

County Commission... continued from page 23

Commissioner Ben Atchley opened the work session on February 22nd with some disappointing news.

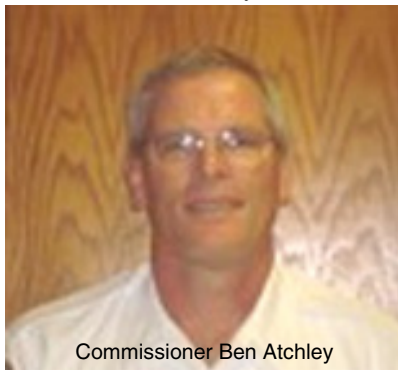
Atchley, who would be entering his third term as District 1 Commissioner, has withdrawn his candidacy.

Atchley stated that this position requires 100% of dedication to properly serve those in the 1st District and that his "heart" is just not in it to run for a third term. Several of the other commissioners thanked him for his service and the time that was served together.

Stanbery commented on the recently held Senior Citizens Fair, in which she stated a large number of seniors turned out for the event. Stanbery continued to thank the Sheriff's Department, the Fire Department and the Trustee's Of-

fice for their representation at the information fair.

A rezoning request with a lot of controversy behind it



Commissioner Ben Atchley

was made for the 6th District. The property owner wishes to sell the property, but the only way to do that is to have the property zoned C3, not its current FAR. The Board of Zoning Appeals originally approved the rezoning, but later rescinded their recommendation, due to lack of an application from the owner and the possibility of spot zoning. The

vote will be taken at next week's meeting.

Plumley requested Legislative Assistant Amy Moore to research the procedures for naming a highway. Widening of Dalton Pike has begun and Plumley wishes to dedicate Dalton Pike, from Treasury Drive to the Georgia state line, to Commissioner Roy E. Smith, who served as 6th District Commissioner for 27 years.

The Bradley County Commission meetings and committee meetings are open to the public. 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.

Airport Construction To Begin in March

by Ashley Murphy

The Cleveland Municipal Airport Authority held their regular monthly meeting February 19 at 9 am in the City Council Room of the Cleveland Municipal Building.

Chair Lynn DeVault officially opened the meeting with discussion surrounding the new airport. The Environmental Permitting Appeal will go before the Water Board in Nashville next month on March 16th and 17th.

A groundbreaking is to be set at the next meeting, but the airport construction is ready to begin - weather permitting. Assistant City Manager Melinda Carroll added that mitigation is also ready to begin, at the same time as the airport.

DeVault also noted that

property, known as the Barker Property, has been purchased by the CMAA.

The total cost of the property, after closing costs were added, came to \$331,628.38. DeVault said prospects for the property are ongoing, but it has been discussed to put in a park and walking trail. "This should also help with some of the flooding problems they have been having there," DeVault added.

There have also been several questions from residents regarding current CMAA property and the possibility of grazing cows and growing hay. Also, old fencing and barn wood has come to question. DeVault stated that the property cannot be leased out for such uses and that the fencing and wood is property of the contractor. Therefore, it will be

the contractors responsibility to decide how it is disposed of.

Taylor Newman of Crystal Air reported that the Copper Hill charters, for those avoiding the rockslide, are keeping Hardwick Field busy. The airport is averaging four days a week of flights for employees trying to make it to work and others visiting families.

A roundtrip charter from Cleveland to Copperhill or Collegedale to Copperhill will be \$75. A one-way charter will be \$40. A roundtrip charter from Copperhill to Chattanooga will be \$90 and \$50 for a one-way trip. All prices are per seat.

The Cleveland Municipal Airport Authority will meet again on March 19, 2010 at 9 a.m. in the City Council Room in the Cleveland Municipal Building. All meetings are open to the public.

www.thepeoplenews.com

City Council... continued from page 23

The council voted unanimously to allow Cleveland Mayor Tom Rowland to draft a letter of support for the program.

Mike Holburn and Blake Cantrell of Green Guys Recycling came to give a brief presentation about their recycling business. It's a business that is fairly new to the Cleveland area, but was introduced by Councilman Richard banks. This will be of no cost to the city, Green Guys is an independent company and will make pick-ups at your house for your recyclables one time a week. If interested in recycling, visit www.mygreenguys.com for more information.

