



Blount County Government

359 Court Street
Maryville, TN 37804-5906

Meeting Minutes - Draft

Commission Workshop

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10-B David Wells 865-221-7603 dwells@blounttn.org

Thursday, April 10, 2025

6:00 PM

Blount County Courthouse, Room 430

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

Zoom Meeting ID: 823 2991 0066

ROLL CALL

BE IT REMEMBERED, that a Blount County Commission Workshop meeting was held on Thursday, April 10, 2025, 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 Gaye Hasty. There were 17 members present and 4 were absent. The Chairman declared that a quorum did exist. The following proceedings were held, to wit:

Present: 17 - Mike Akard, Jared Anderson, Dyran Bledsoe, Brad Bowers, Nick Bright, Quentin Caldwell, Richard Carver, Ron French, John Giles, Jessica Hannah, Jeff Jopling, Staci Martin, Earl McMahan, Steve Mikels, Dawn Reagan, Linda Webb and David Wells

Absent: 4 - Robbie Bennett, Mike Caylor, Misty Davis and Scott King

A. SETTING OF AGENDA.

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

Yes: 17 - Commissioner Akard, Vice Chair Anderson, Commissioner Bledsoe, Commissioner Bowers, Chairperson Bright, Commissioner Caldwell, Commissioner Carver, Commissioner French, Commissioner Giles, Commissioner Hannah, Commissioner Jopling, Commissioner Martin, Commissioner McMahan, Commissioner Mikels, Commissioner Reagan, Commissioner Webb and Commissioner Wells

No: 0

Absent: 4 - Commissioner Bennett, Commissioner Caylor, Commissioner Davis and Commissioner King

Abstain: 0

B. PUBLIC INPUT ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA.

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES.

1. [Commission Workshop Meeting Minutes for March 11, 2025.](#)

Attachments: [Minutes 2025-Mar-11](#)

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

Yes: 17 - Commissioner Akard, Vice Chair Anderson, Commissioner Bledsoe, Commissioner Bowers, Chairperson Bright, Commissioner Caldwell, Commissioner Carver, Commissioner French, Commissioner Giles, Commissioner Hannah, Commissioner Jopling, Commissioner Martin, Commissioner McMahan, Commissioner Mikels, Commissioner Reagan, Commissioner Webb and Commissioner Wells

No: 0

Absent: 4 - Commissioner Bennett, Commissioner Caylor, Commissioner Davis and Commissioner King

Abstain: 0

D. GENERAL CONSENT CALENDAR.

A motion was made by Commissioner Carver, 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: 17 - Commissioner Akard, Vice Chair Anderson, Commissioner Bledsoe, Commissioner Bowers, Chairperson Bright, Commissioner Caldwell, Commissioner Carver, Commissioner French, Commissioner Giles, Commissioner Hannah, Commissioner Jopling, Commissioner Martin, Commissioner McMahan, Commissioner Mikels, Commissioner Reagan, Commissioner Webb and Commissioner Wells

No: 0

Absent: 4 - Commissioner Bennett, Commissioner Caylor, Commissioner Davis and Commissioner King

Abstain: 0

1. [Resolution No. 25-04-018, A Proclamation Honoring the Heritage High School Lady Mountaineers Basketball Team.](#)
Attachments: [Proclamation - HHS Lady Mountaineers 2025 Championship](#)
2. [Resolution No. 25-04-012, A Proclamation Honoring the Alcoa High School Graduating Class of 2025 for Their Accomplishment in Scoring a 30 or Above on the ACT.](#)
Attachments: [AHSrClass2025ResProclamation](#)
3. [Resolution No. 25-04-013, A Proclamation Honoring the Eagleton College & Career Academy Graduating Class of 2025 for Their Accomplishment in Scoring a 30 or Above on the ACT.](#)
Attachments: [ECCASrClass2025ResProclamation](#)
4. [Resolution No. 25-04-014, A Proclamation Honoring the Heritage High School Graduating Class of 2025 for Their Accomplishment in Scoring a 30 or Above on the ACT.](#)
Attachments: [HeritageHSrClass2025ResProclamation](#)
5. [Resolution No. 25-04-015, A Proclamation Honoring the Maryville High School Graduating Class of 2025 for Their Accomplishment in Scoring a 30 or Above on the ACT.](#)
Attachments: [MHSrClass2025ResProclamation](#)
6. [Resolution No. 25-04-016, A Proclamation Honoring the Samuel Everett School of Innovation Graduating Class of 2025 for Their Accomplishment in Scoring a 30 or Above on the ACT.](#)
Attachments: [SEISrClass2025ResProclamation](#)
7. [Resolution No. 25-04-017, A Proclamation Honoring the William Blount High School Graduating Class of 2025 for Their Accomplishment in Scoring a 30 or Above on the ACT.](#)
Attachments: [WBSrClass2025ResProclamation](#)
8. [Approval of Bonds and Oaths.](#)
Attachments: [BONDS AND OATHS RESOLUTION 25-04-011](#)
[Oaths of School Board Member 2025-Apr-17](#)
[Notary Public Bonds Oaths 2025-Apr-17](#)
[Oaths of Deputy Sheriff 2025-Apr-17](#)

