359 Court Street
Maryville, TN 37804-5906

Blount County Government

Meeting Minutes - Draft

Commission Workshop

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Thursday, July 9, 2026 **6:00 PM** **Blount County Courthouse, Room 430**

ROLL CALL

BE IT REMEMBERED, that a Blount County Commission Workshop meeting was held on Thursday, July 9, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. in the Blount County Courthouse of Maryville, Tennessee. Blount County Commission Workshop Chairman Nick Bright called the meeting to order. An electronic roll call was taken by Blount County Clerk Chief of Staff Brad Bryant. There were 16 members present and 5 absent. The Chairman declared that a quorum did exist. The following proceedings were held, to wit:

Present: 16 - Mike Akard, Robbie Bennett, Dyran Bledsoe, Nick Bright, Quentin Caldwell, Richard Carver, Mike Caylor, Misty Davis, Jessica Hannah, Jeff Jopling, Scott King, Staci Martin, Earl McMahan, Steve Mikels, Linda Webb, and David Wells

Absent: 5 - Jared Anderson, Brad Bowers, Ron French, John Giles, and Dawn Reagan

A. SETTING OF AGENDA.

A motion was made by Commissioner Martin, seconded by Commissioner Caldwell, that the agenda be set as published.

The Chairman recognized Commissioner Davis who requested that item G.5. Resolution No. 26-07-015 be removed from the agenda.

The Chairman asked if there were any Commissioners that wanted to sponsor item G.1.a. Resolution No. 26-07-001. Commissioners Akard and Commissioner King stated that they would sponsor the Resolution.

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

Yes: 16 - Commissioner Akard, Commissioner Bennett, Commissioner Bledsoe, Chairperson Bright, Commissioner Caldwell, Commissioner Carver, Commissioner Caylor, Commissioner Davis, Commissioner Hannah, Commissioner Jopling, Commissioner King, Commissioner Martin, Commissioner McMahan, Commissioner Mikels, Commissioner Webb, and Commissioner Wells

No: 0

Absent: 5 - Vice Chair Anderson, Commissioner Bowers, Commissioner French, Commissioner Giles, and Commissioner Reagan

Abstain: 0

A motion was made by Commissioner Mikels, seconded by Commissioner Jopling, that the vote to set the agenda be reconsidered. An electronic vote was taken. The Chairman declared the motion to have failed by the following vote:

Yes: 3 - Commissioner Davis, Commissioner Jopling, and Commissioner Mikels

No: 12 - Commissioner Akard, Commissioner Bennett, Chairperson Bright, Commissioner Caldwell, Commissioner Carver, Commissioner Caylor, Commissioner Hannah, Commissioner King, Commissioner Martin, Commissioner McMahan, Commissioner Webb, and Commissioner Wells

Absent: 5 - Vice Chair Anderson, Commissioner Bowers, Commissioner French, Commissioner Giles, and Commissioner Reagan

Abstain: 1 - Commissioner Bledsoe

B. PUBLIC INPUT ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA.

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES.

1. Commission Workshop Minutes for June 11, 2026.

Attachments: 2209_M_Commission_Workshop__26-06-11_Meeting_Minutes

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

Yes: 16 - Commissioner Akard, Commissioner Bennett, Commissioner Bledsoe, Chairperson Bright, Commissioner Caldwell, Commissioner Carver, Commissioner Caylor, Commissioner Davis, Commissioner Hannah, Commissioner Jopling, Commissioner King, Commissioner Martin, Commissioner McMahan, Commissioner Mikels, Commissioner Webb, and Commissioner Wells

No: 0

Absent: 5 - Vice Chair Anderson, Commissioner Bowers, Commissioner French, Commissioner Giles, and Commissioner Reagan

Abstain: 0

D. GENERAL CONSENT CALENDAR.

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

Yes: 16 - Commissioner Akard, Commissioner Bennett, Commissioner Bledsoe, Chairperson Bright, Commissioner Caldwell, Commissioner Carver, Commissioner Caylor, Commissioner Davis, Commissioner Hannah, Commissioner Jopling, Commissioner King, Commissioner Martin, Commissioner McMahan, Commissioner Mikels, Commissioner Webb, and Commissioner Wells

No: 0

Absent: 5 - Vice Chair Anderson, Commissioner Bowers, Commissioner French, Commissioner Giles, and Commissioner Reagan

Abstain: 0

1. Resolution No. 26-07-012, A Proclamation Honoring Gaye Hasty for Her Dedicated Service to the Citizens of Blount County, Tennessee.

