



Blount County Government

359 Court Street
Maryville, TN 37804-5906

Meeting Minutes

Board of Commissioners

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9-B Steve Mikels 865-755-6958 smikels@blounttn.org
10-A Linda Webb 865-389-0541 lwebb@blounttn.org
10-B David Wells 865-221-7603 dwells@blounttn.org

Thursday, May 18, 2023

6:30 PM

Blount County Courthouse, Room 430

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

Zoom Meeting ID: 827 2850 6684

ROLL CALL

BE IT REMEMBERED, that the Blount County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, May 18, 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 20 members present with the late arrival of Commissioner Jessica Hannah, and 1 was absent. The Chairman declared that a quorum did exist. The following proceedings were held, to wit:

Present: 20 - Commissioner Mike Akard, Chairperson Jared Anderson, Commissioner Robbie Bennett, Commissioner Brad Bowers, Commissioner Nick Bright, Commissioner Richard Carver, Commissioner Mike Caylor, Commissioner Misty Davis, Vice Chair Ron French, Commissioner John Giles, Commissioner Jessica Hannah, Commissioner Jeff Jopling, Commissioner Scott King, Commissioner Staci Martin, Commissioner Earl McMahan, Commissioner Steve Mikels, Commissioner Dawn Reagan, Commissioner Tom Stinnett, Commissioner Linda Webb, and Commissioner David Wells

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Dyran Bledsoe

A. SETTING OF AGENDA.

A motion was made by Commissioner Reagan, seconded by Commissioner Bowers, that the agenda be set.

The Chairman recognized Mayor Mitchell who requested that item F.10. Resolution No. 23-05-010 a Resolution to Levy a Tax Rate in excess of the Certified Tax Rate be withdrawn from the agenda.

A motion was made by Commissioner Caylor, seconded by Commissioner Bright, that item F.10 be removed from the agenda. An electronic vote was taken. The Chairman declared the motion to have passed by the following vote:

Yes: 20 - Akard, Anderson, Bennett, Bowers, Bright, Carver, Caylor, Davis, French, Giles, Hannah, Jopling, King, Martin, McMahan, Mikels, Reagan, Stinnett, Webb, and Wells

No: 0

Absent: 1 - Bledsoe

Abstain: 0

A motion was made by Commissioner Mikels that item H. PUBLIC INPUT ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA be moved up to the beginning of the agenda. Commissioner French moved that the rules be suspended to allow for public comment on items not on the agenda to come after approval of the item B. Consent Calendar. There was 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: 20 - Akard, Anderson, Bennett, Bowers, Bright, Carver, Caylor, Davis, French, Giles, Hannah, Jopling, King, Martin, McMahan, Mikels, Reagan, Stinnett, Webb, and Wells

No: 0

Absent: 1 - Bledsoe

Abstain: 0

B. CONSENT CALENDAR.

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

Yes: 20 - Akard, Anderson, Bennett, Bowers, Bright, Carver, Caylor, Davis, French, Giles, Hannah, Jopling, King, Martin, McMahan, Mikels, Reagan, Stinnett, Webb, and Wells

No: 0

Absent: 1 - Bledsoe

Abstain: 0

1. [Minutes of Regular Commission Meeting on April 20, 2023.](#)

Attachments: [Minutes 2023-Apr-20](#)

The minutes were approved.

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

Attachments: [BONDS AND OATHS RESOLUTION 23-05-011](#)

[Oaths of Sheriff Deputies 2023-May-18](#)

[Notary Public Bonds Oaths 2023-May-18 \(2\)](#)

The Resolution was adopted.

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

Attachments: [Notaries to be Elected 2023-May-18](#)

The notaries were elected.

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

Attachments: [Minutes of Beer Board Meeting 2023-Feb-16](#)

[Minutes of Beer Board Meeting 2023-Apr-11](#)

[Minutes of Budget Comm Meeting 2023-Apr-11](#)

[Minutes of BZA Meeting 2022-Dec-05](#)

[Minutes of BZA Meeting 2023-Mar-14](#)

[Minutes of Education Comm Meeting 2023-Feb-23](#)

[Minutes of Education Comm Meeting 2023-Apr-04](#)

[Minutes of Planning Comm Meeting 2023-Mar-20](#)

[Minutes of Planning Comm Meeting 2023-Mar-23](#)

[Minutes of Technology Comm Meeting 2022-Oct-20](#)

[Sheriff Annual Report for 2022](#)

[Trustee Monthly Report for March 2023](#)

[Trustee Monthly Report for April 2023](#)

The reports were received and filed.