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

Attachments: [Notaries to be Elected 2025-Apr-17](#)

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

Attachments: [Emergency Comm District Budget FY 2025-26](#)
[Jail Facility Inspection Report 2025-Mar-05](#)
[Minutes of Beer Board 2025-Mar-11](#)
[Minutes of Budget Committee 2025-Feb-11](#)
[Minutes of Education Committee 2025-Dec-03](#)
[Minutes of Education Committee 2025-Mar-04](#)
[Minutes of Planning Commission 2025-Jan-23](#)
[Minutes of Planning Commission 2025-Feb-27](#)
[Records Requests Qtr1 2025-Jan-Mar](#)
[Trustee Report February 2025](#)

11. [March 2025 Financial Reports \(INFORMATION ONLY\)](#)

Attachments: [ARPA Utility Project Update March 2025](#)
[ARPA Tracking 3.31.25](#)
[FY24.25 Capital Plan Exhibit](#)
[March 2025 Expense Report](#)
[March 2025 Revenue Report](#)
[YTD Expense Report as of March 31, 2025](#)
[YTD Revenue Report as of March 31, 2025](#)
[US Bank Report March 2025](#)

12. [Fiscal Confirmation Letter - ThreeStar Program. \(INFORMATION ONLY\)](#)

Attachments: [Three Star 2025 Packet](#)

13. [Blount County Penny Valuation for FY25-26 memorandum \(INFORMATION ONLY\)](#)

Attachments: [Penny Valuation Memo FY 25-26](#)

E. BUDGET CONSENT CALENDAR.

A motion was made by Commissioner Carver, seconded by Commissioner French, that the Budget Consent Calendar be forwarded to full commission. A request by Commissioner Akard was made that items E.1, E.2 and E.3 be considered separately. The Chairman declared those items to be acted on separately from the Budget Consent Calendar. An electronic vote was taken to forward Budget Consent Calendar items E.4, E.5, E.6, E.7 and E.8 to the full commission. The Chairman declared the motion to have passed by the following vote:

Yes: 17 - Commissioner Akard, Vice Chair Anderson, Commissioner Bledsoe, Commissioner Bowers, Chairperson Bright, Commissioner Caldwell, Commissioner Carver, Commissioner French, Commissioner Giles, Commissioner Hannah, Commissioner Jopling, Commissioner Martin, Commissioner McMahan, Commissioner Mikels, Commissioner Reagan, Commissioner Webb and Commissioner Wells

No: 0

Absent: 4 - Commissioner Bennett, Commissioner Caylor, Commissioner Davis and Commissioner King

Abstain: 0

1. [BCSO Tennessee Highway Safety Office \(THSO\) Grant Applications - \\$185,000.00, No matching funds required on reoccurring grant. Referred to full commission with a favorable recommendation by the Budget Committee \(3-0\).](#)

Attachments: [BCSO THSO Grant Information Worksheet Network Coordinator](#)
[BCSO THSO Grant Info Wrksht Police Traffic Svcs](#)
[MotorcycleDUIDistracted](#)
[Memo-BCSO THSO Grants](#)

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

Yes: 17 - Commissioner Akard, Vice Chair Anderson, Commissioner Bledsoe, Commissioner Bowers, Chairperson Bright, Commissioner Caldwell, Commissioner Carver, Commissioner French, Commissioner Giles, Commissioner Hannah, Commissioner Jopling, Commissioner Martin, Commissioner McMahan, Commissioner Mikels, Commissioner Reagan, Commissioner Webb and Commissioner Wells

No: 0

Absent: 4 - Commissioner Bennett, Commissioner Caylor, Commissioner Davis and Commissioner King

Abstain: 0

2. [Emergency Management Grant Application - \\$381,945.00 \(To re-apply for the Hazard Mitigation Grant originally brought for consideration in November 2022; to fund three trailer-mounted generators for the operation centers at Blount County, Maryville and Alcoa; \(A 12.5% match or \\$47,743.12 is required\). Referred to full commission with a favorable recommendation by the Budget Committee \(3-0\).](#)