Attachments: proclamation res Co Clerk GH

2. Resolution No. 26-07-014, Proclamation of the Blount County Commission Honoring the National Champions of the Presidential Artificial Intelligence Competition

Attachments: proclamation res Natl Champs Pres AI Competition

3. Approval of Bonds and Oaths.

Attachments: BONDS AND OATHS RESOLUTION 26-07-011

OATH OF DEPUTY SHERIFF (June 2026)

NOTARY PUBLIC BONDS AND OATHS (June 2026)

4. Notaries to be Elected.

Attachments: Notaries to be Elected (June 2026)

5. Receiving of Reports. (INFORMATION ONLY)

Attachments: Tellico Reservoir Annual Report 2025
Minutes of Audit Committee Meeting 2025-May-15
Minutes of Budget Committee Meeting 2026-Apr-9
Minutes of Planning Commission Meeting 2026-Apr-23
Trustee Monthly Report May 2026

a. June 2026 Financial Reports. (INFORMATION ONLY)

Attachments: ARPA Utility Project Update June 2026
ARPA Tracking 6.30.26
June 2026 Expense Report
June 2026 Revenue Report
June Expense Report as of June 30 2026
June Revenue Report as of June 30 2026
U S Bank Report June 2026

6. Certified Election Results for May 5, 2026.

Attachments: Acknowledgement of Certified Election Results 2026-May-05
Republican Primary - 2026-May-05
Democratic Primary - 2026-May-05
Municipal Election - City of Rockford 2026-May-05

7. Blount County Fire Protection District Board of Commissioners (4-Year Term) Mayoral Appointment of Jerry Phillips, Seat 3. (INFORMATION ONLY)

Attachments: Jerry Phillips Utility District Commissioner Oath of Office

E. BUDGET CONSENT CALENDAR.

Commissioner Akard requested that agenda items E.1. and E.2. be pulled from the Budget Consent Calendar to be considered separately. The Chairman declared that since there was only one item remaining on the Budget Consent Calendar, that all three items would be considered individually.

1. BCSO Grant Application – $73,800.00 – (To apply for FY27 Litter Grant; no matching funds are required.) Referred to full Commission with a favorable recommendation by the Budget Committee. (4-0)

Attachments: Memo - Litter Grant

Application - Litter Grant

Application Instruction - Litter Grant

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

Yes: 16 - Commissioner Akard, Commissioner Bennett, Commissioner Bledsoe, Chairperson Bright, Commissioner Caldwell, Commissioner Carver, Commissioner Caylor, Commissioner Davis, Commissioner Hannah, Commissioner Jopling, Commissioner King, Commissioner Martin, Commissioner McMahan, Commissioner Mikels, Commissioner Webb, and Commissioner Wells

No: 0

Absent: 5 - Vice Chair Anderson, Commissioner Bowers, Commissioner French, Commissioner Giles, and Commissioner Reagan

Abstain: 0

2. Resolution No. 26-07-006, Budget Increase – Library - $27,800.00 (Appropriate Library fund balance for repairs to correct plumbing issues in the Learning Lab.) Referred to full Commission with a favorable recommendation by the Budget Committee. (4-0)

Attachments: Resolution - Learning Lab Repairs

Amendment - Learning Lab Repairs

Memo - Learning Lab Repairs

Backup - Learning Lab Repairs

A motion was made by Commissioner Akard, seconded by Commissioner Webb, 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: 16 - Commissioner Akard, Commissioner Bennett, Commissioner Bledsoe, Chairperson Bright, Commissioner Caldwell, Commissioner Carver, Commissioner Caylor, Commissioner Davis, Commissioner Hannah, Commissioner Jopling, Commissioner King, Commissioner Martin, Commissioner McMahan, Commissioner Mikels, Commissioner Webb, and Commissioner Wells

