



Bradley County Commission
Johnny Mull, Chairman
WORK SESSION MINUTES
June 10, 2019, at noon
Bradley County Courthouse

Members present: Louie Alford, Milan Blake, Thomas Crye, Erica Davis, Dennis Epperson, Bobby Goins, Mike Hughes, Tim Mason, Chairman Johnny Mull, Charlotte Peak, Kevin Raper, Howard Thompson, Bill Winters, Vice Chairman Jeff Yarber, and non voting Ex Officio D. Gary Davis

Members absent: None

Chairman Johnny Mull called the meeting to order.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance led by Commissioner Kevin Raper, Westwood Baptist Church Associate Pastor Nolan Phillips prayed the invocation.

REPORT FROM COUNTY MAYOR

County Mayor D. Gary Davis distributed to the Commission the Finance Committee 2019-2020 budget recommendation.

Mayor Davis presented to the Commission for consideration a budget continuation resolution.

Commissioner Thomas Crye placed the budget continuation resolution on the June 17, 2019, voting session agenda.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND/OR DISTRICTS

7th District

Commissioner Bill Winters reported meeting with Tennessee Department of Transportation officials regarding the Highway 60 project. Winters expects more information to soon be forthcoming.

Commissioner Kevin Raper announced the Road Committee met and expects a timeline for the Hopewell School traffic project to soon be announced.

6th District

Commissioner Erica Davis stated she represents all people of the 6th district and committed to listening to the opinions of all regarding the future of Bradley County and the recently discussed potential tax increase. Davis noted our [Bradley County] needs aren't going away, but are getting worse.

Commissioner Tim Mason reported the Sheriff's litter crew collected 35,720 pounds of litter and tended Fort Hill Cemetery.

5th District

Commissioner Bobby Goins had no report.

Vice Chairman Jeff Yarber opined the general public does not recognize the dire straits we [Bradley County] are in. Vice Chairman Yarber stated the need for additional Fire Department employees and a better retirement plan for all county employees. Vice Chairman Yarber requested the Finance Committee consider earmarking two pennies for use in Juvenile Department, EMS, and the Sheriff's Department.

4th District

Commissioner Howard Thompson had no report.

Commissioner Charlotte Peak reiterated Davis' comments that she respects all opinions and committed to listening to all opinions. Peak announced she will not tolerate harassment or late night phone calls. Peak welcomed respectful conversation.

3rd District

Commissioner Milan Blake placed on the June 17, 2019, voting session agenda the Finance Committee recommendation to lower the Fund 115 Public Library reserve fund policy from five percent to zero percent for one year.

Blake placed on the June 17, 2019, voting session agenda the Finance Committee recommendation to amend the 2019-2020 budget calendar as proposed.

Blake took exception to recent comments in the Cleveland Daily Banner by a fellow commissioner suggesting Blake is spitting in the face of Bradley County Sheriff's Office Sergeants and Detectives. Blake reported the motion he offered to increase the wage line for the Sheriff's Department failed for a lack of a second. Blake expressed his utmost respect, admiration, and appreciation for all employees of the Sheriff's Department.

2nd District

Commissioner Thomas Crye agreed with Blake and also took exception to the suggestion that they spit in the face of Sheriff's Officers. Crye noted he and Blake in fact worked to provide more for the department than what was in the proposal. Crye stated his respect for all county employees.

Commissioner Louie Alford complimented Commissioner Erica Davis on her comments and agreed all Commissioners should remain open to all ideas.

1st District

Commissioner Mike Hughes apologized for the comments reported from the Finance Committee. Hughes reported a constituent call from a single mother living in the city that said she would have to move from her home if the property taxes are increased. Hughes said he will not affect his people in a negative way. Hughes added he is a conservative Republican and believes in cutting budgets.

Commissioner Dennis Epperson had no report.

Chairman Johnny Mull asked all Commissioners to respect the opinion of others and to treat others with respect as we work through the process of what is best for Bradley County.

Chairman Mull welcomed new Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Mike Griffin.

AGENDA ITEMS

Commissioner Thomas Crye placed on the June 17, 2019, voting session agenda a resolution to rezone from Rural Residential (R1) district to Forestry/Agricultural/Residential (FAR) district property located at 137 Jonathan Drive SE and identified by tax map 068E group C parcel 003.00.

Commissioner Crye placed on the June 17, 2019, voting session agenda a resolution to rezone from Forestry/Agricultural/Residential (FAR) district to General Industrial (I1) district property located at Maddux Road NW, North Mouse Creek Road NW, and Glendale Lane NW and identified by tax map 015 parcels 007.00, 007.07, 019.00, and 019.05.

Commissioner Blake announced the Finance Committee will meet Thursday, June 13, 2019, at noon in the County Commission conference room. Commissioner Peak asked Blake to change the time to 2:00p.m. Blake acquiesced and set the 2:00p.m. meeting time.

Commissioner Winters stated it is not his intent to hurt anyone and further stated the impact of a tax increase would be in the realm of \$39.00 per year. Winters urged taxpayers to do their homework on how an increase would affect their tax bill and how the extra revenue would benefit the county. Winters committed to working tirelessly to keep the men and women who work for the county.

Commissioner Thompson opined our concern should be for the low and fixed income people.

Commissioner Crye stated the average home value in Bradley County is \$196,000, which would be impacted four to five dollars per month with a tax increase.

Commissioner Mason declared he is and always has been for education and that the person who recently suggested otherwise is a liar. Mason said the people put him here and the people is who he will listen to.

Commissioner Epperson opined the county has a lot of needs that require funding.

Commissioner Winters thanked the Finance Committee and the Mayor for their work on the budget.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- *Next meeting – voting session, June 17, noon, Courthouse
- *Chamber Coffee – tomorrow, 8:30a.m., Chamber of Commerce
- *PIE Showcase – Wednesday drop in from 10:00a.m. – 2:00p.m., PIE Center
- *Market at the Mill – Thursday, June 13, 3:00p.m. – 6:00p.m., Old Woolen Mill
- *Friday Festival – June 14, 7:30p.m. – 9:30p.m., Courthouse square
- *Groundbreaking, Thursday, June 13, 1:15p.m., City fields at Old Blythe School

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.