ORIGINAL

Weakley County Legislative Body
Regular County Commission Meeting
Weakley County Courthouse, Dresden, TN
Monday, November 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 Weakley County Courthouse.

The invocation was given by Brad Jordan.

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, Larry Kelly, David Bell, Dale Overton, David Hawks, Beth VanCleave, Roger Donaldson, Jack Vincent, Donnie Essary, and James Westbrook. Commissioner Colton Nanney was absent.

County Mayor Bynum called for a motion to approve the minutes from the September 20, 2021, Regular Meeting. A motion was made by Commissioner Overton and a second was placed by Commissioner Eddings. 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 Hudson and a second was placed by Commissioner Taylor. 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 Ag Extension Report. A motion was made by Commissioner Hudson and a second was placed by Commissioner Vincent. A voice vote was taken, and the Ag Extension Report was approved with none opposed.

MESSAGE FROM COUNTY MAYOR

County Mayor Bynum stated that he would like to welcome Lauren Rush. Lauren is a new employee to the County Mayor's Office and she will be located in the lobby of the courthouse. She lives in Greenfield, TN and her first day will be Monday, November 22, 2021.

The holiday schedule for the courthouse includes closing November 25-26, 2021 for Thanksgiving; December 23-24 and December 27, 2021, for Christmas; and January 3, 2022, for New Years'. It was decided to close Monday, January 3rd instead of Friday, December 31 since the last day of the year is typically a busy day. The courthouse will also be closed Monday, January 17, 2022, in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

County Mayor Bynum wanted to recognize Commissioner Westbrook for receiving the Robert M. Wormsley Outstanding County Official of the Year Award. This award recognizes a county official who serves their county constituents and their state association in the hallmark of Mr. Robert M. Wormsley. The award is presented each year at the Tennessee County Services Association Conference.

County Mayor Bynum wanted to welcome Justin Crice to the meeting. Justin has been hired as the Executive Director of the Weakley County Economic Development Organization. Justin stated that he appreciates the time to allow him to be present and speak to the commissioners. He stated that he has lived in Weakley County for 5 years and his role will be to focus on workforce development as the executive director.

REPORTS OF SPECIAL & STANDING COMMITTEES

None

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

County Mayor Bynum recognized Jeff Lannom. Jeff is the Ag Extension Agent and County Director of the Weakley County Ag Extension Office. Jeff is retiring at the end of the year. He has been with the UT Extension Office since 1990. Jeff has had over 30 years of extension service with the University of Tennessee and has served as the 4-H agent for 4 years. As the 4-H agent, he has attended over 50 monthly in-school clubs and annual camps. The responsibility of the County Extension Director includes planting and harvesting over 11 hundred varieties in the county's standardized testing program with over 70 Weakley County producers. Variety testing has had a $6.6 million average positive impact on our Weakley County producers over the last 5 years. Jeff has also put together approximately 61 different crop environment projects and tested 97 different farmlands. He's assembled 70 years of Weakley County climate data cooperating with the University of Tennessee at Martin to help educate producers on monthly and yearly precipitation and temperature averages. Jeff received the Outstanding Youth Agent Award for the Tennessee Association of Agricultural Agent Western Region in

1994, the William F. Moss Award to support a study of extension programs offered in other states in 2004, the Outstanding UT Extension Agent Western Region in 2006, the Charles & Julie Wharton Award for Outstanding Extension Achievement in 2012, the Tennessee Agricultural Agent & Specialist Distinguished Service Award in 2015, the National Association of County Agricultural Agents Distinguished Service Award in 2015, and the Tennessee Association of Agricultural Agent & Specialist Hicks Award of Excellence in 2015. Jeff Lannom thanked everyone for their kind words and support over the last 32 years. Jeff's retirement reception will be December 9, 2021, from 2-4 P.M. at the Farm Bureau building in Dresden.

ELECTIONS, APPOINTMENTS, AND CONFIRMATIONS

Election of Weakley County School Board Member

County Mayor Bynum called for nominations of the Weakley County School Board Member for District 5A. Commissioner Kelly nominated Wendell Cates and a second was placed by Commissioner Taylor. There were no other nominations. Mr. Cates has submitted an application and meets all of the requirements.

