



Bradley County Commission
Johnny Mull, Chairman
WORK SESSION MINUTES
October 26, 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, Charlotte Peak, Kevin Raper, Cindy Slater, Howard Thompson, Bill Winters, and non-voting Ex Officio member D. Gary Davis

Members absent: Chairman Johnny Mull

Vice Chairman Thomas Crye called the meeting to order. Following the Pledge of Allegiance led by Commissioner Tim Mason, Awakening America Ministries representative Kay Horner prayed the invocation.

REPORT FROM COUNTY MAYOR

County Mayor D. Gary Davis presented to the Commission for consideration a resolution authorizing the Bradley County Mayor to negotiate and enter into an agreement with Ferguson HVAC Supply to provide hot water heaters for the Bradley County Sheriff's Office for a total amount of forty-five thousand one hundred seventy-three dollars (\$45,173.00). Commissioner Charlotte Peak placed the resolution on the November 2, 2020, voting session agenda.

Mayor Davis presented to the Commission for consideration a resolution authorizing the Bradley County Mayor to negotiate and enter into an agreement with W.J. O'Neil Company for the purchase and installation of new HVAC units for the Bradley County Sheriff's Office for an amount not to exceed one hundred eighty-five thousand dollars (\$185,000.00). Commissioner Bill Winters placed the resolution on the November 2, 2020, voting session agenda.

Mayor Davis reported Covid-19 numbers are increasing. Mayor Davis encouraged everyone to get a flu shot and to follow the recommended guidelines to stay safe: wash and sanitize hands, avoid large gatherings, maintain six feet distance from others, and wear a mask.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND/OR DISTRICTS

7th District

Commissioner Winters had no report.

Commissioner Kevin Raper thanked Ocoee Middle School for their work at Fort Hill Cemetery.

Commissioner Raper placed on the November 2, 2020, consent agenda a motion to appoint Robert Williams, 7th District, to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee term expiring November 2025.

6th District

Commissioner Erica Davis reported Ocoee Utility District plans to pursue a Community Development Block Grant to expand water in the fourth and sixth districts.

Commissioner Tim Mason had no report.

5th District

Commissioner Cindy Slater placed on the November 2, 2020, consent agenda a motion to appoint Gary Owenby, 5th District, to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee term expiring November 2025.

Commissioner Bobby Goins reported receiving opposition to the move of Summit residents to a new home on Smith Drive.

4th District

Commissioner Charlotte Peak placed on the November 9, 2020, work session agenda a presentation by Envirosuite on third party monitoring of the landfill.

Commissioner Peak placed on the November 2, 2020, voting session agenda the Solid Waste Landfill Committee recommendation to request Santek reduce the intake of type B sludge by 50% or less.

Commissioner Peak placed on the November 2, 2020, consent agenda a motion to appoint Adam Lowe, 4th District, to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee term expiring November 2025.

Commissioner Peak reported the Solid Waste Landfill Committee asked the County Attorney to opine on whether or not the Bradley County Landfill is subject to the EPA regulation of twenty-four hour monitoring.

Commissioner Howard Thompson had no report.

3rd District

Commissioner Milan Blake reminded Commissioners there are three days remaining of early voting and encouraged everyone to vote.

Commissioner Blake introduced 3rd District resident Tonya Brantley to talk about Taylor Spring Park. Brantley recounted saving the Taylor Spring millstone in 2016.

Commissioner Blake placed on the November 2, 2020, consent agenda a motion to reappoint Derrick Burrell, 3rd District, to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee term expiring November 2025.

2nd District

Commissioner Louie Alford placed on the November 2, 2020, consent agenda a motion to reappoint Eddie Evans, 2nd District, to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee term expiring November 2025.

1st District

Commissioner Dennis Epperson placed on the November 2, 2020, consent agenda a motion to reappoint Jonathan Jobe, 2nd District, to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee term expiring November 2025.

Commissioner Mike Hughes had no report.

