



Blount County Government

359 Court Street
Maryville, TN 37804-5906

Meeting Minutes - Draft

Board of Commissioners

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Thursday, April 16, 2026

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, April 16, 2026 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 Chief of Staff Brad Bryant. There were 21 members present and none were absent. The Chairman declared that a quorum was present. The following proceedings were held, to wit:

Present: 21 - 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 Steve Mikels, Commissioner Dawn Reagan, Commissioner Linda Webb, and Commissioner David Wells

A. SETTING OF AGENDA.

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

With no objection the Chairman declared that Resolution No. 26-04-019, "A Resolution of the Blount County Commission Requesting the Budget Committee to Prepare a Budget with a Tax Rate Based on the Certified Rate" would be added to the agenda. There was no objection.

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

Yes: 21 - Akard, Anderson, Bennett, Bledsoe, Bowers, Bright, Caldwell, Carver, Caylor, Davis, French, Giles, Hannah, Jopling, King, Martin, McMahan, Mikels, Reagan, Webb, and Wells

No: 0

Abstain: 0

B. GENERAL CONSENT CALENDAR.

A motion was made by Commissioner Martin, seconded by Commissioner Giles, 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: 21 - Akard, Anderson, Bennett, Bledsoe, Bowers, Bright, Caldwell, Carver, Caylor, Davis, French, Giles, Hannah, Jopling, King, Martin, McMahan, Mikels, Reagan, Webb, and Wells

No: 0

Abstain: 0

1. [Resolution No. 26-04-012, A Proclamation Honoring the Alcoa High School Graduating Class of 2026 for Their Accomplishment in Scoring a 30 or Above on the ACT.](#)

Attachments: [26-04-012 AHSrClass2026ResProclamation](#)

The Proclamation was presented by full commission and read out loud by Commissioner Reagan and Commissioner Bledsoe.

2. [Resolution No. 26-04-013, A Proclamation Honoring the Eagleton College & Career Academy Graduating Class of 2026 for Their Accomplishment in Scoring a 30 or Above on the ACT.](#)

Attachments: [ECCA 2026 Senior Class ACT Proclamation](#)

The Proclamation was presented by full commission and read out loud by Commissioner Jopling.

3. [Resolution No. 26-04-014, A Proclamation Honoring the Heritage High School Graduating Class of 2026 for Their Accomplishment in Scoring a 30 or Above on the ACT.](#)

Attachments: [Heritage HS 2026 Senior Class ACT Proclamation](#)

The Proclamation was presented by full commission and read out loud by Commissioner Bowers.

4. [Resolution No. 26-04-015, A Proclamation Honoring the Maryville High School Graduating Class of 2026 for Their Accomplishment in Scoring a 30 or Above on the ACT.](#)

Attachments: [MHS Senior Class 2026 ACT Proclamation](#)

The Proclamation was presented by full commission and read out loud by Commissioner Giles and Commissioner Hannah.

5. [Resolution No. 26-04-018, A Proclamation Honoring the Maryville Virtual School Graduating Class of 2026 for their Accomplishment in Scoring A 30 or Above on the ACT.](#)

Attachments: [MVHS Senior Class 2026 ACT Proclamation](#)

The Proclamation was presented by full commission and read out loud by Commissioner Hannah.

6. [Resolution No. 26-04-016, A Proclamation Honoring the Samuel Everett School of Innovation Graduating Class of 2026 for Their Accomplishment in Scoring a 30 or Above on the ACT.](#)

Attachments: [SESI 2026 Senior Class ACT Proclamation](#)

The Proclamation was presented by full commission and read out loud by Commissioner Reagan.

7. [Resolution No. 26-04-017, A Proclamation Honoring the William Blount High School Graduating Class of 2026 for Their Accomplishment in Scoring a 30 or Above on the ACT.](#)

Attachments: [William Blount HS 2026 Senior Class ACT Proclamation](#)

The Proclamation was presented by full commission and read out loud by Commissioner Martin.

8. [Minutes for Board of Commission in Regular Session on March 24, 2026.](#)

Attachments: [Minutes for Board of Commission on 3-24](#)

The minutes were approved.

