



Blount County Government

359 Court Street
Maryville, TN 37804-5906

Meeting Minutes - Draft

Commission Rules Committee

Commissioner Jared Anderson
Commissioner Richard Carver
Commissioner Ron French
Commissioner John Giles
Commissioner Steve Mikels

Tuesday, February 25, 2025

5:00 PM

Blount County Courthouse, Room 430

Live stream via <https://zoom.us/join>
Zoom Meeting ID: 898 9080 7314

ROLL CALL

BE IT REMEMBERED, that the Commission Rules Committee met on Tuesday, February 25, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. in the Blount County Courthouse of Maryville, Tennessee. Blount County Commission Rules Committee Chairman Jared Anderson called the meeting to order. An electronic roll call was taken by Blount County Clerk Gaye Hasty. There were 4 members present and one absent. The Chairman declared that a quorum did exist. The following proceedings were held, to wit:

Present 4 - Commissioner Jared Anderson, Commissioner Richard Carver, Commissioner Ron French, and Commissioner John Giles
Absent 1 - Commissioner Steve Mikels

A. SETTING OF AGENDA.

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

Yes: 4 - Anderson, Carver, French, and Giles

No: 0

Absent: 1 - Mikels

Abstain: 0

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES.

1. [Minutes of Commission Rules Committee Meeting February 13, 2025.](#)

Attachments: [MeetingMinutes20-Feb-2025-03-07-11](#)

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

Yes: 4 - Anderson, Carver, French, and Giles

No: 0

Absent: 1 - Mikels

Abstain: 0

C. PUBLIC INPUT ON ITEMS ON AGENDA.

D. UNFINISHED BUSINESS.

E. NEW BUSINESS.

1. [Discussion and Possible Action Regarding the Board of Commissioners Rules.](#)

Attachments: [Rules - REV 2024-Oct](#)

Speaking Time for Members

Insert new sentences at the end of Rule 4C as follows:

"4C. SPEAKING: When any member is about to speak in debate, discussion, or deliver any address on any matter whatsoever to the Board, after being recognized by the Chairman, the member shall proceed with the intended remarks, confining such remarks strictly to the question under debate and avoiding all personalities. Members may speak on any given motion a total of two times for a period of five minutes each time; except that (1) members shall be limited to speaking a single time for a period of two minutes on a motion to postpone to a certain time or a motion to postpone indefinitely, and (2) on appeals from the decision of the chair, all members shall abide by the limits for speaking regarding appeals set forth in the applicable edition of Robert's Rules of Order."

A motion was made by Commissioner French, seconded by Commissioner Giles, that the Speaking Time for Members be forwarded to full commission with a favorable recommendation. An electronic vote was taken. The Chairman declared the motion to have passed by the following vote:

Yes: 4 - Anderson, Carver, French, and Giles

No: 0

Absent: 1 - Mikels

Abstain: 0

Meeting Start Time**Rule 1**

"The Board shall meet at the County Courthouse, 6:00 P.M. on the third Thursday in each month. Should any prescribed meeting date fall on a legal holiday or if an emergency should arise, the Board shall meet at 6:00 P.M. on the following day. Special meetings may be called by the County Mayor, the Chairman, or a majority of the members of the Board at any time with a five-day public notice given. At the discretion of the County Mayor, the Chairman, and the County Clerk, special meetings may be held at locations other than the County Courthouse."

Rule 12

"A Commission Workshop meeting shall be held at least one week prior to meetings unless canceled or rescheduled by the Chairman, the County Mayor, or a majority of the members of the Board. Commission Workshop Meetings shall be held at 6:00 p.m. The Commission Workshop shall be a standing committee composed of all the members of the Board of County Commissioners. The purpose of the Commission Workshop meetings shall be to discuss items and vote to send or not send items to the agenda of the Board of County Commissioner's meeting. The committee may also refer the item to other committees."

Alternative Ideas

1st Thursday of the Month – Agenda Items due & School Board Meetings

The next day (1st Friday after 1st Thursday) – Agenda Items Published

2nd Thursday of the Month – Budget Committee and Commission Workshop

3rd Thursday of the Month – Board of Commissioners Meeting

A motion was made by Commissioner French to clarify Rule 12 by inserting the word "Commission" before the word "meetings" in the sentence "A Commission Workshop meeting shall be held at least one week prior to meetings..." With no objection, the Chairman declared that the word "Commission" would be inserted before "meetings".

