



Blount County Government

359 Court Street
Maryville, TN 37804-5906

Meeting Minutes - Final

Board of Commissioners

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Thursday, December 14, 2023

6:30 PM

Blount County Courthouse, Room 430

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

Zoom Meeting ID: 857 6005 1776

ROLL CALL

BE IT REMEMBERED, that the Blount County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, December 14, 2023, at 6:30 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 Clerk Gaye Hasty. There were 17 members present, and 4 absent. The following proceedings were held, to wit:

- Present:** 17 - Commissioner Mike Akard, Chairperson Jared Anderson, Commissioner Robbie Bennett, Commissioner Dyran Bledsoe, Commissioner Brad Bowers, Vice Chair Nick Bright, Commissioner Richard Carver, Commissioner Mike Caylor, Commissioner Misty Davis, Commissioner Ron French, Commissioner John Giles, Commissioner Jeff Jopling, Commissioner Scott King, Commissioner Staci Martin, Commissioner Dawn Reagan, Commissioner Tom Stinnett, and Commissioner David Wells
- Absent:** 4 - Commissioner Jessica Hannah, Commissioner Earl McMahan, Commissioner Steve Mikels, and Commissioner Linda Webb

A. SETTING OF AGENDA.

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

Yes: 17 - Akard, Anderson, Bennett, Bledsoe, Bowers, Bright, Carver, Caylor, Davis, French, Giles, Jopling, King, Martin, Reagan, Stinnett, and Wells

No: 0

Absent: 4 - Hannah, McMahan, Mikels, and Webb

Abstain: 0

B. CONSENT CALENDAR.

A motion was made by Vice Chair Bright, seconded by Commissioner Martin, that the Consent Calendar be approved. An electronic vote was taken. The Chairman declared the motion to have passed by the following vote:

Yes: 17 - Akard, Anderson, Bennett, Bledsoe, Bowers, Bright, Carver, Caylor, Davis, French, Giles, Jopling, King, Martin, Reagan, Stinnett, and Wells

No: 0

Absent: 4 - Hannah, McMahan, Mikels, and Webb

Abstain: 0

1. [Resolution No. 23-12-016, A Proclamation Honoring Retired Navy War Veteran Captain John \(Jack\) F. Gillooly the Oldest Living Annapolis Naval Academy Graduate and Football Player.](#)

Attachments: [Proclamation CaptJackGillooly](#)

The Proclamation was read out loud by Commissioner Giles and presented to Captain Jack Gillooly.

2. [Minutes of Regular Commission Meeting on November 16, 2023.](#)

Attachments: [1811 M Board of Commissioners 23-11-16 Meeting Minutes](#)

The minutes were approved.

3. [Minutes of Zoning Public Hearing on December 5, 2023.](#)

Attachments: [MeetingMinutes06-Dec-2023-02-24-11](#)

The minutes were approved.

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

Attachments: [23-12-011 BONDS AND OATHS RESOLUTION](#)

[Oaths of Sheriff Deputies 2023-Dec-14](#)

[Notary Public Bonds and Oaths 2023-Dec-14](#)

The Resolution was adopted.

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

Attachments: [Notaries to be Elected 2023-Dec-14](#)

The notaries were elected.

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

Attachments: [Minutes of Budget Committee 2023-Nov-07](#)

[Minutes of CARES Committee 2023-Jul-25](#)

[Minutes of Human Resources Committee 2023-Jul-18](#)

[Minutes of Insurance Committee 2023-Jul-18](#)

[Trustee Report for October 2023](#)

The reports were received and filed.

7. [November 2023 Financial Reports. \(Information Only\)](#)

Attachments: [ARPA Utility Project Update November 2023](#)

[ARPA Tracking 11.30.23](#)

[FY23.24 Capital Exhibit Master](#)

[NOVEMBER 2023 EXPENSE REPORT](#)

[NOVEMBER 2023 REVENUE REPORT](#)

[YTD EXPENSE REPORT AS OF NOVEMBER 30 2023](#)

[YTD REVENUE REPORT AS OF NOVEMBER 30 2023](#)

[US BANK REPORT NOVEMBER 2023](#)

The reports were received and filed.