No: 0

Absent: 5 - Vice Chair Anderson, Commissioner Bowers, Commissioner French, Commissioner Giles, and Commissioner Reagan

Abstain: 0

3. Resolution No. 26-07-007, Budget Increase – Health Department -$4,027.21 (Accept and appropriate FY27 State DGA Grant for Health Department personnel and operations; these funds are reimbursed by the State; No matching funds are required.) Referred to full Commission with a favorable recommendation by the Budget Committee. (4-0)

Attachments: Resolution - DGA Grant True up
Amendment - DGA Grant True up
Memo - DGA Grant True up
Grant Contract - DGA Grant True up

A motion was made by Commissioner Martin, seconded by Commissioner McMahan, 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: 16 - Commissioner Akard, Commissioner Bennett, Commissioner Bledsoe, Chairperson Bright, Commissioner Caldwell, Commissioner Carver, Commissioner Caylor, Commissioner Davis, Commissioner Hannah, Commissioner Jopling, Commissioner King, Commissioner Martin, Commissioner McMahan, Commissioner Mikels, Commissioner Webb, and Commissioner Wells

No: 0

Absent: 5 - Vice Chair Anderson, Commissioner Bowers, Commissioner French, Commissioner Giles, and Commissioner Reagan

Abstain: 0

F. UNFINISHED BUSINESS.

G. NEW BUSINESS.

1. Budget Transfers, Increases and/or Decreases.

a. [Resolution No. 26-07-001, Budget Increase - Debt Service and General Fund - $8,000,000.00 (Enter into an agreement with Industrial Development Board for the purchase of Alcoa South Plant.) Forwarded to full Commission without recommendation by the Budget Committee.]

Attachments: Resolution - South Plant Purchase

Amendment - South Plant Purchase

Interlocal Agreement - South Plant Purchase

Map - South Plant Purchase

A motion was made by Commissioner Akard, seconded by Commissioner Caldwell, that the Resolution be forwarded to full commission.

Commissioner Mikels raised a Point of Order that the item failed to receive a second by the Budget Committee. The Point of Order was not acknowledged. No action taken.

Commissioner Mikels raised a second Point of Order that the Resolution should not be discussed. The Chairman asked if there was a second. There was none.

A motion was made by Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner Mikels to refer the Resolution back to the Budget Committee. An electronic vote was taken. The Chairman declared the motion to have failed by the following vote:

Yes: 5 - Commissioner Bledsoe, Chairperson Bright, Commissioner Davis, Commissioner Jopling, and Commissioner Mikels

No: 11 - Commissioner Akard, Commissioner Bennett, Commissioner Caldwell, Commissioner Carver, Commissioner Caylor, Commissioner Hannah, Commissioner King, Commissioner Martin, Commissioner McMahan, Commissioner Webb, and Commissioner Wells

Absent: 5 - Vice Chair Anderson, Commissioner Bowers, Commissioner French, Commissioner Giles, and Commissioner Reagan

Abstain: 0

An electronic vote was taken on the motion that the Resolution be forwarded to full commission. The Chairman declared the motion to have passed by the following vote.

Yes: 12 - Commissioner Akard, Commissioner Bennett, Chairperson Bright, Commissioner Caldwell, Commissioner Carver, Commissioner Caylor, Commissioner Hannah, Commissioner King, Commissioner Martin, Commissioner McMahan, Commissioner Webb, and Commissioner Wells

No: 3 - Commissioner Bledsoe, Commissioner Davis, and Commissioner Mikels

Absent: 5 - Vice Chair Anderson, Commissioner Bowers, Commissioner French, Commissioner Giles, and Commissioner Reagan

Abstain: 1 - Commissioner Jopling

b. [Resolution No. 26-07-002, Budget Increase - Debt Service - $5,000,000.00 (Enter into an agreement with TDOT, for right of way acquisition for the extension of Pellissippi Parkway.) Referred to full Commission with a favorable recommendation by the Budget Committee. (3-1)]

Attachments: Resolution - Pellissippi Extension
Amendment - Pellissippi Extension
Contract - Pellissippi Extension