A motion was made by Commissioner Giles, seconded by Commissioner French, that the Meeting Start Time as amended be forwarded to full commission with a favorable recommendation. An electronic vote was taken. The Chairman declared the motion to have passed by the following vote:

Yes: 4 - Anderson, Carver, French, and Giles

No: 0

Absent: 1 - Mikels

Abstain: 0

[Consent Calendar for Budget Items](#)

Amend Rule 8B to state as follows:

"8B. CONSENT CALENDAR: Non-controversial routine agenda items may be bundled under the General Consent Calendar on the agenda. Budget appropriations, decreases, and grant applications may be bundled under the Budget Consent Calendar on the agenda, provided that they do not approve an expenditure of public funds in excess of \$250,000. Any such budget item may not be included on the Budget Consent Calendar unless all members of the Budget Committee who were present during an item's consideration at the Budget Committee meeting voted for a favorable recommendation of the item and did not abstain. Items shall be removed from either consent calendar on the request of any one member at any time prior to the beginning of voting on the consent calendar. Any items removed from either Consent Calendar at either a Workshop or Board of Commissioners shall not be returned to a Consent Calendar except with the unanimous consent of all members present. Items not removed may be adopted by one vote of the Board for each Consent Calendar (with each Consent Calendar being considered separately). Removed items may be taken up either immediately after the consent calendar or placed later on the agenda at the discretion of the Chairman."

Amend Rule 3 – Order of Business as follows:

"1. Opening of the Commission by the Sheriff or his designated deputy. The Chairman shall preside, but in absence of the Chairman, the Chairman Pro Tempore shall preside. In absence of the Chairman Pro Tempore, the Clerk shall preside until the Board elects one of its members to preside over the deliberations.

- 2. Roll call.**
- 3. Welcoming and Recognizing Special Guests**
- 4. Setting of agenda.**
- 5. Approval of General Consent Calendar.**
- 6.**
- 7. Public input on items on the agenda.**
- 8. Approval of Budget Consent Calendar**
- 9. Elections, appointments, and confirmations.**
- 10. Unfinished business**
- 11. New business.**
- 12. Announcements and statements.**
- 13. Public input on items not on agenda.**
- 14. Adjournment.**

The order of business may be changed by the Chairman or Chairman Pro Tempore to accommodate the audience or guest speakers."

A motion was made by Commissioner Giles that Rule 8B be amended by inserting the word "unanimously" after the word "voted". With no objection, the Chairman declared that Rule 8B would state "Any such budget item may not be included on the Budget Consent Calendar unless all members of the Budget Committee who were present during an item's consideration at the Budget Committee meeting voted unanimously for a favorable recommendation of the item and did not abstain."

A motion was made by Commissioner French, seconded by Commissioner Carver, that the Consent Calendar for Budget Items as amended be forwarded to

full commission with a favorable recommendation. An electronic vote was taken. The Chairman declared the motion to have passed by the following vote:

Yes: 4 - Anderson, Carver, French, and Giles

No: 0

Absent: 1 - Mikels

Abstain: 0

Reevaluation of Needed Sponsors for Resolutions

"6B. SPONSOR: A resolution may have as many signatures as there are members of the Board. However, the first signature on the resolution shall be deemed the sponsor for the purpose of debate. Any resolution, including committee or sub-committee resolutions, must have at least one sponsor's name on the heading of the resolution or signature of said sponsor before debate or vote is allowed. At least one of the sponsor(s) must be present for the resolution to be heard."

A motion was made by Commissioner French, seconded by Commissioner Carver, that the Reevaluation of Needed Sponsors for Resolutions be postponed. Hearing no objection, the Chairman declared that this item be postponed until the next Rules Committee meeting.

