



Blount County Government

359 Court Street
Maryville, TN 37804-5906

Meeting Minutes - Draft

Board of Commissioners

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- 1-B Earl McMahan 865-216-3160 emcmahan@blounttn.org
- 2-A Mike Akard 865-982-6369 makard@blounttn.org
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- 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, September 18, 2025

6:00 PM

Blount County Courthouse, Room 430

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

Zoom Meeting ID: 834 8057 7218

ROLL CALL

BE IT REMEMBERED, that the Blount County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, September 18, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. in the Blount County Courthouse of Maryville, Tennessee. The meeting was called to order by Blount County Clerk Gaye Hasty. An electronic roll call was taken. There were 14 members present, and 7 absent. The Clerk declared that a quorum was present. The following proceedings were held, to wit:

- Present:** 14 - Commissioner Mike Akard, Commissioner Jared Anderson, Commissioner Robbie Bennett, Commissioner Nick Bright, Commissioner Quentin Caldwell, Commissioner Richard Carver, Commissioner Misty Davis, Commissioner John Giles, Commissioner Jessica Hannah, Commissioner Jeff Jopling, Commissioner Staci Martin, Commissioner Earl McMahan, Commissioner Dawn Reagan, and Commissioner David Wells
- Absent:** 7 - Commissioner Dyran Bledsoe, Commissioner Brad Bowers, Commissioner Mike Caylor, Commissioner Ron French, Commissioner Scott King, Commissioner Steve Mikels, and Commissioner Linda Webb

ELECTION OF COUNTY COMMISSION CHAIRPERSON

The Clerk opened the floor for nominations of a Commission Chairperson.

Commissioner Carver nominated Jared Anderson. That was seconded by Commissioner Akard. The Clerk asked if there were any further nominations. There were none. A motion was made by Commissioner Bright, seconded by Commissioner Reagan that nominations cease. The Clerk asked if there was any objection to nominations being ceased. There being no objection, the Clerk declared the floor closed for nominations.

A roll call vote was taken on the nomination. The Clerk declared Jared Anderson elected as Chair of the Commission by the following vote:

Yes: 13 - Akard, Bennett, Bright, Caldwell, Carver, Davis, Giles, Hannah, Jopling, Martin, McMahan, Reagan, and Wells

No: 0

Absent: 7 - Bledsoe, Bowers, Caylor, French, King, Mikels, and Webb

Abstain: 1 - Anderson

ELECTION OF COUNTY COMMISSION PRO TEMPORE

The Chair opened the floor for nominations of a Commission Pro Tempore.

Commissioner Akard nominated Nick Bright. That was seconded by Commissioner Davis. The Chair asked if there were any further nominations. There were none. A motion was made by Commissioner Reagan that nominations cease. The Chair asked if there was any objection to nominations being ceased. There being no objection, the Chair declared the floor closed for nominations.

A roll call vote was taken on the nomination. The Chair declared Nick Bright elected as the Commission Pro Tempore by the following vote:

Yes: 13 - Akard, Anderson, Bennett, Caldwell, Carver, Davis, Giles, Hannah, Jopling, Martin, McMahan, Reagan, and Wells

No: 0

Absent: 7 - Bledsoe, Bowers, Caylor, French, King, Mikels, and Webb

Abstain: 1 - Bright

ELECTION OF COUNTY COMMISSION PARLIAMENTARIAN

The Chair opened the floor for nominations of a Commission Parliamentarian.

Commissioner Carver nominated John Giles. That was seconded by Commissioner McMahan. The Chair asked if there were any further nominations. There were none. A motion was made by Commissioner Reagan that nominations cease. The Chair asked if there was any objection to nominations being ceased. There being no objection, the Chair declared the floor closed for nominations.

