



Bradley County Commission
Johnny Mull, Chairman
WORK SESSION MINUTES
June 27, 2022, at 7:00p.m.
Bradley County Courthouse

Members present: Louie Alford, Milan Blake, Vice Chairman Thomas Crye, Erica Davis, Dennis Epperson, 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: Bobby Goins

Chairman Johnny Mull called the meeting to order. Following the Pledge of Allegiance led by Commissioner Erica Davis, Wesley United Methodist Pastor Ramon Torres prayed the invocation.

REPORT FROM COUNTY MAYOR

County Mayor D. Gary Davis presented to the Commission a resolution authorizing Bradley County Mayor to execute a construction easement to the City of Cleveland along Dooley Street for federal project TAP/STP-M-9203(23), state project 06LPLM-F1-058, for an amount of three hundred dollars (\$300.00). Vice Chairman Thomas Crye placed the resolution on the July 5, 2022, voting session agenda.

Mayor Davis presented Commissioners with the final fiscal year proposed 2022-2023 budget books.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND/OR DISTRICTS

1st District

Commissioner Dennis Epperson had no report.

Commissioner Mike Hughes reported a weekend fire at the landfill.

2nd District

Commissioner Louie Alford and Vice Chairman Thomas Crye had no report.

3rd District

Commissioner Milan Blake placed on the July 5, 2022, voting session agenda a resolution fixing the tax levy for Bradley County, Tennessee for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2022.

Commissioner Blake placed on the July 5, 2022, voting session agenda a resolution fixing the fire tax levy of the county fire district for Bradley County, Tennessee for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2022.

Commissioner Blake placed on the July 5, 2022, voting session agenda a resolution making appropriations for the various funds, departments, institutions, offices, and agencies of Bradley County, Tennessee for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2022 and ending June 30, 2023.

Commissioner Blake placed on the July 5, 2022, voting session agenda a resolution making appropriations to non-profit charitable organizations of Bradley County, Tennessee for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2022, and ending June 30, 2023.

4th District

Commissioner Charlotte Peak reported the Ocoee Region Builders Association and Habitat for Humanity collaborated to build a four bedroom house in Morelock Meadows.

Commissioner Peak questioned a Road Department project on Banther Road that was seemingly off the right-of-way. Commissioner Peak requested the work order for the project, requested a response of whether or not the work was performed off of the right-of-way, and requested who paid for the equipment, materials, and labor for the project.

Commissioner Howard Thompson had no report.

5th District

Commissioner Cindy Slater had no report.

6th District

Commissioner Tim Mason reported failing wells on Sugar Creek Road between Hopkins Road and Union Road.

Commissioner Erica Davis had no report.

7th District

Commissioner Kevin Raper thanked Tennessee Department of Transportation for recently addressing resident concerns.

Commissioner Bill Winters had no report.

AGENDA ITEMS

Chairman Johnny Mull opened the public hearing on the annexation interlocal agreement between the City of Cleveland and Bradley County for the proposed non-contiguous annexation of 23.4 acres located on New Murraytown/Freewill Roads. Max Phillips, local realtor, voiced support for the proposed annexation and noted the need for housing. Engineer Ben Berry expressed support for the proposed annexation which is within the growth plan and would economically benefit the city and county. Commissioner Peak noted the property is not contiguous to the Prospect School property and opined the County Schools do not have to accept city zoned students. Commissioner Peak placed on the August 1, 2022, voting session agenda a resolution to authorize an annexation interlocal agreement between the City of Cleveland and Bradley County for the proposed non-contiguous annexation of 23.4 acres located on New Murraytown/Freewill Roads. Area resident Jim Wilson opined New Murraytown Road cannot adequately accommodate the traffic created by the proposed development, and noted the City of Cleveland may provide a waiver for the development to access the sewer. Wilson expressed concern with the children of the development creating a strain on Prospect School. Area resident David Young voiced opposition to the proposed annexation.

Commissioner Hughes opined the extra traffic will demand a roundabout at the intersection of Freewill Road and Harrison Pike. Commissioner Hughes requested a waiver from the City of Cleveland should a loan be required to add on to Prospect School to accommodate the extra students. Commissioner Peak opined the property owner has a right to request annexation of the property which lies within the growth plan. Dan Rawls asked if the growth plan may be expanded. Area resident Roy Martin suggested requiring the developers to help fund the extra services needs on these annexations. Commissioner Epperson reported the recent traffic study conducted by the state concluded there is not enough traffic to warrant altering the intersection at Harrison Pike and Freewill Road. Commissioner Epperson requested the county attorney review the recently passed law regarding county schools operating within the boundaries of a municipal education agency. City of Cleveland Planner Corey Divel confirmed the interlocal agreement proposes the city annexing Freewill Road in front of the development. Area resident Delia Wilson voiced opposition to the annexation and suggested widening New Murraytown Road to accommodate the extra traffic. Commissioner Blake explained the twenty (20) year growth plan, agreed upon by the City of Cleveland, City of Charleston, and Bradley County, is in place until the three entities agree to amend it. Commissioner Blake asked if the Road Committee considered the concerns of the Road Superintendent regarding this proposed annexation plan of services. Commissioner Winters suggested exploring the possibility of using American Rescue Plan funds for roads. Commissioner Davis opined the aforementioned law regarding county schools located within municipal boundaries does not apply to this proposed annexation. Commissioner Davis requested a report on the number of sewer waivers granted to date by the City of Cleveland. Commissioner Davis requested the City of Cleveland conduct a traffic study on New Murraytown and Freewill Roads. Commissioner Davis suggested the Building and Land Committee meet to review the growth plan to educate Commissioners and the public. Area resident Chuck Stanza asked if all properties along the annexed roadways will be annexed. Corey Divel confirmed just the roadway will be annexed.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE AUDIENCE

Deborah Gleason voiced opposition to the twelve percent (12%) increase in the County Commission personnel line item for the upcoming fiscal year. Gleason urged Commissioners to address the Election Commission exceeding their budget for the current fiscal year.

Dan Rawls questioned the recourse for the Election Commission exceeding their current fiscal year budget. Rawls reported the Election Commission monthly meetings do not allow public comment.

Mark Cooper confirmed the no public comment policy of the Election Commission.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Next meeting – voting session, July 5, 2022, at 7:00p.m., Courthouse

*Avail ribbon cutting – June 30, at 4:00p.m., 1400 Stuart Road

*Candidate Forum, June 30, at 4:00p.m., Chamber of Commerce

*County Offices closed July 4, in observance of Independence Day

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.