.) Referred to full commission with a favorable recommendation by the Budget Committee (5-0).

Attachments: Resolution - SPED OT-PT & Residential Care
Amendment - SPED OT-PT & Residential Care
Memo - SPED OT-PT & Residential Care
Backup - SPED OT-PT & Residential Care

A motion was made by Commissioner Akard, 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: 20 - Akard, Anderson, Bennett, Bledsoe, Bowers, Bright, Caldwell, Carver, Caylor, Davis, French, Giles, Hannah, Jopling, King, Martin, McMahan, Reagan, Webb, and Wells

No: 0

Absent: 1 - Mikels

Abstain: 0

4. Resolution No. 25-11-004, Budget Increase – Schools - $336,976.78 (Appropriate Tennessee State Special Education grant funds to provide special education and related services to preschool students with disabilities.) Referred to full commission with a favorable recommendation by the Budget Committee (5-0).

Attachments: Resolution - State Special Education Grant
Amendment - State Special Education Grant
Memo - State Special Education Grant
Backup - State Special Education Grant

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

Yes: 20 - Akard, Anderson, Bennett, Bledsoe, Bowers, Bright, Caldwell, Carver, Caylor, Davis, French, Giles, Hannah, Jopling, King, Martin, McMahan, Reagan, Webb, and Wells

No: 0

Absent: 1 - Mikels

Abstain: 0

5. Resolution No. 25-11-015, Budget Decrease – Schools - $836,565.87 (Decrease budget to align with the state budget for the Innovative School Model Grant.) Referred to full commission with a favorable recommendation by the Budget Committee (5-0).

Attachments: Resolution - ISM Grant Decrease

Amendment - ISM Grant Decrease

Memo - ISM Grant Decrease

Backup - ISM Grant Decrease

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

Yes: 20 - Akard, Anderson, Bennett, Bledsoe, Bowers, Bright, Caldwell, Carver, Caylor, Davis, French, Giles, Hannah, Jopling, King, Martin, McMahan, Reagan, Webb, and Wells

No: 0

Absent: 1 - Mikels

Abstain: 0

6. Resolution No. 25-11-012, Resolution to Authorize a $12.50 Charge by the Clerk of Every Court in Blount County Having Jurisdiction of State Misdemeanors and Felonies for the Purposes Authorized and Set Out in T.C.A. § 40-3-106.

Attachments: Resolution for DA to Collect 12.50

Request for Approval to Collect 12.50 Fund as Authorized in PubCh 369

Public Chapter 360 TCA 40-3-106 12.50 Fee

A motion was made by Commissioner Akard, 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: 20 - Akard, Anderson, Bennett, Bledsoe, Bowers, Bright, Caldwell, Carver, Caylor, Davis, French, Giles, Hannah, Jopling, King, Martin, McMahan, Reagan, Webb, and Wells

No: 0

Absent: 1 - Mikels

Abstain: 0

7. Resolution No. 25-11-016, A Resolution That Approves Blount County Human Resources Department Agreements That Extend Beyond the End of the Fiscal Year Term.

Attachments: Resolution for HR Agmts extending beyond FY - 11.2025_with Sponsors

A motion was made by Commissioner Davis, 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: 20 - Akard, Anderson, Bennett, Bledsoe, Bowers, Bright, Caldwell, Carver, Caylor, Davis, French, Giles, Hannah, Jopling, King, Martin, McMahan, Reagan, Webb, and Wells

No: 0

Absent: 1 - Mikels

Abstain: 0

8. Resolution No. 25-11-017, A Resolution of the Blount County Commission to Support the Designation of the Army National Guard Armory, Located on U.S. Highway 321 in Maryville, Tennessee, as the "William O. Gregory Army National Guard Armory".

Attachments: Resolution for William O. Gregory Army National Guard Armory

GREGORY Picture

GREGORY Obituary

GREGORY Empty Pantry

Amended Resolution for CSM William O Gregory Army National Guard Armory

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Bright that the Resolution be amended to add "CSM" in front of "William" throughout the Resolution. With unanimous consent, the Chairman declared the Resolution to be amended.

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

Yes: 20 - Akard, Anderson, Bennett, Bledsoe, Bowers, Bright, Caldwell, Carver, Caylor, Davis, French, Giles, Hannah, Jopling, King, Martin, McMahan, Reagan, Webb, and Wells

No: 0

Absent: 1 - Mikels

Abstain: 0

9. Resolution No. 25-11-018, A Resolution to Add Members to the Blount 250 Committee.

Attachments: Resolution Add Members to Blount 250 Committee

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

Yes: 20 - Akard, Anderson, Bennett, Bledsoe, Bowers, Bright, Caldwell, Carver, Caylor, Davis, French, Giles, Hannah, Jopling, King, Martin, McMahan, Reagan, Webb, and Wells

No: 0

Absent: 1 - Mikels

Abstain: 0

10. Resolution No. 25-11-019, A Resolution of the Blount County Commission Urging Review and Corrective Action Regarding the Blount County Fire Protection District.

Attachments: Resolution Regarding BCFPD

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

Yes: 20 - Akard, Anderson, Bennett, Bledsoe, Bowers, Bright, Caldwell, Carver, Caylor, Davis, French, Giles, Hannah, Jopling, King, Martin, McMahan, Reagan, Webb, and Wells

No: 0

Absent: 1 - Mikels

Abstain: 0

11. Setting of a Zoning Public Hearing to Amend Section 7.20.C of the Zoning Regulations Specific to the Open Space Requirement of Cluster Developments.

Attachments: Memo to Amend Zoning Reg 7.20.c Open Space Requirement of Cluster Developments
Draft Resolution to Amend Zoning Reg 7.20.c Open Space Requirement of Cluster Developments
Planning Commission Minutes 2025-Mar-27 to Amend Zoning Reg 7.20.c Open Space Requirement of Cluster Developments
Alcoa Regional Planning Commission PC Resolution 2025-13 Adopted 2025-May-15
Planning Commission Minutes 2025-Oct-23 to Amend Zoning Reg 7.20.c Open Space Requirement of Cluster Developments
Alcoa Regional Planning Commission PC Resolution 2026-04 Adopted 2025-Sep-18

A motion was made by Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner Carver, that the Zoning Public Hearing be set for Thursday, January 8, 2026 at 5:30 p.m. An electronic vote was taken. The Chairman declared the motion to have passed by the following vote:

Yes: 20 - Akard, Anderson, Bennett, Bledsoe, Bowers, Bright, Caldwell, Carver, Caylor, Davis, French, Giles, Hannah, Jopling, King, Martin, McMahan, Reagan, Webb, and Wells

No: 0

Absent: 1 - Mikels

Abstain: 0

H. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND STATEMENTS.

I. PUBLIC INPUT ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA.

J. ADJOURNMENT.

There being no further business and hearing no objection, the Chairman declared the meeting to be adjourned. The Board of Commissioners, having convened in regular session on Thursday, November 20, 2025, adjourned at 7:04 p.m.