

**Weakley County Legislative Body  
Regular County Commission Meeting  
Earl Wright County Commission Court Room, Court House  
Monday, March 16, 2020 - 5:30 P.M.**

The Weakley County Legislative Body was called to order by County Mayor Bynum at 5:30 p.m. in the Earl Wright County Commission Room.

Judge Tommy Moore gave the invocation.

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

County Clerk 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, David Bell, Dale Overton, Beth VanCleave, Roger Donaldson, Jack Vincent, Donnie Essary, and James Westbrook. There were 16 (sixteen) members present and Commissioner David Hawks was absent.

County Mayor Bynum called for a motion to approve the minutes from the January 21, 2020, Regular Meeting, as well as the minutes from the February 27, 2020, Special Called meeting. A motion was made by Commissioner Bell and a second was placed by Commissioner Eddings. A voice vote was taken and the minutes were approved with none opposed.

**SPECIAL RECOGNITION**

None.

**MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR**

Mayor Bynum spoke about planned procedures for the court house in the case of a positive COVID-19 test in Weakley County. He said that there is a possibility of limiting traffic in the courthouse as well as taking visitors' temperature before they would be allowed to enter the building. There are currently signs on each of the doors, letting visitors know that if they are sick they should not enter the building, but instead see their local physician, or go to the Health Department.

On the Weakley County website, there is a yellow tab at the top of the page that will help residents find ways of conducting business and interacting with each department in alternative ways, other than being present.

Mayor Bynum introduced Director of Schools, Randy Frazier, to give an update on school closures. Mr. Frazier spoke about the following the CDC's guidelines on remaining open if there has not been a confirmed case of COVID-19 in the county and the cancellations of extra-curricular activities. Today, Governor Lee announced a mandatory school closure state wide. Schools in Weakley County will be closed as of this afternoon, March 16th and will remain closed until at least April 1, 2020. Feeding sites for children have been established and a letter was sent home to parents. The child must be in the vehicle to receive their "to-go" meals. Breakfast for the next morning will also be included in the bags. This will continue for the remainder of the time that the students are out of school. Mr. Frazier also announced that he would be posting updates on the school's website.

Mayor Bynum announced that there has been communication with local industries about how the school closure may cause some absenteeism among workers who are also parents of the children that are out of school and do not have child care. He said that some companies were suspending their current "point systems" or having some swap shifts to accommodate those workers.

Mayor Bynum also spoke about the effect that COVID-19 closures will have on our economy. Some businesses will be required to limit traffic. He reminded everyone of the importance of shopping locally, especially during this time.

Mayor Bynum addressed the fact that in May, the County Commission meeting may be conducted virtually. The Legislature is trying to pass a budget and also a piece of legislation that would authorize governing bodies to meet through electronic means and to be able to vote electronically. Complete details of how that would work have not been established at this time, but we would potentially look at only passing legislation through Heed and Finance Ways and Means in an effort to reduce public meetings during this time.

Mayor Bynum said that Financial Management met this afternoon and discussed some of the trials that we face as county government to meet the needs of the citizens while keeping employees' safety in mind. Employees who feel like they are sick or at risk of being exposed, or those without childcare will be able to use their available sick and vacation time and will also have an extra 30 days that will go into a negative sick bank. Mayor Bynum recognized and thanked Erica Moore, Randy Frazier, Karen Campbell, Commissioner Percy with the Health Dept., Tracy Byrd and Donna Reynolds of Weakley County Health Department, Ray Wigginton with EMA, the local media and

our Elected Officials for their role in finding ways to proceed through these trying times that we are facing.

Mayor Bynum asked for a motion to combine the Financial Reports, the Veterans Service Report, the UT Extension Report to Stakeholders, and the Soil Conservation District Annual Report. The motion was made by Commissioner Doster and a second was placed by Commissioner Pope to combine those reports. The motion was passed with none opposed.

A motion was made by Commissioner Usery on the passage of those reports and a second was made by Commissioner Bell. The reports were accepted with none opposed.

