WEAKLEY COUNTY LEGISLATIVE BODY REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 21, 2020

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

Pastor Josh Moore gave the invocation.

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

County Clerk Hughey called the Roll. Answering present were Commissioner Doster, Commissioner Dunlap, Commissioner Owen, Commissioner Hudson, Commissioner Usery, Commissioner Eddings, Commissioner Taylor, Commissioner Bell, Commissioner Overton, Commissioner Hawks, Commissioner Donaldson, Commissioner Vincent, Commissioner Essary, and Commissioner Westbrook. Fourteen (14) members were present and Commissioner Pope, Commissioner Nanney, and Commissioner Fortner were absent.

County Mayor Bynum called for a motion to approve the correction of the minutes from the September 16, 2019, meeting. Commissioner Owen made the motion and Commissioner Vincent placed a second. A voice vote was taken and the minutes were approved with none opposed.

County Mayor Bynum called for a motion to approve the minutes from the November 18, 2019, meeting. Commissioner Donaldson made a motion to approve and Commissioner Eddings placed a second. Commissioner Hawks was recognized to speak. Hawks stated that there was a clerical error. The proper correction will be made and presented at the March meeting. A motion was made by Commissioner Hawks to amend the minutes and a second was placed by Commissioner Bell. A voice vote was taken and the minutes were approved as amended with none opposed.

## SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Mayor Bynum asked Congressman David Kustoff, Representative Andy Holt, along with Beth VanCleave and her family to make their way to the front of the room. Congressman Kustoff spoke in honor of the late County Commissioner, Roger

VanCleave. Ms. VanCleave was presented with a certificate, along with an American flag that had been flown over the United States Capitol at the request of Congressman Kustoff in her late husband's memory.

Next, Mayor Bynum introduced Representative Holt. Holt addressed the Commission to let them know that he had sent out this year's edition of the Tennessee Blue Book, and that it would actually be yellow in color this year. Representative Holt wanted to recognize Scott Gilmer who served as Chief of Staff for the Speaker of the House. Gilmer has made a change in careers and will be working for Path Group as a Government Liaison. Holt proceeded in also honoring the late Commissioner VanCleave with fond memories. Holt then presented Ms. Beth VanCleave with a framed copy of a Proclamation from the Senate created by himself as well as Senator Stevens. Holt read the Proclamation aloud. Ms. VanCleave was also presented with an American flag that had been flown above the State Capitol in memory of Commissioner VanCleave.

## COMMUNICATION TO COMMISSION

Mayor Bynum asked for a motion to accept the Financial Reports. Commissioner Owen made a motion to accept the reports as filed and Commissioner Doster placed a second. A voice vote was taken and the ayes had it with none opposed.

The Veteran's Service Report was next. Commissioner Hawks made a motion to accept the report as filed. Commissioner Dunlap placed a second to the motion. A voice vote was taken and there were none opposed. The Veteran's Service Report was accepted as filed.

Next on the agenda was the UT Extension's Report to Stakeholders. Commissioner Bell made a motion to accept the report as filed and Commissioner Usery placed a second. A voice vote was taken and the ayes had it with none opposed. The UT Extension's Report to Stakeholders was accepted as filed.

### MESSAGE FROM THE COUNTY MAYOR

Mayor Bynum reported that the end of the month was the deadline to file a Conflict of Interest with the Secretary of State. Anyone needing to file should do so to avoid any

penalty. He also stated that registration was still open and to contact Erica Moore if anyone was interested in attending the TCSA County Day on the Hill.

Next on the agenda was the report from the Weakley County Economic Development Director, Shelby Spurgeon. Ms. Spurgeon reported that they are in the process of developing a Workforce Committee to help tackle some of the needs in the community in relation to workforce. She has been meeting with several industries and looking at their skill needs and challenges and ways that the school system can help. She also gave an update on Dong-A in Martin. They are currently at (111) one hundred eleven employees with only (4) four of those being temporary.
Shelby reported that she attended TBA Rural Leadership and is continuing to work on hours needed for Tennessee Certified Economic Developers. She also reported that she has a meeting set up with TBA, to help give some insight into where the challenges are and ways she and the Economic Development Committee can tackle those. Kirby Lewis, who is the new Site Development Director for the State of Tennessee, came to see the Dresden site, which is 35 acres, and the Greenfield site, which is 92 acres. He is planning to look into some funding for us. She stated that there had been four studies done on the Greenfield site, with about three more to do. She stated that the City of Greenfield is looking at possibly purchasing that property in order to move forward in developing that site.

