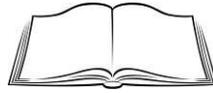


RULES AND LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes for June 18, 2019

3rd Floor Bedford County Courthouse at 5:00 PM



Present: Chairman Biff Farrar; Commissioners Jimmy Patterson, Greg Vick, Anita Epperson, Ed Castleman

Absent: Zero

Others Present: Mayor's Exec Asst, Liz Barnett; Finance Director, Robert Daniel; County Commissioners: Sylvia Pinson, Mark Thomas, Linda Yockey, Bill Anderson, Julie Sanders, Don Gallagher, Brent Smith, Chasity Gunn, Jeff Sweeney, Janice Brothers; Jail Director, Mary West; Times Gazette Reporter, John Carney; IT Director, Josh Carney; Probation Director, Joyce Reed; Juvenile Director, Cynthia West; EMS Director, Ted Cox; e-911 Director, Phillip Noel; Asst Fire Chief, Brian Cantrell; Sheriff, Austin Swing; Workhouse, Ronnie Prince; EMA Director, Scott Johnson; Animal Control, Maria Hughes, Jerry Bowman for 11-b Zoning

1. **Call the meeting to order:** Chairman Biff Farrar, 5:02 PM
2. **Roll Call:** No one absent
3. **Prayer:** Chairman Biff Farrar
4. **Approval of June 18, 2019 Rules and Legislative Committee minutes** – Motion made to approve, (Castleman, Patterson) unanimous.
5. **Consideration of placing the approval Commission minutes on July 9, 2018, County Commission Agenda** – Motion made to place items on county commission agenda, (Epperson w/o recommendation, Patterson) unanimous.
6. **Consideration of placing the notary applicants on the August 13, 2019, County Commission agenda as requested by County Clerk, Donna Thomas** – Motion made to approve, (Epperson, Vick) unanimous.
7. **Veterans Officer Report** – Distributed prior to the meeting. Motion made to approve report, (Patterson, Epperson) unanimous.
8. **Community Clinic Report** – FYI. No approval needed.
9. **Ag Center Report** – No meeting every June, no report. Commissioner Anderson elaborated on why – Finance in the midst of budget process & too busy to provide Ag Committee with info.
10. **OLD BUSINESS**
 - a) **Tax Relief Study** – Agreement reached, per Commissioner Vick.
11. **NEW BUSINESS**
 - a) **Hwy 82 Convenience Center** – Rod & Christy Phillips in attendance & voiced dissatisfaction with the County's "inconvenience" centers. Remodeling a home & door

frames, wood trim are not allowed at this location. Public Works advised them to stack in yard & let rot or pay ~\$400 to have it picked up. Mrs. Phillips feels her husband is being targeted because he doesn't even get out of his truck before the employee approaches him to deny what he brings. Trash bag requirement is posted but is not legible from your vehicle. The Phillips have met with Mark Clanton, Superintendent, & Diane Forbes.

Diane shared that some convenience centers are inconsistent with regards to accepting wood. Wood material is not allowed. Signs are being updated, admitted they are aged.

Mrs. Phillips also mentioned that the attendant has dumpsters roped off when the line is out the parking lot & into the road. The attendant will NOT open additional dumpsters. Diane commented that this is done to ensure the dumpster is full before opening another because when trucks come to haul them off, they must take ALL of them full or not. So taking full ones are more efficient than taking a few half-full ones.

Mayor Graham mentioned there will be more money, ~\$600k, in the new Solid Waste budget for hardware, compacters, trucks, et al; lots in motion in this dept & this is a priority.

The City is the only option for getting rid of wood. Commissioner Thomas confirmed that burn permits are free but for natural, untreated wood only – limbs, leaves only.

- b) TCAT Discussion/Commissioner Vick** – Bedford County Higher Education Center promotional video shared. Laura Monks, TCAT President, Christian Hidalgo of Navigation Advertising & video producer, in attendance. The County has 88 acres at the 231 North Business Park. TCAT has tentative approval to construct a new, larger campus consisting of a 123k square foot facility worth \$38MM.

Vick: This is a County/City joint venture that will give our area a leg-up.