A roll call vote was taken on the nomination. The Chair declared John Giles elected as the Commission Parliamentarian by the following vote:

Yes: 13 - Akard, Anderson, Bennett, Bright, Caldwell, Carver, Davis, Hannah, Jopling, Martin, McMahan, Reagan, and Wells

No: 0

Absent: 7 - Bledsoe, Bowers, Caylor, French, King, Mikels, and Webb

Abstain: 1 - Giles

A. SETTING OF AGENDA.

Prior to setting the agenda, the Chair declared that item E.2.b. "Blount County 250th Anniversary Celebration Coordinating Committee ("the Blount 250 Committee") term to expire after December 31, 2026. Up to three (3) additional at-large members representing community organizations, appointed by the Board of County Commissioners", would be postponed to the next commission meeting if there was no objection. There was none. The Chair declared that the updated contract for item G.1. "Resolution No. 25-09-001, Budget Increase – Central Services - \$474,036.64 (Appropriate General County funds and enter into a multi-year contract with Knox County Regional Forensic Center for medical examiner services.)" would be incorporated therein.

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

Yes: 14 - Akard, Anderson, Bennett, Bright, Caldwell, Carver, Davis, Giles, Hannah, Jopling, Martin, McMahan, Reagan, and Wells

No: 0

Absent: 7 - Bledsoe, Bowers, Caylor, French, King, Mikels, and Webb

Abstain: 0

B. GENERAL CONSENT CALENDAR.

A motion was made by Commissioner Carver, seconded by Commissioner Caldwell, 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: 14 - Akard, Anderson, Bennett, Bright, Caldwell, Carver, Davis, Giles, Hannah, Jopling, Martin, McMahan, Reagan, and Wells

No: 0

Absent: 7 - Bledsoe, Bowers, Caylor, French, King, Mikels, and Webb

Abstain: 0

1. [Minutes of Commission in Regular Session on August 21, 2025.](#)

Attachments: [Minutes 2025-Aug-21](#)

The minutes were approved.

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

Attachments: [BONDS AND OATHS RESOLUTION 25-09-011](#)

[Oaths of Deputy Sheriff 2025-Sep-18](#)

[Notary Public Bonds Oaths 2025-Sep-18](#)

The Resolution was adopted.

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

Attachments: [Notaries to be Elected 2025-Sep-18](#)

The notaries were elected.

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

Attachments: [JailFacilityInspectionReport 2025-Jul-16](#)

[JailFacilityInspectionReport 202-Aug-06](#)

[Minutes of Budget Committee 2025 -Jul -10](#)

[Minutes of Planning Commission 2025-Jul-24](#)

[Trustee Report for July 2025](#)

The reports were received and filed.

5. [August 2025 Financial Reports. \(INFORMATION ONLY\)](#)

Attachments: [ARPA Utility Project Update August 2025](#)
[ARPA Tracking 8.31.25](#)
[FY25.26 Proposed Capital Plan](#)
[August 2025 Expense Report](#)
[August 2025 Revenue Report](#)
[YTD Expense Report as of August 31, 2025](#)
[YTD Revenue Report as of August 31, 2025](#)
[US Bank Report August 2025](#)

The reports were received and filed.

C. PUBLIC INPUT ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA.**D. BUDGET CONSENT CALENDAR.**

A motion was made by Commissioner Giles, seconded by Commissioner Carver, 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: 14 - Akard, Anderson, Bennett, Bright, Caldwell, Carver, Davis, Giles, Hannah, Jopling, Martin, McMahan, Reagan, and Wells

No: 0

Absent: 7 - Bledsoe, Bowers, Caylor, French, King, Mikels, and Webb

Abstain: 0

1. [BCSO Grant Application – \\$15,000 – \(To apply for FY26 Tennessee Corrections Institute Equipment Grant for Training Equipment; no matching funds are required.\) Referred to full commission with a favorable recommendation by the Budget Committee \(4-0\).](#)

Attachments: [Grant Worksheet - TCI Equipment Grant](#)
[Memo - TCI Equipment Grant](#)
[Request for Application - TCI Equipment Grant](#)

The request to apply for the grant was approved.