County Mayor Bynum asked County Clerk Kim Hughey to call the roll. Commissioners Dennis Doster, Bobby Dunlap, Eric Owen, Larry Hudson, James Roy Pope, Greg Usery, Gary Eddings, Larry Taylor, Larry Kelly, David Bell, Dale Overton, David Hawks, Beth VanCleave, Roger Donaldson, Jack Vincent, Donnie Essary, and James Westbrook answered yes. Commissioner Colton Nanney was absent. Wendell Cates was approved as the Weakley County School Board Member for District 5A with 17 commissioners answering "yes" and 1 commissioner absent.

Election of Notaries Public

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

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

NON-FINANCIAL RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-12: Resolution to Urge Tennessee Elected Leaders to Oppose the Federally Proposed Vaccine Mandate
Sponsored by Commissioners Dennis Doster and Larry Kelly

County Mayor Bynum called for a motion to approve Resolution 2022-12. A motion was made by Commissioner Kelly and a second was placed by Commissioner Eddings. A voice vote was taken, and Resolution 2022-12 was approved with none opposed.

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-15: Resolution to Adopt a Redistricting Plan for Weakley County.
Passed through the Rules Committee
Sponsored by Commissioners Dennis Doster and Gary Eddings

County Mayor Bynum called for a motion to approve Resolution 2022-15. A motion was made by Commissioner Hawks and a second was placed by Commissioner Doster. A voice vote was taken, and Resolution 2022-15 was approved with none opposed.

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-16: Resolution Authorizing Weakley County to Join the State of Tennessee and Other Local Government as Participants in the Tennessee State-Subdivision Opioid Abatement Agreement and Approving the Related Settlement Agreement
Passed through the Public Safety Committee
Sponsored by Commissioners Larry Kelly and David Bell

County Mayor Bynum called for a motion to approve Resolution 2022-16. A motion was made by Commissioner Vincent and a second was placed by Commissioner Essary. A voice vote was taken, and Resolution 2022-16 was approved with none opposed.

FINANCIAL RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-13: Resolution Authorizing Budget Amendments to the Highway Fund for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2022
Passed through the Finance, Ways, and Means Committee
Sponsored by Commissioners Jack Vincent and Beth VanCleave

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-14: Resolution Authorizing Budget Amendments to the Weakley County, TN General Fund for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2022
Passed through the Public Safety and FWM Committees
Sponsored by Commissioners David Bell and Beth VanCleave

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-19: Resolution Authorizing Budget Amendments to the Highway Fund for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2022
Sponsored by Commissioners Roger Donaldson and Dennis Doster

County Mayor Bynum called for a motion to combine Resolutions 2022-13, 2022-14, 2022-17, 2022-18, and 2022-19. A motion was made by Commissioner Overton and a second was placed by Commissioner Hudson. Commissioner Owen requested to remove Resolution 2022-18 and Commissioner Hawks requested to remove Resolution 2022-17. County Mayor Bynum stated that the motion now combines Resolutions 2022-13, 2022-14, and 2022-19. A voice vote was taken, and combining Resolutions 2022-13, 2022-14, and 2022-19 was approved with none opposed.

Commissioner Vincent asked for clarification on Resolution 2022-19. County Mayor Bynum stated that at the time the budget was passed Weakley County Road Supervisor Charles Ross didn't have an itemized list of the equipment needed for the County Highway Department. The FWM Committee removed those expenditures out of the budget because there wasn't an itemized list available. County Mayor Bynum stated that there were some concerns prior to closing out the books of what the fund balance would be at the end of 2022. Commissioner Vincent asked if the fund balance will be okay after adding these expenditures. County Mayor Bynum stated that the fund balance will be okay, but it will be different than what is on this Resolution.

County Mayor Bynum asked County Clerk Kim Hughey to call the roll. Commissioners Dennis Doster, Bobby Dunlap, Eric Owen, Larry Hudson, James Roy Pope, Greg Usery, Gary Eddings, Larry Taylor, Larry Kelly, David Bell, Dale Overton, Beth VanCleave, Roger Donaldson, Jack Vincent, Donnie Essary, and James Westbrook answered yes. Commissioner David Hawks answered no. Commissioner Colton Nanney was absent. Resolutions 2022-13, 2022-14, and 2022-19 passed with 16 commissioners answering "yes", 1 commissioner answering "no", and 1 commissioner absent.

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-17: Resolution Authorizing Budget Amendments to the Highway Fund for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2022
Passed through the FWM Committee
Sponsored by Commissioners Beth VanCleave and Larry Taylor

County Mayor Bynum called for a motion to approve Resolution 2022-17. A motion was made by Commissioner Owen and a second was placed by Commissioner Doster. Commissioner Hawks asked for an explanation on why overtime funds are being added. County Mayor Bynum stated that this update is correcting a clerical error made by Weakley County Finance Director John Liggett during budget entries. He added in revenue but forgot to add expenditures to the original budget.