8. [Refund for Occupancy Tax.](#)

Attachments: [Whispering River Resort Refund](#)

The refund request was approved.

9. [2024 Schedule of Blount County Commission Committee Meetings.](#)

Attachments: [Public Notice - 2024 Committee Meetings](#)

The calendar was approved.

10. [Budget Calendar for FY24-25. Referred to full commission with a favorable recommendation by the Budget Committee \(3-0\).](#)

Attachments: [Blount County Budget Process Calendar FY 2024-2025](#)

The calendar was approved.

C. PUBLIC INPUT ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA.

D. ELECTIONS, APPOINTMENTS, AND CONFIRMATIONS.

1. [County Medical Examiner \(5-Year Term\) Confirmation of Mayoral Appointment of Michael D. Teague, M.D.](#)

Attachments: [Blount County Medical Examiner 2023](#)

[Michael Teague MD Curriculum Vitae](#)

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

Yes: 17 - Akard, Anderson, Bennett, Bledsoe, Bowers, Bright, Carver, Caylor, Davis, French, Giles, Jopling, King, Martin, Reagan, Stinnett, and Wells

No: 0

Absent: 4 - Hannah, McMahan, Mikels, and Webb

Abstain: 0

2. [Solid Waste Authority \(6-Year Term\) Confirmation of Mayoral Appointments of Jeff Headrick, Blount County Rep. and Sara Slovak, Industry Rep.](#)

Attachments: [Solid Waste 2023](#)

[S. Slovak Resume 2023](#)

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

Yes: 17 - Akard, Anderson, Bennett, Bledsoe, Bowers, Bright, Carver, Caylor, Davis, French, Giles, Jopling, King, Martin, Reagan, Stinnett, and Wells

No: 0

Absent: 4 - Hannah, McMahan, Mikels, and Webb

Abstain: 0

E. UNFINISHED BUSINESS.**F. NEW BUSINESS.**

1. [Resolution No. 23-12-001. Budget Increase - Other General County Government - \\$6,632,720.00 \(Accept and appropriate Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation \(TDEC\) grant fund for the completion of the Tuckaleechee Utility District Water Transmission Improvement project\). Referred to full commission with a favorable recommendation by the Budget Committee \(3-0\).](#)

Attachments: [Resolution TDEC Grant for TUD Water Project](#)
[Amendment TDEC Grant for TUD Water Project](#)
[Memo TDEC Grant for TUD Water Project](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner Jopling, seconded by Commissioner Giles, that the Resolution be adopted. An electronic vote was taken. The Chairman declared the motion to have passed by the following vote:

Yes: 17 - Akard, Anderson, Bennett, Bledsoe, Bowers, Bright, Carver, Caylor, Davis, French, Giles, Jopling, King, Martin, Reagan, Stinnett, and Wells

No: 0

Absent: 4 - Hannah, McMahan, Mikels, and Webb

Abstain: 0

2. [Resolution No. 23-12-002. Budget Increase - BCSO, Motor Vehicles - \\$97,556.40 \(Reappropriate funds from a prior year purchase order that was closed due to non-availability of vehicles\). Referred to full commission with a favorable recommendation by the Budget Committee \(3-0\).](#)

Attachments: [Resolution BCSO Vehicle Re-appropriation](#)
[Amendment BCSO Vehicle Re-appropriation](#)
[Memo BCSO Vehicle Re-appropriation](#)
[Backup 20231637_001 - Truckers PO backup](#)
[Backup 20231660_014 - TT of Murfreesboro backup](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner Akard, seconded by Commissioner Carver, that the Resolution be adopted. An electronic vote was taken. The Chairman declared the motion to have passed by the following vote:

Yes: 17 - Akard, Anderson, Bennett, Bledsoe, Bowers, Bright, Carver, Caylor, Davis, French, Giles, Jopling, King, Martin, Reagan, Stinnett, and Wells

