



# Blount County Government

359 Court Street  
Maryville, TN 37804-5906

## Meeting Minutes - Final

### Commission Workshop

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Tuesday, January 7, 2025

6:30 PM

Blount County Courthouse, Room 430

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

Zoom Meeting ID: 889 3226 3188

### ROLL CALL

BE IT REMEMBERED, that a Blount County Commission Workshop meeting was held on Tuesday, January 7, 2025, at 6:30 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, Robbie Bennett, Dyran Bledsoe, Brad Bowers, Nick Bright, Quentin Caldwell, Richard Carver, Mike Caylor, Misty Davis, John Giles, Jessica Hannah, Staci Martin, Earl McMahan, Steve Mikels, Dawn Reagan and David Wells
- Absent:** 4 - Ron French, Jeff Jopling, Scott King and Linda Webb

**A. SETTING OF AGENDA.**

A motion was made by Commissioner Giles, seconded by Commissioner Akard, that the agenda be set. Without objection, the Chairman declared that a resolution for school vouchers would be added (item F.6); item F.1.c. withdrawn; and appointments for the Rules Committee would be added (item F.3.c). Hearing no objection, an electronic vote was taken to set the agenda as amended. The Chairman declared the motion to have passed by the following vote:

**Yes:** 17 - Commissioner Akard, Vice Chair Anderson, Commissioner Bennett, Commissioner Bledsoe, Commissioner Bowers, Chairperson Bright, Commissioner Caldwell, Commissioner Carver, Commissioner Caylor, Commissioner Davis, Commissioner Giles, Commissioner Hannah, Commissioner Martin, Commissioner McMahan, Commissioner Mikels, Commissioner Reagan and Commissioner Wells

**No:** 0

**Absent:** 4 - Commissioner French, Commissioner Jopling, Commissioner King and Commissioner Webb

**Abstain:** 0

**B. PUBLIC INPUT ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA.****C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES.****1. [Commission Workshop Meeting Minutes for December 10, 2024.](#)**

**Attachments:** [Minutes of Workshop Meeting on 2024-Dec-10](#)

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

**No:** 0

**Absent:** 4 - Commissioner French, Commissioner Jopling, Commissioner King and Commissioner Webb

**Abstain:** 0

**D. CONSENT CALENDAR.**

A motion was made by Commissioner Akard, seconded by Commissioner Carver, that the 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 Bennett, Commissioner Bledsoe, Commissioner Bowers, Chairperson Bright, Commissioner Caldwell, Commissioner Carver, Commissioner Caylor, Commissioner Davis, Commissioner Giles, Commissioner Hannah, Commissioner Martin, Commissioner McMahan, Commissioner Mikels, Commissioner Reagan and Commissioner Wells

**No:** 0

**Absent:** 4 - Commissioner French, Commissioner Jopling, Commissioner King and Commissioner Webb

**Abstain:** 0

1. [Resolution No. 25-01-012, A Proclamation Honoring Alcoa Football](#)

**Attachments:** [proclamation Alcoa high school Football Recognition 2024](#)

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

**Attachments:** [BONDS AND OATHS RESOLUTION 25-01-011](#)

[Oaths of Deputy Assessors 2025-Jan-16](#)

[Oaths of Deputy Sheriff 2025-Jan-16](#)

[Notary Public Bonds Oaths 2025-Jan-16](#)

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

**Attachments:** [Notaries to be Elected 2025-Jan-16](#)

4. [Receiving of Reports. \(Information Only\)](#)

**Attachments:** [Minutes of Budget Committee Meeting 2024-Nov-12](#)

[Trustee Report November 2024](#)

5. [December 2024 Financial Reports. \(Information Only\)](#)

**Attachments:** [ARPA Utility Project Update December 2024](#)

[ARPA Tracking 12.31.24](#)

[FY24.25 Proposed Capital Plan](#)

[December 2024 Expense Report](#)

[December 2024 Revenue Report](#)

[YTD Expense Report as of December 31, 2024](#)

[YTD Revenue Report as of December 31, 2024](#)

[US Bank Report December 2024](#)

**E. UNFINISHED BUSINESS.**

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

- a. [Resolution 25-01-001, Budget Increase – BCSO - \\$17,567.00 \(Appropriate awarded Department of Justice, Justice Assistance Grant \(JAG\) funds for the purchase of a portable light tower, allowing for higher visibility while working cases and incidents\). Referred to full commission with a favorable recommendation by the Budget Committee \(5-0\).](#)

