



*Bradley County Commission*  
**Thomas Crye, Chairperson**  
WORK SESSION MINUTES  
October 23, 2023, at 7:00p.m.  
Bradley County Courthouse

Members present: Louie Alford, Daniel Beaty, Milan Blake, Denny Collins, Chairman Thomas Crye, Scott Gilbert, Bobby Goins, Mike Hughes, Tommy Ledford, Tim Mason, Josh Rogers, Cindy Slater, Howard Thompson, Vice Chairman Bill Winters, and non-voting ex officio member D. Gary Davis

Members absent: None

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Chairman Thomas Crye called the meeting to order. Following the Invocation prayed by North Cleveland Baptist Church Pastor Jay McCluskey, Commissioner Milan Blake led the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### REPORT FROM COUNTY MAYOR

County Mayor D. Gary Davis presented a Joint Proclamation to Lucy Rymer recognizing October as National Arts and Humanities Month in Bradley County and Cleveland, Tennessee. Rymer recognized that the Museum Center at Five Points has anchored arts and humanity in Bradley County the past twenty-four (24) years. Rymer shared with the Commission the results of the AEP6 study of economic and social impact of non-profit arts organizations and their effects on communities. The Museum Center accounted for twenty-four percent (24%) of the seven million two hundred fifty-nine thousand eight hundred forty-six dollars (\$7,259,846.00) total expenditures by the arts organizations and twenty-six percent (26%) of jobs created related to the arts organizations in Bradley County.

Mayor Davis presented to the commission a resolution authorizing the Bradley County Mayor to enter into an annexation interlocal agreement between the City of Cleveland and Bradley County regarding the non-contiguous annexation of the property currently owned by Larry and Nancy Eskew, tax map 026 parcel 029.01. Commissioner Slater placed the resolution on the November 6, 2023, voting session agenda.

Mayor Davis corrected a recent inaccurate news article reporting the starting pay for Bradley County EMS is forty-eight thousand dollars (\$48,000.00) which is higher than the reported amount.

#### REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND/OR DISTRICTS

##### 1<sup>st</sup> District

Commissioners Daniel Beaty and Mike Hughes had no report.

##### 2<sup>nd</sup> District

Commissioner Louie Alford reminded the Commission of a policy requiring requests for non-contiguous annexations to be discussed at two (2) work sessions. Commissioner Alford requested a readable map of the property and to confirm placement of the notice signs on the property.

Commissioner Hughes requested proposed use information. Chairman Crye removed from the November 6, 2023, voting session agenda the aforementioned resolution authorizing an interlocal agreement for the non-contiguous annexation of property owned by Larry and Nancy Eskew.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> District

Commissioner Milan Blake reported the Finance Committee met last week and voted a recommendation for the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds allocated for water. Commissioner Blake placed the recommendation on the November 6, 2023, voting session agenda.

Commissioner Blake reported the Finance Committee met with a number of community organizations regarding their requests for funds to battle opioids in our community, and confirmed the Finance Committee will further consider the requests on November 6, and offer the full Commission a recommendation.

Commissioner Denny Collins thanked Pastor Jay McCluskey for his love and leadership.

### 4<sup>th</sup> District

Commissioner Scott Gilbert reported a positive visit at Park View Elementary School and applauded the faculty for their work.

Commissioner Howard Thompson asked if there are funds still available for water projects. Mayor Davis noted the deadline for water projects has passed and confirmed a forthcoming proposal to move unused water funds to other buckets. Commissioner Blake explained the Finance Committee followed the rules for the water projects when formulating the recommendation for ARPA water projects. Commissioner Blake noted the Public Water Fund will be available for water projects in the next budget year.

### 5<sup>th</sup> District

Commissioner Bobby Goins had no report.

Commissioner Cindy Slater congratulated Bradley High School on their victory over Cleveland High School Football Team.

Commissioner Slater congratulated the Walker Valley High School Band on their superior ranking at a recent band competition receiving first place for guard, first place overall, and second place for percussion.