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

Attachments: [BONDS AND OATHS RESOLUTION 26-04-011](#)

[Sheriff Oaths \(March\)](#)

[Notary Bonds \(March\)](#)

The Resolution was adopted.

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

Attachments: [Notaries to be elected \(March\)](#)

The notaries were elected.

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

Attachments: [Jail Facility Inspection Report 2026-Mar-04](#)

[Emergency Communications District Budget FY 2026-27](#)

[Minutes for Budget Committee Feb-12-2026](#)

[Record Request Report 4thQuarter Jan-Mar 2026](#)

[Trustee Monthly Report February 2026](#)

The reports were received and filed.

C. PUBLIC INPUT ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA.

D. BUDGET CONSENT CALENDAR.

A motion was made by Commissioner McMahan, seconded by Commissioner French, 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: 21 - Akard, Anderson, Bennett, Bledsoe, Bowers, Bright, Caldwell, Carver, Caylor, Davis, French, Giles, Hannah, Jopling, King, Martin, McMahan, Mikels, Reagan, Webb, and Wells

No: 0

Abstain: 0

1. [BCSO Grant Application - Justice Assistant Grant \(JAG\) - \\$19,216.00, to support purchase of law enforcement equipment; no matching funds are required. Referred to full commission with a favorable recommendation by the Budget Committee \(5-0\).](#)

Attachments: [Grant Worksheet - BCSO JAG Grant](#)

[Allocations - BCSO JAG Grant](#)

[Certification - BCSO JAG Grant](#)

The grant request was approved.

2. [Resolution No. 26-04-001, Budget Increase - General Admin. Projects - \\$14,529.72 \(Appropriate General County Capital funds to replace HVAC unit at Courthouse.\) Referred to full commission with a favorable recommendation by the Budget Committee \(5-0\).](#)

Attachments: [Resolution - Courthouse Replacement HVAC](#)
[Amendment - Courthouse Replacement HVAC](#)
[Memo - Courthouse Replacement HVAC](#)

The Resolution was adopted.

3. [Resolution No. 26-04-006, to authorize and appropriate funds for an actuarial study to determine the cost\(s\) associated with establishing the supplemental bridge benefit under Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 8, Chapter 34, Section 211 for certain members of the Tennessee Consolidated Retirement System \("TCRS"\). Referred to full commission with a favorable recommendation by the Budget Committee \(5-0\).](#)

Attachments: [Resolution - TCRS Bridge Program](#)

The Resolution was adopted.

E. ELECTIONS, APPOINTMENTS, AND CONFIRMATIONS.

1. [Mayoral Recommendation for Reappointments to the Board of Equalization \(2-Year Term to Expire May 2028\): Scott Blevins, Bruce Recktenwald, Amanda Stone, Steve Johnson, and Darrell Tipton.](#)

Attachments: [Board of Equalization 2026](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner French, seconded by Commissioner Carver, 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, Hannah, Jopling, King, Martin, McMahan, Mikels, Reagan, Webb, and Wells

No: 0

Abstain: 1 - Giles

F. UNFINISHED BUSINESS.

G. NEW BUSINESS.

1. [BCSO Grant Application - Tennessee Highway Safety Office \(THSO\) - \\$120,000.00, to support overtime funding for patrol division, no matching funds required. Referred to full commission with a favorable recommendation by the Budget Committee \(5-0\).](#)

Attachments: [Grant Worksheet - THSO Police Traffic Services 2026-27](#)

[Memo - THSO Grants](#)

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

Yes: 21 - Akard, Anderson, Bennett, Bledsoe, Bowers, Bright, Caldwell, Carver, Caylor, Davis, French, Giles, Hannah, Jopling, King, Martin, McMahan, Mikels, Reagan, Webb, and Wells

No: 0

Abstain: 0

2. [BCSO Grant Application - Tennessee Highway Safety Office \(THSO\) - \\$24,000.00, to support Network Coordinator, no matching funds required. Referred to full commission with a favorable recommendation by the Budget Committee \(5-0\).](#)

Attachments: [Grant Worksheet - THSO Network Coordinator](#)