**Attachments:** [Resolution BCSO JAG Grant](#)  
[Amendment BCSO JAG Grant](#)  
[Memo BCSO JAG Grant](#)  
[Back up Grant Information Worksheet BCSO JAG](#)  
[Back up JAG grant award letter](#)  
[Back up JAG Grant Light tower quote](#)  
[Back up JAG Grant local allocations-tn](#)

**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 Bennett, Commissioner Bledsoe, Commissioner Bowers, Chairperson Bright, Commissioner Caldwell, Commissioner Carver, Commissioner Caylor, Commissioner Davis, Commissioner Giles, Commissioner Hannah, Commissioner Martin, Commissioner McMahan, Commissioner Mikels, Commissioner Reagan and Commissioner Wells

**No:** 0

**Absent:** 4 - Commissioner French, Commissioner Jopling, Commissioner King and Commissioner Webb

**Abstain:** 0

- b. [Resolution 25-01-002, Budget Increase – Elections - \\$55,000.00 \(Appropriate funds to increase the election worker budget by use of fund balance to adjust the election workers budget line for FY24-25\). Referred to full commission with a favorable recommendation by the Budget Committee \(5-0\).](#)

**Attachments:** [Resolution Elections Budget Adjustment](#)  
[Amendment Elections Budget Adjustment](#)  
[Memo Elections Budget Adjustment](#)  
[Back up Elections Budget Adjustment](#)

**A motion was made by Commissioner Giles, 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 Bennett, Commissioner Bledsoe, Commissioner Bowers, Chairperson Bright, Commissioner Caldwell, Commissioner Carver, Commissioner Caylor, Commissioner Davis, Commissioner Giles, Commissioner Hannah, Commissioner Martin, Commissioner McMahan, Commissioner Mikels, Commissioner Reagan and Commissioner Wells

**No:** 0

**Absent:** 4 - Commissioner French, Commissioner Jopling, Commissioner King and Commissioner Webb

**Abstain:** 0

- c. [Resolution 25-01-003, Budget Increase – Soil Conservation - \\$36,199.00 \(Appropriate existing funds to increase the part-time line for a soil conservationist; converting a current contract position to a county paid position\). Referred to full commission with a negative recommendation by the Budget Committee \(0-5\).](#)

**Attachments:** [Amendment Soil Conservation Budget Adjustment](#)  
[Resolution Soil Conservation Budget Adjustment](#)  
[Memo Soil Conservation Budget Adjustment](#)  
[Back up Soil Cons Board November 2024 Meeting Minutes](#)

**This Resolution was withdrawn at the setting of agenda.**

## **2. Other Budget Items.**

- a. [Juvenile Court Grant Application - \\$100,000.00 \(To request state funds to support safe baby court coordinator position and salary supplement to the juvenile court services director for oversight of the program; no matching funds are required\).](#)  
[Referred to full commission with a favorable recommendation by the Budget Committee \(5-0\).](#)

**Attachments:** [Grant Worksheet and Grant Confirmation Letter](#)

[Memo Juvenile Court Safe Baby Court](#)

[Back up Safe Baby Court TCA 37 1 901](#)

**A motion was made by Commissioner Carver, 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 Bennett, Commissioner Bledsoe, Commissioner Bowers, Chairperson Bright, Commissioner Caldwell, Commissioner Carver, Commissioner Caylor, Commissioner Davis, Commissioner Giles, Commissioner Hannah, Commissioner Martin, Commissioner McMahan, Commissioner Mikels, Commissioner Reagan and Commissioner Wells

**No:** 0

**Absent:** 4 - Commissioner French, Commissioner Jopling, Commissioner King and Commissioner Webb

**Abstain:** 0

### **3. Appointments.**

- a. [Budget Committee \(1-Year Term\) Confirmation of Mayoral Appointments of Commissioners Jared Anderson, Nick Bright and Mike Caylor, and Ms. Sharon Hannum.](#)

**Attachments:** [Budget Committee 2025](#)

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

**Yes:** 13 - Commissioner Akard, Commissioner Bennett, Commissioner Bledsoe, Commissioner Bowers, Commissioner Caldwell, Commissioner Carver, Commissioner Giles, Commissioner Hannah, Commissioner Martin, Commissioner McMahan, Commissioner Mikels, Commissioner Reagan and Commissioner Wells

**No:** 0

**Absent:** 5 - Commissioner Davis, Commissioner French, Commissioner Jopling, Commissioner King and Commissioner Webb

**Abstain:** 3 - Vice Chair Anderson, Chairperson Bright and Commissioner Caylor

b. [County Medical Examiner \(5-Year Term\) Confirmation of Mayoral Appointment of Dr. Jean M. Coviello.](#)

**Attachments:** [Blount County Medical Examiner Jan 2025 Coviello](#)

[CV - Jean Marie Coviello, D.O](#)