No: 0

Absent: 4 - Hannah, McMahan, Mikels, and Webb

Abstain: 0

3. [Resolution No. 23-12-003. Budget Increase - Development, Stormwater Permit - \\$27,870.00 \(Appropriate additional funds for the new State of Tennessee Stormwater Permit; The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation updated the requirements for the MS4 permit, increasing costs\). Referred to full commission with a favorable recommendation by the Budget Committee \(3-0\).](#)

Attachments: [Resolution-Development Services MS4 Permit](#)
[Amendment-Development Services MS4 Permit](#)
[Memo-Development Services MS4 Permit](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner Giles, seconded by Commissioner Bowers, that the Resolution be adopted. An electronic vote was taken. The Chairman declared the motion to have passed by the following vote:

Yes: 17 - Akard, Anderson, Bennett, Bledsoe, Bowers, Bright, Carver, Caylor, Davis, French, Giles, Jopling, King, Martin, Reagan, Stinnett, and Wells

No: 0

Absent: 4 - Hannah, McMahan, Mikels, and Webb

Abstain: 0

4. [Resolution No. 23-12-004. Budget Increase - Central Services Capital - \\$51,216.00 \(Appropriate capital funds to replace the HVAC system in the dog kennels at the Animal Center\). Referred to full commission with a favorable recommendation by the Budget Committee \(3-0\).](#)

Attachments: [Resolution Animal Center HVAC](#)
[Amendment Animal Center HVAC](#)
[Memo Animal Center HVAC](#)

A motion was made by Vice Chair Bright, seconded by Commissioner Carver, that the Resolution be adopted. An electronic vote was taken. The Chairman declared the motion to have passed by the following vote:

Yes: 17 - Akard, Anderson, Bennett, Bledsoe, Bowers, Bright, Carver, Caylor, Davis, French, Giles, Jopling, King, Martin, Reagan, Stinnett, and Wells

No: 0

Absent: 4 - Hannah, McMahan, Mikels, and Webb

Abstain: 0

5. [Resolution No. 23-12-005. Budget Increase - Central Services Capital - \\$49,200.00 \(Appropriate capital funds to replace six toilets in the medical center for the jail\). Referred to full commission with a favorable recommendation by the Budget Committee \(3-0\).](#)

Attachments: [Resolution Jail Medical Center Capital Project](#)
[Amendment Jail Medical Center Capital Project](#)
[Memo Jail Medical Center Capital Project](#)

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

Yes: 17 - Akard, Anderson, Bennett, Bledsoe, Bowers, Bright, Carver, Caylor, Davis, French, Giles, Jopling, King, Martin, Reagan, Stinnett, and Wells

No: 0

Absent: 4 - Hannah, McMahan, Mikels, and Webb

Abstain: 0

6. [Resolution No. 23-12-006. Budget Increase - Central Services Capital - \\$27,450.00 \(Appropriate capital funds to replace the Justice Center Garage Roof\). Referred to full commission with a favorable recommendation by the Budget Committee \(3-0\).](#)

Attachments: [Resolution Justice Center Garage Roof](#)
[Amendment Justice Center Garage Roof](#)
[Memo Justice Center Garage Roof](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner Carver, seconded by Commissioner Akard, that the Resolution be adopted. An electronic vote was taken. The Chairman declared the motion to have passed by the following vote:

Yes: 17 - Akard, Anderson, Bennett, Bledsoe, Bowers, Bright, Carver, Caylor, Davis, French, Giles, Jopling, King, Martin, Reagan, Stinnett, and Wells

No: 0

Absent: 4 - Hannah, McMahan, Mikels, and Webb

Abstain: 0

7. [Resolution No. 23-12-007. Request approval for acquisition of assets and operations of the Blount Memorial Transitional Care Center and MorningView Village Senior Community to Ocoee Foundation Inc. in the amount of \\$22,825,000.00. Referred to full commission with a favorable recommendation by the Budget Committee \(3-0\).](#)

Attachments: [Resolution to propose sale of Blount Memorial MorningView](#)
[Exhibit A Asset Purchase Agreement \(APA\) for 2 Facilities](#)
[Letter of Intent MVV & TCC](#)
[Letter to Ocoee Foundation Inc.](#)

A motion was made by Vice Chair Bright, seconded by Commissioner Akard, that the Resolution be adopted.

