

SEPTEMBER 27, 2021 - HARTSVILLE/TROUSDALE COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING

BE IT REMEMBERED, That the Hartsville/Trousdale County Commission met pursuant to adjournment with the Honorable Dwight Jewell, Commission Chairman, presiding and the following commissioners present to wit: Beverly Atwood, Mary Ann Baker, Ken Buckmaster, Shane Burton, Gary Claridy, Rick Davis, Coy Dickey, Bill Fergusson, Jerry Ford, Bubba Gregory, Landon Gulley, Richard Harsh, Rachel Jones, David Nollner, Amber Russell, Lonnie Taylor, Steve Whittaker, and Ethan Boles.

1. **Open Court** - Sheriff Ray Russell
2. **Invocation** - T. Bubba Gregory
3. **Pledge to the American Flag** - Rachel Jones
4. **Roll Call** - Rita Crowder, County Clerk - 18 Present, 2 Absent

5. **Approval of Minutes** -

Motion this court approve these minutes as presented.

Motion by Jerry Ford, Second by Steve Whittaker

MOTION CARRIED

6. **Announcements** -

Direct Deposit forms are included in your packets. Please fill them out and return them to Amy or Rene' as soon as possible. There is also a Committee Questionnaire for your review. Please go over this and make sure you are on the committees that you want to be on. Committee assignment sheets should be available next month.

Dwight Jewell read aloud a formal complaint letter against Mayor Stephen Chambers, signed by eleven commissioners, requesting an official investigation into the Mayor's actions stemming from the July 19, 2021 Special Called Meeting. This letter of complaint will be included in these minutes.

7. **Amendments to the Agenda / Approval of Agenda**

Agenda was accepted as presented.

8. **Citizens' Response to Agenda Items** - None Presented.

9. **County Mayor Report** - Stephen Chambers

- Multi-Modal Grant application has to be sent by this Friday.
- American Rescue Fund directions have been delayed and should be available next month.
- Both Democrat and Republican parties have decided to hold a 15th Judicial District Primary next May. There will be Budget Amendment later on to cover the cost of this election.
- September has been declared "Suicide Awareness Month".

10. **Committee Reports**

- A. **Codes & Zoning Comm.** - Aug. 26 - Still discussing cluster mailboxes. Mayor Chambers has been going over our Municipal Codes and finding some that are very outdated. It was decided to have Mayor Chambers, Co. Attorney Brandon Bellar, and Sam Edwards meet to go over these codes to see what needs to be changed.
- B. **Communications Comm.** - Aug. 26 - Met and discussed the Co. website and thanks to Amy Thomas, committee minutes can accessed there. They also discussed adding additional phone lines for some county offices.
- C. **Steering Committee** - Sept. 7 - Mayor Chambers informed the committee that Craig Moreland had resigned from the Water Board. They also discussed the "Whistle Blower Policy" that needs to be passed as a requirement to receive funds from the American Rescue Plan. We are still awaiting final clarification as to how these funds may be spent.

- D. **Building Comm.** - Sept. 9 - Update on the windows in the courthouse. They said it would be cheaper to just repair each window, one at a time. Heat and Air system needs to be replaced at the courthouse. Considering a split system as the best solution. Leaks with the current system are preventing new flooring being installed. Currently planning to turn the old Property Assessor's office in to a museum. Reviewed the assessment of the jail. It was estimated that a new jail would cost between twenty and twenty-five million dollars. Working on improving the internet service at the courthouse.
- E. **Personnel Comm.** - Sept. 14 & 21 - Met and discussed the Personnel Policy and changes to be made. Reviewed the Whistle Blower Policy that needs to be implemented in order to receive funds from the American Rescue Plan. They also reviewed the findings from the Wage Study conducted by Burris, Thompson & Associates. Most positions are paid below some of the surrounding counties they were compared to. The committee wants to review this more and possibly include the Budget and Finance Committee at some point.
- F. **Budget & Finance** - Sept. 20 - Reviewed the Financial Report ending balance. Most all areas showed an increase from last year. Reviewed the Trustee's report for August. No anomalies were found. Budget Amendments were approved and recommended for full commission approval. Mayor Chambers also mentioned that the Industrial Development Board is in discussion of implementing a PILOT program (Payment in Lieu of Taxes). The Budget Committee will need to be involved with this in the future.
- G. **Insurance Comm.** - Sept. 23 - Met and elected Mary Ann Baker as Secretary, to replace Linda Johnson. Mayor Chambers had stated that the Wage Study had shown that employee insurance benefits were a little behind. He had reached out to Sequoya Group, Benefits Blueprint, and Five Points Insurance Group (unable to attend). Both companies that were present gave good presentations. The committee discussed the options and made a motion to authorize Mayor Chambers to send requests for qualifications to other Brokerage firms and bring back to the committee.
- H. **Parks & Rec. Comm.** - Sept. 23 - Discussing the Trey Park Playground Recovery Plan. Deciding between recycled rubber mulch and wood mulch. Getting bids for LED Lighting and poles for the Little League Field. The next meeting is scheduled for 10/25 @ 6:00 pm.