A motion was made by Commissioner Carver, seconded by Commissioner Caldwell, 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: 11 - Commissioner Akard, Commissioner Bennett, Commissioner Caldwell, Commissioner Carver, Commissioner Caylor, Commissioner Hannah, Commissioner King, Commissioner Martin, Commissioner McMahan, Commissioner Webb, and Commissioner Wells

No: 5 - Commissioner Bledsoe, Chairperson Bright, Commissioner Davis, Commissioner Jopling, and Commissioner Mikels

Absent: 5 - Vice Chair Anderson, Commissioner Bowers, Commissioner French, Commissioner Giles, and Commissioner Reagan

Abstain: 0

c. [Resolution No. 26-07-003, Budget Increase – Various Departments - $2,154,682.10 (Re-appropriate funds from prior year to support ongoing projects.) Referred to full Commission with a favorable recommendation by the Budget Committee. (4-0)]

Attachments: Resolution - Reappropriations
Amendment - Reappropriations
Memo - Reappropriations

A motion was made by Commissioner Akard, seconded by Commissioner Wells, 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: 16 - Commissioner Akard, Commissioner Bennett, Commissioner Bledsoe, Chairperson Bright, Commissioner Caldwell, Commissioner Carver, Commissioner Caylor, Commissioner Davis, Commissioner Hannah, Commissioner Jopling, Commissioner King, Commissioner Martin, Commissioner McMahan, Commissioner Mikels, Commissioner Webb, and Commissioner Wells

No: 0

Absent: 5 - Vice Chair Anderson, Commissioner Bowers, Commissioner French, Commissioner Giles, and Commissioner Reagan

Abstain: 0

d. Resolution No. 26-07-004, Budget Increase – Central Services - $465,375.00 (Appropriate Federal Opioid funds to fund the Substance Use Residential Treatment Facility in Blount County; no matching funds are required.) Referred to full Commission with a favorable recommendation by the Budget Committee. (4-0)

Attachments: Resolution - McNabb Residential Treatment Funding

Amendment - McNabb Residential Treatment Funding

Memo - McNabb Residential Treatment Funding

A motion was made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Commissioner Hannah, 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: 16 - Commissioner Akard, Commissioner Bennett, Commissioner Bledsoe, Chairperson Bright, Commissioner Caldwell, Commissioner Carver, Commissioner Caylor, Commissioner Davis, Commissioner Hannah, Commissioner Jopling, Commissioner King, Commissioner Martin, Commissioner McMahan, Commissioner Mikels, Commissioner Webb, and Commissioner Wells

No: 0

Absent: 5 - Vice Chair Anderson, Commissioner Bowers, Commissioner French, Commissioner Giles, and Commissioner Reagan

Abstain: 0

Commissioner Akard called for a recess. At 8:04 p.m., the Chairman declared a ten-minute recess. At 8:14 p.m., the Chairman declared the recess over, and called the meeting back into session.

e. Resolution No. 26-07-005, Budget Adjustment – County Maintenance - $263,332.00 (Adjust appropriation to recognize revenues and expenses related to the County Maintenance for the Blount County Library.) Referred to full Commission with a favorable recommendation by the Budget Committee. (4-0)

Attachments: Resolution - County Buildings Maintenance Revenue

Amendment - County Buildings Maintenance Revenue

Memo - County Buildings Maintenance Revenue

A motion was made by Commissioner Akard, seconded by Commissioner Wells, 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: 16 - Commissioner Akard, Commissioner Bennett, Commissioner Bledsoe, Chairperson Bright, Commissioner Caldwell, Commissioner Carver, Commissioner Caylor, Commissioner Davis, Commissioner Hannah, Commissioner Jopling, Commissioner King, Commissioner Martin, Commissioner McMahan, Commissioner Mikels, Commissioner Webb, and Commissioner Wells

No: 0

Absent: 5 - Vice Chair Anderson, Commissioner Bowers, Commissioner French, Commissioner Giles, and Commissioner Reagan

Abstain: 0

2. Other Budget Items.

BCSO Grant Application – $1,575,000.00 – (To apply for FY27 School Security Officer Grant for 21 SROs at $75,000.00 each; no matching funds are required.) Referred to full Commission with a favorable recommendation by the Budget Committee. (4-0)

