

Government Watch - County Commission

A look at what is happening in Bradley County

by Ashley Murphy

Several items were on the agendas for the Bradley County Commission. Here are the highlights from those meetings for July.

- At the July 6th meeting, Commissioner Lisa Stanbery made a motion to appoint Randy Brown, Keith Holloway, and Ken True to the task force to study combining the county and city planning departments. The motion passed after Commissioner Jim Smith's motion to appoint Tina Rice, Sandy Knight, and Corey Divel failed. Commissioner Stanbery's motion held an 8-4 with 2 absent.

- During the July 6th meeting, a public hearing was also held to give citizens a chance to voice their comments about the airspace zoning for the new airport in the Tasso community. Erin Fuller, a resident in the area, gave a presentation of her research and

findings that oppose the new airport. She proceeded to state that this zoning is limiting the use of homeowner's land and taking away their property rights. Fuller had a long list of questions that have gone unanswered and the commission requested a copy so they can properly research and answer her questions thoroughly. Several other residents came to the podium to oppose the airspace zoning and all had the same concerns and final thought: The Chattanooga Airport is just 20 minutes away. Why disrupt hundreds of landowners for the convenience of a few people? Commissioner Jim Smith then made a motion to deny the Airspace Zoning Resolution. The motion passed with an 8-4 vote.

- On July 20th, Mayor D. Gary Davis presented County Finance Director Lynn Burns with a Certificate of Achievement for

Excellence in Financial Reporting awarded to the County by the Government Finance Officer's Association. GFOA Director Stephen Gauthier said the award represents a significant accomplishment by a local government and its financial management. This marks Lynn Burns' fourth time receiving this award and it also marks the second time that Bradley County has been recognized this year for their budgeting and accounting practices.

- A motion was brought forward from the County Finance Committee to invite United Way to address the commission in regards to the Funds. Commissioner Jim Smith stated that this was brought up by himself in the finance meeting and that he thought Bradley County needed an explanation of what happened to the funds and United Way's policies and procedures. Commissioner Ed Elkins

stated that United Way has worked well with HCI and he doesn't want to do anything to jeopardize that co-operation. The motion failed with a 6-8 vote.

- Commissioner Jeff Yarber raised his concerns about the airport zoning resolution that was voted down. Yarber was absent the day that the zoning resolution was denied, so he made a motion to reconsider the rezoning on the airspace, allow Corey Divel to advertise for the 15 day notice, and to contact the Cleveland Airport Authority. The motion passed 8-6.

- Commissioner Louie Alford made a motion to allow the 911 Board to move forward with planning for a back-up facility for the 911 center. Joe Wilson and Danny Lawson brought forward ideas at the July 13th meeting that a contingency plan was needed if there was ever a need to vacate the current

911 center. A permanent place would be needed for a back-up center so that services could still be provided. One possible location that they are looking at is the octagon building at the old Waterville School, but commissioners ask that they also review more locations. The motion had a 2nd from Commissioner Jim Smith and passed unanimously.

- Commissioner Howard Thompson made a motion to reject the Cleveland City Council's approved 4-year fire contract proposal that would require the county to pay the city \$1.8 million a year for coverage outside of city limits. Commissioner Ben Atchley then offered a counter proposal for a 2-year contract that would end June 30, 2012. This contract would only call for \$1.3 million paid to the city the first year and around \$900,000 for the second year. The proposal passed

with a vote of 8-6.

- Commissioner Brian Smith made a motion to appoint commissioners Howard Thompson, Lisa Stanbery and Ben Atchley to the committee to assist the Industrial Development Board. The motion passed 9-3.

- Commissioner Lisa Stanbery had a resolution on the agenda to appoint Joe Byrd as the Delinquent Tax Attorney. Connie Wilson made the 2nd and the resolution passed unanimously.

The Bradley County Commission meetings and committee meetings are open to the public each month. Commission meetings are held in the Bradley County Courthouse. Their voting sessions are on the 1st Monday at 7pm and the 3rd Monday at 10am. Commission work sessions are on the 2nd Monday at 12pm and on the 4th Monday at 7pm. Committees meet as needed.

