

## WEAKLEY COUNTY LEGISLATIVE BODY REGULAR MEETING

JULY 29, 2015

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

Brother Kylan Mann gave the invocation.

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

County Clerk Hughey called the Roll with 17 members present and one member, Commissioner Hudson, was absent.

County Mayor Bynum called for a motion to approve the minutes from the June 29, 2015 meeting. Commissioner Owen made the motion and a second was placed by Commissioner Donald Doster. There were not any additions, deletions or corrections and a voice vote was taken, the ayes have it with none opposed. The minutes from the Weakley County Legislative Body Regular Meeting of June 29, 2015 were approved.

### **SPECIAL RECOGNITION:**

County Mayor Bynum called for a motion to move Special Recognition to the head of the agenda. Commissioner Chandler made a motion and Commissioner Owen placed a second. A voice vote was taken and the ayes have it with none opposed.

County Mayor Bynum presented Mrs. Barbara Castleman a certificate of appreciation for her years of service as Weakley County Election Administrator. Mrs. Castleman will be retiring at the end of August of this year. Mrs. Castleman thanked the Commission.

### **COMMUNICATIONS TO COMMISSION:**

The Financial Reports were included in the packets. Commissioner Chandler made a motion to accept the reports as filed and Commissioner Wright placed a second to the motion. A voice vote was taken and the ayes have it with none opposed. The Financial Reports were accepted as filed.

Next was the 2013 Final Reconciliation of Tax Aggregate. Commissioner Westbrook moved that the County Trustee be released from collecting \$31,940.43 in 2013 County Real and Personal property taxes due to errors, double assessments or other changes in the assessments. Commissioner Owen placed a second to the motion. A voice vote was taken and the ayes have it with none opposed. Motion was approved.

### **MESSAGE FROM THE COUNTY MAYOR:**

First County Mayor Bynum announced the new digital recording system for the County Commission Court Room. This meeting will be able to be stored in a separate hard drive and eventually be able to put these digital files on the website.

Next County Mayor Bynum commented that Jackson State will have an open house on Thursday, August 30, 2015 from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Weakley County Adult Learning Center.

The theme for these years International Aviation Art contest held each year for ages 6 to 17 will be World Air Games. From all over the state Kaitlyn Courtney placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Senior Division at the state level. Kaitlyn is a student at Dresden High School. Congratulations to Kaitlyn.

Employment rates in every county rose except one. The rate is 8.1 percent in Weakley County which is up one percent. MTD's two week temporary lay off had some bearing on this.

The Dresden Senior Citizen Center was featured and recognized for implementation of Joyce's Garden and featured on the cover of a Senior Magazine. The Dresden Senior Citizen Center will be featured at the Tennessee Commission on Aging and Disability board meeting on August 18<sup>th</sup>.

We received a letter from the Department of Economic and Community Development that our Dresden Pad ready site had been fund certified by state and now in the Tennessee certified site program. This took lots of work, due in part to Ronnie Price and the Economic Development Board.

County Mayor Bynum recognized Jeff Lannom for receiving the Distinguished Service Award for Extension Agent; he was one of three in the state. Mr. Lannom went to the National Convention in South Dakota where he received the National Award.

County Mayor Bynum recognized Commissioner Pope on this being his birthday.

County Mayor Bynum announced that Cross Fit is a form of workout and there is one located at Sidelines in Martin that does a variation of Cross Fit. They host an annual game that have hundreds of thousands of people that watch these games. Matt Hewett former student of Dresden High School and grandson of Commissioner Westbrook were on the 1<sup>st</sup> place team for the National Cross Fit games. They came from 18<sup>th</sup> place all the way up to 1<sup>st</sup> place on the final day of the games. County Mayor Bynum congratulated him on this accomplishment.

