

Government Watch - County Commission

A look at what is happening in Bradley County

by Ashley Murphy

Several agenda items were up for discussion and voting by the Bradley County Commission. The following are highlights from those meetings during the month of September.

Due to Labor Day falling on the first Monday of the month, the first Commission meeting of the month was held on Tuesday, September 8. The first order of business for this meeting was to select a new Chairman and Vice Chairman. Michael Plumley and Mark Hall received nominations, but after three rounds of voting, neither nominee received the required eight votes. Louie Alford and Mark Hall were nominated for the fourth round of voting, in which Commissioner Louie Alford received the required votes and was made Bradley County Commission Chairman. Jeff Yarber

and Mark Hall received nominations for Vice Chairman. Yarber claimed the eight votes and retained his status as Vice Chairman for the Commission.

Cheryl Dunson from Santeek addressed the Commission regarding a Resolution to Voice Opposition to Solid Waste Regulation Amendments that was placed on the agenda by Commissioner Howard Thompson. Dunson stated that Bradley County must reduce the waste it controls by 20%. Controlled waste includes public waste brought into the landfill, County School waste, County Road Department waste, and County Parks and Recreation waste. Dunson reported that based on numbers available, Bradley County will be well within the 20% mark and that her recommendation at this time was to not voice opposition to the state amendments. The motion was

then removed from the agenda by Commissioner Thompson.

Commissioner Thompson then made another motion to allow the Sheriff's Department to remove three vehicles from the asset list, then donate two of the vehicles to Bradley Central High School and the other to Walker Valley High School for their driver's education classes. The vehicles are a 2000 Volkswagen, a 1999 Volkswagen, and a 2000 Chevy Cavalier. Several concerns arose from many Commissioners about the condition and safety of the vehicles. After a long discussion, the motion failed, but Mayor D. Gary Davis asked for a reconsideration at the end of the meeting. He stated these cars had been passed through the courts and were approved for auction and up for auction on the block when the Sheriff's Department decided to donate the

vehicles to local high schools who are in need of driver's education vehicles. Commissioner Ben Atchley made the motion to reconsider, which passed unanimously. Commissioner Thompson then remade the original motion and this time it passed unanimously.

During the Tennessee County Commissioners Association Regional Meeting on Thursday, September 10, local Commissioners Bill Ledford and Roy Smith were recognized for serving more than 20 years of Commission service. Ledford was recognized for 38 years of service and Smith for 28 years.

Commissioner Connie Wilson announced at the September 14th work session that Bradley County School Board Chairman David Kelley has asked her to represent the County Commission on the Construction Management Review Committee. This com-

mittee was set up to gather proposals on construction management services for the Fine Arts Facility that will be built at Bradley Central High School.

County Attorney Joe Byrd announced that during the October 12 work session there will be an Open Meetings workshop held for the County Commission, in which the City Council, the School Board, and the Election Commission are invited to attend.

Byrd also gave an update on the Sheriff's Department vehicle donation to the local County high schools. He stated that the liability waiver has been drawn up and once the appropriate persons have signed the document, the donation and exchanging of the vehicles will be legal.

Another complaint has arisen about noise in a county neighborhood. Some residents were hoping for a noise ordinance set

in place for the county. After research, Byrd said that trying to draft an ordinance and enforce it would be a "virtual minefield." Commissioner Ed Elkins asked that this issue be addressed in the Law Enforcement Committee.

Commissioner Lisa Stanbery added the Solid Waste Resolution from a previous meeting back to the September 21st agenda. 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 made several important decisions during the month of September. The following are highlights from their meetings.

On Thursday, September 3, 2009 at 8:30a.m., the council held a special called meeting in order to consider adopting Resolution No: 2009-100 - approving a loan in the amount of \$1,359,000 for Cleveland Utilities with the State Revolving Loan Fund. This resolution, relating to public sewer projects to be undertaken by Cleveland Utilities at Exit 20 and Westside Drive, was unanimously adopted by the council. The proposed resolution will authorize and provide for the financing of the construction of wastewater facilities projects, including authorizing the execution of applications, contractual agreements, and other necessary documents

and making certain representations, certifications, and pledges of certain revenue in connection with such financing.

During the September 14th meeting, the council gave notification of the Depot Grant in the amount of \$451,152 which comes through TDOT and will be going to Sethra as part of the Transportation Enhancement Grant Program.

The council unanimously approved Resolution No: 2009-104 urging the adoption of legislation expanding the authorization of municipal electric systems to expand fiber optic networks and to provide competitive broadband services outside their respective electric service areas. President of Cleveland Utilities, Tom Wheeler said the Utility Board approved a similar resolution and said this would potentially be a way to offer super high speed internet to industrial parks.

The council unanimously passed a motion under the consent agenda authorizing Cleveland City Mayor Tom Rowland to send a letter to TDOT requesting traffic signals on 25th Street (State Route 60) at the I-75 northbound and southbound ramps. According to City Traffic Engineer, Megan Wilson, a traffic signal is warranted at both intersections. Due to the close spacing with the existing traffic signals at Georgetown Road at Westside Drive and at Candies Lane, Wilson recommends that all of the signals be interconnected.

The council unanimously voted to authorize Mayor Rowland to send a letter of opposition to the Federal Highway Administration and TDOT concerning rescission of unobligated Federal Highway Funds (MPO) in the amount of \$727,485.

The council unanimously approved Resolution No:

2009-101 authorizing eminent domain proceedings against property owners by Cleveland Utilities in order to obtain easements for sewer and electrical projects. Cleveland Utilities is already in the process of installing a sanitary sewer line near APD-40 at Exit 20 and also in an area near Westside Dr. The easement is needed for the completion of the sewer project. Cleveland Utilities is also in the process of relocating electric transmission lines in connection with widening Dalton Pike and needs to relocate some existing down guy easements on certain properties needed for the completion of the project.

Mayor Rowland gave a presentation on the latest updates to the City of Cleveland website. Improvements to the site can be viewed at:

www.cityofclevelandtn.com. The council unanimously

approved Ordinance No: 2009-68 amending the municipal code to allow residents between the 600 and 1900 blocks of Church St. S.E. to park on the sidewalk because the street is too narrow for through traffic if cars are parked on both sides of the street. Melvin Kendrick, a resident of Church St., thanked the council, because the change helped people who live on the street, but he said, "I've got a problem with your chief over there," referring to Cleveland Police Chief Wes Snyder. "He must have a problem with me and I don't know what it is." A couple of years ago, Kendrick was ticketed when he parked on the sidewalk in front of his house for a brief moment before unloading flooring after he took a short coffee break inside his home. Kendrick said, "While I was in the house getting a cup of coffee, Officer Mason was

writing me a parking ticket. I thought we had this stopped. It quit for two years, but it started back up again. I know why it started up again, but I'm not going to say anything." Kendrick said he spoke with City Manager, Janice Casteel on Aug. 21 and she told him it would be fine if he parked where he did. The next morning he got another ticket. Other cars were parked on the sidewalk as well, but Kendrick's vehicle was the only one ticketed. Kendrick said to the council, he appreciates what they did for him and the other residents on Church St. and also said he believes it is ticket profiling. He said he has an attorney and is filing a lawsuit against Chief Snyder.

Cleveland City Council meetings are held in the Municipal Building on the 2nd and 4th Monday with the work session at 2pm and voting at 4pm.