

**Weakley County Legislative Body  
Regular County Commission Meeting  
Seminar Room, Professional Development Center, Dresden, TN  
Monday, March 15, 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 Professional Development 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, Larry Taylor, Steven Totty, David Bell, Dale Overton, Beth VanCleave, Roger Donaldson, Jack Vincent, Donnie Essary, and James Westbrook. Commissioners Colton Nanney and David Hawks were absent.

County Mayor Bynum called for a motion to approve the minutes from the January 19, 2021, Regular Meeting. A motion was made by Commissioner Bell and a second was placed by Commissioner Donaldson. A voice vote was taken and the minutes were approved with none opposed.

### **SPECIAL RECOGNITION**

None

### **MESSAGE FROM COUNTY MAYOR**

County Mayor Bynum welcomed Jake Rogers to the meeting. Mr. Rogers is the newest field representative for Congressman David Kustoff. His office is located in downtown Martin, TN at 205 North Lindell Street.

County Mayor Bynum gave an update on the county's COVID-19 numbers. As of today, March 15, 2021 the total cumulative case count is 3,832. That is 11% of the population in Weakley County has had COVID-19. The total cumulative death count is 60. The active case count is 31 which is an increase over the weekend.

Weakley County has administered 8,622 doses of the COVID-19 vaccine. The first shot has been administered to 15% of the population in Weakley County and 10% of the population have received the second dose of the vaccine. Weakley County has begun vaccinating citizens ages

65 and older or Phase 1C. Phase 1C includes anyone with high risk health conditions like cancer, diabetes, and heart disease. Phase 1C also includes anyone with preexisting health conditions that compromise the immune system with respect to COVID-19 and anyone with a body mass index (BMI) over 30%. About 40% of the population in Tennessee has a BMI over 30%, and this allows for 1.6 million people in the state to be eligible for the vaccine. If you are a member of a large employer, you may be eligible for mass vaccinations at the facility through the Health Department or a health care provider. To schedule an appointment for the vaccination, you must set it up on the Department of Health's website. There is a phone number you can obtain by contacting the Mayor's office if you do not have internet service or cannot use the website.

### **COMMUNICATION TO COMMISSION**

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

County Mayor Bynum called for a motion to approve the Everett-Stewart Regional Airport Report. A motion was made by Commissioner Donaldson and a second was placed by Commissioner Doster. A voice vote was taken and the Everett-Stewart Regional Airport Report was approved with none opposed.

Commissioner Roger Donaldson was recognized to speak and introduced Chris Rodgers, manager of the airport, and Wayne McCreight, chairman of the airport board. More details regarding the Everett-Stewart Regional Airport Report were given.

County Mayor Bynum called for a motion to go into recess. A motion was made by Commissioner Doster and a second was placed by Commissioner Pope. A voice vote was taken and recess was approved with none opposed. The meeting was called into recess at 5:37pm. The meeting was called back into session 5:41 pm.

County Mayor Bynum called for a motion to approve the Weakley County Ned R. McWherter Library Report. A motion was made by Commissioner Overton and a second was placed by Commissioner Westbrook. A voice vote was taken and the Weakley County Ned R. McWherter Report was approved with none opposed.

## **REPORTS OF SPECIAL & STANDING COMMITTEES**

None

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

### **Election of Notaries Public**

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

## **OLD BUSINESS**

None

## **NEW BUSINESS**

County Mayor Bynum recognized James Westbrook for discussion of language in the Weakley County Private Acts of 1992 - Chapter 205. Commissioner Westbrook stated that the Private Act has worked very well since it was created in 1992, but some of the language in the Private Act is no longer applicable. Commissioner Westbrook stated that he began looking into the Private Act because the proceeds of fees collected for building permits are used to replace road signs, but the money had to be deposited in the general fund and transferred to the highway department. As the Private Act was examined, Commissioner Westbrook noticed the language "director of emergency services" in the Private Act needed to be changed. Our county does not have a director of emergency services. Our county does have an emergency management director which may be the same as a director of emergency services, but the person in that position does not have the responsibility listed in the Private Act. The trustee does all of that work. The language in the proposed amendment to Private Acts of 1992 – Chapter 205 clarifies the proceeds from building permits collected will be deposited directly into the highway fund, clarifies the responsibility of the trustee's role in Sections 1 and 3, and clarifies the assessor of property's role in Section 2. A 2/3<sup>rd</sup>'s majority vote is needed to ratify a private act, and if approved the proposed amendment will need to be sent to our State Senator and State Representative. Commissioner Pope asked if this amendment was acceptable to County Attorney Allison Whitledge, and she stated that it was.

