



Bradley County Commission
Johnny Mull, Chairman
WORK SESSION MINUTES
July 12, 2021, at noon
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 Milan Blake, Westwood Baptist Church Associate Pastor Wayne Finnell prayed the invocation.

REPORT FROM COUNTY MAYOR

County Mayor D. Gary Davis recognized Cleveland State Community College President Dr. Bill Seymour. Dr. Seymour thanked Commissioners for their support of the first new classroom building on campus in forty-six (46) years and the renovation of the Humanities Building. Dr. Seymour announced an agreement to provide two Bradley County EMS employees with last dollar scholarships to the paramedic program. Dr. Seymour introduced Tennessee Board of Regents Assistant Vice Chancellor for Strategic Advancement Cris Perkins who presented the Commission with the 2021 Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Philanthropy.

Mayor Davis presented to the Commission for consideration a resolution authorizing the Bradley County Mayor to execute a memorandum of understanding with Cleveland State Community College for enrollment of current Bradley County AEMTs in the paramedic program for an initial term of two (2) years with three additional one year optional renewal terms. Commissioner Bill Winters placed the resolution on the July 19, 2021, voting session agenda.

Mayor Davis reported thirty-six (36) active Covid-19 cases and no current Covid-19 related hospitalizations. Mayor Davis noted there were no Covid-19 related deaths in Bradley County last week.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND/OR DISTRICTS

7th District

Commissioner Bill Winters applauded the Cleveland State Community College agreement with Bradley County an excellent example of government working together to meet the needs of the citizens.

Commissioner Kevin Raper thanked Dr. Seymour and staff for attending the meeting today and their efforts to serve our community.

Commissioner Raper expressed appreciation for all law enforcement officials and the service they provide our community.

6th District

Commissioner Erica Davis announced SPCA adopted nineteen (19) animals to forever homes last week and transported twelve (12) animals as part of the "Go North" program.

Commissioner Tim Mason reported the litter grant cleaned three hundred eighty-eight (388) county roads, one hundred ninety (190) state roads, and seventy-five (75) miles of city roads during the last month and collected eleven thousand five hundred twenty (11,520) pounds of litter. Mason noted one thousand three hundred ten (1,310) pounds of paper and metal were recycled. Mason thanked Sheriff Steve Lawson, Thomas Bell, and Missy Harrison for their efforts with the litter program.

5th District

Commissioner Cindy Slater had no report.

Commissioner Bobby Goins cautioned drivers to exercise caution in the construction area of Wildwood Avenue.

4th District

Commissioner Howard Thompson had no report.

Commissioner Charlotte Peak requested the Mayor notify the Building and Land Committee Chair of scheduled maintenance work. Peak committed to overseeing and inspecting the work.

3rd District

Commissioner Milan Blake had no report.

2nd District

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

1st District

Commissioner Mike Hughes opined Constable Brent Runyon will be truly missed.

Hughes requested a time line for the odor monitoring of the landfill. Mayor Davis announced monitoring is expected to begin in the next couple of days and requested the Commission designate an employee to monitor the monitoring system.

Commissioner Dennis Epperson read a statement addressing comments that appeared in the July 11, 2021, Cleveland Daily Banner. STATEMENT RECORDED AS ATTACHMENT.

Epperson announced a July 15, 2021, meeting at noon at the Farmhouse Restaurant to discuss with Representatives Mark Hall and Dan Howell possible intersection improvements at Freewill Road and Harrison Pike. The meeting will move at 12:45p.m. to the intersection.

AGENDA ITEMS

Chairman Mull placed on the July 19, 2021, voting session agenda a resolution to establish a redistricting committee.

Commissioner Davis placed on the July 19, 2021, voting session agenda a resolution to designate the Bradley County Command Center as the "Jeff Yarber Command Center".

Chairman Mull recognized Cleveland/Bradley Chamber of Commerce Economic Development Vice President Doug Berry. Berry presented to the Commission a resolution approving an amendment to an existing payment-in-lieu-of-taxes (PILOT) agreement with Whirlpool Corporation to encourage additional investment in plant and equipment and the retention and expansion of employment opportunities in Bradley County, Tennessee. Slater placed the resolution on the July 19, 2021, voting session agenda.

Raper read a letter of resignation submitted by 7th District Constable Brent Runyon. LETTER RECORDED AS ATTACHMENT. Raper commended Runyon for being a real asset to Bradley County. Winters thanked Runyon for his service as a hidden hero and wished him well. Peak thanked Runyon for serving with integrity. Thompson thanked Runyon for his service. Blake thanked Runyon for his service and asked him to opine on ways the Commission may support Constables. Runyon recommended the Commission continue to provide education opportunities through the Bradley County Sheriff's Department. Chairman Mull noted his relationship with Runyon began in elementary school midget league football and continues today. Chairman Mull thanked Runyon for his service and wished him well.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE AUDIENCE

There was no communication from the audience.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Next meeting – Voting Session, July 19, noon, Bradley County Courthouse

*LEAF Academy graduation, July 16, 10:00a.m., Cleveland Middle School Theater

*Harrison Pike/Freewill Road meeting, July 15, noon, Farmhouse Restaurant

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

COMMISSION DENNIS EPPERSON STATEMENT

I would like to address statements made in Sunday's Banner titled "Concerns on sewer master plan voiced". I find it encouraging that it was stated within the article, and I will quote. "I think this county needs a more responsible land use plan that balances the needs of everyone in the community...no one's going to get everything they want." I totally agree with this one statement. Not only will this infrastructure plan achieve that objective, but it will also insure the health and wellbeing of our Citizens. Infrastructure is a necessity for any growing community such as ours.

I have officially announced every sewer master plan meeting that has taken place and we will be announcing a public meeting or two soon. Also, under consideration we will be adding a tab to the county website for comments for those Citizens that will not be able to attend these meetings.

So, to sum it up, the Ad-Hoc Committee has been very transparent and continues to welcome the public to any of our meetings.

July 12, 2021

Mayor Gary Davis

And Bradley County Commissioners

Please accept this letter as notice of my resignation effective at midnight tonight from my position as District 7 Constable of Bradley County.

My family and I are moving to Ocoee, Tennessee and I will no longer be in district to serve in this capacity. It has been an honor to serve in this position. I would like to thank you Mayor Davis and commissioners along with the citizens of Cleveland and Bradley County that voted for me for this opportunity. If I can help in the transition of a new Constable, I would be happy to do so.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Brent Runyon", with a long, sweeping horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Brent Runyon