City resident Kim Pesterfield was present at the 4 p.m. regular session to voice her concerns about a "horrific speeding problem" on Bow Street, where she resides. Pesterfield has had concerns about this roadway since August of 2009. She tried several times to reach the Traffic Engineering portion of the City of Cleveland to request a traffic study, to

no avail. But Sunday, her family was out enjoying the weather, when their family pet chased a ball into the street and was hit by a speeding car. Her young son was left to watch, but Pesterfield's concerns are that the next time, it could be a child's life at stake.

The council unanimously passed a motion to get a traffic study underway and to reduce the speed limit to 25 mph. Mayor Rowland requested Police Chief Wes Snyder to place extra patrols in the area, to which he agreed.

The City Council passed a resolution on the consent agenda to support the rights of sole proprietors, partners and up to three members of an LLC in the construction industry to make an elective exemption of themselves workers compensation. The council joins the Bradley County Commission, who also supported this resolution.

Councilman Bill Estes had a few issues he wanted to discuss before the council,

the first being the status of high speed internet to city residents. Estes questioned City Manager Janice Casteel as to whether the city was in a contract with Charter. Casteel stated it was a franchise with Charter Cable and she believed it was a 15 or 20 year contract. Estes needed to know the next time that a renegotiation could come up, due to the residents still waiting on internet. "We've sat here and worried about the poor getting access with AT&T a few years ago, and they don't even care about the rich!", he said.

Another issue Estes had, to better downtown, around Inman Street and Wildwood Avenue, to get the businesses back in the area. He asked for "zoning or something" to get the area back up and running again.

The 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.

Traffic Cameras... Continued from page 1

One city close to home, Chattanooga, was caught with an illegally short yellow light time at one intersection with cameras. In 2008, it came to be known that the intersection of Martin Luther King Boulevard and Pine Street had a shorter yellow light time than other intersections. In early 2008, a Chattanooga judge ordered the dismissal of charges against 176 vehicle owners and the refund of \$8,800 in red light camera tickets trapped by this light. According to those that oppose photo-enforced systems, shortening yellow lights seems to defeat the purpose of having cameras for safety, and hints at a city's revenue scheme.

California seems to be a prominent violator of this act, placing photo-enforced systems at intersections with high traffic volume and yellow phase lights that are under four seconds. In a report by The News Paper, www.thenewspaper.com, this issue is discussed. They continue by saying "short yellows trap drivers in what is know as a 'dilemma zone' where there is neither time to stop safely - without

slamming the brakes and risking a rear-end collision - nor to proceed through the intersection before it changes to red. Red light cameras capitalize on this, with four out of every five tickets issued before the light has been red for a full second, according to a report by the California State Auditor. This suggests that most citations are issued to those surprised by a quick-changing signal light."

Also on the list for yellow violations are cities in Texas and Missouri. Nashville, TN has also had several yellow light transgressions. The city has not yet progressed to the use of photo enforced tickets, but the police department was illegally trapping people with short yellow times at a multitude of intersections to increase departmental revenue.

The Tennessee General Assembly is currently reviewing several bills that could potentially be passed down for voting. Those include: HB0541 - As introduced, requires traffic signals located in intersections employing surveillance cameras for traffic safety to use minimum exposure time

of five (5) seconds for yellow light while maintaining three (3) second minimum yellow light for other traffic signals; HB2732 - As introduced, requires that revenues derived by municipalities and counties from the use of traffic surveillance cameras be allotted solely to the state highway safety program; HB2736 - As introduced, prohibits traffic surveillance cameras after January 1, 2011.

The above proposed bills will also affect traffic cameras used to enforce speed limits. The City of Cleveland had expressed interest in these devices as well. It is unclear what their direction will be regarding speed cameras, since the recent decommission order for red light cameras in the city.

While many don't see the ban on use of traffic surveillance cameras coming to fruition, greatly reducing them is a step forward. Opponents of red light cameras believe that if these systems are limited and laws are enacted to make revenue harder to gain, if received at all by municipalities and counties, several may start taking them away.