11. **Active Business**

A. **Commission Elections**

1) **Chairman**

The floor was opened for nominations. Dwight Jewell was nominated.
Richard Harsh made a motion that nominations cease and elect Dwight Jewell by acclamation.

Electronic Vote - 18 YES, 0 NO, 2 ABSENT

MOTION CARRIED

2) **Chairman Pro Tempore**

The floor was opened for nominations. Bill Fergusson was nominated.
Jerry Ford made a motion that nominations cease and elect Bill Fergusson by acclamation.

Electronic Vote - 18 YES, 0 NO, 2 ABSENT

MOTION CARRIED

B. **Appointments**

1) **2022 Student Representative** - Ethan Boles

Motion this court re-appoint Ethan Boles as our Student Representative for 2022.

Motion by Gary Claridy, Second by Richard Harsh

Electronic Vote - 18 YES, 0 NO, 2 ABSENT

MOTION CARRIED

C. Resolutions

- 1) **Resolution 2021-25-729** ECD Grant Application for TCEA, Round 2
Motion this court approve this Resolution.
Motion by Richard Harsh, Second by Coy Dickey
Electronic Vote - 18 YES, 0 NO, 2 ABSENT **MOTION CARRIED**
- 2) **Resolution 2021-26-730** "One-Way" Traffic Flow Designation Hall Street and Gregory Street
Motion this court approve this Resolution.
Motion by David Nollner, Second by Jerry Ford
Electronic Vote - 18 YES, 0 NO, 2 ABSENT **MOTION CARRIED**
- 3) **Resolution 2021-27-731** Whistleblower Policy
Motion this court approve this Resolution.
Motion by Mary Ann Baker, Second by Ken Buckmaster
Electronic Vote - 18 YES, 0 NO, 2 ABSENT **MOTION CARRIED**
- 4) **Resolution 2021-28-732** Comcast Franchise Agreement
Motion this court approve this Resolution.
Motion by Landon Gulley, Second by Lonnie Taylor
Electronic Vote - 18 YES, 0 NO, 2 ABSENT **MOTION CARRIED**

D. Budget Amendments

101 - COUNTY GENERAL

FUND BALANCE DRAW

2022-101-08FB Upgrade County VoIP Phone System \$ 14,000

Motion this court approve this Budget Amendment.

Motion by Landon Gulley, Second by Bubba Gregory

Electronic Vote - 18 YES, 0 NO, 2 ABSENT **MOTION CARRIED**

TRANSFER FROM RESERVED FUNDS

2022-101-07R LGSFL Local Parks & Recreation Grant \$ 196,000

2022-101-09R Senior Center Van Repairs 2,281

2022-101-10R TNCAMS: Sheriff - Law Enforcement Equipment 24,357

Motion this court approve these 3 Budget Amendments.

Motion by Landon Gulley, Second by Beverly Atwood

Electronic Vote - 18 YES, 0 NO, 2 ABSENT **MOTION CARRIED**

141 - GENERAL PURPOSE SCHOOL

2022-141-01 Summer Learning Camp \$ 14,856.87

2022-141-02 Salary Adjustments per schedule 79,549.00

Motion this court approve these 2 Budget Amendments.

Motion by Richard Harsh, Second by Jerry Ford

Electronic Vote - 17 YES, 1 ABSTINTION, 2 ABSENT **MOTION CARRIED**

2022-141-03FB uTrust Donation 2,326.50

Motion this court approve this Budget Amendment.

Motion by Rachel Jones, Second by Lonnie Taylor

Electronic Vote - 18 YES, 0 NO, 2 ABSENT **MOTION CARRIED**

E. Notaries

Angie Williams - TCBOE

Michael Spivey - Bypass Automotive

Allison Williams - Self-Employed

Cheryl Bolding - Jacqueline Scott, Attorney at Law

Vanessa L McKee - ST of TN

Motion this court approve all Notary applicants.

Motion by Mary Ann Baker, Second by Landon Gulley

Electronic Vote - 18 YES, 0 NO, 2 ABSENT

MOTION CARRIED

12. **Other Business** - Comm. Coy Dickey read a letter of complaint against Mayor Stephen Chambers. This complaint stemmed from something he allegedly heard the Mayor say and he requested an apology.

Comm. Mary Ann Baker also reminded the commission of the letter that was sent to all commission members, from Co. Attorney Brandon Bellar, regarding violations of the Sunshine Law.

13. **Public Comment**

14. **Adjourn**

Motion this court adjourn.

Motion by Rachel Jones, Second by Amber Russell

MOTION CARRIED