Attachments: [Grant Worksheet EMA Trailer mounted generator](#)
[EMA Trailer Mounted Generator Project Application](#)
[Memo-EMA Trailer Mounted Generator Project](#)
[Backup-EMA Trailer Mounted Generator Project Worksheet](#)

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

Yes: 17 - Commissioner Akard, Vice Chair Anderson, Commissioner Bledsoe, Commissioner Bowers, Chairperson Bright, Commissioner Caldwell, Commissioner Carver, Commissioner French, Commissioner Giles, Commissioner Hannah, Commissioner Jopling, Commissioner Martin, Commissioner McMahan, Commissioner Mikels, Commissioner Reagan, Commissioner Webb and Commissioner Wells

No: 0

Absent: 4 - Commissioner Bennett, Commissioner Caylor, Commissioner Davis and Commissioner King

Abstain: 0

3. [Resolution 25-04-001, Budget Increase - BCSO - \\$167,700.00 \(Appropriate Sheriff Training Funds to enter into a contract for engineering services for the design of a new firing range training center\). Referred to full commission with a favorable recommendation by the Budget Committee \(3-0\).](#)

Attachments: [Resolution - BCSO Range House](#)
[Amendment - BCSO Range House](#)
[Memo-BCSO Range House](#)
[Backup-BCSO Summary of Tasks and Proposed Professional fees](#)

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: 17 - Commissioner Akard, Vice Chair Anderson, Commissioner Bledsoe, Commissioner Bowers, Chairperson Bright, Commissioner Caldwell, Commissioner Carver, Commissioner French, Commissioner Giles, Commissioner Hannah, Commissioner Jopling, Commissioner Martin, Commissioner McMahan, Commissioner Mikels, Commissioner Reagan, Commissioner Webb and Commissioner Wells

No: 0

Absent: 4 - Commissioner Bennett, Commissioner Caylor, Commissioner Davis and Commissioner King

Abstain: 0

BUDGET CONSENT CALENDAR (CONTINUED).

4. [Resolution 25-04-002, Budget Increase – Library - \\$49,997.90 \(Appropriate funds from Library Fund Balance to increase the Capital Maintenance & Repair expense account for the replacement of the chiller compressors\). Referred to full commission with a favorable recommendation by the Budget Committee \(3-0\).](#)

Attachments: [Resolution-Library Chiller Compressor Replacement](#)
[Amendment-Library Chiller Compressor Replacement](#)
[Memo-Library Chiller Compressor Replacement](#)

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

5. [Resolution 25-04-003, Budget Increase – Library - \\$14,469.27 \(Appropriate funds from Library Fund Balance to cover increased utility expenses for the library for current year; increase likely due to the Book Return Construction Project and cold temperatures\). Referred to full commission with a favorable recommendation by the Budget Committee \(3-0\).](#)

Attachments: [Resolution-Library Utility Increase](#)
[Amendment-Library Utility Increase](#)
[Memo-Library Utility Increase](#)

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

6. [Resolution 25-04-004, Budget Increase – Veterans - \\$19,545.18 \(Appropriate funds to cover retirement payout and provide one-month training overlap to the department\). Referred to full commission with a favorable recommendation by the Budget Committee \(3-0\).](#)

Attachments: [Resolution - Veteran Retirement Overlap](#)
[Amendment - Veteran Retirement Overlap](#)
[Memo - Veteran Retirement Overlap](#)

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

7. [Resolution 25-04-005, Budget Increase – General Services Capital - \\$32,890.00 \(Appropriate capital funds for architectural services for the Courthouse plumbing project\). Referred to full commission with a favorable recommendation by the Budget Committee \(3-0\).](#)

Attachments: [Resolution-General Svs Capital Plumbing](#)
[Amendment-General Svs Capital Plumbing](#)
[Memo-General Svs Capital Plumbing](#)

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

8. [Resolution 25-04-006, BCSO - A Resolution to add correctional officers to the mandatory retirement provisions established pursuant to Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 8-36-205 \(effective 1 July 2025\). Referred to full commission with a favorable recommendation by the Budget Committee \(3-0\).](#)

Attachments: [Resolution BCSO adding COs to Bridge](#)
[Backup-BCSO 2025 Sheriff Bridge Benefit Analysis](#)
[Backup-BCSO History of retirement benefit for Post Certified-Patrol deputies](#)
[Backup- BCSO New law affecting Corrections Officers' retirement](#)

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.
2. Other Budget Items.
3. Appointments.