A motion was made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Commissioner Akard, that the Resolution be amended as follows:

In the fourth WHEREAS clause, insert "and" between "..., 3..." to read as, "WHEREAS, In conjunction with the Blount Memorial Hospital, Inc. Board, significant progress has been made in relation to: 1) the agreement of property ownership, 2) the efficacy of the Blount Memorial Hospital, Inc. Nominating Committee, and 3) efforts to jointly move forward with health care consultants; and".

In the seventh WHEREAS clause, strikethrough "the" and insert the words "negotiating an" between "...with...Asset..."; insert "initial draft" before "...attached..."; and insert the phrase "relating to such proposed sale" after "Exhibit A)" to read as, "WHEREAS, Blount Memorial Hospital, Inc. and Interim CEO Smith desire the approval of this Board to proceed with negotiating an Asset Purchase Agreement (initial draft attached as Exhibit A) relating to such proposed sale; and".

Under the "NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE BLOUNT COUNTY LEGISLATIVE BODY MEETING IN REGULAR SESSION AT MARYVILLE, TENNESSEE, on this 14th day of December, 2023, as follows:..." clause, replace item 1 entirely with "1. Blount Memorial Hospital, Inc. is hereby authorized to negotiate and finalize the terms of the Asset Purchase Agreement with the Ocoee Foundation (initial draft attached as Exhibit A), provided that the final form of such Asset Purchase Agreement shall be subject to the approval of the Mayor and the County Attorney prior to execution. 2. Blount Memorial Hospital, Inc. is hereby authorized to consummate the sale of the assets pursuant to the terms of the executed Asset Purchase Agreement as agent for Blount County. 3. The Mayor and the other officers of the County, as appropriate, are authorized and instructed to cooperate with Blount Memorial Hospital, Inc. in connection with the sale of the assets pursuant to the Asset Purchase Agreement, including, but not limited to, cooperate in seeking such regulatory approvals, including any required approval of the Tennessee Attorney General, with respect to such sale. 4. This body finds the foregoing resolutions to be proper and in the best interest of Blount County and Blount Memorial Hospital."

Also, in item 1. under the "NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED..." clause, insert ", Commission" after "...Mayor..." to read as, "1. Blount Memorial Hospital, Inc. is hereby authorized to negotiate and finalize the terms of the Asset Purchase

Agreement with the Ocoee Foundation (initial draft attached as Exhibit A), provided that the final form of such Asset Purchase Agreement shall be subject to the approval of the Mayor, Commission and the County Attorney prior to execution."

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

Yes: 17 - Akard, Anderson, Bennett, Bledsoe, Bowers, Bright, Carver, Caylor, Davis, French, Giles, Jopling, King, Martin, Reagan, Stinnett, and Wells

No: 0

Absent: 4 - Hannah, McMahan, Mikels, and Webb

Abstain: 0

A motion was made by Vice Chair Bright, seconded by Commissioner Akard, that the Resolution be adopted as amended. An electronic vote was taken. The Chairman declared the motion to have passed by the following vote:

Yes: 17 - Akard, Anderson, Bennett, Bledsoe, Bowers, Bright, Carver, Caylor, Davis, French, Giles, Jopling, King, Martin, Reagan, Stinnett, and Wells

No: 0

Absent: 4 - Hannah, McMahan, Mikels, and Webb

Abstain: 0

8. [Resolution No. 23-12-008, A Resolution to authorize Blount County to participate in the Food City Opioid Settlement and any future opioid payments resulting from litigation. Referred to full commission with a favorable recommendation by the Budget Committee \(3-0\).](#)

