Weakley County Legislative Body
Regular County Commission Meeting
Weakley County Courthouse, Dresden, TN
Monday, November 17, 2025 – 5:00 P.M.

The Weakley County Legislative Body was called to order by the Chairman Dennis Doster at 5:00 P.M. at the Weakley County Courthouse.

The invocation was given by Brian Gallimore.

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, Wade Cook, Greg Usery, Gary Eddings, Larry Taylor, Larry Kelly, David Bell, Joey Mehlhorn, David Hawks, Billy Hazlewood, Roger Donaldson, Jack Vincent, James Washburn, and James Westbrook. Commissioners Marcus Hopper, James Roy Pope, and John Robert Freeman were absent.

Chairman Dennis Doster called for a motion to approve the September 15, 2025, Regular Meeting minutes. Commissioner Mehlhorn made a motion and Commissioner Kelly placed a second. A voice vote was taken, and the minutes were approved with none opposed.

Chairman Dennis Doster called for a motion to approve the November 3, 2025, Special-Called Meeting minutes. Commissioner Eddings made a motion and Commissioner Usery placed a second. A voice vote was taken, and the minutes were approved with none opposed.

COMMUNICATION TO COMMISSION

Chairman Dennis Doster called for a motion to accept the Financial Reports - Tennessee Comptroller of the Treasury – Weakley County Budget Approval. Commissioner Hazlewood made a motion and Commissioner Donaldson placed a second. A voice vote was taken, and the Financial Reports - Tennessee Comptroller of the Treasury – Weakley County Budget Approval were accepted with none opposed.

Chairman Dennis Doster called for a motion to accept the Ag Extension Report. Commissioner Dunlap made a motion and Commissioner Vincent placed a second. A voice vote was taken, and the Ag Extension Report was accepted with none opposed.

Chairman Dennis Doster called for a motion to accept the Veteran's Service Report. Commissioner Hawks made a motion and Commissioner Washburn placed a second. Commissioner Hawks stated that everyone was provided with an Economic Impact of Veterans in Tennessee handout and he wanted to highlight a few statistics. The veteran population in our county is 2,025. The compensation and pension expenditures for the year is around $12,565,000. The education and vocational rehab expenditures is around $730,000, and the medical care expenditures is around $8 million. There are two Veteran Demographic charts, the first one shows the number of veterans by the different age groups, and the second one shows the number of different war veterans in our county. A voice vote was taken, and the Veteran's Service Report was accepted with none opposed.

MESSAGE FROM COUNTY MAYOR

Weakley County Mayor Dale Hutcherson stated that there is a large group present at this meeting. There have been a lot of proclamations presented over the last few months. If remarkable things continue to happen, we are going to continue to proclaim and congratulate them. Weakley Count Mayor Dale Hutcherson presented three proclamations for extraordinary performances at the TSSAA State Championships.

The first Proclamation was presented to the Westview Lady Chargers Soccer Team. The Westview Lady Chargers Soccer Team won the Division I Class A State Championship. They had a record of 17 wins, 3 losses, and 1 tie. Ashlee Brent was named the Most Valuable Player of the tournament, scoring three goals with three assists in a 9-0 victory in the tournament and scoring two unassisted goals in the state championship game. The largest crowd in the room is the Westview Lady Chargers Soccer Team, and the Martin commissioners should be particularly proud because this is the first soccer team in the history of Weakley County and Westview High School to win a state championship.

The second Proclamation was presented to Hudson McDaniel, a freshman at Dresden High School, for her stellar performance at the TSSAA Cross Country Class A State Championship. She received a remarkable victory, earning first place in the entire state of Tennessee with a time of 19 minutes and 12 seconds in the 5K race with an impressive margin of approximately 18 seconds over her nearest competitor. A freshman winning a state championship in any sport, in any division, in any class is unheard of.

