



Bradley County Commission
Thomas Crye, Chairperson
WORK SESSION MINUTES
January 8, 2024, at noon
Bradley County Courthouse

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

Members absent: Milan Blake, Denny Collins, Bobby Goins

Chairman Thomas Crye called the meeting to order. Following the Invocation prayed by Westmore Church of God Discipleship and Assimilation Pastor Vera Voznuk, Commissioner Mike Hughes led the Pledge of Allegiance.

REPORT FROM COUNTY MAYOR

County Mayor D. Gary Davis provided the septic report: eight (8) open RC&D projects and three (3) open Bradley County projects.

Mayor Davis announced the Audit for the year ending June 30, 2023, is available on the Bradley County website. Mayor Davis noted the net position of Bradley County increased by seven million four hundred fifty-five thousand dollars (\$7,455,000.00) to sixty-three million two hundred ninety-one thousand dollars (\$63,291,000.00). Mayor Davis reported Bradley County reduced the debt load by seven million four hundred thirty-three thousand dollars (\$7,433,000.00) and maintained an Aa2 rating from Moody's and an AA rating from Standard & Poor's for general debt obligation. Mayor Davis confirmed Bradley County maintains a twenty percent (20%) unassigned fund balance of nine million one hundred fifty-two thousand seven hundred sixteen dollars (\$9,152,716.00).

Mayor Davis reported the City of Cleveland Director of Schools will soon be leaving and encouraged residents to discuss with their representatives the possibility of consolidating Bradley County and Cleveland City Schools to shrink government and to better serve all students.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND/OR DISTRICTS

7th District

Commissioner Josh Rogers had no report.

Vice Chairman Bill Winters agreed the county should work with the City of Cleveland to benefit all students.

Vice Chairman Winters extended condolences to the family of Taylor Cannon.

Vice Chairman Winters reported the Highway 60 project continues to progress including a new entrance to Cleveland Middle School.

Vice Chairman Winters announced the Legal and Legislative Committee will meet on January 16, at 11:00a.m. in the commission room.

6th District

Commissioner Tommy Ledford extended condolences to the family of Tom Truelove.

Commissioner Tim Mason provided the December Tennessee Department of Transportation litter grant report: 398 miles of county roads, 146 miles of state roads, and 75 miles of city roads for a total of 11,200 pounds of litter collected. Commissioner Mason noted 650 pounds of material was recycled.

5th District

Commissioner Cindy Slater had no report.

4th District

Commissioner Howard Thompson recognized attorney James F. Logan Jr. Logan who explained an opportunity resulted from opioid litigation to pursue opioid price fixing litigation. Logan offered for Logan-Thompson to represent Bradley County, along with ten (10) other counties, in this litigation. Commissioner Slater placed on the January 16, 2024, voting session agenda a resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement with Logan-Thompson law for the provision of representation in this matter.

Commissioner Scott Gilbert extended condolences to the family of Taylor Cannon.

2nd District

Commissioner Louie Alford reported the second district continues to grow.

1st District

Commissioner Mike Hughes opined consolidation is an intriguing idea.

Commissioner Daniel Beaty had no report.

AGENDA ITEMS

There were no agenda items.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE AUDIENCE

*Mary Wooten opposed the construction of an animal shelter in the Waterville residential community.

*Snookie McClure opposed the construction of an animal shelter in the Waterville residential community.

*Dwight Woodcock, American Legion Post 81 Adjutant, invited commissioners to submit to him issues affecting veterans that he may carry to the national meeting in Washington D.C. February 24-29, 2024.

*John Thomason reported three hundred ninety-three (393) wreaths were laid for the Wreaths Across America ceremony. Thomason added the Veterans Honor Guard served sixty-three (63) veterans in 2023.

*Stephen Hatchett announced his candidacy for District Attorney General for the 9th District and welcomed discussions with commissioners regarding Bradley County matters.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Next meeting – voting session, January 16, at noon, commission room

*Finance Committee immediately following this meeting

*County offices closed January 15, in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday

*Legal and Legislative Committee, January 16, at 11:00a.m., commission room

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.