

Sevier County Commission
September 18, 2023 at 6:00 PM

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL

Quorum Present (25 Present, 1 Absent)

Present: Mayor Larry Waters, Ronnie Allen, Fred Atchley, Scott Catlett, Mike Chambers, Gary Cole, Bryan Delius, Aaron Foster, Chuck Godfrey, Brandon Headrick, Dale Hill, Mike Hillard, Todd Humble, Warren Hurst, Michael Maddron, Don McGill, Chad Ogle, Ray Ogle, Frank Parton, Jack Parton, Harold Pitner, Carrol Rauhuff, Tommy Watts, Ronnie Whaley, Kent Woods

Absent: Greg Haggard

III. CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS COMMISSION MEETING

August 21, 2023 County Commission Minutes

A motion was made by Cole and duly seconded by Headrick. Passed by roll call vote 24 yes, 1 absent.

IV. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS FROM COMMISSION COMMITTEES

A motion was made by Rauhuff and duly seconded by Pitner. Passed by roll call vote 24 yes, 1 absent.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS/PUBLIC HEARING ON REZONING REQUESTS

- PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS
 - No Comments made
- PUBLIC HEARING ON REZONING ITEMS
 - No Comments made

VI. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN FOR THE SEVIER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR 2023-2024

A motion was made by Gary Cole to nominate Mayor Larry Waters and duly seconded by Carroll Rauhuff. Passed by roll call vote 24 yes, 1 absent.

VII. ELECTION OF A CHAIRMAN PRO TEMP FOR THE SEVIER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR 2023-2024

A motion was made by Kent Woods to nominate Warren Hurst and duly seconded by Gary Cole. A motion was made by Gary Cole to cease nominations and duly seconded by Frank Parton. Passed by roll call vote 23 yes, 1 abstain, 1 absent.

VIII. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION 2023-09-01: CONFIRM THE APPOINTMENT OF COMMISSIONERS TO COMMITTEES OF THE SEVIER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

A motion was made by R. Ogle and duly seconded by Godfrey. Passed by roll call vote 24 yes, 1 absent.

IX. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION 2023-09-02: AUTHORIZE THE USE OF STATE STREET AID IN RESURFACING ROADS

Jonas Smelcer stated that regulations set by state law on how to use the State funds. Middle Creek Rd currently sees up to an average of four to five thousand (5,000) vehicles per day and has not been resurfaced in thirteen (13) years.

A motion was made by Rauhuff and duly seconded by Maddron. Passed by roll call vote 24 yes, 1 absent.

X. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION 2023-09-03: SET SPEED LIMIT ON CERTAIN SEVIER COUNTY ROADS

A motion was made by R. Ogle and duly seconded by Chambers. Passed by roll call vote 24 yes, 1 absent.

XI. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION 2023-09-04: AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS, SERIES, 2023, IN THE AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF NOT TO EXCEED TEN MILLION DOLLARS (\$10,000,000) OF SEVIER COUNTY, TENNESSEE; MAKING PROVISION FOR THE ISSUANCE, SALE, AND PAYMENT OF SAID BONDS; ESTABLISHING THE TERMS THEREOF AND THE DISPOSITION OF PROCEEDS THEREFROM; AND PROVIDING FOR THE LEVY OF TAX FOR THE PAYMENT OF PRINCIPAL, PREMIUM, IF ANY, AND INTEREST ON THE BONDS

Jack Parton asked if these bonds will be set a fixed rate at 5% or a variable rate? The bonds will be included for the balance the debt with a that is currently a variable and fixed rate, the funds from these bonds will be used for the County Court buildings.

A motion was made by Atchley and duly seconded by Cole. Passed by roll call vote 24 yes, 1 absent.

XII. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION 2023-09-05: APPROVE EASEMENT ON COUNTY PROPERTY FOR NEWPORT UTILITIES

Water Superintendent Brent Shields explains that there is a new water tower being built in Jones Cove, electrical services is needed and will be provided by Newport utility.

A motion was made by Maddron and duly seconded by Headrick. Passed by roll call vote 24 yes, 1 absent.

XIII. NOTARIES

A motion was made by Delius and duly seconded by Rauhuff. Passed by roll call vote 23 yes, 1 abstain, 1 absent.

XIV. OTHER BUSINESS

- Planner Mr. Temple address that a letter had been received from the County attorney concerning the issue regarding the off-premise signage on Boyd's Creek Highway. It had been brought forward to the Supreme Court prior, the ruling was in favor of the town commission putting regulations on off-premise signage. A letter was drafted to send to the sign owners to remove the signs until regulations were set in place for signage by the commission.
- Commissioner Hurst requested an update on the improvements for internet access for the rural area of the County. Director of Grants and Special Projects Andrew Temple gave an update they are in meetings currently with area providers to prove more access to the area and looking at the middle mill project that has come down from the federal government down to the state level to get more internet access into our area. Unfortunately, there is an ongoing fight with the FCC that the current census tract code marks an area with internet access if one household has access when it's not the majority at large. We are currently working with the state on how to address the matter. Currently the Sevier County Electric System is off the table on providing more access, but the office is in discussion with Comcast Charter and AT&T on providing service once money from the State Government is provided. Mayor Waters added that their office is currently meeting with these providers to discuss their coverage area they are offering to provide and then will be able to apply with the information that have been gathered. A. Temple added that the process will take a couple of years but the office is pushing forward with gathering data on cost and coverage area data that is need to apply for the grant, after the following week the office will have a more updated time line on when to apply and what is required.

XV. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

- No Comments made

XVI. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Cole and duly seconded by Allen. Passed by voice vote 24 yes, 1 absent.