



Blount County Government

359 Court Street
Maryville, TN 37804-5906

Meeting Minutes - Draft

Commission Workshop

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Thursday, January 8, 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, January 8, 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 Gaye Hasty. There were 15 members present, 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, Dyran Bledsoe, Brad Bowers, Nick Bright, Quentin Caldwell, Richard Carver, Ron French, John Giles, Jessica Hannah, Jeff Jopling, Staci Martin, Earl McMahan, Dawn Reagan, and David Wells

Absent: 6 - Robbie Bennett, Mike Caylor, Misty Davis, Scott King, Steve Mikels, and Linda Webb

A. SETTING OF AGENDA.

A motion was made by Commissioner Carver, seconded by Vice Chair Anderson, that the agenda be set. 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 Bledsoe, Commissioner Bowers, Chairperson Bright, Commissioner Caldwell, Commissioner Carver, Commissioner French, Commissioner Giles, Commissioner Hannah, Commissioner Jopling, Commissioner Martin, Commissioner McMahan, Commissioner Reagan, and Commissioner Wells

No: 0

Absent: 6 - Commissioner Bennett, Commissioner Caylor, Commissioner Davis, Commissioner King, Commissioner Mikels, and Commissioner Webb

Abstain: 0

B. PUBLIC INPUT ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA.

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES.

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

Attachments: [12-11-25 CW minutes](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner Martin, seconded by Commissioner Caldwell, 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, Commissioner Bledsoe, Commissioner Bowers, Chairperson Bright, Commissioner Caldwell, Commissioner Carver, Commissioner French, Commissioner Giles, Commissioner Hannah, Commissioner Jopling, Commissioner Martin, Commissioner McMahan, Commissioner Reagan, and Commissioner Wells

No: 0

Absent: 6 - Commissioner Bennett, Commissioner Caylor, Commissioner Davis, Commissioner King, Commissioner Mikels, and Commissioner Webb

Abstain: 0

D. GENERAL CONSENT CALENDAR.

A motion was made by Commissioner McMahan, seconded by Commissioner Giles, that the General Consent Calender 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 Bledsoe, Commissioner Bowers, Chairperson Bright, Commissioner Caldwell, Commissioner Carver, Commissioner French, Commissioner Giles, Commissioner Hannah, Commissioner Jopling, Commissioner Martin, Commissioner McMahan, Commissioner Reagan, and Commissioner Wells

No: 0

Absent: 6 - Commissioner Bennett, Commissioner Caylor, Commissioner Davis, Commissioner King, Commissioner Mikels, and Commissioner Webb

Abstain: 0

1. Approval of Bonds and Oaths.

Attachments: [Resolution bonds and oaths](#)

[Oaths of Deputy Sheriff 2026-Jan-15](#)

[Notary Public Bonds Oaths 2026-Jan-15](#)

2. Notaries to be Elected.

Attachments: [Notaries to be Elected 2026-Jan-15](#)

3. Receiving of Reports. (INFORMATION ONLY)

Attachments: [Jail Inspection Report 2025-Dec-3](#)

[Budget Committee Minutes 2025-Nov-13](#)

[2071 M Animal Center Advisory Board 25-05-27 Meeting Minutes](#)

[Record Request Report 4thQuarterly Oct-Dec 2025](#)

[Trustee Report for October 2025](#)

[Trustee Report for November 2025](#)

E. BUDGET CONSENT CALENDAR.**F. UNFINISHED BUSINESS.****G. NEW BUSINESS.****1. Budget Transfers, Increases and/or Decreases.****2. Other Budget Items.****3. Appointments.**

a. Board Member Appointment for the Smoky Mountain Tourism Development Authority.
The Smoky Mountain Tourism Development Authority requests the appointment of two candidates, to fill two open seats, each one is a six-year term on the Board of Directors.
• Stephen Deucker, Vice President & General Manager, Cirrus Vision Center
• Hamilton Martinez, General Manager, Hilton Knoxville Airport
• Jewell Overton, Director of Support Services and Radiation Effects, ProNova Solutions
• Bryan Cable, former General Manager, Hilton Knoxville Airport
The above-mentioned candidates are ranked in order of preference, but you may either:
1. Accept the recommended ranking as-is;
2. Reorder the above-mentioned candidates; or
3. Select recommended candidate/s

Attachments: [Blount County Commission Request - 12-2025](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner Giles, seconded by Commissioner French, 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: 15 - 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 Reagan, and Commissioner Wells

No: 0

Absent: 6 - Commissioner Bennett, Commissioner Caylor, Commissioner Davis, Commissioner King, Commissioner Mikels, and Commissioner Webb

Abstain: 0

b. 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 2026](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner French, seconded by Commissioner Giles, 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 Bledsoe, Commissioner Bowers, Commissioner Caldwell, Commissioner Carver, Commissioner French, Commissioner Giles, Commissioner Hannah, Commissioner Jopling, Commissioner Martin, Commissioner McMahan, Commissioner Reagan, and Commissioner Wells

No: 0

Absent: 6 - Commissioner Bennett, Commissioner Caylor, Commissioner Davis, Commissioner King, Commissioner Mikels, and Commissioner Webb

Abstain: 2 - Vice Chair Anderson, and Chairperson Bright

c. Jail Inspection Committee (1-Year Term) Reappointments of Mr. Keith Brock, Ms. Sharon Hannum, and Dr. Bob Ramsey.