5. [April 2023 Financial Reports. \(Information Only\)](#)

Attachments: [ARPA Utility Project Update April 2023](#)
[ARPA Tracking 4.28.23](#)
[FY22.23 Capital Exhibit REVISED Apr 23](#)
[April 2023 Expense Report](#)
[April 2023 Revenue Report](#)
[YTD Budget Report Expenses ending 30 Apr](#)
[YTD Budget Report Revenues ending 30 Apr](#)
[US BANK REPORT APR 23](#)

The reports were received and filed.

6. [FY23-24 Budget Recommendation. \(Information Only\)](#)

Attachments: [FY23.24 Budget Committee](#)

The information was received and filed.

7. [FY23-24 Tax Rate Resolution. Referred to full commission as information only by the Budget Committee \(5-0\).](#)

Attachments: [FY23.24 Tax Levy Resolution Recommended](#)
[FY23-24 revenue budget analysis](#)

The information was received and filed.

8. [FY23-24 Appropriation Resolution. Referred to full commission as information only by the Budget Committee \(5-0\).](#)

Attachments: [FY23.24 Appropriation Resolution Recommended](#)
[FY23-24 appropriation budget analysis](#)

The information was received and filed.

9. [FY23-24 Resolution to Establish Capital Outlay Priorities. Referred to full commission as information only by the Budget Committee \(5-0\).](#)

Attachments: [FY23.24 Capital Resolution Recommended](#)
[FY23.24 Capital Exhibit](#)

The information was received and filed.

C. PUBLIC INPUT ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA.

D. ELECTIONS, APPOINTMENTS, AND CONFIRMATIONS.

1. [Library Board of Trustees \(3-Year Term\) Reappointment of Commissioner Dawn Reagan.](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner Giles, seconded by Commissioner Carver, that the appointments in items D.1 thru D.6 be approved. Commissioner French requested that item D.5 be considered separately. Commissioner Mikels objected to Commissioner French's request. The Chairman ruled that because the appointments were to different seats and boards, any of them could be separated on the request of any one Commissioner; therefore, item D.5 would be excluded from the Motion in order to consider it separately.

An electronic vote was taken to approve the appointments in items D.1, D.2, D.3, D.4 and D.6. The Chairman declared the motion to have passed by the following vote:

Yes: 19 - Akard, Anderson, Bennett, Bowers, Bright, Carver, Caylor, Davis, French, Giles, Hannah, Jopling, King, Martin, McMahan, Mikels, Stinnett, Webb, and Wells

No: 0

Absent: 1 - Bledsoe

Abstain: 1 - Reagan

2. [Emergency Communications District "E-911" Board \(4-Year Term\) Reappointment of Judge William Brewer.](#)

Attachments: [Memo Re E911 Board Appointments](#)

The appointment was approved according to the action taken above in D.1.

3. [Emergency Communications District "E-911" Board \(4-Year Term\) Reappointment of Sheriff James Berrong.](#)

Attachments: [Memo Re E911 Board Appointments](#)

The appointment was approved according to the action taken above in D.1.

4. [Emergency Communications District "E-911" Board \(4-Year Term\) Reappointment of Commissioner Mike Caylor.](#)

Attachments: [Memo Re E911 Board Appointments](#)

The appointment was approved according to the action taken above in D.1.

5. [Emergency Communications District "E-911" Board \(4-Year Term\) Reappointment of Commissioner Ron French.](#)

Attachments: [Memo Re E911 Board Appointments](#)

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

Yes: 19 - Akard, Anderson, Bennett, Bowers, Bright, Carver, Caylor, Davis, Giles, Hannah, Jopling, King, Martin, McMahan, Mikels, Reagan, Stinnett, Webb, and Wells

No: 0

Absent: 1 - Bledsoe

Abstain: 1 - French

6. [Board of Equalization \(2-Year Term\) Appointment of Alternate Member Bill Lowe.](#)

Attachments: [Bill Lowe Equalization Memo Resume](#)

The appointment was approved according to the action taken above in D.1.