AGENDA ITEMS

Commissioner Davis introduced Volunteer Energy Cooperative (VEC) representative David Murphy to discuss broadband expansion plans in the County. Murphy explained that while working on the fifty-fifty matching State broadband accessibility grant application for Bradley County, the USDA announced a grant opportunity due December 23, 2020, requiring a fifteen percent match and a potential for a greater award. Murphy reported the decision was made to focus all efforts on the USDA grant and noted the application will be written to expand broadband to the Old Fort and Chatata Valley areas as identified by the Broadband Initiative Ad Hoc Committee as areas of need. Murphy stated the USDA grant, if awarded, would not require the twenty-five thousand dollars set aside by the County for broadband expansion.

Commissioner Peak announced the Parks and Recreation Board recently met and determined private school students, per the rules, are not allowed to participate in the [basketball] program. Commissioner Peak asked the County Attorney for information regarding the creation of the Board. County Attorney Crystal Freiberg stated the Commission approved a resolution on June 20, 1983, dissolving the Bradley County Conservation Board and creating the Parks, Recreation Conservation Advisory Committee of Bradley County. Commissioner Peak asserted the Committee violated their own bylaws by failing to notify the County Executive of Board vacancies or term expirations and by not meeting since 2015. Commissioner Peak opined the minutes of the board meetings are inadequate and therefore, the meetings are null and void. Peak placed on the November 2, voting session agenda a motion that would protect any child, County, or school that is currently affected by any undocumented rule changes and are being restricted from playing for any team they are currently playing for regardless of zoning or private school affiliation specifically but not limited to Zoe Dunsfield and Polk County and Benton Schools. Commissioner Alford suggested limiting the motion to the child in question. Peak amended the November 2, motion to protect Zoe Dunsfield and the Polk County and Benton Schools that are currently affected by the undocumented rule changes and are being restricted from playing for a team they choose regardless of zoning or private school affiliation. Peak explained the inclusion of the Polk County and Benton Schools in the motion is to allow them, school combined teams, to play in the end of the year tournament which they are currently prohibited per league rules. Vice Chairman Crye noted the basketball league is a Parks and Recreation program under the portfolio of the Mayor with no school system involvement other than providing the facility. Commissioner Slater questioned why the league basketball rules require a minimum grade to participate while other leagues do not. Parks and Recreation Director Andy Lockhart explained the basketball league is limited in participation and minimum grades are an eligibility requirement. Peak amended the motion to allow this child [Zoe Dunsfield] gets to play with Taylor [Elementary School] for the next two years regardless of where she lives now.

Peak placed on the November 2, voting session agenda a motion that any rules or rule changes must be presented to a validated board at the meeting they will be having to go over the rules or rule changes being properly posted and the Commission being told specifically about that meeting; public notice must be followed to allow public comments on any and all rule changes and rule changes should revert back to the rules prior to 2015 that excluded the private school participants, the board must meet quarterly, and provide an annual report to the Commission. Peak opined the child was allowed to play for two years and should not suffer the consequences of not playing this season. Peak questioned the origin of the rules and suggested the default should be any child living in Bradley County should be allowed the opportunity to participate. Freiberg confirmed the Parks, Recreation and Conservation Advisory Committee has no authority beyond that of an advisory committee.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE AUDIENCE

Danielle Collins stated the Parks and Recreation basketball league rules affect their students at Polk County and Benton Schools. Collins reported the league recently notified them they would not be allowed to play this year, because the two schools combined to create a team. Collins asked why are rules bent for some children, but not others.

Mayor Davis suggested the Commission tread carefully when altering rules and overturning decisions.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- *Voting Session, November 2, 7:00pm, Courthouse
- *Downtown Trick or Treat, October 30, 5:00p.m.-8:00p.m., Courthouse square
- *Downtown Trick or Treat, October 31, 3:00p.m.-6:00p.m., Courthouse square
- *Finance Committee, November 2, 11:30a.m., Courthouse

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.