E. ELECTIONS, APPOINTMENTS, AND CONFIRMATIONS.**1. Confirmation of Mayoral Appointments.**

- a. [Animal Center Advisory Board \(1-Year Term\) five \(5\) Commissioners: Mike Akard, Rick Carver, Jessica Hannah, Staci Martin and Linda Webb.](#)

Attachments: [Animal Center Advisory Board Reappointment Sept 2025](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner Reagan, seconded by Vice Chair Bright, that the appointments be confirmed. The Chair recognized Commissioners Akard, Carver, Hannah and Martin, who stated that they would abstain for cause. An electronic vote was taken. The Chairman declared the motion to have passed by the following vote:

Yes: 10 - Anderson, Bennett, Bright, Caldwell, Davis, Giles, Jopling, McMahan, Reagan, and Wells

No: 0

Absent: 7 - Bledsoe, Bowers, Caylor, French, King, Mikels, and Webb

Abstain: 4 - Akard, Carver, Hannah, and Martin

- b. [Blount County Medical Examiner \(5-Year Term\) Darinka Mileusnic-Polchan, M.D., Ph.D.](#)

Attachments: [Mayoral ME Recommendation Sept 2025 1](#)

[CV - Darinka Mileusnic-Polchan MD PhD](#)

[Blount Pathologists Resignation of ME](#)

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

Yes: 14 - Akard, Anderson, Bennett, Bright, Caldwell, Carver, Davis, Giles, Hannah, Jopling, Martin, McMahan, Reagan, and Wells

No: 0

Absent: 7 - Bledsoe, Bowers, Caylor, French, King, Mikels, and Webb

Abstain: 0

- c. [Human Resources Committee \(1-Year Term\) one \(1\) Elected Official: Register of Deeds Phyllis Crisp.](#)

Attachments: [HR Committee Reappointment Sept 2025](#)

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

Yes: 14 - Akard, Anderson, Bennett, Bright, Caldwell, Carver, Davis, Giles, Hannah, Jopling, Martin, McMahan, Reagan, and Wells

No: 0

Absent: 7 - Bledsoe, Bowers, Caylor, French, King, Mikels, and Webb

Abstain: 0

- d. [Technology Committee \(1-Year Term\): County Clerk Gaye Hasty, Trustee Scott Graves, and Highway Rep. Jenny Montgomery.](#)

Attachments: [IT Committee Reappointment Sept 2025](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner McMahan, seconded by Commissioner Carver, that the appointments be confirmed. An electronic vote was taken.

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

Yes: 14 - Akard, Anderson, Bennett, Bright, Caldwell, Carver, Davis, Giles, Hannah, Jopling, Martin, McMahan, Reagan, and Wells

No: 0

Absent: 7 - Bledsoe, Bowers, Caylor, French, King, Mikels, and Webb

Abstain: 0

- e. [Tellico Reservoir Development Agency Board of Directors \(3-Year Term\) Adriel DJ McCord.](#)

Attachments: [Mayoral TRDA Recommendation Sept 2025](#)

[Bio Adriel D J McCord](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner Hannah, seconded by Commissioner Davis, that the appointment be confirmed. An electronic vote was taken.

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

Yes: 14 - Akard, Anderson, Bennett, Bright, Caldwell, Carver, Davis, Giles, Hannah, Jopling, Martin, McMahan, Reagan, and Wells

No: 0

Absent: 7 - Bledsoe, Bowers, Caylor, French, King, Mikels, and Webb

Abstain: 0

2. Commission Appointments.

- a. [Blount County 250th Anniversary Celebration Coordinating Committee \("the Blount 250 Committee"\) term to expire after December 31, 2026. Four \(4\) Commissioners: John Giles, Jessica Hannah, and .](#)

Attachments: [2025-08-025 Resolution for 250th Year Celebrations](#)

The Chair stated that Commissioners Davis and Carver requested to serve on the committee. A motion was made by Commissioner McMahan, seconded by Vice Chair Bright, that the appointments of Commissioners Giles, Hannah, Davis and Carver be confirmed. An electronic vote was taken. The Chairman declared the motion to have passed by the following vote:

Yes: 13 - Akard, Anderson, Bennett, Bright, Caldwell, Carver, Davis, Hannah, Jopling, Martin, McMahan, Reagan, and Wells

No: 0

Absent: 7 - Bledsoe, Bowers, Caylor, French, King, Mikels, and Webb

Abstain: 1 - Giles

- b. [Blount County 250th Anniversary Celebration Coordinating Committee \("the Blount 250 Committee"\) term to expire after December 31, 2026. Up to three \(3\) additional at-large members representing community organizations, appointed by the Board of County Commissioners.](#)

Attachments: [2025-08-025 Resolution for 250th Year Celebrations](#)

The appointments were postponed until the next County Commission meeting.