E. UNFINISHED BUSINESS.

1. [Resolution No. 22-11-016, A Resolution to Amend the Zoning Regulations for Suburbanizing and R1 Zoning Districts of Blount County, Tennessee.](#)

Attachments: [RESOLUTION 22-11-016 - Min Lot Size](#)

[Public Notice](#)

[PCResolution_202313_Blount County Zoning Amend](#)

[Memo to Alcoa Planning Commission 2022-Dec-07](#)

[Report of Action BC Planning Commission 2022-Dec-05](#)

[DRAFT Resolution 22-11-016 Amend Zoning Regs for Suburbanizing and R1 Districts](#)

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Commissioner King, that the resolution be amended by striking "32,670 square feet (.75 acres) if septic tank and field line is utilized or 21,780 square feet (.50 acres) if public utility sewer is utilized." and inserting instead "15,000 square feet." in paragraph 1 of the NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED clause, and also to remove from the resolution Paragraph 2 of the BE IT RESOLVED clause regarding Section 9.2.F of the zoning ordinance. An electronic vote was taken. The Chairman declared the motion to have failed by the following vote:

Yes: 5 - Caylor, King, McMahan, Stinnett, and Wells

No: 14 - Akard, Anderson, Bennett, Bowers, Bright, Carver, Davis, French, Giles, Hannah, Jopling, Martin, Mikels, and Reagan

Absent: 1 - Bledsoe

Abstain: 1 - Webb

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

Yes: 12 - Akard, Anderson, Bennett, Bowers, Bright, Carver, Davis, Hannah, Jopling, Martin, Mikels, and Reagan

No: 8 - Caylor, French, Giles, King, McMahan, Stinnett, Webb, and Wells

Absent: 1 - Bledsoe

Abstain: 0

F. NEW BUSINESS.

1. [Resolution No. 23-05-001. Budget Increase - Schools - \\$757,255.00 \(Appropriate second round of American Rescue Plan Stabilization Grant to support child care\). Referred to full commission with a favorable recommendation by the Budget Committee \(5-0\).](#)

Attachments: [Resolution Schools Stabilization Grant.](#)
[Amendment Schools Stabiliation Grant](#)
[Memo Schools Stabilization Grant](#)

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

Yes: 20 - Akard, Anderson, Bennett, Bowers, Bright, Carver, Caylor, Davis, French, Giles, Hannah, Jopling, King, Martin, McMahan, Mikels, Reagan, Stinnett, Webb, and Wells

No: 0

Absent: 1 - Bledsoe

Abstain: 0

2. [Resolution No. 23-05-002. Budget Increase - Schools - \\$75,000.00 \(Appropriate funds for WBHS Ninth Grade Academy Roof Repair\). Referred to full commission with a favorable recommendation by the Budget Committee \(5-0\).](#)

Attachments: [Resolution School WBHS Roof Repair](#)
[Amendment Schools WBHS Roof Repair](#)
[Memo Schools WBHS Roof Repair](#)

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

Yes: 19 - Akard, Anderson, Bennett, Bowers, Bright, Carver, Caylor, Davis, Giles, Hannah, Jopling, King, Martin, McMahan, Mikels, Reagan, Stinnett, Webb, and Wells

No: 0

Absent: 1 - Bledsoe

Abstain: 0

Did Not Vote: 1 - French

3. [Resolution No. 23-05-003. Budget Increase - Schools - \\$213,000.00 \(Appropriate funds for safe school mass communication system\). Referred to full commission with a favorable recommendation by the Budget Committee \(5-0\).](#)

Attachments: [Resolution School Safety](#)
[Amendment School Safety](#)
[Memo School Safety](#)

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: 20 - Akard, Anderson, Bennett, Bowers, Bright, Carver, Caylor, Davis, French, Giles, Hannah, Jopling, King, Martin, McMahan, Mikels, Reagan, Stinnett, Webb, and Wells

No: 0

Absent: 1 - Bledsoe

Abstain: 0

4. [Resolution No. 23-05-004. Budget Increase - Schools - \\$1,209,952.00 \(Appropriate funds for state summer school grant\). Referred to full commission with a favorable recommendation by the Budget Committee \(5-0\).](#)

