



Bradley County Commission
Johnny Mull, Chairman
WORK SESSION MINUTES
August 24, 2020, at 7:00p.m.
Bradley County Courthouse

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

Members absent: None

Chairman Johnny Mull called the meeting to order.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance led by Commissioner Dennis Epperson, North Cleveland Church of God Pastor Mark Williams prayed the invocation.

REPORT FROM COUNTY MAYOR

County Mayor D. Gary Davis announced Flag Sentry Cadet Second Lieutenant Ella Kidd served last year and has requested to serve as Flag Sentry a second year. Mayor Davis thanked Second Lieutenant for her work and dedication to serve a second year. Mayor Davis recognized Flag Sentry team members Saul Savage and Seth Savage. Executive Assistant to the Mayor Lindsay Hathcock announced the Bradley County state legislators plan to present Second Lieutenant Kidd with a flag for her dedication to the service.

Mayor Davis announced the inmate medical contract with Fast Access has been signed and will begin on September 1, 2020.

Mayor Davis reported the Paul Huff EMS Station roof replacement project is underway.

Mayor Davis remembered long time Emergency Medical Service employee Sonny Hayes who passed away over the weekend.

Mayor Davis reminded everyone to follow the four guidelines to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND/OR DISTRICTS

1st District

Commissioner Dennis Epperson announced the Drinking Water and Waste Water Treatment Services Ad Hoc Committee will meet at 10:30a.m. on September 21, 2020, in the Commission room.

Commissioner Mike Hughes recalled Sonny Hayes' dedication to Bradley County.

Commissioner Hughes reported receiving calls over the weekend regarding the landfill odor.

2nd District

Commissioners Louie Alford and Thomas Crye had no report.

3rd District

Commissioner Milan Blake had no report.

4th District

Commissioner Charlotte Peak announced her desire to be selected as either Chairperson or Vice Chairperson of the Bradley County Commission. Commissioner Peak presented to the Commission a resolution amending the Bradley County Commission Rule of Procedure 12A regarding the election and voting of the Commission Chairperson and Chairperson Pro Tempore. Commissioner Peak suggested term limits should be considered for the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson and consideration of seniority. Commissioner Peak referred the resolution to the newly created Legal and Legislative Committee.

Commissioner Howard Thompson reported the City of Cleveland recently voted to form a task force for the monument issue. Commissioner Thompson opined the City of Cleveland should meet with the United Daughters of Confederacy and the Daughters of the American Revolution to determine their plans for their monuments. Commissioner Blake asked Legislative Administrator to contact the City of Cleveland for the scope of the task force, the mission of the task force, and the members of the task force.

5th District

Commissioners Bobby Goins and Cindy Slater had no report.

6th District

Commissioner Tim Mason had no report.

Commissioner Erica Davis announced the Broadband Initiative Ad Hoc Committee recently met and discussed plans to apply for grants with Volunteer Energy Cooperative (VEC). Commissioner Davis confirmed Senators Mike Bell and Todd Gardenhire and Representatives Mark Hall and Dan Howell will provide letters of support for the grant applications. Commissioner Davis provided Commissioners with a map identifying more than four hundred (400) emails received from residents requesting access to broadband internet. Commissioner Davis explained the map includes a quarter mile radius from each address submitted to project a total number of households without access to broadband internet. Commissioner Davis estimated the four hundred emails, using the quarter mile radius, represents 14,275 addresses which is approximately 35,685 individuals or 33% of Bradley County population. VEC representative David Murphy explained the deadline for the grant application is October 8, 2020, and projected an eighteen to twenty four month timeline to complete the process. Murphy noted the partnership between the county and the cooperative is key in the selection process which the county demonstrated with the commitment of \$25,000.00. Murphy urged everyone to log onto www.vec-twinlakes.com to see a footprint of the current VEC service area and the proposed footprint to be serviced. Commissioner Davis reported the ad hoc committee voted to focus on the greatest pockets of need which are southeast Bradley County first followed by the Chatata Valley area.

Commissioner Davis asked if any other Commissioners would seek the position of Chairperson or Vice Chairperson. Chairman Mull and Vice Chairman Crye confirmed their plans to seek re-election to their positions.

7th District

Commissioner Kevin Raper announced the Road Committee will meet at 9:00a.m. on August 27, 2020, in the Commission room.

Commissioner Bill Winters applauded the work and service of GIS Director Wayne Owenby on a recent project.

AGENDA ITEMS

Commissioner Raper reported a road slope issue was recently considered by the Road Committee which was referred to the Planning Commission. Commissioner Raper opined the county's current guidelines are too restrictive especially given the contour of the remaining land in Bradley County. Commissioner Raper presented a list of questions regarding road slop to be given to the Planning Commission:

1. What persons drew up the current guidelines for slope regarding Bradley County roads and neighborhoods?
 2. What year were the guidelines established and are they relevant for 2020 and beyond?
 3. Why was 15% chosen as the maximum slope?
 4. Are there state guidelines on maximum slope?
 5. What are the slope standards of surrounding counties and municipalities in comparison to Bradley County?
 6. What are the negative impacts of raising the maximum slope standards? Bradley County is running out of flat land to develop. That only leaves areas with slope issues.
 7. Would the Planning Commission please answer these questions and consider meeting with some local developers and an independent engineer to consolidate ideas for potential slope increases?
- Additionally, this group would discuss pug, binders, toppe, throats, catch basins, retention ponds, and other relevant terms pertaining to increased slope.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE AUDIENCE

Elmer Earls apologized to the Commission for his outburst at the August 17, 2020, meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- *Chairman Johnny Mull announced the Commission voting session is Tuesday, September 8, 2020, at 7:00p.m. in the Commission room
- *Road Committee, August 27, 9:00a.m., Commission room
- *County Office closed September 7, in observance of Labor Day
- *Finance Committee, September 8, 11:30a.m., Commission room
- *Drinking Water and Waste Water Treatment Services Ad Hoc Committee, September 21, at 10:30a.m. in the Commission room

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.