## **ELECTIONS, APPOINTMENTS, AND CONFIRMATIONS:**

### **Appointment of District 5 Commissioner**

Commissioner Taylor nominated Angela Fortner, widow of the late District 5 Commissioner, Scott Fortner to serve the remainder of his term that runs through August 2020. A second was made by Commissioner Essary. Mayor Bynum stated that the Rules Committee asked for his office to develop an application to be filled out by Ms. Fortner. The application was completed and there were no issues. A roll call vote was taken and Angela Fortner was appointed as commissioner of District 5 by a vote of 16 ayes and 1 absent, with no objections.

### **Elections of Notaries Public**

Mayor Bynm asked for a motion to pass the applications of the Notaries Public. A motion was made by Commissioner Overton and a second was made by Commissioner Pope. A voice vote was taken and the applications were approved with none opposed.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

None.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

## **NON-FINANCIAL RESOLUTIONS**

- a. **RESOLUTION NO. 2020-44** Resolution of the Weakley County Commission Declaring Support of the Second Amendment to the United States Constitution.

Passed unanimously through the Public Safety Committee. *Sponsored by Commissioners Eddings and Hawks*

Motion was made by Commissioner Eddings to approve and a second was placed by Commissioner Doster. A voice vote was taken and the resolution passed with none opposed.

- b. **RESOLUTION NO. 2020-45** Resolution of No Consent to Refugee Resettlement in Weakley County, Tennessee. Passed unanimously through the Public Safety Committee. *Sponsored by Commissioners Hawks and Pope.*

A motion was made by Commissioner Owen to approve the resolution and a second was placed by Commissioner Donaldson. A voice vote was taken and the resolution passed with none opposed.

## **FINANCIAL RESOLUTIONS**

A motion was made by Commissioner Owen to combine Resolutions 2020-38, 2020-39, 2020-40, and 2020-43. A second was made by Commissioner Bell. A voice vote was taken and the resolutions were combined with none opposed.

- c. **RESOLUTION NO. 2020-38** Resolution Authorizing Budget Amendments to the Weakley County, Tennessee, General Purpose School Fund for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2020. Passed unanimously through HEED & FWM Committees. *Sponsored by Commissioners Eddings and Pope.*
- d. **RESOLUTION NO. 2020-39** Resolution Authorizing Budget Amendments to the Weakley County, Tennessee, General Purpose School Fund for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2020. Passed unanimously through HEED and FWM Committees. *Sponsored by Commissioners Eddings and Overton.*
- e. **RESOLUTION NO. 2020-40** Resolution Authorizing Budget Amendments to the Weakley County, Tennessee, General Fund for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2020. Passed unanimously through HEED and FWM Committees. *Sponsored by Commissioners Essary and Vincent.*
- f. **RESOLUTION NO. 2020-43** Resolution Authorizing Budget Amendments to the Weakley County, Tennessee, General Fund for the Fiscal Year Ending June

30, 2020. Passed unanimously through Public Safety and FWM Committees.  
*Sponsored by Commissioners Donaldson and Pope.*

Mayor Bynum asked for a motion to approve the resolutions. A motion was made by Commissioner Pope and a second was placed by Commissioner Eddings. A roll call vote was taken and the resolutions passed with 17 ayes, 1 absent, and none opposed.

### **COMMISSION MEMBERS' COMMENTS**

Commissioner Donaldson spoke about the fact that many of UTM's classes have been moved to online classes as a result of the COVID-19 closure of the University. He says that he has had many calls about the lack of high speed internet in areas of the county, and recommends looking further into gaining more access to high speed internet. Mayor Bynum said that he had a list of places in the county that they could go to have access to the internet and the times that those places would be available to the public.

Commissioner Vincent spoke about the lines that need to be painted on Ralston Road and about how dangerous that road is, especially at night with no painted lines. Commissioner Donaldson said that Public Safety stated that the job would be completed by the State and that Road Supervisor Charles Ross has been in communication with them on this matter.

### **NEXT REGULAR MEETING**

The next regularly scheduled meeting is May 26, 2020 at 5:30 p.m.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Owen and a second was made by Commissioner Vincent. The meeting was adjourned at 5:54 p.m.

**Attest:**

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Kim Hughey, Weakley County Clerk