Attachments: [Resolution School Summer School Grant.](#)
[Amendment School Summer School Grant](#)
[Memo School Summer School Grant](#)

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

Yes: 19 - Akard, Anderson, Bennett, Bowers, Bright, Carver, Caylor, Davis, French, Giles, Hannah, Jopling, King, Martin, McMahan, Mikels, Stinnett, Webb, and Wells

No: 0

Absent: 1 - Bledsoe

Abstain: 1 - Reagan

5. [Resolution No. 23-05-005. Budget Increase - Register of Deeds - \\$11,128.57 \(Appropriate fund balance to increase funds to health and dental benefit accounts\). Referred to full commission with a favorable recommendation by the Budget Committee \(5-0\).](#)

Attachments: [Resolution Register of Deeds Health Ins](#)
[Amendment Register of Deeds Health Ins.](#)
[Memo Register of Deeds Health Ins.](#)

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

Yes: 20 - Akard, Anderson, Bennett, Bowers, Bright, Carver, Caylor, Davis, French, Giles, Hannah, Jopling, King, Martin, McMahan, Mikels, Reagan, Stinnett, Webb, and Wells

No: 0

Absent: 1 - Bledsoe

Abstain: 0

6. [Resolution No. 23-05-006. Budget Increase - Elections Commission - \\$898,803.00 \(Accept and appropriate State Grant for Voting System Conversion and new scanning equipment, reimbursable by the State\). Referred to full commission with a favorable recommendation by the Budget Committee \(5-0\).](#)

Attachments: [Resolution Elections voting machine conversion](#)
[Amendment Elections Voting machine conversion](#)
[Memo Elections voting machine conversion and ballot scanners](#)

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

Yes: 20 - Akard, Anderson, Bennett, Bowers, Bright, Carver, Caylor, Davis, French, Giles, Hannah, Jopling, King, Martin, McMahan, Mikels, Reagan, Stinnett, Webb, and Wells

No: 0

Absent: 1 - Bledsoe

Abstain: 0

7. [Resolution No. 23-05-007. Budget Increase - BCSO - \\$1,500.00 \(Appropriate donated funds for a dive suit for the search and rescue team\). Referred to full commission with a favorable recommendation by the Budget Committee \(5-0\).](#)

Attachments: [Resolution BCSO -Dive Suit Donation](#)
[Amendment BCSO Dive suit Donation](#)
[Memo BCSO Dive Suit Donation](#)

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: 20 - Akard, Anderson, Bennett, Bowers, Bright, Carver, Caylor, Davis, French, Giles, Hannah, Jopling, King, Martin, McMahan, Mikels, Reagan, Stinnett, Webb, and Wells

No: 0

Absent: 1 - Bledsoe

Abstain: 0

8. [Resolution No. 23-05-008. Budget Increase - Library - \\$152,639.99 \(Appropriate funds from foundation contributions for the automation handler hardware\). Referred to full commission with a favorable recommendation by the Budget Committee \(5-0\).](#)

Attachments: [Resolution Library Automation Handler](#)
[Amendment Library Automation Handler \(2\)](#)
[Memo Library Automation Handler](#)

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

Yes: 20 - Akard, Anderson, Bennett, Bowers, Bright, Carver, Caylor, Davis, French, Giles, Hannah, Jopling, King, Martin, McMahan, Mikels, Reagan, Stinnett, Webb, and Wells

No: 0

Absent: 1 - Bledsoe

Abstain: 0

9. [Resolution No. 23-05-009. Budget Increase - Library - \\$5,400.00 \(Appropriate funds from foundation contributions for architectural design for building improvement, to support the automation handler hardware\). Referred to full commission with a favorable recommendation by the Budget Committee \(5-0\).](#)

Attachments: [Resolution Library Architectural Drawing](#)
[Amendment and Memo Library Architectural Drawing](#)

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

Yes: 20 - Akard, Anderson, Bennett, Bowers, Bright, Carver, Caylor, Davis, French, Giles, Hannah, Jopling, King, Martin, McMahan, Mikels, Reagan, Stinnett, Webb, and Wells

No: 0

Absent: 1 - Bledsoe

Abstain: 0

10. [Resolution No. 23-05-010. Resolution to Levy a Tax Rate in excess of the Certified Tax Rate \(attachments\). Referred to full commission with a favorable recommendation by the Budget Committee \(5-0\).](#)

Attachments: [Res. 23-05-010 - RESOLUTION TO LEVY A TAX RATE IN EXCESS OF CERTIFIED Preliminary tax report](#)
[Comptroller - Certified Tax Rate Information](#)

There was no action taken on this item as it was removed at the setting of the agenda.