County Mayor Bynum called for a motion to approve the proposed amendment to the Weakley County Private Acts of 1992 – Chapter 205. A motion was made by Commissioner Westbrook and a second was placed by Commissioner Owen. County Mayor Bynum asked County Clerk Kim Hughey to call the roll. Answering "yes" were Commissioners Dennis Doster, Bobby Dunlap, Eric Owen, Larry Hudson, James Roy Pope, Greg Usery, Gary Eddings, Larry Taylor, Steven Totty, David Bell, Dale Overton, Beth VanCleave, Roger Donaldson, Jack Vincent, Donnie Essary, and James Westbrook. Commissioners Colton Nanney and David Hawks were absent.

## **FINANCIAL RESOLUTIONS**

**RESOLUTION NO.2021-33:** Resolution Authorizing Budget Amendments to the Weakley County, Tennessee, General Fund for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2021. Passed unanimously through FWM Committee.

*Sponsored by: Commissioners Larry Taylor and Beth VanCleave*

County Mayor Bynum called for a motion to approve Resolution No. 2021-33. A motion was made by Commissioner Pope and a second was placed by Commissioner Essary. County Mayor Bynum asked County Clerk Kim Hughey to call the roll. The resolution was approved with Commissioners Dennis Doster, Bobby Dunlap, Eric Owen, Larry Hudson, James Roy Pope, Greg Usery, Gary Eddings, Larry Taylor, Steven Totty, David Bell, Dale Overton, Beth VanCleave, Roger Donaldson, Jack Vincent, Donnie Essary, and James Westbrook answering "yes". Commissioners Colton Nanney and David Hawks were absent.

**RESOLUTION NO.2021-34:** Resolution Authorizing Budget Amendments to the Weakley County, Tennessee, Highway Fund for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2021. Passed unanimously through Public Works and FWM Committees.

*Sponsored by: Commissioners Roger Donaldson and Larry Taylor*

County Mayor Bynum called for a motion to approve Resolution No. 2021-34. A motion was made by Commissioner Westbrook and a second was placed by Commissioner Doster. County Mayor Bynum asked County Clerk Kim Hughey to call the roll. The resolution was approved with Commissioners Dennis Doster, Bobby Dunlap, Eric Owen, Larry Hudson, James Roy Pope, Greg Usery, Gary Eddings, Larry Taylor, Steven Totty, David Bell, Dale Overton, Beth VanCleave, Roger Donaldson, Jack Vincent, Donnie Essary, and James Westbrook answering "yes". Commissioners Colton Nanney and David Hawks were absent.

## **Commission Members' Comments**

Commissioner Jack Vincent stated that he had several calls regarding the road conditions with respect to the bad weather and asked that Road Supervisor Charles Ross give an update. Road Supervisor Ross asked that everybody please have patience. There is a lot of damage. The county has some flood damage being addressed. There is a lot surface damage from water, freezing temperatures, and poor road foundations. It will take time and money to repair everything.

Commissioner Overton asked if there was any trouble getting the nursing home roads cleared after the winter storm. Road Supervisor Ross stated that the roads cannot be cleared when there is solid ice on the ground and as soon as the roads start thawing or there's snow then the nursing home roads are the first to be cleared in the county. Commissioner Overton asked if

the county has salt to spread on the road. Road Supervisor Ross stated that we do not have salt or the equipment to spread the salt. We do have snow plows, graders, and a loader that is used for snow removal.

Commissioner David Bell asked if Weakley County has a good amount of vaccines coming in. County Mayor Bynum stated that Weakley County is good with the distribution pipeline of the vaccine, especially since the Johnson & Johnson vaccine is now available. It is believed that we will move through the vaccine distribution phases much quicker given another vaccine option.

County Mayor Bynum announced that the next Regular Meeting will be May 17, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.

The Weakley County Legislative Body Regular Meeting stood adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

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Christina Oliver, Deputy Clerk

ATTEST:

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Kim Hughey, Weakley County Clerk