Bradley County Commission

Milan Blake, Chairperson

WORK SESSION MINUTES

October 12, 2026, at 12:00 p.m.

Bradley County Courthouse Commission Room

Members present: Louie Alford, Rusty Asble, Stephen Beasley, Daniel Beaty, Chairman Milan Blake, Denny Collins, Bobby Goins, Mike Hughes, Rich Kienelen, Tommy Ledford, Tim Mason, Terri Murray, Vice Chairperson Cindy Slater, Josh Taylor, and non-voting ex officio member D. Gary Davis

Members absent: None

Chairman Milan Blake called the meeting to order. Following the invocation prayed by Pastor Jim Gibson, Commissioner Terri Murray led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Blake requested that the chairs of the Commission's internal standing committee coordinate with the Commission Office to schedule their meetings by February 2027.

REPORT FROM COUNTY MAYOR

County Mayor D. Gary Davis presented a letter from the Tennessee Comptroller of the Treasury acknowledging that county officials amended the Fiscal Year 2027 budget to correct projected negative ending cash balance in the Community Development Fund. LETTER RECORDED AS ATTACHMENT.

Mayor Davis recognized Volunteer Energy Cooperative (VEC) David Murphy, who reported that the four broadband projects funded through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) have been completed. Murphy also provided an update on new VEC broadband projects funded through the federal Broadband Equity, Access, and Digital Equity (BEAD) program. Murphy stated that VEC successfully bid on and was awarded the project to serve approximately 1,100 households identified by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) as lacking access to a broadband provider. Murphy confirmed that VEC is working to extend fiber service to all of the identified locations, with project completion anticipated by August 2028. Murphy noted that the cost of installing fiber is $40,000 per mile and that VEC currently averages only ten to eleven customers per mile. Mayor Davis added that Bradley County contributed nearly $2,000,000 in ARPA funding toward completion of VEC broadband projects.

Mayor Davis recognized Dewey Woody, who invited Commissioners to attend or participate in the America 250 Veterans Day Parade on November 11, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. in Charleston, Tennessee. Woody added that the parade will begin at the Charleston Boat Dock and proceed past Hoyt Berry Park.

Mayor Davis presented a proclamation declaring October 12, 2026, Brett Whitehead Day in Bradley County.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND/OR DISTRICTS
7th District
Commissioner Stephen Beasley had no report.

Commissioner Rusty Asble reminded motorists to use caution, noting that deer activity typically increases during the fall months through December.

Commissioner Asble also reported on a positive visit to Station 8 with Fire Chief Jeff Stewart.

6th District
Commissioner Tommy Ledford reported that the Insurance Committee met last week and voted to recommend approval of the four employee medical insurance plan options for 2027. Commissioner Ledford noted that there are no changes to employee benefits for the upcoming year. Commissioner Ledford placed the resolution on the October 19, 2026, Voting Session agenda.

Commissioner Tim Mason had no report.

5th District
Commissioners Cindy Slater and Bobby Goins had no report.

4th District
Commissioner Rich Kienlen congratulated Commissioner Josh Taylor in recognition of Pastor Appreciation Day at his church.

Commissioner Josh Taylor had no report.

3rd District
Commissioner Denny Collins had no report.

2nd District
Commissioner Terri Murray had no report.

Commissioner Louie Alford placed on the October 19, 2026, Voting Session agenda a motion to cancel the November 23, 2026, Work Session and December 28, 2026, Work Session. When asked about the January 4, 2026, Voting Session meeting, Commissioner Alford stated that a recommendation regarding that meeting may be forthcoming.

1st District
Commissioner Mike Hughes announced that the EMS Committee will meet on November 17, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. in the Commission Room.

Commissioner Daniel Beaty had no report.

AGENDA ITEMS
Commissioner Hughes placed on the October 19, 2026, Voting Session agenda a motion to approve a resolution to rezone from FAR Forestry/Agricultural/Residential district to C-2 General Commercial district property located at Waterlevel Highway and identified by tax map 059 parcel 043.00.

Commissioner Hughes placed on the October 19, 2026, Voting Session agenda a motion to approve a resolution to rezone from FAR (Forestry/Agricultural/Residential) district to R-1 Rural Residential district property located at Benton Pike and identified by tax map 051 parcel 029.08.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE AUDIENCE
*John Garrish requested clarification regarding the County's legal representation in the Project Midspan lawsuit.
*Jacob Wagner requested that the County consider a temporary pause on large-scale development in Bradley County.

ANNOUNCMENTS
*Next meeting – Voting Session, October 19, at 12:00 p.m., Courthouse
*Chamber Coffee, October 13, at 8:30 a.m., Elliott's Boots
*Board of Education, October 13, at 5:00 p.m., Central Office
*Planning Commission, October 15, at 12:00 p.m., Courthouse
*Cleveland Apple Festival, October 17-18, 1:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m., Downtown

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:37 p.m.

TENNESSEE COMPTROLLER OF THE TREASURY

Jason E. Mumpower
Comptroller

October 7, 2026

Honorable Gary Davis, Mayor
and Honorable Board of Commissioners
Bradley County
P.O. Box 1167
Cleveland, TN 37364

Dear Mayor Davis and Board of Commissioners:

This letter acknowledges receipt of a copy of the minutes adopted on September 21, 2026, which amended the fiscal year 2027 budget for Bradley County (the "County").

County officials amended the budget to correct the projected negative ending cash in the Community Development Fund. Upon amending its budget, the County met all requirements for budget approval in accordance with our letter dated August 12, 2026.

This letter constitutes approval, by our office, for the County's fiscal year 2027 budget.

Local officials are required to ensure the budget remains balanced throughout the fiscal year. Budget amendments must be uploaded to our online portal for formal acknowledgement after they are approved by the local governing body: tncot.ec budget-submission.

If you should have questions or need assistance, please refer to our online resources or feel free to contact your financial analyst, William Wood, at 615.401.7893 or william.wood@cot.tn.gov.

Sincerely,

Sheila A. Reed

Sheila Reed, Director
Division of Local Government Finance

William Wood, Financial Analyst
Division of Local Government Finance

cc: Caleb Burris, Finance Director, Bradley County