A motion was made by Commissioner Carver, seconded by Commissioner McMahan, 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: 15 - 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 Reagan, and Commissioner Wells

No: 0

Absent: 6 - Commissioner Bennett, Commissioner Caylor, Commissioner Davis, Commissioner King, Commissioner Mikels, and Commissioner Webb

Abstain: 0

4. Resolution No. 26-01-012, A Resolution of the Blount County Commission Opposing the Removal of Peery's Mill Dam.

Attachments: Resolution Dams

A motion was made by Commissioner Carver, seconded by Commissioner Jopling, 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 Bledsoe, Commissioner Bowers, Chairperson Bright, Commissioner Caldwell, Commissioner Carver, Commissioner French, Commissioner Giles, Commissioner Hannah, Commissioner Jopling, Commissioner Martin, Commissioner McMahan, Commissioner Reagan, and Commissioner Wells

No: 0

Absent: 6 - Commissioner Bennett, Commissioner Caylor, Commissioner Davis, Commissioner King, Commissioner Mikels, and Commissioner Webb

Abstain: 0

5. [Resolution No. 26-01-013, A Resolution of the Blount County Commission Forwarding Revisions to the Proposed Comprehensive Plan.](#)

Attachments: [Resolution Amending Proposed Comprehensive Plan](#)

[EXHIBIT B - Resolution Revised Goals and Policies](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Commissioner Reagan, that Resolution attachment Exhibit-B, item C1.2 be amended by striking the word "conservation" and insert the word "models" after the word "developments". Amended text to read as follows, "Encourage developers to utilize cluster Conservation development models to provide open space and avoid disturbance in environmentally sensitive areas. (Long)". An electronic vote was taken. The Chairman declared the motion to have passed by the following vote:

Yes: 14 - Commissioner Akard, Vice Chair Anderson, Commissioner Bledsoe, Commissioner Bowers, Chairperson Bright, Commissioner Caldwell, Commissioner Carver, Commissioner French, Commissioner Giles, Commissioner Hannah, Commissioner Martin, Commissioner McMahan, Commissioner Reagan, and Commissioner Wells

No: 1 - Commissioner Jopling

Absent: 6 - Commissioner Bennett, Commissioner Caylor, Commissioner Davis, Commissioner King, Commissioner Mikels, and Commissioner Webb

Abstain: 0

A motion was made by Commissioner Caldwell, seconded by Commissioner Carver, that the Resolution as amended 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 Bledsoe, Commissioner Bowers, Chairperson Bright, Commissioner Caldwell, Commissioner Carver, Commissioner French, Commissioner Giles, Commissioner Hannah, Commissioner Jopling, Commissioner Martin, Commissioner McMahan, Commissioner Reagan, and Commissioner Wells

No: 0

Absent: 6 - Commissioner Bennett, Commissioner Caylor, Commissioner Davis, Commissioner King, Commissioner Mikels, and Commissioner Webb

Abstain: 0

6. [Resolution No. 26-01-014, A Resolution to Provide Liability Insurance for the Fifth Judicial District Drug and Violent Crimes Task Force Vehicles.](#)

Attachments: [Resolution 5JDTF liability ins](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner Carver, 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: 15 - 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 Reagan, and Commissioner Wells

No: 0

Absent: 6 - Commissioner Bennett, Commissioner Caylor, Commissioner Davis, Commissioner King, Commissioner Mikels, and Commissioner Webb

Abstain: 0

7. Resolution No. 26-01-015, A Resolution to Amend Section 7.20.C of the Zoning Regulations Specific to the Open Space Requirement of Cluster Developments.

Attachments: [Resolution open space_revised102325](#)

[Memo to Amend Zoning Reg 7.20.c Open Space Requirement of Cluster Developments](#)

[Draft Resolution to Amend Zoning Reg 7.20.c Open Space Requirement of Cluster Developments](#)

[Planning Commission Minutes 2025-Mar-27 to Amend Zoning Reg 7.20.c Open Space Requirement of Cluster Developments](#)

[Alcoa Regional Planning Commission PC Resolution 2025-13 Adopted 2025-May-15](#)

[Planning Commission Minutes 2025-Oct-23 to Amend Zoning Reg 7.20.c Open Space Requirement of Cluster Developments](#)

[Alcoa Regional Planning Commission PC Resolution 2026-04 Adopted 2025-Sep-18](#)

[Jan 8 2026 - Hearing Notice](#)

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 failed by the following vote:

Yes: 10 - Commissioner Bledsoe, Commissioner Bowers, Chairperson Bright, Commissioner Caldwell, Commissioner Carver, Commissioner French, Commissioner Giles, Commissioner Martin, Commissioner McMahan, and Commissioner Reagan

No: 5 - Commissioner Akard, Vice Chair Anderson, Commissioner Hannah, Commissioner Jopling, and Commissioner Wells

Absent: 6 - Commissioner Bennett, Commissioner Caylor, Commissioner Davis, Commissioner King, Commissioner Mikels, and Commissioner Webb

Abstain: 0

8. [Setting a Date and Time for 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 4.615 Acre Portion of a 7.263 Acre Tract Located at 5220/5226 u.s. Highway 411s. The Property Is Identified as Part of Tax Map 100, Parcels 009.00 and 009.01.](#)

Attachments: [Draft Resolution 5220 US Hwy 411S](#)
[5220 US 411S packet to CC](#)

A motion was made by Vice Chair Anderson, 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: 15 - 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 Reagan, and Commissioner Wells

No: 0

Absent: 6 - Commissioner Bennett, Commissioner Taylor, Commissioner Davis, Commissioner King, Commissioner Mikels, and Commissioner Webb

Abstain: 0

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, January 8, 2026 at 6:40p.