Government Watch - City Council

A look at what is happening in the City of Cleveland

by Tonya Brantley

The Cleveland City Council had several important items to discuss and vote on during their July 13th work session and voting meetings. The following are highlights from those meetings.

The council discussed and later rescheduled a request to amend deed restrictions placed on approximately 17.84 acres currently zoned R2 on Weeks Drive. The owners are looking to develop the property per all R2 zoning requirements as a condo community similar to the Overbriar Development. The community would be gated and would meet all regulations. The owners are requesting that the deed restrictions be amended to reflect condominium units and multi unit structures per R2 regulations. A public hearing was held at press time. An update will be

given in next month's issue.

Airport Authority Chairman, Lynn DeVault gave an update on zoning requirements for the new airport in the Tasso Road area saying, "The FAA and TN Aeronautics requires that the zoning be adopted around the airport to protect it's airspace so that there are no high objects such as cell towers built in the airport zone. The airport authority made the request to the county to undertake this zoning but was declined. There was no indication that the zoning would be reconsidered. State law prescribes what action the airport authority should take next. The city and the airport authority would need to send a letter to the aeronautics division requesting that they give the airport authority the opportunity to pass zoning the county has declined." Tasso resident, Erin Fuller spoke in opposition saying that this action

would take away the property rights of residents in the proposed zoning area. DeVault requested that Mayor Tom Rowland send a letter to the TN Aeronautics Division requesting authorization to designate the zoning for the new airport. The motion was made and passed unanimously.

Consulting Manager, Sharon Rollins gave an update on the MTAS review on the collection of brush debris. Her recommendation was for Cleveland Public Works to continue the system currently in place. Public Works offers overnight or weekend use of dump trucks for removal of bulk rubbish for residents of the City of Cleveland. The requested vehicle will be dropped at the required location between the hours of 2P.M. and 3P.M. and will be picked up the next business day after 7A.M. Removal of regular junk items and use of the

vehicles are free of charge. Residents can request a vehicle by calling 472-2851.

A resolution for a new 4-year fire contract with Bradley County was unanimously approved by the council. City Manager, Janice Casteel said, "This is an opportunity to show that the city and the county can work together." According to Casteel, the new contract uses the consumer price index that is in the current contract for the 4 years that are in the new contract. There is a provision to end the contract if the commission and council agree to merge the two fire departments and EMS. There is no contract extension. Casteel said, "It is not a perfect contract and it is not exactly what I wanted or what County Mayor Gary Davis wanted." The new contract agreement will be in effect from July 1 2010 through June 20, 2014.

The council voted to au-

thorize the mayor to sign a contract with RBA Construction, Inc. for new maintenance building construction at Waterville Golf Course based upon their low base bid of \$379,998 and 120 construction days. Councilwoman Bambi Hines and Councilmen George Poe and Richard Banks voted in opposition with Banks calling it "discretionary funding."

The council voted in favor of a resolution authorizing the mayor to sign a grant contract with the State for construction of restroom facilities near the Harris Circle parking area along the Greenway.

The council voted to increase the speed limit on Georgetown Road from 30mph to 35mph after the ordinance passed the second reading. The speed limit was originally reduced from 40mph to 30mph, however motorists complained it was too low.

Richard Banks made a motion to send a letter to the Cleveland City School Board suggesting they reconsider the 4 percent raise for Director of Schools, Dr. Rick Denning. Banks said it looks bad when teachers and other city employees were not given a pay increase and wants the school board to reconsider because it "sends a bad message." The motion passed unanimously.

The council appointed Tom Cate and Larry Presswood to the Joint Planning Task Force.

The council approved the property tax rate of \$1.49.

Discussion on allowing guns in parks was deferred until the July 27th meeting. Cleveland City Council meetings are open to the public each month at the Municipal Building on Church Street on the 2nd and 4th Monday with the work session at 2pm and the voting session at 4pm.