County Mayor Bynum asked County Clerk Kim Hughey to call the roll. Commissioners Dennis Doster, Bobby Dunlap, Eric Owen, Larry Hudson, James Roy Pope, Greg Usery, Gary Eddings,

Larry Taylor, Larry Kelly, David Bell, Dale Overton, David Hawks, Beth VanCleave, Roger Donaldson, Jack Vincent, Donnie Essary, and James Westbrook answered yes. Commissioner Colton Nanney was absent. Resolution 2022-17 passed with 17 commissioners answering "yes" and 1 commissioner absent.

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-18: Resolution Authorizing Budget Amendments to the Highway Fund for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2022
Passed through the FWM Committee
Sponsored by Commissioners Beth VanCleave and Dennis Doster

County Mayor Bynum called for a motion to approve Resolution 2022-18. A motion was made by Commissioner Doster and a second was placed by Commissioner Kelly. Commissioner Westbrook stated that he wanted to know when the Highway Department will be closed in December. A representative from the Highway Department, Jeff Cosby, stated that they will be closed December 24-25, 2021, but there will be split crews working and other employees would be on call. Commissioner Westbrook stated that he is specifically speaking about the mechanics. Mr. Jeff Cosby stated that he believes this resolution is to replace a mechanic that has recently left. County Mayor Bynum stated that the resolution is adding a fourth mechanic. Commissioner Vincent asked if the resolution passed through FWM and Public Safety. County Mayor Bynum stated that it passed a roll call vote through the FWM Committee. The Public Works Committee agreed to the resolution but deferred it to the FWM Committee because Weakley County Road Supervisor Charles Ross did not advise on how the additional employee would be funded. Commissioner Donaldson stated that the additional mechanic will keep more repairs in-house instead of outsourcing the work. There is enough money left over in the budget because of a mistake made by the City of Dresden on the water bill to pay for the additional mechanics salary for the year. Commissioner Donaldson stated that the water meters were misreading and there has been an overpayment of the water bill for some time. That mistake has been corrected and the funds have been credited back to the Highway Department. Commissioner Vincent stated that there are 3 mechanics that worked 4 ten-hour days at the Highway Department and no work on Friday. Mr. Jeff Cosby, the Highway Department representative, stated that there were a few Fridays in the summer where a mechanic had to work. Typically, the mechanics are off on Fridays. Commissioner Bell stated that the mechanics should rotate working on Fridays. Equipment can break down on Friday as well. Commissioner Vincent stated that he believes the mechanics should be working on Fridays.

County Mayor Bynum asked County Clerk Kim Hughey to call the roll. Commissioners Dennis Doster, Bobby Dunlap, Larry Hudson, Gary Eddings, Larry Taylor, Larry Kelly, Beth VanCleave, and Roger Donaldson answered yes. Commissioners Eric Owen, Greg Usery, David Bell, Dale Overton, David Hawks, Jack Vincent, Donnie Essary, and James Westbrook answered no. Commissioner James Roy Pope passed. Commissioner Colton Nanney was absent. Resolution 2022-18 failed with 8 commissioners answering "yes", 8 commissioners answering "no", 1 commissioner passing, and 1 commissioner absent.

COMMISSION MEMBERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Larry Hudson asked about the progress for the WK&T fiber build and how the Spectrum build may affect WK&T. County Mayor Bynum stated that WK&T are currently working on phase 1 and 2. They will continue building as long as the grant funds are available. However, where Spectrum has already built, WK&T will not build at that location. Currently, if the grant funds are being used then we are only limited to building in the locations indicated in the federal grant program. This has been an issue from the beginning. We will go back to the legislature so the county can fund the fiber build outside the grant available locations and the underserved areas. The county must follow how the Comptroller's Office says we can use those funds for the project. Commissioner Hawks stated that he would like a percentage of households that have signed up for WK&T fiber since being installed. County Mayor Bynum stated that the current grant project is not complete yet, therefore, an adequate percentage rate cannot be given until the project is complete. The project is expected to be completed around April.

Count Mayor Bynum announced that the next Regular Meeting will be Tuesday, January 18, 2022, at 5:30 P.M.

The Weakley County Legislative Body Regular Meeting adjourned at 5:59 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by:

Christina Oliver, Deputy Clerk

ATTEST:

Kim Hughey, Weakley County Clerk