- a. [Public Building Authority \(Term to Expire 07/31/2029\) Confirmation of Mayoral Appointment of Kevin Ross to Fulfill the Vacancy by Jason F. Emert.](#)

Attachments: [PBA Appointment Mayor Memo-Kevin Ross](#)

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

Yes: 17 - Commissioner Akard, Vice Chair Anderson, Commissioner Bledsoe, Commissioner Bowers, Chairperson Bright, Commissioner Caldwell, Commissioner Carver, Commissioner French, Commissioner Giles, Commissioner Hannah, Commissioner Jopling, Commissioner Martin, Commissioner McMahan, Commissioner Mikels, Commissioner Reagan, Commissioner Webb and Commissioner Wells

No: 0

Absent: 4 - Commissioner Bennett, Commissioner Caylor, Commissioner Davis and Commissioner King

Abstain: 0

4. [Resolution No. 25-04-019, Resolution to Sell Inherited Property as Surplus Property.](#)

Attachments: [Resolution - Flanagan Estate](#)
[Garrett Memo 3.25.2025](#)
[Last Will and Testament of Maureen Flanagan](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner French, 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: 17 - Commissioner Akard, Vice Chair Anderson, Commissioner Bledsoe, Commissioner Bowers, Chairperson Bright, Commissioner Caldwell, Commissioner Carver, Commissioner French, Commissioner Giles, Commissioner Hannah, Commissioner Jopling, Commissioner Martin, Commissioner McMahan, Commissioner Mikels, Commissioner Reagan, Commissioner Webb and Commissioner Wells

No: 0

Absent: 4 - Commissioner Bennett, Commissioner Caylor, Commissioner Davis and Commissioner King

Abstain: 0

5. [Resolution No. 25-04-020, A Resolution to Amend the Blount County Commission Meeting Schedule.](#)

Attachments: [RESOLUTION Amend Meeting Schedule to Tuesdays](#)

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Akard, seconded by Commissioner Hannah, that the Resolution be amended by reverting back to the Tuesday/Thursday schedule. An electronic vote was taken. The Chairman declared the motion to have failed by the following vote:

Yes: 3 - Commissioner Akard, Commissioner Hannah and Commissioner Jopling

No: 14 - Vice Chair Anderson, Commissioner Bledsoe, Commissioner Bowers, Chairperson Bright, Commissioner Caldwell, Commissioner Carver, Commissioner French, Commissioner Giles, Commissioner Martin, Commissioner McMahan, Commissioner Mikels, Commissioner Reagan, Commissioner Webb and Commissioner Wells

Absent: 4 - Commissioner Bennett, Commissioner Caylor, Commissioner Davis and Commissioner King

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 failed by the following vote:

Yes: 1 - Commissioner Akard

No: 16 - Vice Chair Anderson, Commissioner Bledsoe, Commissioner Bowers, Chairperson Bright, Commissioner Caldwell, Commissioner Carver, Commissioner French, Commissioner Giles, Commissioner Hannah, Commissioner Jopling, Commissioner Martin, Commissioner McMahan, Commissioner Mikels, Commissioner Reagan, Commissioner Webb and Commissioner Wells

Absent: 4 - Commissioner Bennett, Commissioner Caylor, Commissioner Davis and Commissioner King

Abstain: 0

6. [Setting of a Zoning Public Hearing to Amend the Zoning Map of Blount County, Tennessee, From R-1\(Rural District 1\) to RAC \(Rural Arterial Commercial District\) for a 3.19 Acre Portion of a 5.01 Acre Tract of Land Located at 5202/5204 US Hwy 411 S, Blount County, TN. \(Tax Map 100 Parcel 009.03\)](#)

Attachments: [Request ZPH - R1-RAC 5202-5204 US411S](#)

[Draft Resolution - R1-RAC 5202-5204 US411S](#)

[Report of Action 2025-Mar-27](#)

[Staff Memo - R1-RAC 5202-5204 US411S](#)

A motion was made by Vice Chair Anderson, seconded by Commissioner Giles, 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: 17 - Commissioner Akard, Vice Chair Anderson, Commissioner Bledsoe, Commissioner Bowers, Chairperson Bright, Commissioner Caldwell, Commissioner Carver, Commissioner French, Commissioner Giles, Commissioner Hannah, Commissioner Jopling, Commissioner Martin, Commissioner McMahan, Commissioner Mikels, Commissioner Reagan, Commissioner Webb and Commissioner Wells

No: 0

Absent: 4 - Commissioner Bennett, Commissioner Caylor, Commissioner Davis and Commissioner King

Abstain: 0

H. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND STATEMENTS.

I. PUBLIC INPUT ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA.

J. ADJOURNMENT.

The Chairman declared the meeting to be adjourned. The Blount County Commission Workshop meeting adjourned on Thursday, April 10, 2025, at 6:49 p.m.