

**Weakley County Legislative Body
Regular County Commission Meeting
Seminar Room, Adult Learning Center, Dresden, TN
Tuesday, January 19, 2021 – 5:30 P.M.**

The Weakley County Legislative Body was called to order by County Mayor Jake Bynum at 5:30 P.M. at the Adult Learning Center.

The invocation was given by Orrin Cowley.

All members present gave the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

County Clerk Kim Hughey called the roll. Answering present were Commissioners Dennis Doster, Bobby Dunlap, Eric Owen, Larry Hudson, James Roy Pope, Greg Usery, Gary Eddings, Colton Nanney, Larry Taylor, Steven Totty, Dale Overton, David Hawks, Beth VanCleave, Jack Vincent, Donnie Essary, and James Westbrook. Commissioner Roger Donaldson attended online by Zoom. David Bell was absent.

County Mayor Bynum called for a motion to approve the minutes from the November 16, 2020, Regular Meeting. A motion was made by Commissioner Doster and a second was placed by Commissioner VanCleave. A voice vote was taken and the minutes were approved with none opposed.

COMMUNICATION TO COMMISSION

County Mayor Bynum called for a motion to approve the Financial Reports. A motion was made by Commissioner Owen and a second was placed by Commissioner Usery. A voice vote was taken and the Financial Reports were approved with none opposed.

County Mayor Bynum called for a motion to approve the Veteran's Service Report. A motion was made by Commissioner Hawks and a second was placed by Commissioner Pope. A voice vote was taken and the Veteran's Service Report was approved with none opposed.

County Mayor Bynum called for a motion to approve the UT Extension Report to Stakeholders. A motion was made by Commissioner Vincent and a second was placed by Commissioner Hudson. A voice vote was taken and the UT Extension Report to Stakeholders was approved with none opposed.

MESSAGE FROM COUNTY MAYOR

County Mayor Bynum gave an update on the county's COVID-19 numbers. As of today, January 19, 2021 the total cumulative case count is 3,412. That is 1 in 9 citizens have had or currently have COVID-19. Total active cases are 178; therefore, 1 in 187 citizens currently have COVID-19. That number has substantially decreased since the first of the year although there has been an increase of 341 active cases since the first of January.

The Tennessee Supreme Court has issued an extension to the in-person court proceedings through March 31, 2021 except for emergency cases. This will create some scheduling issues once the in-person court proceedings resume.

Citizens who have received their first vaccination will start receiving their second shot this week. It is encouraging to know the second shots are being delivered to our county in a timely manner. The Health Department has been using the Office of Aging to deliver vaccines and toward the end of the week they will be contacting those people who are on the waiting list and who meet all qualifications to schedule an appointment for a vaccine.

The Secretary of State sent out letters reminding that Statements of Interest are due by January 31, 2021.

The unemployment average in Weakley County is 4.7%, in Northwest Tennessee it is 5.7%, in Tennessee it is 5.3%, and the United States has an average of 6.7%. Weakley County's highest unemployment rate was in April 2020 at 9.6%. We are still below what Northwest Tennessee had at 12.7%, Tennessee at 14.7%, and the United States at 14.7%.

Sales tax collection during COVID has not really affected our county like it has the state. Since July 2020 year by year sales tax has seen an increase of 9.28% in Dresden, 10.58% in Gleason, 13.73% in Greenfield, 8.46% in Martin, 19.36% in Sharon and 25.5% in the unincorporated areas. The total amount of sales tax collected in Weakley County since July 2020 is \$4,799,571. That is a 10.88% increase of sales tax collected in a year by year comparison. Commissioner Doster asked if the increase was because of online sales. County Mayor Bynum stated the he certainly thinks the online sales helped; however, the legislation for online sales tax collection did not go into effect until October 2020. It will be interesting to see the number year by year now that the legislation is in effect.

REPORTS OF SPECIAL & STANDING COMMITTEES

None.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

None.

ELECTIONS, APPOINTMENTS, AND CONFIRMATIONS

Appointment of Weakley County Attorney

County Mayor Bynum stated that the Financial Management Committee recommended Allison Whitlege for reappointment. A motion was made by Commissioner Overton and a second was placed by Commissioner Hawks. A voice vote was taken and the reappointment of Allison Whitlege as the County Attorney was approved with none opposed.

Appointments of Two (2) Members to the Ag Extension Committee

County Mayor Bynum stated that Jeff Lannom recommended Larry Hudson and Rhonda McDaniel to serve on the Ag Extension Committee. A motion was made by Commissioner Eddings and a second was placed by Commissioner Pope. A voice vote was taken approving the appointments of Larry Hudson and Rhonda McDaniel to the Ag Extension Committee with none opposed.