#### **REPORTS OF SPECIAL AND STANDING COMMITTEES:**

Pursuant to the Rules of the Weakley County Commission the Commission will elect a Rules Committee in every July Meeting. Commissioner Westbrook, Chairman of the Rules Committee recommends and made a motion that the traditional re-appointment of Commissioners Bynum, Owen, Usery, Jones, Wright, Taylor, Hawks, Vincent and Westbrook be appointed. A second was placed by Commissioner Wright. Discussion was called and Commissioner Donaldson commented that he would like to see more of the new members on this committee. Discussion followed that normally the senior commissioner is appointed and if there is not a senior member, the highest vote in the district received should be appointed. A voice vote was taken and in turn a roll call vote was taken. County Clerk Hughey called the Roll with 8 ayes, 9 nays and one absent. Commissioners Dennis Doster, Pope, Chandler, Taylor, Fortner, Hawks, Vancleave, Donaldson and Donald Doster cast a nay vote. The motion failed.

Commissioner Donald Doster moved that the top vote in each district, with the exception of District Nine, be nominated and Commissioner Vancleave placed a second. Commissioner Donald Doster recommended placing Commissioners Dennis Doster, Hudson, Usery, Chandler, Fortner, Wright, Hawks, Donaldson and Westbrook on the committee. A voice vote was taken and in turn a roll call vote was taken. County Clerk Hughey called the roll with 9 ayes, 8 nays and one absent. Commissioners Bynum, Owen, Jones, Taylor, Wright, Overton, Vincent and Westbrook cast nay votes. Motion approved. Commissioner Westbrook objected and commented it takes 10 votes to pass this motion; it takes 10 votes to pass a constitutional majority. Commissioner Donald Doster disagreed. Commissioner Vancleave commented that Rule 5 page 4 – simple motion requires a plurality of members voting in order to be adopted. Commissioner Westbrook withdrew his objection and the motion was approved.

#### **VETERANS SERVICE REPORT:**

Motion by Commissioner Hawks to accept and a second was placed by Commissioner Fortner. A voice vote was taken and the ayes have it with none opposed. The motion carried.

#### **COMPTROLLER OF TREASURY FORM CT-0253 SCHOOL LOAN APPROVAL:**

Motion to approve by Commissioner Fortner and a second was placed by Commissioner Usery. A voice vote was taken and the ayes have it with none opposed. The Motion carried.

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

The Election of Notaries Public was next and Commissioner Fortner made the motion and Commissioner Hawks placed a second. A voice vote was taken and the ayes have it, the motion carried.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

None.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Motion was made by Commissioner Owen to move Resolution 2016-04 to be first under New Business and Commissioner Fortner placed a second. A voice vote was taken and the ayes have it. Motion carried.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2016-04:** Resolution Increasing The Compensation Of The Sheriff Of Weakley County, Tennessee. *Sponsored by Commissioners Westbrook and Jones.*

Commissioner Fortner made a motion to place the resolution on the floor and Commissioner Westbrook placed a second. Discussion and the question were called. County Clerk Hughey called the Roll with 17 ayes and one absent. Motion was approved.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2016-01:** Resolution Making Appropriations For The Various Funds, Departments, Institutions, Offices and Agencies of Weakley County, Tennessee, For The Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2015 and Ending June 30, 2016. *Sponsored by Commissioners Jones and Donaldson.*

Commissioner Hawks made the motion and Commissioner Taylor placed a second. Discussion and the Committee Reports were called. Commissioner Owen commented that the Finance Ways and Means Committee met earlier today and there were some changes for Public Safety, the Finance Director has these figures. It changes Public Safety to \$3,765,071 from \$3,724,926, making the total General County Government \$8,599,100 from \$8,558,955. This will make the total Weakley County 2015-2016 Fiscal Year Budget \$66,544,778 from \$66,504,633. This passed Finance Ways and Means unanimously. Commissioner Vancleave was recognized and he commented was this just on the General Fund 101 and County Mayor Bynum commented that this is on the total budget. Commissioner Vancleave commended Commissioner Owen and the Finance Ways and Means committee for putting this information up front.