Attachments: Grant Worksheet - BCSO SRO Grant

MOU - BCSO SRO Grant

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

Yes: 16 - Commissioner Akard, Commissioner Bennett, Commissioner Bledsoe, Chairperson Bright, Commissioner Caldwell, Commissioner Carver, Commissioner Caylor, Commissioner Davis, Commissioner Hannah, Commissioner Jopling, Commissioner King, Commissioner Martin, Commissioner McMahan, Commissioner Mikels, Commissioner Webb, and Commissioner Wells

No: 0

Absent: 5 - Vice Chair Anderson, Commissioner Bowers, Commissioner French, Commissioner Giles, and Commissioner Reagan

Abstain: 0

3. Appointments.

a. The Industrial Development Board of Blount County & the Cities of Alcoa and Maryville, Tennessee, and The Health & Educational Facilities Board of Blount County, Tennessee, submits for a reappointment, along with alternate candidates, to fill the upcoming expiring term of Matt Murray’s seat to an additional six-year term. The candidates are ranked in order of preference:
Reappointment:
• Matt Murray, former Professor of Economics, University of Tennessee - Knoxville
Alternate Candidates:
• Tracy Queen, General Manager, ICC International
• David Shanks, President, Shanks and Associates

Attachments: Blount County - Board Member Appointment 06-2026_Updated

A motion was made by Commissioner Mikels, seconded by Commissioner Davis, that the appointments for items G.3.a. thru G.3.c. be postponed for consideration until after September 1, 2026. An electronic vote was taken. The Chairman declared the motion to have passed by the following vote:

Yes: 11 - Commissioner Akard, Commissioner Bennett, Chairperson Bright, Commissioner Caylor, Commissioner Davis, Commissioner Hannah, Commissioner Jopling, Commissioner King, Commissioner Martin, Commissioner McMahan, and Commissioner Mikels

No: 5 - Commissioner Bledsoe, Commissioner Caldwell, Commissioner Carver, Commissioner Webb, and Commissioner Wells

Absent: 5 - Vice Chair Anderson, Commissioner Bowers, Commissioner French, Commissioner Giles, and Commissioner Reagan

Abstain: 0

b. The Smoky Mountain Tourism Development Authority requests the reappointment of two candidates, along with alternate candidates, to fill two seats with expiring terms, each one is a six-year term on the Board of Directors. The candidates are ranked in order of preference:
Reappointment:
• Joy Carver, Owner, Dandy Lions Gifts
• Chad Rochelle, Owner, Dogwood Cabin
Alternate Candidates:
• Cassie Halley, CEO, Company Distilling
• Carmen Simpher, CEO, Little Arrow Outdoor Resort

Attachments: Blount County Commission Request - 2026

This item was postponed until after September 1, 2026, according to the action taken above in item G.3.a.

c. Tellico Reservoir Development Agency Board of Directors (Six-Year Term) Mayoral Recommendation to Reappoint Randy Massey.

Attachments: TRDA Board Recommendation 2026

This item was postponed until after September 1, 2026, according to the action taken above in item G.3.a.

4. Resolution No. 26-07-013, A Resolution to Add Employees to Government Crime Insurance Policy in Lieu of Statutory Bonds.

Attachments: Resolution Statutory Bonds

Memo - Resolution Authorizing Replacement of Ind Bonds with Crime Policy

A motion was made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Commissioner Webb, 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: 16 - Commissioner Akard, Commissioner Bennett, Commissioner Bledsoe, Chairperson Bright, Commissioner Caldwell, Commissioner Carver, Commissioner Caylor, Commissioner Davis, Commissioner Hannah, Commissioner Jopling, Commissioner King, Commissioner Martin, Commissioner McMahan, Commissioner Mikels, Commissioner Webb, and Commissioner Wells

No: 0

Absent: 5 - Vice Chair Anderson, Commissioner Bowers, Commissioner French, Commissioner Giles, and Commissioner Reagan

Abstain: 0

5. Resolution No. 26-07-015, A Resolution of the Blount County Commission Expressing Its Support for Providing Members of the Blount County Board of Education With a Compensation Increase Equal to That of Members of the Blount County Commission.

Attachments: BOE Compensation RESOLUTION

The Resolution was withdrawn at the setting of agenda.

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, July 9, 2026, at 8:33p.m