Election of Notaries Public

County Mayor Bynum called for a motion to approve the list of Notaries Public. A motion was made by Commissioner Doster and a second was placed by Commissioner Nanney. A voice vote was taken approving the Notaries Public with none opposed.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

NON-FINANCIAL RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO.2021-30: Resolution Authorizing a 2021 County Maintenance Road List. Passed unanimously before Public Works Committee.

Sponsored by: Commissioners Beth VanCleave and Roger Donaldson

County Mayor Bynum called for a motion to approve Resolution 2021-30. A motion was made by Commissioner Doster and a second was placed by Commissioner Westbrook. Commissioner Pope asked if there were any roads added to the list. Road Supervisor Charles Ross stated that there were no roads added. There were some corrections to a few roads with duplicate names. A voice vote was taken approving Resolution No. 2021-30 with none opposed.

RESOLUTION NO.2021-31: Resolution To Approve The Compensation Of The Delinquent Tax Attorney For Weakley County, Tennessee.

Sponsored by: Commissioners Eric Owen and James Westbrook

County Mayor Bynum called for a motion to approve Resolution 2021-31. A motion was made by Commissioner Usery and a second was placed by Commissioner Eddings. A voice vote was taken approving Resolution No. 2021-31 with none opposed.

FINANCIAL RESOLUTIONS

County Mayor Bynum called for a motion to combine Financial Resolutions 2021-26, 2021-27, 2021-28, and 2021-29. A motion was made by Commissioner Pope and a second was placed by Commissioner Hawks. A voice vote was taken and the motion to combine the financial resolutions was approved with none opposed.

RESOLUTION NO.2021-26: Resolution Authorizing Budget Amendments to the Weakley County, Tennessee, General Fund for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2021. Passed unanimously through Public Safety and FWM Committees.

Sponsored by: Commissioners James Roy Pope and David Bell

RESOLUTION NO.2021-27: Resolution Authorizing Budget Amendments to the Weakley County, Tennessee, General Fund for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2021. Passed unanimously through HEED and FWM Committees.

Sponsored by: Commissioners Bobby Dunlap and Jack Vincent

RESOLUTION NO.2021-28: Resolution Authorizing Budget Amendments to the Weakley County, Tennessee, General Fund for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2021. Passed unanimously through HEED and FWM Committees.

Sponsored by: Commissioners Jack Vincent and Gary Eddings

RESOLUTION NO.2021-29: Resolution Authorizing Weakley County School Nutrition For The Conveyance Of Property. Passed unanimously through HEED and FWM Committees.

Sponsored by: Commissioners Dale Overton and Bobby Dunlap

County Mayor Bynum called for a motion to approve Resolutions 2021-26, 2021-27, 2021-28, and 2021-29. A motion was made by Commissioner Pope and a second was placed by Commissioner Owen. County Mayor Bynum asked County Clerk Kim Hughey to call the roll. The resolutions were approved with Commissioners Dennis Doster, Bobby Dunlap, Eric Owen, Larry Hudson, James Roy Pope, Greg Usery, Gary Eddings, Colton Nanney, Larry Taylor, Steven Totty, Dale Overton, David Hawks, Beth VanCleave, Roger Donaldson, Jack Vincent, Donnie Essary, and James Westbrook answering "yes". David Bell was absent.

Commission Members' Comments

Commissioner Eddings stated that he wanted to give an update on WK&T progress. They are 60% done with the north part of Martin and hopefully will get citizens online by March or April. WK&T plans to start in the Sidonia area within the next month. Commissioner Eddings also wanted an update given in regard to the poultry farms. County Attorney Allison Whitledge stated that she did a considerable amount of research and Tennessee has very strict right-to-farm laws in place. Those laws leave very little opportunity for any county zoning requirements to be placed in an area that would affect agriculture. Allison Whitledge stated that she doesn't see where our county would have the opportunity to pursue any zoning ordinance or regulations affecting agriculture and the poultry operations clearly fall within the statutory scheme of agriculture purposes. Commissioner Eddings stated that he appreciated Allison's work on this matter and wanted to make that information available as public record. Commissioner Pope stated that he also appreciated her work and getting the information back to the commission.

County Mayor Bynum announced that the next Regular Meeting will be March 15, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.

The Weakley County Legislative Body Regular Meeting stood adjourned at 5:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Christina Oliver, Deputy Clerk

ATTEST:

Kim Hughey, Weakley County Clerk