- c. [Education Committee \(1-Year Term\) five \(5\) to nine \(9\) Commissioners: Mike Akard, Robbie Bennett, Brad Bowers, Misty Davis, John Giles, Jessica Hannah, Earl McMahan, Steve Mikels, and Dawn Reagan.](#)

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

Yes: 13 - Anderson, Bennett, Bright, Caldwell, Carver, Davis, Giles, Hannah, Jopling, Martin, McMahan, Reagan, and Wells

No: 0

Absent: 7 - Bledsoe, Bowers, Caylor, French, King, Mikels, and Webb

Abstain: 1 - Akard

- d. [Human Resources Committee \(1-Year Term\) five \(5\) Commissioners*: Jared Anderson, Nick Bright, Rick Carver, Steve Mikels, and David Wells. \(*Same five commissioners that serve on Insurance Committee.\)](#)

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

Yes: 13 - Akard, Anderson, Bennett, Bright, Caldwell, Davis, Giles, Hannah, Jopling, Martin, McMahan, Reagan, and Wells

No: 0

Absent: 7 - Bledsoe, Bowers, Caylor, French, King, Mikels, and Webb

Abstain: 1 - Carver

- e. Insurance Committee (1-Year Term) five (5) Commissioners*: Jared Anderson, Nick Bright, Rick Carver, Steve Mikels, and David Wells. (*Same five commissioners that serve on H.R. Committee.)

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

Yes: 14 - Akard, Anderson, Bennett, Bright, Caldwell, Carver, Davis, Giles, Hannah, Jopling, Martin, McMahan, Reagan, and Wells

No: 0

Absent: 7 - Bledsoe, Bowers, Caylor, French, King, Mikels, and Webb

Abstain: 0

- f. Rules Committee (1-Year Term) Appoint five (5) of the following Commissioners: Mike Akard, Jared Anderson, Rick Carver, Ron French, John Giles and Steve Mikels.

The Chair withdrew his name from consideration. A motion was made by Commissioner Hannah, seconded by Commissioner Giles, that the remaining nominees for appointment be confirmed. An electronic vote was taken. The Chairman declared the motion to have passed by the following vote:

Yes: 14 - Akard, Anderson, Bennett, Bright, Caldwell, Carver, Davis, Giles, Hannah, Jopling, Martin, McMahan, Reagan, and Wells

No: 0

Absent: 7 - Bledsoe, Bowers, Caylor, French, King, Mikels, and Webb

Abstain: 0

- g. Technology Committee (1-Year Term) 3 Commissioners: Dyrn Bledsoe, Rick Carver, and Jeff Jopling.

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

Yes: 14 - Akard, Anderson, Bennett, Bright, Caldwell, Carver, Davis, Giles, Hannah, Jopling, Martin, McMahan, Reagan, and Wells

No: 0

Absent: 7 - Bledsoe, Bowers, Caylor, French, King, Mikels, and Webb

Abstain: 0

- h. [Smoky Mountain Tourism Development Authority \(6-Year Term\) - Appoint one \(1\) of the following candidates to fill an upcoming vacancy on the Board of Directors: 1\) Stephen Deucker, Vice President & General Manager of Cirrus Vision Center; 2\) Hamilton Martinez, General Manager of Hilton Knoxville Airport; or 3\) Trevis Gardner, Co-Founder & Principal of Blockhouse Services Group.](#)

Attachments: [Memo to Blount County Commission Request - 2025 - Updated 1](#)
[Bio Stephen Deucker VP-GM of Cirrus Vision Center](#)
[Bio Hamilton Martinez GM of Hilton Knoxville Airport](#)
[Bio Trevis Gardner Co-Founder & Principal of Blockhouse Services Group](#)

The Chair opened the floor for nominations. Commissioner McMahan nominated Travis Gardner. That was seconded by Commissioner Reagan. Commissioner Akard nominated Stephen Deucker. That was seconded by Commissioner Jopling. The Chair asked if there were any further nominations. There were none. A motion was made by Commissioner Reagan that nominations cease. The Chair asked if there was any objection to nominations being ceased. There being no objection, the Chair declared the floor closed for nominations.