Monks: Very excited! This project is in alignment with the Governor's push to expand vocational education. This is our opportunity to ensure our students coming out of high school & adults returning to school have a place close to home where they can be trained in the skills required by industry demands. TCAT has been a part of Bedford County since 1964. TCAT is at capacity with all of their programs with over 260 students on waiting lists for several programs. We have faculty without offices, we have more programs we still want to add, we have an 80% graduation rate & 89% of them are being placed in the positions for which they are being trained. Land-locked at current location. The GIVE act of Governor Lee supports apprenticeships, work-based learning, internships, etc. so they already have the experience on their resume upon completion. We have a very good co-op program in place right now.

Mayor Graham: Placement of this at the 213 North Industrial Business Park will be tremendous in developing that area. It's a crown jewel as it sits today, a shining light on the hill. Bedford benefits from this whether or not we land the first industry in the Park or not, but this is clearly a tool to be used by industrial recruitment. The State is absolutely with us & this would be a great set-up in the center of Middle TN, everything is expanding our way. Everyone here realizes the value of education, the value of workforce development, of strong industry into Bedford County. The ability to cross the street & work with the staff that's training your folks is valuable.

Commissioner Smith: When do you believe the whole facility would be completed.

Monks: We're looking at 3-5 year project because we already have \$4MM that would allow us to begin. However, we can design it so we know what the campus will look like so we are prepared with the technology & infrastructure that the campus will need. Depending on if the Governor funds this in his regular budget or if TBR takes this on, will be 3-5 years before the full project is completed. Monks can see the first phase being completed next spring. We've been assured there are funding "possibilities".

Commissioner Anderson: In the 5 years I've been here, this is the best-looking thing I've seen, this excites me. To me, we can sell that park with this in there. But what caught my attention was when you said TCAT graduates land jobs making more than other college & university graduates. I commend y'all. This is great!

Monks: Our students are touring campuses with big, new, fancy building. It's obvious they are not at TCAT for that – it's our teachers, the dedicated staff, our industry partners, so the students accept it. That's why they're here. However, we need to catch their eye, the flash, because they need to see that the industry is no longer the grime their parents or grandparents worked in. It's very technical & they need to see that good math skills & reading skills are needed now. It's not a "job" ... it's a career.

Vick: There's funding process. First you have to be approved & we already are. Then you have to have money appropriated & we have \$4MM. Then we asked the TBR (TN Board of Regents) can we amend this plan & get additional funds; they said yes! We can get a phase 1 on a fairly fast track. The way these projects work is they have to come from the president of the college or university, then it has to go to the Chancellor of the Board of Regions, then the TN of Higher Education Commission, then the Governor has to sign-off on it, then the Legislature has to approve it. It's a lot of maneuvering & Pat Marsh & Shane Reeves have been remarkable with their support! The City has also been a great partner. In 4-5 years, we should have the full-funding needed to complete this new campus.

Anderson: When I talked to Gov. Lee, he's big on this! I commend all of you for striking while the iron is hot! You're already at the top with Lee on something he's wanting to do. Smith: He'll be in town next Friday, by the way.

Farrar: Projected cost for the new facility? Vick: According to Dick Tracy, VP of Facilities Mgmt for TBR, \$38MM to build-out 123k square feet.

Commissioner Patterson: How will this affect the current TCAT location? Vick: TCAT still owns the facility now. There are other opportunities being considered with local school systems & use TCAT's training specialties over there because that's where the money's going now. We need to stay on top of the wave.

Mayor: We could see bricks-n-mortar in 12 months or so, but you could operate out of both facilities as a transition piece until the campus is fully completed. This will not impede current courses but allow you to add programs that you've been unable to do so due to lack of space.

Farrar: This is a great thing. We've got 88 acres [out there] & if this can be built on 15-20, it's a win-win. This will help our industrial park grow, it's moving to 231 which is closer to the interstate & MTSU, hopefully it will attract the future business out county needs. This Committee can help speed things up with this.

- c) **Annex Dedication** – Commissioner Yockey requested an ok to have the new Annex to be dedicated in honor of Mr. Eugene Ray. The whole Commission should be in favor of honoring Ray. Epperson made the motion to add this to the Commission agenda, Castleman seconded.

12. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a) Special Commission meeting reminders: July 20th for budget approval & July 27th for amendment approvals, 7PM, courthouse

13. ADJOURN: 5:52 PM (Farrar, Vick) unanimous.