Commissioner Vancleave commented that he did not agree on taking the money out of Debt Service Fund 151. The Debt Service budget is a savings account, a rainy day fund, and escrow account to pay bills whenever you need something in this County. He commented that it was proposed to take four cents out and pull some off of the electric company and this turned out to be about \$216,000 to build up the General Fund Balance. He commented that evidently we did not need this since there has not been a resolution

where we anticipate borrowing any funds; Commissioner Owen commented this was correct for the first time since he has been on this committee. Commissioner Vancleave commented that we are taking \$216,000 out and raising the General Fund expenditure by \$400,000. He commented that we are not putting this in the General Fund, we are spending the money. Commissioner Vancleave commented that our beginning balance is estimated at \$1,340,687, but we are at \$1,171,361 and are \$170,000 short from day one. He commented it would not take much for the Debt Service Fund to be under \$1 million, if something comes up and we need some roads built, we need something repaired, an industry comes in and we need to give some kind of incentive, we are going to have to say we are broke, because we have spent all of our savings account. He commented that this would mean we are going to have to raise taxes, if this is for an industry, Commissioner Vancleave commented he would be in favor of raising taxes for an industry. He went on to comment that he objected to taking four cents out of our Debt Service Account and spending it.

Question was called and County Clerk Hughey called the Roll with 17 ayes and one absent. The motion carried. Commissioner Fortner commented that he appreciated the hard work Chairman Owen and the Finance Ways and Means Committee had done on the budget and it is a benefit to our county to have someone that understands financial matters as well as this committee does. Commissioner Donald Doster agreed with Commissioner Fortner. County Mayor Bynum commented on behalf of the County and behalf of the employees of Weakley County that they would thank the commission for the three percent raise.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2015-02:** Resolution Fixing The Tax Levy For Weakley County, Tennessee For The Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2015 And Ending June 30, 2016.  
*Sponsored by Commissioners Jones and Donaldson.*

Commissioner Donald Doster made a motion to place the resolution on the floor for discussion and Commissioner Jones placed a second to the motion. Commissioner Owen commented that this passed the Finance Ways and Means Committee unanimously. Discussion was called and the question. County Clerk Hughey called the roll with 16 ayes, one nay, Commissioner Vancleave, and one absent. Motion carried.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2015-03:** Resolution Making Appropriations To Non-Profit Charitable Organizations For The Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2015 And Ending June 30, 2016. *Sponsored by Commissioners Westbrook and Jones.*

Commissioner Hawks made the motion to place the resolution on the floor for discussion and Commissioner Owen placed a second. Commissioner Owen commented that it passed the Finance Ways and Means committee unanimously. Discussion was called. Commissioner Fortner was recognized, and commented that in the future on next year's budget he recommended that the city fire departments in Martin, Dresden, and Greenfield

be appropriated the \$6,000, since they respond out in the county to assist the rural fire departments and they are not usually compensated. Question was called and County Clerk Hughey called the roll with 17 ayes and one absent. The motion carried.

**COMMISSION MEMBERS' COMMENTS:**

Commissioner Fortner commented that his desire was to protect all Weakley County monuments from being removed, due to pressure from outside influences. Commissioner Westbrook commented that this could be accomplished by a three-fourths majority vote of the County Commission before a monument was moved. County Mayor Bynum referred this to the Health, Education and Economic Development committee for further study on this matter.

Commissioner Owen commented that in the Finance Ways and Means committee they voted to rescind the Resolution No. 2015-33 and send it back to the Public Safety and Public Works committee. Commissioner Owen made the motion to rescind Resolution 2015-33 and Commissioner Fortner placed a second. A voice vote was taken and the ayes have it with none opposed. Resolution No. 2015-33 is rescinded and sent back to the Public Safety and Public Works committee.

County Mayor Bynum announced that the next regular meeting will be on September 21, 2015 at 5:30 p.m.

There was not any other business and the Weakley County Legislative Body Regular Meeting stood adjourned at 6:11 p.m.

ATTEST:

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Kim Hughey, Weakley County Clerk