Next on the agenda was a report from the PATH Company, LLC. Mr. William Franklin was introduced by Mayor Bynum. He stated that he was glad to be able to give weekly updates. He has named them The Weekly Weakley, and has been sending those to Mayor Bynum and Erica Moore. Mr. Franklin said the projects were running smoothly. The scoping of the interior lighting in the Election Commission, the county offices, and the Health Department along with the extensive work on the third floor of the courthouse has been completed. They are currently running some electrical wiring throughout the courthouse. He reported that they have run into no significant problems and look forward to smooth progression. Commissioner Westbrook questioned Mr. Franklin on the plumbing issues in the restrooms, and if that work was included in what they are doing. Mr. Franklin answered that the plumbing work in the women's restroom in the basement was currently being assessed.
He also followed Mayor Bynum's previous announcement about Scott Gilmer being hired by the PATH Company by saying that they were happy to have him on the team to

help with government relations, as well as to assist in better understanding the State's programs and needs with projects and funding.

Next was Reports of Special and Standing Committees. Mayor Bynum recognized Commissioner Donaldson to speak. Commissioner Donaldson stated that a newsletter prepared by students from the University of Tennessee at Martin had been passed out prior to the start of the meeting. He hopes to continue to partner with students for PR work for the airport on an internship type basis. Donaldson also stated that the airport is exploring a solar panel farm partnership in conjunction with TVA, which could serve as a large source of income. Donaldson went on to state that the airport has received an Economic Development Grant in the amount of $736,477.00 for the construction of a new hanger. Also, James Bondurant and Mike Holman have been reappointed by the Obion County Commission for another two-year term on the Everett-Stewart Regional Airport Board. Mike Holman is the vice-chair on the board and James Bondurant is an Obion County Commissioner. Both have served many years for the airport and are very knowledgeable.

Mayor Bynum asked for a motion to amend the agenda. The Mayor would like to add the appointment of the County Attorney under item "b" of number 8. Commissioner Westbrook made the motion and a second was placed by Commissioner Eddings. The amendment was approved with none opposed.

## ELECTIONS,APPOINTMENTS, AND CONFIRMATIONS:

The first appointment is that of the members to the Weakley County Public Records Commission. The list includes Commissioner David Hawks, Tommy Moore, Mike Malone, Kim Hughey, April Wright Jones, Mike Rea, Marci Floyd, Jennifer Killebrew, Roberta Peacock, and Greg Roach. A motion was made by Commissioner Hudson to approve and a second was made by Commissioner Doster. A voice vote was taken and the appointments passed with none opposed.

The next item for business was the appointment of (2) two additional members of the Weakley County Audit Committee. The names being submitted were those of Lee Young for a (2) two year term ending August 31, 2022, and Chris Mathis for a (3) three-year term ending August 31, 2023. A motion was made by Commissioner Hawks to approve

and a second was placed by Commissioner Donaldson. A voice vote was taken and the appointments passed with none opposed.

The next item for business was the appointment of Allison Whitledge as the County Attorney as submitted by Financial Management. A motion was made by Commissioner Westbrook to approve and a second was made by Commissioner Overton. A voice vote was taken and the appointment passed with none opposed.

Next was the appointment of the District 7 Commissioner for a term ending August 2020. Commissioner Hawks was recognized to speak. Hawks recommended the wife of the late Commissioner Roger VanCleave, Beth VanCleave, to fill the position. A second was made by Commissioner Doster. A roll call vote was taken. The appointment passed with (14) fourteen ayes and (3) three absent. Commissioner Beth VanCleave was sworn in by County Clerk Hughey, and joined the meeting.

Next was the election of Notaries Public. A list of those seeking a (4) four year-term was provided to the Commissioners. A motion was made by Commissioner Eddings to approve and a second was placed by Commissioner Essary. A voice vote was taken and they were approved with none opposed.

## OLD BUSINESS

None.

## NEW BUSINESS

None.

