



Blount County Government

359 Court Street
Maryville, TN 37804-5906

Meeting Minutes - Draft

Commission Workshop

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10-A Linda Webb 865-389-0541 lwebb@blounttn.org
10-B David Wells 865-221-7603 dwells@blounttn.org

Thursday, September 11, 2025

6:00 PM

Blount County Courthouse, Room 430

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

Zoom Meeting ID: 832 2054 3842

ROLL CALL

BE IT REMEMBERED, that a Blount County Commission Workshop meeting was held on Thursday, September 11, 2025, at 6:00 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 Deputy Clerk Brad Bryant. There were 15 members present, with the late arrivals of Mike Akard and Jeff Jopling, and 6 were absent. The Chairman declared that a quorum did exist. The following proceedings were held, to wit:

Present: 15 - Mike Akard, Jared Anderson, Nick Bright, Quentin Caldwell, Richard Carver, Mike Caylor, John Giles, Jessica Hannah, Jeff Jopling, Staci Martin, Earl McMahan, Steve Mikels, Dawn Reagan, Linda Webb and David Wells

Absent: 6 - Robbie Bennett, Dyran Bledsoe, Brad Bowers, Misty Davis, Ron French and Scott King

Chairman Anderson recognized County Mayor Ed Mitchell to present the family of Geneva Williams-Harrison a proclamation honoring her life.

ELECTION OF WORKSHOP COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON

Commission Chairman Anderson opened the floor for nominations of a Commission Workshop Committee Chairperson.

Commissioner Giles nominated Nick Bright. That was seconded by Commissioner Mikels. Chairman Anderson asked if there were any further nominations. Hearing none, Chairman Anderson asked if there was any objection to nominations being ceased. There being no objection, Chairman Anderson declared the floor closed for nominations.

A roll call vote was taken on the nomination. Chairman Anderson declared Nick Bright elected as Chair of the Commission Workshop Committee by the following vote:

Yes: 13 - Vice Chair Anderson, Commissioner Caldwell, Commissioner Carver, Commissioner Caylor, Commissioner Giles, Commissioner Hannah, Commissioner Jopling, Commissioner Martin, Commissioner McMahan, Commissioner Mikels, Commissioner Reagan, Commissioner Webb and Commissioner Wells

No: 0

Absent: 7 - Commissioner Akard, Commissioner Bennett, Commissioner Bledsoe, Commissioner Bowers, Commissioner Davis, Commissioner French and Commissioner King

Abstain: 1 - Chairperson Bright

ELECTION OF WORKSHOP COMMITTEE VICE CHAIRPERSON

The Chairman opened the floor for nominations of a Commission Workshop Committee Vice Chair.

Commissioner Giles nominated Jared Anderson. That was seconded by Commissioner Carver. The Chairman asked if there were any further nominations. Hearing none, the Chairman asked if there was any objection to nominations being ceased. There being no objection, the Chairman declared the floor closed for nominations.

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

Yes: 14 - Commissioner Akard, Chairperson Bright, Commissioner Caldwell, Commissioner Carver, Commissioner Caylor, Commissioner Giles, Commissioner Hannah, Commissioner Jopling, Commissioner Martin, Commissioner McMahan, Commissioner Mikels, Commissioner Reagan, Commissioner Webb and Commissioner Wells

No: 0

Absent: 6 - Commissioner Bennett, Commissioner Bledsoe, Commissioner Bowers, Commissioner Davis, Commissioner French and Commissioner King

Abstain: 1 - Vice Chair Anderson

A. SETTING OF AGENDA.

A motion was made by Commissioner Akard, seconded by Commissioner McMahan, that the agenda be set.

A motion was made by Vice Chair Anderson, seconded by Commissioner Giles, that the Blount County 250th Anniversary Celebration Coordinating Committee ("the Blount 250 Committee") be added to G.3.b. Commission Appointments.