**A motion was made by Commissioner Carver, seconded by Commissioner Wells, 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 Bennett, Commissioner Bledsoe, Commissioner Bowers, Chairperson Bright, Commissioner Caldwell, Commissioner Carver, Commissioner Caylor, Commissioner Davis, Commissioner Giles, Commissioner Hannah, Commissioner Martin, Commissioner McMahan, Commissioner Mikels, Commissioner Reagan and Commissioner Wells

**No:** 0

**Absent:** 4 - Commissioner French, Commissioner Jopling, Commissioner King and Commissioner Webb

**Abstain:** 0

c. [Commission Rules Committee \(September 2025\) Appointment of 5 Commissioners.](#)

**A motion was made by Vice Chair Anderson, seconded by Commissioner Akard, 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 Bennett, Commissioner Bledsoe, Commissioner Bowers, Chairperson Bright, Commissioner Caldwell, Commissioner Carver, Commissioner Caylor, Commissioner Davis, Commissioner Giles, Commissioner Hannah, Commissioner Martin, Commissioner McMahan, Commissioner Mikels, Commissioner Reagan and Commissioner Wells

**No:** 0

**Absent:** 4 - Commissioner French, Commissioner Jopling, Commissioner King and Commissioner Webb

**Abstain:** 0

4. [Resolution No. 25-01-013, Resolution to Amend the Zoning Map of Blount County, Tennessee, from S \(Suburbanizing\) to C \(Commercial\) for a 19.345 Acre Portion of a 34.832 Acre Parcel Located at 3652 U.S. Highway 411 South. The Property is Identified as Tax Map 090 Parcel 018.00.](#)

**Attachments:** [Resolution 25-01-013 3652 US Hwy 411S](#)  
[NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING 2025-01-07](#)  
[Request for ZPH Sub-Com 3652 US411S](#)  
[Draft Resolution Sub-Com 3652 US411S](#)  
[Report of Action Sub-Com 3652 US411S](#)  
[Staff Memo and Attached Exhibits](#)

**A motion was made by Commissioner Giles, seconded by Commissioner Davis, 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, Vice Chair Anderson, Commissioner Bennett, Commissioner Bledsoe, Commissioner Bowers, Commissioner Caldwell, Commissioner Carver, Commissioner Caylor, Commissioner Davis, Commissioner Giles, Commissioner Hannah, Commissioner Martin, Commissioner McMahan, Commissioner Mikels, Commissioner Reagan and Commissioner Wells

**No:** 0

**Absent:** 4 - Commissioner French, Commissioner Jopling, Commissioner King and Commissioner Webb

**Abstain:** 1 - Chairperson Bright

5. [Resolution No. 25-01-014, A Resolution Protecting Property Ownership Rights of Citizens of Blount County.](#)

**Attachments:** [Resolution Protecting Property Owners Rights MA-NB](#)

**A motion was made by Commissioner Akard, seconded by Commissioner Davis, 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, Commissioner Bennett, Commissioner Bledsoe, Commissioner Bowers, Chairperson Bright, Commissioner Caldwell, Commissioner Carver, Commissioner Davis, Commissioner Giles, Commissioner Hannah, Commissioner Martin, Commissioner Mikels, Commissioner Reagan and Commissioner Wells

**No:** 1 - Commissioner Caylor

**Absent:** 4 - Commissioner French, Commissioner Jopling, Commissioner King and Commissioner Webb

**Abstain:** 1 - Commissioner McMahan



6. [Resolution No. 25-01-015, A Resolution of the Blount County Commission Reaffirming Opposition to Diverting Public Dollars Away From K-12 Public Schools for Private Use.](#)

**Attachments:** [Vouchers Resolution 2025](#)

**A motion was made by Commissioner Reagan, seconded by Vice Chair Anderson, 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 Bennett, Commissioner Bledsoe, Commissioner Bowers, Chairperson Bright, Commissioner Caldwell, Commissioner Carver, Commissioner Caylor, Commissioner Davis, Commissioner Giles, Commissioner Hannah, Commissioner Martin, Commissioner McMahan, Commissioner Mikels, Commissioner Reagan and Commissioner Wells

**No:** 0

**Absent:** 4 - Commissioner French, Commissioner Jopling, Commissioner King and Commissioner Webb

**Abstain:** 0

**G. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND STATEMENTS.**

**H. PUBLIC INPUT ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA.**

**I. ADJOURNMENT.**

**The Chairman declared the meeting to be adjourned. The Blount County Commission Workshop meeting adjourned on Tuesday, January 7, 2025, at 7:09 p.m.**