11. [Resolution No. 23-05-012, Resolution to Approve the Terms of Settlement for the Case of CHRISTY HUSKEY V. BLOUNT COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION.](#)

Attachments: [Settlement Approval Resolution 23-05-012](#)
[EXHIBIT A - Memorandum of Agreement in Mediation](#)

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: 18 - Akard, Anderson, Bennett, Bowers, Bright, Carver, Caylor, Davis, French, Hannah, Jopling, King, Martin, McMahan, Mikels, Stinnett, Webb, and Wells

No: 2 - Giles, and Reagan

Absent: 1 - Bledsoe

Abstain: 0

12. [Resolution No. 23-05-013, A Resolution to Ratify the Amendment of Chapter 187 of the Private Acts of 1945 of the State of Tennessee as Amended.](#)

Attachments: [Resolution Ratifying Private Act Amendment Ch 187](#)

[EXHIBIT A - SB1548 Amendmenmt - SA0468](#)

[SB1548 \(1\)](#)

[Private Ch 28 HB1560](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner Bright, 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, Bowers, Bright, Caylor, Davis, Giles, Hannah, Jopling, King, Martin, McMahan, Mikels, Reagan, Webb, and Wells

No: 2 - French, and Stinnett

Absent: 1 - Bledsoe

Abstain: 1 - Carver

13. [Resolution No. 23-05-014, Resolution to Amend Zoning Ordinance to Temporarily Remove Cluster Development.](#)

Attachments: [Resolution 23-05-014 Cluster Development definition temp removal](#)

[Legal Notice Public Hearing 05.09.23](#)

[To CC_022723](#)

[Draft Resolution To CC_022723-1](#)

[Planning Commission Minutes 2023-Feb-23 Draft CC_022723-2](#)

[Alcoa Planning Commission Resolution 202323 Blount County Amend Definitions \(1\)](#)

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

Yes: 20 - Akard, Anderson, Bennett, Bowers, Bright, Carver, Caylor, Davis, French, Giles, Hannah, Jopling, King, Martin, McMahan, Mikels, Reagan, Stinnett, Webb, and Wells

No: 0

Absent: 1 - Bledsoe

Abstain: 0

14. [Resolution No. 23-05-015, A Resolution by the Blount County Board of Commissioners Voicing Support of Manufacturers' Rights and Tennessee State Bill HB1189 / SB0822, "AN ACT to Amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 8, Chapter 6, Title 39 and Title 47, Relative to Qualified Civil Liability Actions."](#)

Attachments: [Gun Manufacturer Civil Liability Actions Resolution](#)
[HB1189 SB0822 Qualified Civil Liability Actions](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner Bright, 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: 20 - Akard, Anderson, Bennett, Bowers, Bright, Carver, Caylor, Davis, French, Giles, Hannah, Jopling, King, Martin, McMahan, Mikels, Reagan, Stinnett, Webb, and Wells

No: 0

Absent: 1 - Bledsoe

Abstain: 0

15. [Resolution No. 23-05-016, A Resolution of the Blount County Commission Reaffirming Previously Adopted Resolution Number 19-04-012.](#)

Attachments: [Reaffirm TN Gun Owners Rights Resolution](#)
[RES 19-04-012 BOC Support 2nd Amendment Right of US Constitution](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner Bright, 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: 20 - Akard, Anderson, Bennett, Bowers, Bright, Carver, Caylor, Davis, French, Giles, Hannah, Jopling, King, Martin, McMahan, Mikels, Reagan, Stinnett, Webb, and Wells

No: 0

Absent: 1 - Bledsoe

Abstain: 0

G. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND STATEMENTS.

H. PUBLIC INPUT ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA.

I. ADJOURNMENT.

A motion was made that the meeting be adjourned. The Chairman declared the meeting to be adjourned. The Blount County Board of Commissioners having met in regular session adjourned on Thursday, May 18, 2023, at 9:30 p.m.