Clarification of Deadline for Agenda Items

"6A. INTRODUCTION: Any proposed resolution may be introduced only by a member of the Board, and the Clerk or Chairman shall not receive or file any resolution that is not reduced to writing by the sponsor(s) of the resolution. All resolutions shall be typed. The resolution shall have a line for the Commission Chairman to certify the action, a line for the County Clerk to attest, and a line for the County Mayor to approve or veto the resolution. All resolutions must have all necessary supporting documentation attached prior to inclusion in the agenda for the meeting in which the proposed resolution is to be considered. Resolutions conforming to the above form shall be submitted by email or by paper copy to the Clerk or the Clerk's designated Deputy Clerk on or before the date that is one calendar week prior to the date of the meeting (for example, for a Tuesday meeting's agenda, the Resolution must be submitted before the close of business on the Tuesday one week prior). If there is a legitimate reason that a resolution cannot be submitted to the Clerk by the specified deadline, the Chairman by written notice (or the membership by a two-thirds vote in the affirmative) may allow the introduction of the resolution, provided that the sponsor of the resolution submits a written statement to the Chairman explaining the legitimate reason for missing the deadline and requesting its inclusion on the agenda. After receipt of the written resolution, the Clerk shall assign a number to the resolution for identification purposes. Resolutions to be considered at the regularly scheduled monthly meeting of the Board shall be first submitted to and considered by the Commission Workshop at the monthly meeting of the Commission Workshop preceding the regular monthly meeting of the Board. However, a resolution may be considered directly by the Board of Commissioners without submission to the Commission Workshop upon an approval of 2/3 of the members of the Board of Commissioners."

With no objection, the Chairman declared that after the sentence "...one week prior)." insert the sentence "If that date falls on a legal holiday, the deadline shall be the preceding working day."

A motion was made by Commissioner Giles, seconded by Commissioner French, that the Clarification of Deadline for Agenda Items as amended be forwarded to full commission with a favorable recommendation. An electronic vote was taken. The Chairman declared the motion to have passed by the following vote:

Yes: 4 - Anderson, Carver, French, and Giles

No: 0

Absent: 1 - Mikels

Abstain: 0

[Guidelines for Public Speaking](#)

Add the following to Rule 4A:

"When the Chair calls for public comment before the Board, Blount County residents may address the Board one at a time from the podium provided on issues within the Commission's jurisdiction, with the following further provisions:

1. Citizens should direct their remarks to the Chair of the Commission or the Commission as a body and should refrain from directing comments to individual Commissioners or calling the names of Commissioners (positively or negatively), except to identify the citizen's district of residence.

2. The following will not be allowed:

a. Commercial advertisements for goods or services (this restriction shall not apply to any vendor present to provide information at the specific invitation of a county official related to a county project).

b. Placards, signs, or displays.

c. Addressing the audience (except that a citizen speaking may ask members of the audience present who are part of the citizens' group to identify themselves by raising their hands).

d. Personal attacks, obscene language, derogatory remarks of an offensive or inflammatory nature, and disruptive behavior including, but not limited to, the use of noise-making devices or instruments, shouting, booing, clapping, and stomping feet.

3. These provisions shall be construed with a view towards facilitating the free speech rights of citizens while preserving order and decorum and shall be enforced without any regard to the opinions or viewpoints of the speaker.

4. The members of the Board shall not, during public comment time, directly respond to or address public comments that are made during public comment time; however, the Chair may on occasion provide brief information of a general nature only (such as the time and place of upcoming meetings where issues raised during public comment time will be discussed), in the Chair's discretion. Members shall reserve their statements for the Announcements and Statements portion of the Order of Business.

5. Written public comments may be submitted to the Clerk for distribution to the Board via email or other means in the Clerk or Chair's discretion; however, no materials or written comments will be distributed during the meeting to the Board.

6. Apart from the foregoing, the Chair has a general duty, right, and power to enforce decorum and order at the meeting, subject to the Board's supervision and direction and consistent with citizens' right to free speech."

Hearing no objection, the Chairman declared that this item be postponed until the Rules Committee meeting.

[Professional Meeting Protocols](#)

Add as a new Rule 19:

"During meetings, members should give their full attention to the current speaker and the business of the government of the citizens of Blount County at hand. To that end, members should generally:

- 1) Refrain from the use of devices other than for the purposes of furthering county business;
- 2) Refrain from conducting side discussions which would distract other members from the current speaker;
- 3) Endeavor to arrive early enough before the meeting's start time so as to be counted in the initial roll call."

Commissioner Giles recommended that meeting attendance also be addressed.

Hearing no objection, the Chairman declared that this item be postponed until the next Rules Committee meeting.

2. [Setting of the Next Meeting.](#)

The Chairman declared that next committee meeting would be announced.

F. ADJOURNMENT.

With no objection, the Chairman declared the meeting to be adjourned. The Commission Rules Committee adjourned on Tuesday, February 25, 2025 at 5:47 p.m.