[Memo - THSO Grant](#)

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

Yes: 21 - Akard, Anderson, Bennett, Bledsoe, Bowers, Bright, Caldwell, Carver, Caylor, Davis, French, Giles, Hannah, Jopling, King, Martin, McMahan, Mikels, Reagan, Webb, and Wells

No: 0

Abstain: 0

3. [Resolution No. 26-04-002, Budget Transfer - Schools - \\$144,082.92 \(Transfer money within budget to align the Innovative School Model Grant.\) Referred to full commission with a favorable recommendation by the Budget Committee \(5-0\).](#)

Attachments: [Resolution - ISM Grant](#)

[Amendment - ISM Grant](#)

[Memo - ISM Grant](#)

[Backup - ISM Grant](#)

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

No: 0

Abstain: 0

4. [Resolution No. 26-04-003, Budget Increase - General Admin. Projects -\\$100,000.00 \(Appropriate General County Capital funds to replace treads and landings in Courthouse Stairwells.\) Referred to full commission with a favorable recommendation by the Budget Committee \(5-0\).](#)

Attachments: [Resolution - Retread Stairwells](#)
[Amendment - Retread Stairwells](#)
[Memo - Retread Stairwells](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner Carver, 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: 1 - Mikels

Abstain: 0

5. [Resolution No. 26-04-004, Budget Increase - Highway - \\$73,284.85 \(Appropriate Highway Capital funds to account for additional cost required to break through rock when relocating the sewer line for Wildwood Bridge.\) Referred to full commission with a favorable recommendation by the Budget Committee \(5-0\).](#)

Attachments: [Resolution - Wildwood Sewer Relocation](#)
[Amendment - Wildwood Sewer Relocation](#)
[Memo - Wildwood Sewer Relocation](#)
[Backup - Wildwood Sewer Relocation](#)

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

No: 1 - Mikels

Abstain: 0

6. [Resolution No. 26-04-005, Budget Transfer - Schools - \\$68,000.00 \(Transfer money within budget to align the Public School Security Grant.\) Referred to full commission with a favorable recommendation by the Budget Committee \(5-0\).](#)

Attachments: [Resolution - Public School Security Grant](#)
[Amendment - Public School Security Grant](#)
[Memo - Public School Security Grant](#)
[Backup - Public School Security Grant](#)

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

Yes: 21 - Akard, Anderson, Bennett, Bledsoe, Bowers, Bright, Caldwell, Carver, Caylor, Davis, French, Giles, Hannah, Jopling, King, Martin, McMahan, Mikels, Reagan, Webb, and Wells

No: 0

Abstain: 0

7. [Request for Public Hearing for June 11, 2026 at 5:45 PM conforming to the minimum 30 day notice on the Regional Comprehensive Plan.](#)

Attachments: [memo to CC for PH 040226](#)
[Memo - Comp Plan to PC 022626](#)
[BlountCo-Comp Plan-FINAL](#)
[Chapter 8 revised 022626](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner Akard, seconded by Commissioner Hannah, that the date and time for the Zoning Public Hearing be confirmed for Thursday June 11, 2026 at 5:45 p.m. An electronic vote was taken. The Chairman declared the motion to have passed by the following vote:

Yes: 21 - Akard, Anderson, Bennett, Bledsoe, Bowers, Bright, Caldwell, Carver, Caylor, Davis, French, Giles, Hannah, Jopling, King, Martin, McMahan, Mikels, Reagan, Webb, and Wells

No: 0

Abstain: 0

8. [Resolution No. 26-04-019, A Resolution of the Blount County Commission Requesting the Budget Committee to Prepare a Budget with a Tax Rate Based on the Certified Rate.](#)

Attachments: [2026-04-14.Certified Tax Rate Resolution](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner Bright, 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: 21 - Akard, Anderson, Bennett, Bledsoe, Bowers, Bright, Caldwell, Carver, Caylor, Davis, French, Giles, Hannah, Jopling, King, Martin, McMahan, Mikels, Reagan, Webb, and Wells

No: 0

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, April 16, 2026, adjourned at 6:47 p.m.