



Bradley County Commission
Thomas Crye, Chairperson
WORK SESSION MINUTES
April 22, 2024, at 7:00p.m.
Bradley County Courthouse

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

Members absent: Daniel Beaty, Bobby Goins, Cindy Slater

Chairman Thomas Crye called the meeting to order. Following the invocation prayed by First Baptist Church Pastoral Care Captain Tom Wickes, Commissioner Louie Alford led the Pledge of Allegiance.

REPORT FROM COUNTY MAYOR

County Mayor D. Gary Davis reported the RAM Clinic sponsored by the Kiwanis Club provided free medical services totaling one hundred ninety-seven thousand dollars (\$197,000.00).

Mayor Davis reported Southeast Tennessee Resource Conservation and Development Council, Inc. have completed 84 of their eighty-nine (89) septic repair contracts while Bradley County has completed 16 of their nineteen (19) contracts.

Mayor Davis asked commissioners to keep the families of the two (2) females lost to a fire over the weekend and the emergency responders in their thoughts in the wake of this tragedy.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND/OR DISTRICTS

7th District

Commissioner Josh Rogers welcomed Cleveland Bradley County Public Library Director Keisha Parks to the meeting and thanked her for an exceptionally informative luncheon last week.

Commissioner Rogers urged commissioners to visit Trousdale School to see their new phenomenal outdoor space partially funded by Bradley County HCI.

Vice Chairman Bill Winters had no report.

6th District

Commissioner Tommy Ledford reported raising five hundred seventy dollars (\$570.00) by participating in the Relay For Life ice cream eating contest.

Commissioner Tim Mason had no report.

4th District

Commissioner Howard Thompson requested the number of city students attending Bradley County Schools.

Commissioner Thompson asked if the interim EMS Director is receiving additional salary. Mayor Davis confirmed the employee is not receiving additional salary for temporary EMS duties.

Commissioner Scott Gilbert thanked Director Parks for the opportunity to attend the library luncheon.

3rd District

Commissioner Denny Collins thanked Director Parks for the hospitality and sharing the vision of the library for the coming years.

Commissioner Collins thanked Captain Wickes for the invocation and credited him for working as a mentor in the community.

Commissioner Milan Blake thanked Director Parks and Teen Library Shannon Bismarck for their work to better our public library.

Commissioner Blake reported Captain Wickes, former Marine fighter pilot, sang the National Anthem at the Lee University Military Appreciation Day.

Commissioner Blake asked if the City of Cleveland has responded to the request to join the county in providing an additional one hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000.00) for the emergency shelter project. Mayor Davis confirmed there has been no communication received to date regarding the additional funding.

2nd District

Commissioner Louie Alford reported garbage has been on the side of Michigan Avenue Road near Harry's for more than a week.

Chairman Thomas Crye announced the Republican Party will meet April 23, 2024, at 6:00p.m. in the commission room.

1st District

Commissioner Mike Hughes placed on the May 6, 2024, voting session agenda a resolution declaring approximately 2.07 acres of Bradley County property located on Johnson Boulevard, map and parcel number 058P H 022.00, as surplus property and

authorizing the County Mayor to offer this property for sale by public bid. Commissioner Blake questioned the resolution considering the letter from SPCA declining the opportunity to purchase and to permanently locate on Johnson Boulevard. Hughes explained SPCA supporter John Shehan confirmed the location would accommodate their needs. Mayor Davis took exception to the third paragraph of the resolution which claims there is no current use for the property by stating the property is currently leased for three (3) years. Commissioner Rogers opined the property may also be needed in the future to expand the Bradley County Juvenile Center facility or parking area. Commissioner Gilbert, member of the SPCA Board of Directors, and Commissioner Hughes denied ever seeing the aforementioned letter rejecting the Johnson Boulevard property. Commissioner Hughes noted the Johnson Boulevard property is located within the boundaries of the city of Cleveland and would require rezoning if sold to SPCA. Commissioner Hughes declined a number of requests to provide extra time on the matter and maintained it on the May 6, 2024, voting session agenda. Commissioner Blake opined the commission did not operate in good faith previously with SPCA agreeing to sell them property and then pulling the rug out, and vowed not to allow it to happen again. Commissioner Rogers objected to moving forward with the resolution without an opportunity for Building and Land Committee to consider the matter. Mayor Davis confirmed there has been no formal communication from SPCA to rescind their bid for the property located in the Waterville Community. Commissioner Thompson announced the Building and Land Committee will fully consider the matter at 6:00p.m. on May 6, 2024, in the commission room. Chairman Crye confirmed for Vice Chairman Winters the sponsor of the resolution may choose to pull the resolution prior to a vote on May 6, 2024.

AGENDA ITEMS

There were no agenda items.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE AUDIENCE

*Dan Rawls explained SPCA Board President Steve Anderson submitted a letter declaring Johnson Boulevard [property] unsuitable for their plans.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Next meeting – Voting Session, May 6, at 7:00p.m., Courthouse

*Mainstreet Cruise In, April 27, from noon until 4:00p.m., Downtown

*Bradley County Schools Road Show, April 30, at 9:00a.m., Lake Forest Middle School

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.