An electronic vote was taken to set the agenda with addition of the Blount 250 Committee. The Chairman declared the motion to have passed by the following vote:

Yes: 15 - Commissioner Akard, Vice Chair Anderson, Chairperson Bright, Commissioner Caldwell, Commissioner Carver, Commissioner Caylor, Commissioner Giles, Commissioner Hannah, Commissioner Jopling, Commissioner Martin, Commissioner McMahan, Commissioner Mikels, Commissioner Reagan, Commissioner Webb and Commissioner Wells

No: 0

Absent: 6 - Commissioner Bennett, Commissioner Bledsoe, Commissioner Bowers, Commissioner Davis, Commissioner French and Commissioner King

Abstain: 0

B. PUBLIC INPUT ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA.**C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES.****1. [Commission Workshop Meeting Minutes for August 12, 2025.](#)**

Attachments: [Minutes 2025-Aug-12](#)

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

Yes: 15 - Commissioner Akard, Vice Chair Anderson, Chairperson Bright, Commissioner Caldwell, Commissioner Carver, Commissioner Caylor, Commissioner Giles, Commissioner Hannah, Commissioner Jopling, Commissioner Martin, Commissioner McMahan, Commissioner Mikels, Commissioner Reagan, Commissioner Webb and Commissioner Wells

No: 0

Absent: 6 - Commissioner Bennett, Commissioner Bledsoe, Commissioner Bowers, Commissioner Davis, Commissioner French and Commissioner King

Abstain: 0

D. GENERAL CONSENT CALENDAR.

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

Yes: 14 - Commissioner Akard, Vice Chair Anderson, Chairperson Bright, Commissioner Caldwell, Commissioner Carver, Commissioner Caylor, Commissioner Giles, Commissioner Hannah, Commissioner Martin, Commissioner McMahan, Commissioner Mikels, Commissioner Reagan, Commissioner Webb and Commissioner Wells

No: 0

Absent: 6 - Commissioner Bennett, Commissioner Bledsoe, Commissioner Bowers, Commissioner Davis, Commissioner French and Commissioner King

Abstain: 0

Did Not Vote: 1 - Commissioner Jopling

1. [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](#)

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

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

3. [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](#)

4. [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](#)

E. BUDGET CONSENT CALENDAR.

A motion was made by Commissioner Carver, seconded by Commissioner Reagan, that the Budget Consent Calendar be forwarded to full commission.

A motion was made by Commissioner Akard to consider items E.1 and E.2 separately. The Chairman declared those two items would be removed from the Budget Consent Calendar and considered individually.

An electronic vote was taken that the Budget Consent Calendar item E.3. be forwarded to full commission. The Chairman declared the motion to have passed by the following vote:

Yes: 15 - Commissioner Akard, Vice Chair Anderson, Chairperson Bright, Commissioner Caldwell, Commissioner Carver, Commissioner Caylor, Commissioner Giles, Commissioner Hannah, Commissioner Jopling, Commissioner Martin, Commissioner McMahan, Commissioner Mikels, Commissioner Reagan, Commissioner Webb and Commissioner Wells

No: 0

Absent: 6 - Commissioner Bennett, Commissioner Bledsoe, Commissioner Bowers, Commissioner Davis, Commissioner French and Commissioner King

Abstain: 0

1. [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 Akard, seconded by Commissioner Carver, that the Resolution be forwarded to full commission. An electronic vote was taken. The Chairman declared the motion to have passed by the following vote:

Yes: 15 - Commissioner Akard, Vice Chair Anderson, Chairperson Bright, Commissioner Caldwell, Commissioner Carver, Commissioner Caylor, Commissioner Giles, Commissioner Hannah, Commissioner Jopling, Commissioner Martin, Commissioner McMahan, Commissioner Mikels, Commissioner Reagan, Commissioner Webb and Commissioner Wells

No: 0

Absent: 6 - Commissioner Bennett, Commissioner Bledsoe, Commissioner Bowers, Commissioner Davis, Commissioner French and Commissioner King

Abstain: 0

2. [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 Wells, seconded by Commissioner Akard, that the Resolution be forwarded to full commission. An electronic vote was taken. The Chairman declared the motion to have passed by the following vote:

Yes: 15 - Commissioner Akard, Vice Chair Anderson, Chairperson Bright, Commissioner Caldwell, Commissioner Carver, Commissioner Caylor, Commissioner Giles, Commissioner Hannah, Commissioner Jopling, Commissioner Martin, Commissioner McMahan, Commissioner Mikels, Commissioner Reagan, Commissioner Webb and Commissioner Wells

No: 0

Absent: 6 - Commissioner Bennett, Commissioner Bledsoe, Commissioner Bowers, Commissioner Davis, Commissioner French and Commissioner King

Abstain: 0

3. [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](#)

Item forwarded to full commission per action taken above in "E. Budget Consent Calendar."