Commissioner Slater offered best wishes to the state bound Walker Valley High School Soccer Team.

Commissioner Slater thanked Woodmen Life and State Representative Dan Howell for their donation to Bradley County Fire and Rescue. Commissioner Slater explained the large American flag will be used to remember heroes at funerals and other special events.

### 6<sup>th</sup> District

Commissioner Tim Mason had no report.

Commissioner Tommy Ledford echoed Commissioner Slater's comments regarding the flag presentation to Bradley County Fire Rescue.

Commissioner Ledford wished his wife a happy birthday.

Commissioner Ledford congratulated the state champion Cleveland High School Girls' Volleyball Team.

7<sup>th</sup> District

Vice Chairman Bill Winters echoed Commissioner Collins' comments about Pastor McCluskey.

Commissioner Josh Rogers congratulated the Cleveland High School Girls' Volleyball Team on back to back state championships.

Commissioner Rogers invited Commissioners and the community to attend the Bradley Central High School performance of Beauty and the Beast [October 27, 2023, thru November 5, 2023].

#### AGENDA ITEMS

Commissioner Mike Hughes presented to the Commission a resolution to rezone from General Industrial (I-1) District to Forestry Agricultural Residential (FAR) District property located at 294 Lead Mine Valley Road SW and identified by tax map 065 parcel 057.00. Commissioner Hughes placed the resolution on the November 6, 2023, voting session agenda. Commissioner Hughes noted the Planning Commission voted unanimously to recommend approval.

#### COMMUNICATION FROM THE AUDIENCE

Dan Rawls opined there is a lack of integrity and accountability in the Election Commission Office which he recently discussed with State Legislators. Rawls reported the Administrator worked nine and a half (9.5) hours between May 6, 2023, and May 13, 2023. Rawls urged the Commission to discuss this matter with Bradley County State Legislators. Chairman Crye moved the matter to the Legal and Legislative Committee for consideration.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

\*Next meeting – November 6, 2023, at 7:00p.m., Courthouse

\*Spirits, Legends, and Lore, October 24, 6:30p.m., Courthouse

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:34p.m.

## JOINT PROCLAMATION

### “NATIONAL ARTS AND HUMANITIES MONTH”

Whereas, the nation’s 120,000 non-profit arts organizations, the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the nation’s 4,500 local arts agencies in communities across the country, and the arts and humanities councils of the 50 states and the six U.S. jurisdictions and districts have regularly issued official proclamations on an annual basis designating October as National Arts and Humanities Month, and . . .

Whereas, cities and states-through their local and state arts agencies, which represent thousands of cultural organizations-have celebrated the value and importance of culture in the lives of Americans and the health of thriving communities during National Arts and Humanities Month for nearly 30 years; and

Whereas, the humanities help diverse communities across the United States explore their history and culture with the support and partnership of the National Endowment for the Humanities, the 50 states and six jurisdictions and district humanities councils, and local educational and cultural institutions, the arts and humanities embody so much of the accumulated wisdom, intellect and imagination of humankind; and the arts and humanities enhance and enrich the lives of everyone in America; the arts and humanities play a unique role in the lives of our families, our communities and our country; and . . .

Whereas, despite significant losses due to the coronavirus pandemic, the creative industries remain among the most vital sectors of the American economy-providing new opportunities for developing cities, creating jobs and economic activity within their own industry and across sectors and making communities attractive to business development,

NOW THEREFORE, We, Kevin Brooks, Mayor of the City of Cleveland, and D. Gary Davis, Mayor of Bradley County, Tennessee do hereby proclaim October, 2023 as “NATIONAL ARTS AND HUMANITIES MONTH” in Cleveland and Bradley County and call upon our community members to celebrate and promote the arts and culture in our community, and to specifically encourage greater participation by the community members in taking action for the arts and humanities in our city and county.

Kevin Brooks  
Kevin Brooks, Cleveland Mayor

D. Gary Davis  
D. Gary Davis, Bradley County Mayor