## NON-FINANCIAL RESOLUTIONS

**RESOLUTION NO. 2020-29:** Resolution Urging the Tennessee Legislative and Governor Bill Lee to Adopt a State Historic Tax Incentive to Assist in Rehabilitating and Revitalizing Historic Buildings in Tennessee. Passed unanimously through the HEED Committee. ***Sponsored by: Commissioners Eddings and Pope.***

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 2020-32:** Resolution Authorizing 2019 County Maintenance Road List. Passed unanimously through the HEED Committee. ***Sponsored by: Commissioners Donaldson and Taylor.***
A motion was made by Commissioner Doster to approve and a second was made by Commissioner Donaldson. A voice vote was taken and the resolution passed with none opposed.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2020-33:** Resolution Adopting a Mitigation Plan for Weakley County Tennessee, and the Incorporated Cities of Sharon, Dresden, Gleason, Greenfield, and Martin. Passed unanimously through the Public Safety Committee. ***Sponsored by: Commissioners Hawks and Owen.***
A motion to approve was placed by Commissioner Eddings and a second was placed by Commissioner Bell. A voice vote was taken and the resolution passed with none opposed.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2020-34:** Resolution To Discontinue a Period of Temporary Employment For Employees of Weakley County Participating in the Tennessee Consolidated Retirement System (TCRS) in Accordance With Title 8, Section 34 Through 37, of the Tennessee Code Annotated. Passed unanimously through the Financial Management Committee. ***Sponsored by: Commissioners Pope and Doster.***
A motion to approve was made by Commissioner Bell. A second was placed by Commissioner Hawks. A voice vote was taken and the resolution was passed with none opposed.
Commissioner Overton was recognized. Overton questioned the meaning of the resolution. Mayor Bynum responded by stating that this was already a policy that the Financial Management Committee had adopted, essentially taking out the (6) six-month probationary period for employees before they can participate in TCRS. It has been found that typically after that six months, employees buy that time back, creating a burden of filing that paperwork for the county. In an effort to move forward, we are removing that (6) six-month grace period, which is a practice we are already doing, and was approved by Financial Management. The Treasurer's office came back and said

that we needed to pass a resolution. Commissioner Westbrook was recognized to speak. Westbrook commented that the word "temporary" was causing confusion, as these employees were not hired as temporary employees. Mayor Bynum commented that the (6) months were being designated as a probationary period, and the language came straight from the State Treasurer's office which is why the resolution is titled that way.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2020-35:** A resolution to Approve the Compensation of the Delinquent Tax Attorney for Weakley County, Tennessee. Passed unanimously through the FWM Committee. ***Sponsored by: Commissioners Westbrook and Usery.***
A motion was made to pass the resolution by Commissioner Owen and a second was placed by Commissioner Doster. A voice vote was taken and the resolution passed with none opposed.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2020-36:** A Resolution To Authorize the Use of Purchasing Cards (Credit Cards) For Purchases By Weakley County and to Establish Written Procedures Governing the Use of Such Cards. Passed unanimously through the Financial Management Committee. ***Sponsored by: Commissioners Pope and Doster.***
A motion to approve was made by Commissioner Doster and a second was placed by Commissioner Eddings.
Commissioner Hawks was recognized by Mayor Bynum to speak. He commented that his concern with the credit cards in the provided resolution was under part "A" where it addresses personal use of the credit cards. It states that " Personal use is not allowed. Any personal charges appearing on the card's statement should be reimbursed immediately upon reconciliation of the statement and a written explanation of the charges should be included with the submission of reimbursement. A violation of this restriction will result in the cancellation of the card and loss of the cardholder's privileges." Commissioner Hawks would like to amend the resolution to include that a one time violation of this policy will lead to the card being revoked. A second to that amendment was placed by Commissioner Bell.
County Mayor Bynum recognized Commissioner Taylor to speak. Commissioner Taylor would like the wording in that same paragraph to be changed from "should" be reimbursed to "shall" be reimbursed.
Mayor Bynum commented that there were (2) two places where the word "should" was used. Commissioner Taylor said that he would like them both changed to the word shall.