F. UNFINISHED BUSINESS.

G. NEW BUSINESS.**1. Budget Transfers, Increases and/or Decreases.**

- a. [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 Carver, seconded by Commissioner Martin, that the Resolution be forwarded to full commission. An electronic vote was taken. The Chairman declared the motion to have passed by the following vote:

Yes: 15 - Commissioner Akard, Vice Chair Anderson, Chairperson Bright, Commissioner Caldwell, Commissioner Carver, Commissioner Caylor, Commissioner Giles, Commissioner Hannah, Commissioner Jopling, Commissioner Martin, Commissioner McMahan, Commissioner Mikels, Commissioner Reagan, Commissioner Webb and Commissioner Wells

No: 0

Absent: 6 - Commissioner Bennett, Commissioner Bledsoe, Commissioner Bowers, Commissioner Davis, Commissioner French and Commissioner King

Abstain: 0

- b. [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 Commissioner Carver, seconded by Commissioner Reagan, that the Resolution be forwarded to full commission. An electronic vote was taken. The Chairman declared the motion to have passed by the following vote:

Yes: 15 - Commissioner Akard, Vice Chair Anderson, Chairperson Bright, Commissioner Caldwell, Commissioner Carver, Commissioner Caylor, Commissioner Giles, Commissioner Hannah, Commissioner Jopling, Commissioner Martin, Commissioner McMahan, Commissioner Mikels, Commissioner Reagan, Commissioner Webb and Commissioner Wells

No: 0

Absent: 6 - Commissioner Bennett, Commissioner Bledsoe, Commissioner Bowers, Commissioner Davis, Commissioner French and Commissioner King

Abstain: 0

2. Other Budget Items.

3. Appointments.

a. Confirmation of Mayoral Appointments.

A motion was made by Commissioner Giles, seconded by Commissioner Wells, that the appointment be forwarded to full commission.

A motion was made by Commissioner Anderson, seconded by Commissioner Carver, that all the Mayoral Appointments in G.3.a. (i. - v.) be forwarded to full commission.

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

Yes: 15 - Commissioner Akard, Vice Chair Anderson, Chairperson Bright, Commissioner Caldwell, Commissioner Carver, Commissioner Caylor, Commissioner Giles, Commissioner Hannah, Commissioner Jopling, Commissioner Martin, Commissioner McMahan, Commissioner Mikels, Commissioner Reagan, Commissioner Webb and Commissioner Wells

No: 0

Absent: 6 - Commissioner Bennett, Commissioner Bledsoe, Commissioner Bowers, Commissioner Davis, Commissioner French and Commissioner King

Abstain: 0

i. [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](#)

ii. [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](#)

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

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

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

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

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

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

[Bio Adriel D J McCord](#)

b. Commission Appointments.

A motion was made by Vice Chair Anderson, seconded by Commissioner Mikels, that all the Commission Appointments in G.3.b. (i. - vii.) be forwarded to full commission. An electronic vote was taken. The Chairman declared the motion to have passed by the following vote:

Yes: 15 - Commissioner Akard, Vice Chair Anderson, Chairperson Bright, Commissioner Caldwell, Commissioner Carver, Commissioner Caylor, Commissioner Giles, Commissioner Hannah, Commissioner Jopling, Commissioner Martin, Commissioner McMahan, Commissioner Mikels, Commissioner Reagan, Commissioner Webb and Commissioner Wells

No: 0

Absent: 6 - Commissioner Bennett, Commissioner Bledsoe, Commissioner Bowers, Commissioner Davis, Commissioner French and Commissioner King

Abstain: 0

- i. [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.](#)

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

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

- iv. [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.](#)

- v. [Technology Committee \(1-Year Term\) 3 Commissioners: Dyran Bledsoe, Rick Carver, and Jeff Jopling.](#)
- vi. [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](#)

- vii. [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](#)

H. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND STATEMENTS.

I. PUBLIC INPUT ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA.

J. ADJOURNMENT.

A motion was made that the meeting be adjourned. Hearing no objection, the Chairman declared the meeting to be adjourned. The Blount County Commission Workshop meeting adjourned on Thursday, September 11, 2025, at 6:37 p.m.