The third Proclamation was presented to Vaughn Bounds, a sophomore with Dresden High School, for his stellar performance at the TSSAA Cross Country Class A State Championship. He received a remarkable victory, earning first place in the entire state of Tennessee with a time of 16 minutes and 18 seconds in the 5K race with an impressive margin of approximately 12 seconds over his nearest competitor.

County Mayor Dale Hutcherson recognized Weakley County Chancery Court Clerk Regina VanCleave for being named the 2025 Outstanding State Court Clerk in the State of Tennessee by the Tennessee Clerks of Court Association. County Mayor Dale Hutcherson acknowledged Weakley County Register of Deed April Jones for making history this year with the amount of revenue that she was able to collect. The amount collected is $1,018,657.87 and is the largest amount of revenue ever collected in the history of the Weakley County Register of Deeds office.

County Mayor Dale Hutcherson acknowledged and thanked Weakley County Office of Aging Director Gail Rogers and her employee Cathy Duffina for their hard work handing out around 250 boxes of food to needy families during the government shutdown in conjunction with 2nd Harvest. There were a lot of benefits put on pause during the government shut down. It is extremely remarkable that they were able to assist that many families.

County Mayor Dale Hutcherson recognized Erica Moore, Justin Crice and Angela Lassiter with the Weakley County Chamber of Commerce for all their hard work for the businesses in our county. Since Erica Moore has entered her role as the Chamber Director, there have been several ribbon cuttings. In just the past three months, there have been more than twenty ribbon cuttings. This shows growth in entrepreneurship and growth in business countywide. Erica Moore has produced a unique and revolutionary program called the Weakley County Chamber Bucks Program. This program is an effort to promote our Shop Local Campaign because Weakley County directly benefits from money spent in Weakley County. The Weakley County Chamber Bucks Program includes all our county businesses that the Chamber represents. Chamber Bucks are money that allows you to spend it within the county at all the participating businesses. The participating businesses are printed on the back of the Chamber Bucks. They can be purchased at the Weakley County Chamber of Commerce Office or their website. Instead of buying a gift card to an out-of-town business, utilize the Chamber Bucks and encourage folks to shop locally.

REPORTS OF SPECIAL AND STANDING COMMITTEES

WCMES Annual Report

Commissioner Westbrook stated that the Weakley County Municipal Electric System's Annual Report has been provided. The total plant assets are more than $64 million. There are nearly

21,000 customers. There are 82 electric systems in the State of Tennessee, 60 of them are municipal and 22 are co-ops. Out of the 60 municipalities, 3 are county owned which are Carroll County, Benton County, and Weakley County. The best thing the county did 77 years ago was create the municipal electric system to pay dividends. The co-ops do not make as much money because of the rural areas. The Weakley County Electric System paid in lieu of taxes last year $762,359 which is one of the largest taxpayers in the county. Commissioner Westbrook stated that he was available if anyone had any questions about the WCMES Annual Report.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ELECTIONS, APPOINTMENTS, AND CONFIRMATIONS

Appointment of Seven (7) Members to the Agriculture Extension Committee

John Robert Freeman, Andy Oliver, Mary Margaret Chester, Eric Owen, Rhonda McDaniel, Wade Cook, and Marcus Hopper were recommended for appointment to the Weakley County Agriculture Extension Committee. Chairman Dennis Doster called for a motion to approve the Agriculture Extension Committee. Commissioner Kelly made a motion and Commissioner Donaldson placed a second. A voice vote was taken, and the appointment of John Robert Freeman, Andy Oliver, Mary Margaret Chester, Eric Owen, Rhonda McDaniel, Wade Cook, and Marcus Hopper for a two-year term beginning January 1, 2026, and ending December 30, 2027, was approved with none opposed.

Appointment of District 6 Constable

Chairman Dennis Doster opened the floor for nominations for the District 6 Constable. There were no nominations for the District 6 Constable position.