Commissioner Hawks made a motion to amend his amendment to include those changes. A second was placed by Commissioner Owen. A voice vote was taken and there were none opposed.
Commissioner Overton was recognized by Mayor Bynum to speak. Commissioner Overton asked who would be eligible to have a credit card. Mayor Bynum answered that cards would be available at the discretion of the Finance Director and the department heads. Elected officials will have access, as well as the Finance Department and certain appointed officials.
Mayor Bynum recognized Commissioner Taylor. Commissioner Taylor's questions addressed a portion of the Resolution that says that the cardholders may make purchases on the behalf of others. He asked for an explanation of who "others" were. Mayor Bynum explained that if he has a card, that he could designate his assistant, Erica, to make purchases for the office on his behalf. Another example was made by Finance Director John Liggett, that if any office head ordered supplies, he could be designated to place that order using their car instead of cutting a check or seperate checks for each department placing an order. Another example made by Mr. Liggett was that if one of his employees were to have to travel for work, that employees may be authorized by him to use the card for hotel stay.
Commissioner Bell was recognized by Mayor Bynum to ask a question. Commissioner Bell asked for an estimated number of cards that would be issued and whether each department would have a card. Mayor Bynum answered that all the department heads could potentially have a card, but that no one would be forced to have one. Commissioner Bell then asked if that would make each department head responsible for that card and whether Mr. Liggett have the final oversight of all of it? Mr. Liggett responded "yes." Commissioner Bell asked Mr. Liggett if he was okay with that. Mr. Liggett responded "yes."
Commissioner Westbrook was recognized by Mayor Bynum to speak. Commissioner Westbrook gave a scenario of a Deputy Sheriff travelling to transport a prisoner and needing to use the Sheriff's card for travel expenses. He questioned how the Deputy would be able to use a card to pay, when the card had the Sheriff's name on it. Mayor Bynum answered that he and the Sheriff have a card exactly like what the county is proposing and that neither of them had ever had any problems sending an employee to pay for something with their cards. Commissioner Westbrook asked if the deputy would or would not have his own card with his name on it. Mayor Bynum answered that no, he would not, unless the Sheriff and the Finance Director deemed it necessary. In that case, the deputy could have a card, but that would be unlikely.

Mayor Bynum asked for any other discussion. Questions were called for by Commissioner Owen. There was no further discussion or questions.
A voice vote was taken and the resolution passed with none opposed.

**RESOLUTION NO.2020-37:** A Resolution To Authorize Amendments to the Weakley County Personnel Handbook. Passed unanimously through the Financial Management Committee. ***Sponsored by: Commissioners Pope and Doster.***
A motion to approve the resolution was made by Commissioner Doster and a second was placed by Commissioner Donaldson. Commissioner Owen asked if there were any major changes. Mayor Bynum answered that "No, there are no major changes. The majority of the work that was done with the personnel policy, which has been an ongoing process, has been an effort to clean it up and bring it up to regulation. Another issue that we found, early on in the policy, was that it addressed both county employees and school employees." The changes take the school employees out of this handbook and only addresses county employees. School employees will have their own policy.
A voice vote was taken and the resolution passed with none opposed.

## FINANCIAL RESOLUTIONS

Mayor Bynum asked for a motion to be made to combine Resolution No. 2020-30 and Resolution No. 2020-31. A motion was made by Commissioner Overton and a second was placed by Commissioner Hawks. A voice vote was taken and the motion to combine the resolutions passed with none opposed.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2020-30:** A 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 Bell and Pope.***

**RESOLUTION NO. 2020-31:** A Resolution Authorizing Budget Amendments to the Weakley County, Tennessee, General Purpose School Fund for the FY Ending June 30, 2020. Passed unanimously through HEED and FWM Committees. ***Sponsored by: Commissioners Hudson and Essary.***

Mayor Bynum called for any discussion on the resolutions. There were no questions or discussions. Mayor Bynum asked Clerk Hughey for a roll call vote. The resolutions passed with fifteen (15) answering aye and three (3) absent.

## REMARKS FROM WEAKLEY COUNTY CITIZEN

Dona Paulin-Animal Control. Not present at the meeting. No discussion.

## COMMISSION MEMBERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Hudson asked to keep Commissioner Scott Fortner in our prayers and Commissioner Pope, as his mother in-law passed away.
Commissioner Beth VanCleave thanked the Commission for their support and for the opportunity to serve.
Commissioner Eddings wanted to give a heads up on a resolution on the Second Amendment that he hopes will be presented at the next meeting in March. He is available after the meeting to answer any questions on the topic.

County Mayor Bynum announced that the next Regular Commission Meeting will be held on Monday, March 16, 2020, at 5:30 p.m.

The Weakley County Legislative Body Regular Meeting stood adjourned at 6:14 p.m.

ATTEST:

Kim Hughey

Kim Hughey, Weakley County Clerk