



Bradley County Commission
Johnny Mull, Chairman
WORK SESSION MINUTES
September 28, 2021, 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, and non-voting Ex Officio member D. Gary Davis

Members absent: Bill Winters

Chairman Johnny Mull called the meeting to order.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance led by Commissioner Mike Hughes, Clingan Ridge Baptist Church Pastor Collin Cooke prayed the invocation.

REPORT FROM COUNTY MAYOR

County Mayor D. Gary Davis reported the current number of active Covid-19 cases in Bradley County is eight hundred eighty-one (881). Mayor Davis reported the number of Covid-19 related hospitalizations are down, but noted there were four (4) Covid-19 related deaths last week in Bradley County.

Mayor Davis reported the completion of the Dooley Street EMS Station roof project, and noted exterior repairs will soon be underway.

Mayor Davis reported the completion of the Justice Center phase one roof replacement project, and announced phase two will begin shortly.

Mayor Davis presented to the Commission a resolution authorizing the Bradley County Mayor to execute a memorandum of understanding with the Bradley County Board of Education regarding the UT Agriculture Extension Office for a period of sixty (60) months for an amount of five thousand ninety-five dollars (\$5,095.00) per year. Commissioner Hughes placed the resolution on the October 4, 2021, voting session agenda.

Mayor Davis presented a proclamation to Arts Is Here representative Connie Gatlin declaring October 2021 as Arts Appreciation month. Gatlin thanked the county for the declaration and provided an update on the Art Is Here partnership.

Mayor Davis reported renovation is underway on the main entrance at the Justice Center.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND/OR DISTRICTS

1st District

Commissioner Dennis Epperson had no report.

Commissioner Hughes announced the salaries of employees at the Bradley County Fire Department were recently increased by thirty-five hundred dollars (\$3,500.00) which increased the starting pay to thirty-five thousand five hundred dollars (\$35,500.00).

Commissioner Hughes placed on the October 4, 2021, voting session agenda a resolution opposing President Joe Biden's announced vaccine mandate that extends to eighty million (80,000,000) private sector workers in America and may apply through OSHA regulations to Bradley County government employees and in furtherance of this opposition requesting that Governor Lee, the Bradley County legislative delegation, the Tennessee General Assembly and the Tennessee Attorney General take all steps possible to oppose, protest and challenge President Biden's overreaching federal mandate.

2nd District

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

3rd District

Commissioner Milan Blake reported the Redistricting Committee met earlier and voted to recommend a number of changes to ensure substantially equal county district populations. Commissioner Blake placed on the October 18, 2021, voting session agenda a resolution to adopt a redistricting plan for Bradley County.

Commissioner Blake reported the Finance Committee voted to recommend approving a public water fund project along Rakestraw Road to extend water lines at a total project cost of seventeen thousand two hundred six dollars and ten cents (\$17,206.10) and a cost to Bradley County of four thousand three hundred one dollars and fifty-three cents (\$4,301.53). Commissioner Blake placed the project, approved by the Southeast Tennessee Development District, on the October 4, 2021, voting session agenda.

Commissioner Blake reported the Finance Committee voted to recommend approving a public water fund project along Kile Lake Road to extend water lines at a total project cost of twenty-three thousand dollars (\$23,000.00) and a cost to Bradley County of five thousand seven hundred fifty dollars (\$5,750.00). Commissioner Blake placed the project, approved by the Southeast Tennessee Development District, on the October 4, 2021, voting session agenda.

Commissioner Blake announced the Finance Committee will meet immediately following the October 11, 2021, work session in the Commission room.

Commissioner Blake announced the Bradley County HCI deadline for letters of intent is 4:30p.m. on September 30, 2021.

4th District

Commissioner Charlotte Peak reported the Dooley Street Ambulance Station roof looks good and noted the work included the removal of some vent pipes, painting of the remaining vent pipes, and cutting ridge vents at no additional cost.

Commissioner Peak requested an update on the landfill monitoring project. Commissioner Cindy Slater reported tower placement is underway with monitoring expected to begin by the end of November 2021.

Commissioner Peak thanked the State of Tennessee for paving in the county and specifically Highway 64.

Commissioner Peak thanked Commissioner Tim Mason for his efforts to maintain the beauty of the area.

Commissioner Howard Thompson voiced support of the Fire Department salary increases.

5th District

Commissioners Bobby Goins and Slater had no report.

6th District

Commissioner Tim Mason had no report.

Commissioner Erica Davis announced the Law Enforcement Committee will meet at 10:00a.m. on September 28, 2021, at the Sheriff's Office. Commissioner Davis directed attendees to the CID entrance located on the south side of the building.

7th District

Commissioner Kevin Raper had no report.

AGENDA ITEMS

Commissioner Bobby Goins introduced Dan Rawls who shared two videos regarding the Covid-19 vaccines. Rawls urged the Commission to oppose any Covid-19 vaccine mandates in Bradley County and to consider a resolution to the Tennessee General Assembly to prohibit discrimination against unvaccinated persons.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE AUDIENCE

Lonnie Setlich, 2448 Executive Park Drive, expressed disappointment with not being allowed to be included on the County Commission agenda. Setlich opined there are issues with the Covid-19 vaccine and opposed a vaccine mandate.

Deborah Gleason, 295 Corvin Road, voiced opposition to the vaccine mandate.

Kim Ford, 256 Willbrook Circle, expressed opposition to the vaccine mandate. Ford also urged the Commission to fully consider all strings attached to the federal money prior to voting to accept the funds.

Teresa Ball, 134 Bellingham Drive, voiced opposition to government money being spent on the vaccination propaganda.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Next meeting, voting session on October 4, at 7:00p.m. in the Courthouse

*Law Enforcement Committee, tomorrow, at 10:00a.m., at the Sheriff's Office

*Finance Committee, October 11, immediately following the work session in the Courthouse

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.