Appointment of District 9 Constable

Chairman Dennis Doster opened the floor for nominations for the District 9 Constable. Keith Sumner and Chad Cooper have submitted applications and meet all the qualifications for the position. Keith Sumner stated that he has been appointed for this position in the past, has over 20 years of some type of volunteer service, and is thankful for the opportunity to fulfill this position. Chad Cooper stated that he has lived in Weakley County most of his life, been a law enforcement officer since 2011, and is currently employed at the Gibson County Sheriff's Office. Commissioner Washburn nominated Keith Sumner. There were no nominations for Chad Cooper. A voice vote was taken, and Keith Sumner as District 9 Constable was accepted with none opposed.

Election of Notaries Public

Chairman Dennis Doster called for a motion to approve the Notaries Public. Commissioner Bell made a motion and Commissioner Hawks placed a second. A voice vote was taken, and the Notaries Public were approved with none opposed.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

FINANCIAL RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. 2026-18: Resolution to Authorize a Twelve Dollar and Fifty Cent Charge by the Clerk of Every Court in Weakley County Having Jurisdiction of State Misdemeanors and Felonies for the Purposes Authorized and Set Out in T.C.A. § 40-3-106
Sponsored by Commissioners Joey Mehlhorn and Marcus Hopper
Passed unanimously through the Public Safety and FWM Committees

Chairman Dennis Doster called for a motion to approve Resolution No. 2026-18. Commissioner Mehlhorn made a motion and Commissioner Donaldson placed a second. Commissioner Washburn stated that these funds will directly benefit the District Attorney's Office and that he is ethically obligated to note in the minutes that he is employed at the District Attorney's Office. Chairman Dennis Doster asked County Clerk Kim Hughey to call the roll. Commissioners Dennis Doster, Bobby Dunlap, Wade Cook, Greg Usery, Gary Eddings, Larry Taylor, Larry Kelly, David Bell, Joey Mehlhorn, David Hawks, Billy Hazlewood, Roger Donaldson, Jack Vincent, James Washburn, and James Westbrook answered yes. Resolution 2026-18 passed with 15 commissioners answering "yes". Commissioners Marcus Hopper, James Roy Pope, and John Robert Freeman were absent.

Resolution No. 2026-19: Resolution Authorizing Budget Amendments to the General Fund for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2026
Sponsored by Commissioners David Hawks and Billy Hazlewood
Passed unanimously through the HEED and FWM Committees

Resolution No. 2026-20: Resolution Authorizing Budget Amendments to the General Fund for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2026
Sponsored by Commissioners John Robert Freeman and Billy Hazlewood
Passed unanimously through the HEED and FWM Committees

Resolution No. 2026-21: Resolution Authorizing Budget Amendments to the General Fund for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2026
Sponsored by Commissioners Jack Vincent and Roger Donaldson
Passed unanimously through the HEED and FWM Committees

Resolution No. 2026-22: Resolution Authorizing Budget Amendments to the Debt Service Fund for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2026
Sponsored by Commissioners David Bell and Gary Eddings
Passed unanimously through the FWM Committee

Resolution No. 2026-23: Resolution Authorizing Budget Amendments to the General Fund for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2026
Sponsored by Commissioners Marcus Hopper and Larry Taylor
Passed unanimously through the FWM Committee

Resolution No. 2026-25: Resolution Authorizing Budget Amendments to the General Fund for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2026
Sponsored by Commissioners Joey Mehlhorn and Billy Hazlewood
Passed unanimously through the HEED and FWM Committees

Resolution No. 2026-26: Resolution Authorizing Budget Amendments to the General Fund for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2026
Sponsored by Commissioners Roger Donaldson and David Bell
Passed unanimously through the FWM Committee

Resolution No. 2026-27: Resolution Authorizing Budget Amendments to the General Fund for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2026
Sponsored by Commissioners Roger Donaldson and David Bell
Passed unanimously through the FWM Committee

Chairman Dennis Doster called for a motion to approve combining Resolution No. 2026-19, 2026-20, 2026-21, 2026-22, 2026-23, 2026-25, 2026-26, and 2026-27. Commissioner Hazlewood made a motion and Commissioner Cook placed a second. A voice vote was taken and combining Resolution No. 2026-19, 2026-20, 2026-21, 2026-22, 2026-23, 2026-25, 2026-26, and 2026-27, was approved with none opposed.