The Chair asked the Clerk to take a roll call vote on the nominations:

To appoint Travis Gardner: 10 - Anderson, Bennett, Bright, Carver, Davis, Hannah, Martin, McMahan, Reagan, and Wells

To appoint Stephen Duecker: 4 - Akard, Caldwell, Giles, and Jopling

Absent: 7 - Bledsoe, Bowers, Caylor, French, King, Mikels, and Webb

Abstain: 0

The Chair declared that a minimum of 11 votes was required to appoint a nominee. Accordingly, the nominee receiving the fewest votes would be eliminated, and a subsequent roll call vote would be conducted on the remaining finalist(s).

A roll call vote was taken on the finalist. The Chairman declared Travis Gardner appointed to the Smoky Mountain Tourism Development Authority by the following vote:

To appoint Travis Gardner: 14 - Akard, Anderson, Bennett, Bright, Caldwell, Carver, Davis, Giles, Hannah, Jopling, Martin, McMahan, Reagan, and Wells

Absent: 7 - Bledsoe, Bowers, Caylor, French, King, Mikels, and Webb

Abstain: 0

F. UNFINISHED BUSINESS.

G. NEW BUSINESS.

1. [Resolution No. 25-09-001, Budget Increase – Central Services - \\$474,036.64 \(Appropriate General County funds and enter into a multi-year contract with Knox County Regional Forensic Center for medical examiner services.\) Referred to full commission with a favorable recommendation by the Budget Committee \(4-0\).](#)

Attachments: [Resolution - Medical Examiner](#)
[Amendment - Medical Examiner](#)
[Memo - Medical Examiner](#)
[Contract - Medical Examiner](#)

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: 14 - Akard, Anderson, Bennett, Bright, Caldwell, Carver, Davis, Giles, Hannah, Jopling, Martin, McMahan, Reagan, and Wells

No: 0

Absent: 7 - Bledsoe, Bowers, Caylor, French, King, Mikels, and Webb

Abstain: 0

2. [Resolution No. 25-09-002, Budget Increase – BCS - \\$377,975.00 \(Appropriate education capital funds to replace outdated HVAC units at ECCA.\) Referred to full commission with a favorable recommendation by the Budget Committee \(4-0\).](#)

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

A motion was made by Vice Chair Bright, 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: 14 - Akard, Anderson, Bennett, Bright, Caldwell, Carver, Davis, Giles, Hannah, Jopling, Martin, McMahan, Reagan, and Wells

No: 0

Absent: 7 - Bledsoe, Bowers, Caylor, French, King, Mikels, and Webb

Abstain: 0

3. [Resolution No. 25-09-003, Budget Increase – BCS - \\$175,000.00 \(Appropriate education capital funds to set aside funds for Contingencies for multiple planned projects for FY25-26.\) Referred to full commission with a favorable recommendation by the Budget Committee \(4-0\).](#)

Attachments: [Resolution - WBHS CTE Contingency](#)
[Amendment - WBHS CTE Contingency](#)
[Memo - WBHS CTE Contingency](#)
[Backup - WBHS CTE Contingency](#)

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: 14 - Akard, Anderson, Bennett, Bright, Caldwell, Carver, Davis, Giles, Hannah, Jopling, Martin, McMahan, Reagan, and Wells

No: 0

Absent: 7 - Bledsoe, Bowers, Caylor, French, King, Mikels, and Webb

Abstain: 0

4. [Resolution No. 25-09-004, Budget Increase – General Services -\\$156,271.22 \(Appropriate Capital funds to purchase high density shelving for Records.\) Referred to full commission with a favorable recommendation by the Budget Committee \(4-0\).](#)

Attachments: [Resolution -Records Shelving](#)
[Amendment - Records Shelving](#)
[Memo - Records Shelving](#)
[Backup - Records Shelving](#)

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: 14 - Akard, Anderson, Bennett, Bright, Caldwell, Carver, Davis, Giles, Hannah, Jopling, Martin, McMahan, Reagan, and Wells

No: 0

Absent: 7 - Bledsoe, Bowers, Caylor, French, King, Mikels, and Webb

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, September 18, 2025, adjourned at 6:36 p.m.