

**ORIGINAL**

**WEAKLEY COUNTY, TENNESSEE  
RULES COMMITTEE**

**Wednesday, June 21, 2023 – 12:00 P.M. – Commission Courtroom, Weakley County Courthouse,  
Dresden, TN**

**Rules Committee Members Present:** Commissioners Roger Donaldson, Dennis Doster, Marcus Hopper, Greg Usery, Gary Eddings, Larry Taylor, Billy Hazlewood, Jimmy Westbrook

**Rules Committee Members Absent:** Commissioner David Bell

**I.-II. Call to Order – Approval of Minutes**

Chairperson Donaldson called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and called for the consideration of the minutes from the meeting that was held on September 1, 2022. Commissioner Eddings made the motion to approve, and with a second by Commissioner Doster, the motion passed unanimously.

**III. OLD BUSINESS**

None.

**IV. NEW BUSINESS**

**Adoption of Rule Changes Related to Public Comment Requirements:** Commissioner Donaldson informed the committee of the new legislation from the State relating to public comment requirements in public meetings. In order to comply with this new legislation, it is being proposed to add a section to the Commission agenda for public comment in section 6 and to also allow 5 minutes per person desiring an audience in a subcommittee meeting. Commissioner Doster asked if this 5 minutes was a minimum requirement and went on to ask if a citizen could be allowed to speak longer. Mayor Bynum confirmed both of these questions. Essentially this public comment allowance would apply to any public meeting to include boards such as the nursing home board and board of public utilities. This Mayor's office will begin publishing a tentative agenda at least 48 hours before a subcommittee meeting either to the website or the public notice board. This will allow citizens to look at the agenda and contact the mayor's office if they would like to be added to the agenda. Commissioner Eddings pointed out that giving five minutes could be problematic for hot topic issues such as the tax rate. Mayor Bynum answered that the tax rate will technically be discussed at a public hearing which is not regulated and anyone can comment at. The budget must also be discussed at a public hearing. The proposed amendments to the rules passed unanimously.

**V. OTHER BUSINESS**

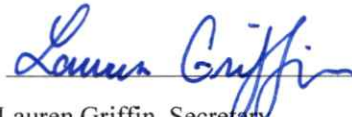
Commissioner Donaldson informed the committee that currently a meeting can be called by any three members of a committee.

Commissioner Doster brought up his concern that currently there are many commissioners commenting in committee meetings that are not members of the committee. Mayor Bynum answered that each chairperson has the right to recognize any member of the commission or department head.

**VI. ADJOURN**

Seeing no other business, Chairman Donaldson called for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Doster made a motion followed by a second by Commissioner Eddings and with that the meeting was adjourned at 12:19.

Respectfully Submitted,



Lauren Griffin, Secretary

Rules Committee

Approved:



Roger Donaldson, Chairperson

Rules Committee

Date: 9-3-24