Chairman Dennis Doster called for a motion to approve Resolution No. 2026-19, 2026-20, 2026-21, 2026-22, 2026-23, 2026-25, 2026-26, and 2026-27. Commissioner Usery made a motion and Commissioner Mehlhorn placed a second. Chairman Dennis Doster asked County Clerk Kim Hughey to call the roll. Commissioners Dennis Doster, Bobby Dunlap, Wade Cook, Greg Usery, Gary Eddings, Larry Taylor, Larry Kelly, David Bell, Joey Mehlhorn, David Hawks, Billy Hazlewood, Roger Donaldson, Jack Vincent, James Washburn, and James Westbrook answered yes. Resolution No. 2026-19, 2026-20, 2026-21, 2026-22, 2026-23, 2026-25, 2026-26, and 2026-27 passed with 15 commissioners answering "yes". Commissioners Marcus Hopper, James Roy Pope, and John Robert Freeman were absent.

Resolution No. 2026-24: Resolution Authorizing Budget Amendments to the General Fund for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2026
Sponsored by Commissioners Gary Eddings and Dennis Doster
Passed unanimously through the FWM Committee

Chairman Dennis Doster called for a motion to approve Resolution 2026-24. Commissioner Cook made a motion and Commissioner Eddings placed a second. Weakley County Finance Director John Liggett stated that our county employee health insurance is part of a pool plan with three other counties. There was a catastrophic insurance claim from one of our employees that led to some claim costs that were not anticipated when the plan was put together. Blue Cross Blue Shield allowed our employees to carry over their deductibles and out of pocket maxes. The county was paying a little more than we typically would have because of that. When the high insurance claims came in, it left us with the potential of having a cash flow issue. They requested that we go ahead and get approval for some additional funds. The amount they gave us was $194,000, which was a worst case scenario. If the insurance claims come in high again, they would need the money to turn around quickly. Since we started this, we have had another set of insurance claims come in. They were fine and there was no need for any more cash flow. We need to get through the end of the year. Once we get to January 1st, there will be prescription rebates, employee deductibles, and out-of-pocket expenses that will restart creating a cushion for us.

Commissioner Hawks stated that every time we change insurance carriers, it saves us money for the first or second year but then costs us more after that. We have not even been with this company for a year yet, and they are already needing more money. It may have been a better deal if we had stayed with the state plan years ago, which is a larger pool. It just seems like every time we change to save money, then two years later it costs us more. There must be a bottom line somewhere, instead of jumping to a different company every time they offer us a better price. Commissioner Bell asked if the money would go back if it were not used. Weakley

County Finance Director John Liggett stated that the money will not be expended unless we have another group of high insurance claims. We just need this money appropriated in case we have high insurance claims come in. If we did not address this right now and had a claim come in, we would not have a chance to get approval on it because we do not have another meeting this calendar year. Chairman Dennis Doster asked County Clerk Kim Hughey to call the roll. Commissioners Dennis Doster, Bobby Dunlap, Wade Cook, Greg Usery, Gary Eddings, Larry Taylor, Larry Kelly, David Bell, Joey Mehlhorn, Billy Hazlewood, Roger Donaldson, Jack Vincent, and James Washburn answered yes. Commissioners David Hawks and James Westbrook answered no. Resolution No. 2026-24 passed with 13 commissioners answering "yes" and 2 commissioners answering "no". Commissioners Marcus Hopper, James Roy Pope, and John Robert Freeman were absent.

COMMISSION MEMBERS' COMMENTS

Chairman Dennis Doster announced that the next Regular Meeting would be Tuesday, January 20, 2026, at 5:00 P.M.

The Weakley County Legislative Body Regular Meeting adjourned at 5:34 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by:

Christina Oliver, Deputy Clerk

ATTEST:

Kim Hughey, Weakley County Clerk