Attachments: [Resolution Food City Opioid Settlement](#)
[Memo Food City Opioid Settlement](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner Akard, seconded by Commissioner Carver, that the Resolution be adopted. An electronic vote was taken. The Chairman declared the motion to have passed by the following vote:

Yes: 17 - Akard, Anderson, Bennett, Bledsoe, Bowers, Bright, Carver, Caylor, Davis, French, Giles, Jopling, King, Martin, Reagan, Stinnett, and Wells

No: 0

Absent: 4 - Hannah, McMahan, Mikels, and Webb

Abstain: 0

9. [Resolution No. 23-12-012, A Resolution That Approves an Agreement Term Which Extends Beyond the End of the Fiscal Year for the Stop Loss Insurance Carrier for Blount County, TN.](#)

Attachments: [23-12-012 Resolution for Stop Loss Vendor effective 01 01 2024](#)
[Skyward Proposal Great Midwest BlountCountyGovernment](#)
[Insurance Committee Minutes 2023-Nov-14](#)
[H.R. Committee Minutes 2023-Nov-14](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner Reagan, seconded by Commissioner Giles, that the Resolution be adopted. An electronic vote was taken. The Chairman declared the motion to have passed by the following vote:

Yes: 17 - Akard, Anderson, Bennett, Bledsoe, Bowers, Bright, Carver, Caylor, Davis, French, Giles, Jopling, King, Martin, Reagan, Stinnett, and Wells

No: 0

Absent: 4 - Hannah, McMahan, Mikels, and Webb

Abstain: 0

10. [Resolution No. 23-12-013, A Resolution That Approves an Agreement Term Which Extends Beyond the End of the Fiscal Year for Group Organ & Tissue Transplant Insurance for Blount County, TN.](#)

Attachments: [23-12-013 Resolution for Transplant Policy effective 01 01 2024](#)
[QBE renewal policy](#)
[Insurance Committee Minutes 2023-Nov-14](#)
[H.R. Committee Minutes 2023-Nov-14](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner Carver, seconded by Commissioner Akard, that the Resolution be adopted. An electronic vote was taken. The Chairman declared the motion to have passed by the following vote:

Yes: 16 - Akard, Anderson, Bennett, Bledsoe, Bowers, Bright, Carver, Caylor, Davis, French, Giles, Jopling, Martin, Reagan, Stinnett, and Wells

No: 0

Absent: 5 - Hannah, King, McMahan, Mikels, and Webb

Abstain: 0

11. [Resolution No. 23-12-014, A Resolution to Amend the Zoning Resolution of Blount County, Tennessee, by Modifying Article 13 to Revise the Definition of Daycare Center.](#)

Attachments: [23-12-014 Resolution Modifying Article 13 - Daycare Center Def](#)
[Daycaredraft to CC 102423](#)
[Public Notice for ZPH](#)

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

Yes: 17 - Akard, Anderson, Bennett, Bledsoe, Bowers, Bright, Carver, Caylor, Davis, French, Giles, Jopling, King, Martin, Reagan, Stinnett, and Wells

No: 0

Absent: 4 - Hannah, McMahan, Mikels, and Webb

Abstain: 0

12. [Resolution No. 23-12-015, A Resolution to Allow Safe Passage in Blount County, Tennessee, for a Certain Visitor From the North Pole. \(This Resolution is Introduced in Memory of the Late Commissioner Richard Williams, Jr.\)](#)

Attachments: [23-12-015 Santa Resolution 2023-Dec-14](#)

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

Yes: 17 - Akard, Anderson, Bennett, Bledsoe, Bowers, Bright, Carver, Caylor, Davis, French, Giles, Jopling, King, Martin, Reagan, Stinnett, and Wells

No: 0

Absent: 4 - Hannah, McMahan, Mikels, and Webb

Abstain: 0

G. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND STATEMENTS.

H. PUBLIC INPUT ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA.

I. ADJOURNMENT.

With no other business, the Chairman declared the meeting to be adjourned. The Blount County Board of Commissioners having met in regular session on Thursday, December 14, 2023, adjourned at 7:14 p.m.