



Bradley County Commission
Louie Alford, Chairman
WORK SESSION MINUTES
May 10, 2021, at 12:00p.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 Louie Alford, Transforming Greatness Founder and Chief Executive Officer Toni Miles prayed the invocation.

REPORT FROM COUNTY MAYOR

County Mayor D. Gary Davis presented the award for Financial Reporting Achievement to County Finance Director Rena Samples.

Mayor Davis reported the number of active Covid-19 cases has declined to two hundred fifty-eight (258), Covid-19 hospitalizations have remained low, and the county recorded one Covid-19 related death last week.

Mayor Davis reported fifty-one thousand (51,000) Bradley County residents have received at least one dose of the Covid-19 vaccination which equals forty-seven percent (47%) of our county population.

Mayor Davis announced the Health Department will continue to administer Covid-19 vaccinations at the First Baptist Church campus through Friday, May 17, 2021, but will administer vaccinations at the Health Department campus beginning May 18, 2021.

Mayor Davis announced the Health Department renovation is nearing completion.

Mayor Davis announced both entrances to the Courthouse were opened today upon the expiration of the mask mandate for county owned buildings.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND/OR DISTRICTS

7th District

Commissioner Bill Winters expressed appreciation for the opportunity to pray at meetings and thanked Toni Miles for her prayer.

Winters reported the work on Candies Lane is progressing nicely.

Winters applauded the Bradley County School System for their efforts to protect students, staff, and families while maintaining academics and sports/social functions during a challenging year.

Commissioner Kevin Raper thanked Miles for the prayer and requested prayers for the soon to be high school graduates.

6th District

Commissioner Erica Davis reported the Bell Road Public Water Project is complete and providing six households with clean, potable water.

Commissioner Davis expressed excitement for the Black Fox and North Lee building dedications tomorrow.

Commissioner Davis reported working with the Tennessee Three Star Certificate and identifying broadband access the number one priority in Bradley County. Commissioner Davis explained the priority designation opens partnerships locally and with the State of Tennessee Economic and Community Development to provide more opportunity for expansion.

Commissioner Tim Mason invited Commissioners to the Bradley Central High School Senior Parade at 6:00p.m. tomorrow at the school.

Mason announced the Road Committee will meet Monday, May 17, 2021, at 10:30a.m. in the County Commission room.

5th District

Commissioners Cindy Slater and Bobby Goins had no report.

4th District

Commissioner Howard Thompson had no report.

Commissioner Charlotte Peak announced the Building and Land Committee will meet immediately following this work session in the County Commission room.

Peak requested Peach Orchard Hill Road be placed on the May 17, 2021, Road Committee agenda to consider installing tiles and paving over them to widen the roadway.

3rd District

Commissioner Milan Blake congratulated Lee University Baseball Coach Mark Brew for being named Gulf South Conference Coach of the Year.

Blake congratulated the Bradley Central High School baseball team for advancing in the tournament and wished them luck.

Blake announced plans to attend the County Commissioners meeting in May to glean details on use of the federal funds and redistricting procedure.

2nd District

Vice Chairman Thomas Crye announced the Education Committee will meet at 11:30a.m. on Wednesday, May 12, 2021, in the County Commission conference room.

Commissioner Louie Alford had no report.

1st District

Commissioner Mike Hughes had no report.

Commissioner Dennis Epperson requested prayers for the family of Rick Owens who died over the weekend.

AGENDA ITEMS

There were no agenda items.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE AUDIENCE

Lonnie Setlich, Executive Park Place, asked the Commission to consider lowering property taxes during the economically challenged time of the pandemic.

Craig Thompson, Westbrook Circle, asked the Commission to consider reducing property taxes in light of the devastating effects of the pandemic.

Dan Rawls, Hall Norwood Road, demanded the Commission reduce property taxes.

Deborah Gleason, Corvin Road, opposed a tax increase and noted she receives no services in her area.

Mike Degrom, Augustus Way, asked the Commission to not raise taxes during this difficult time.

Blake, Finance Committee Chairman, clarified there has been no talk of a property tax increase. Blake speculated the cause for public concern arose from the statutorily required reassessment of property and the increase seen in our community. Blake explained, by law, the Commission is not allowed to benefit from a reappraisal which will require a reduction of the certified tax rate to offset the reassessment increase. Blake offered to meet individually with any resident to further discuss the tax rate formula. Blake further explained the Finance Committee reviews each line item of every account in the County budget and invited the public to attend Finance Committee meetings.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- *Next meeting – Voting Session, May 17, 2021, at noon, Commission room
- *Building and Land Committee, immediately following this meeting, Commission room
- *Black Fox Building Dedication, tomorrow, 8:00a.m.
- *North Lee Building Dedication, tomorrow, 9:00a.m.
- *Education Committee, May 12, 11:30a.m., Commission room
- *Walker Valley graduation, May 13, 7:30p.m., Walker Valley football stadium
- *Cleveland High School graduation, May 14, 6:00p.m., Cleveland High School
- *Bradley Central High School graduation, May 15, 7:30p.m., Bear Stadium
- *Main Street Mixer, tonight, 4:00p.m.-5:30p.m., 60 North Ocoee Street
- *Road Committee, May 17, 10:30a.m., Commission room
- *Main Street Cruise In, May 22, 1:00p.m.-6:00p.m., Courthouse square

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.