



BEDFORD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS RULES AND LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

Date: Tuesday, January 21, 2019
Time: 5:00 p.m.
Location: Third Floor Courtroom, Bedford County Courthouse

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

Absent: none

Others Present: Mayor Chad Graham, County Commissioners: Sylvia Pinson, Mark Thomas, Chasity Gunn, Brian Farris, Bill Anderson, Julie Sanders, Greg Vick, Sheriff: Austin Swing, Probation Director: Elizabeth Stejskal, EMA Director: Scott Johnson, Assistant to the Mayor: Anna Frazier, Times-Gazette Reporter: John Carney, Tennessee Office of Refugees – State Refugee Coordinator: Holly Johnson, Bob Moore, Brook Sanderson, Joe Finch, Luci Taylor and others not identified

1. **Call Meeting to Order:** Chairman Biff Farrar, 5:00 PM
2. **Prayer:** Commissioner Biff Farrar
3. **Roll Call:** all present
4. **Approval of December 17, 2019 Rules and Legislative Committee minutes:** Motion made to approve, (Patterson, Vick) unanimous
5. **Consideration of placing the approval January 14, 2019 Commission minutes on February 11, 2020, County Commission agenda:** Motion made to place items on county commission agenda, Motion made to approve without recommendation, (Vick, Castleman), unanimous
6. **Consideration of placing the notary applicants on the February 11, 2020, County Commission agenda as requested by County Clerk, Donna Thomas:** Motion made to approve, (Patterson, Vick), unanimous
7. **Veterans Officer Report:** Fifty-six visitors, numbers down possibly due to holiday closings, lots going on at the end of the month. Transported 30 veterans in December. The service office had 733 visitors and transported 556 veterans in 2019 (Patterson, Vick), unanimous
8. **Community Clinic Report:** FYI. No approval needed.
9. **Ag Center Report:** FYI. No approval needed.
10. **OLD BUSINESS**
 - a) **5G Broadband Update** – Commissioner Vick said that over the past 60 days there have been a series of productive meetings with United and he hopes to have some very good news in the next 30 days regarding 5G broadband in rural areas of the county.



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11. NEW BUSINESS

- a) **Rezoning 1842 Fairfield Pike** – Chairman Farrar read the application information. Commissioner Jimmy Patterson moved for approval, Commissioner Castleman seconded the motion. Chairman Farrar asked if there were any questions or further discussions. Motion approved unanimously.
- b) **Rezoning Hwy 231N** – Chairman Farrar read the application information. Chairman Farrar asked if there were any questions or discussions. Commissioner Vick said the application falls under new zoning regulations and then moved to approve. Commissioner Patterson seconded the motion. Chairman Farrar said that both applications were unanimously approved by the Planning Commission. Motion approved unanimously.
- c) **231 Business Park Restates and Amended By-Laws** – Commissioner Vick explained that the amendment, under Section 4: Land Use, items 42 and 43 provided language to allow the Tennessee College of Applied Technologies (TCAT) to be built in the business park. Commissioner Vick moved to approve the by-laws. Commissioner Jimmy Patterson seconded the motion. Chairman Farrar asked if there were any discussions or questions on the committee. Motion approved unanimously.
- d) **Resolution re State Project #02005-3256-14 From Jenkins Road to SR-276 also known as TDOT Project No. NHE-16(29)** – Chairman Farrar introduced the resolution. Mayor Chad Graham explained that the state sent the document for the mayor's signature. Commissioner Castleman motioned for approval. Mayor Graham believed it was proper to put the document before the committee and full commission for approval. The project is regarding widening the road in the referenced location. Chairman Farrar asked if there were any other questions or discussions. Commissioner Epperson seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously.
- e) **Resolution Interlocal Application for Funds for Town of Wartrace Water System Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)** – Chairman Farrar introduced the resolution. Mayor Chad Graham explained that the grant will bring water to the Union Ridge area behind Wartrace. Bedford County will apply for the tank, the Town of Wartrace will apply for the lines. The grant requires a match, which the Town of Wartrace will match funds for both applications. Chairman Farrar asked if there were any questions. Commissioner Anderson asked if it would help Wartrace water bills, which are \$100-\$150 per month for some residents. Mayor Graham said water bill expense and water availability to Union Ridge are two different issues, but that Wartrace is dealing with the cost of water. Commissioner Vick moved to approve; Commissioner Epperson seconded the motion. Chairman Farrar asked if there were any other questions. Motion passed unanimously.
- f) **Resolution of No Consent to Refugee Resettlement** – Before introducing the resolution to the committee, Chairman Farrar opened the floor to the public to voice their opinion regarding refugee resettlement in Bedford County. Arguments for and against the resolution were heard. There was some confusion over the definitions of refugees, immigrants and illegal immigrants. State Refugee Coordinator, Holly Johnson, confirmed that refugees are thoroughly vetted prior to arriving in the United States and further are in the country legally. Refugees are legally able to work (if of legal working



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age) and are free to move around the country. Ms. Johnson further stated the only reason refugees may be resettled in the county is if they have family established here. Five refugees were resettled to Bedford County since 2010 because they had family here, one has since moved out of state. Otherwise, no refugees are resettled in Bedford County because there is no refugee office located in the county. Ms. Johnson stated that counties who choose to do nothing is the same as stating you do not want refugees in your county.

Commissioner Castleman spoke about his experiences with racism and segregation and stated he did not believe the commission needed to be dealing with this issue and should be focused on taking care of the county.

Commissioner Sanders asked if refugees become United States citizens. Ms. Johnson said refugees are on a path to citizenship once they arrive in the country and apply for citizenship once they have been in the country for four and a half years.

Chairman Farrar then introduced the resolution to the committee.

Commissioner Epperson made a motion to send the resolution to the commission.

Chairman Farrar asked for a second. The motion failed for lack of a second.

Chairman Farrar recommended further discussion and to gather additional information was warranted before sending the resolution to the commission but believed the commission should vote on the resolution.

- g) Food truck vendors near Judicial Center** – Mayor Graham said that he has received several requests to place food trucks on Judicial Center property and asked the committee if they wanted to consider creating guidelines or not since food and other vendors are prohibited from setting up on other county property, i.e. EMS area, Courthouse annex back parking lot. Chairman Farrar said the committee will look into it.

12. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Statement of Interest due January 31, 2020

13. ADJOURN: 5:52 P.M. (Farrar, Vick)