

STEERING, LEGISLATIVE & GOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE

August 3, 2020

5:30 P.M.

Main Courtroom
Zoom

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Commissioner Allen McAdoo
Commissioner Mike Kusch
Commissioner Robert Stevens (Zoom)
Commissioner Pettus Read
Commissioner Craig Harris, Chair
Commissioner Joyce Ealy
Commissioner Michael Wrather

OTHERS PRESENT:

Bill Ketron Chris Clark
Steve Sandlin Robert Peay
Rachel Lehew Larry Farley
Sonya Stephenson Doug Bodary
Nick Christensen Jeff Phillips
Sheriff Fitzhugh Ed Elam
Trish Breeding Alissa Phillips

Paul Johnson, Carl Hudgens, Michael Gregory, Preble Acton, Lynn Duke, Trey Gooch, Steve Percy, Russell Key, Rob Mitchell, Teb Batey, Chuck Chapa.

Chairman Harris welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 5:30 P.M. Chairman Harris requested a roll call to determine a quorum. Six members were present. **Chairman Harris advised "this meeting of the Steering, Legislative, & Governmental Committee is being conducted electronically pursuant to Governor Bill Lee's Executive Order #16. I would ask for a motion that conducting the meeting electronically is necessary to protect public health, safety, and welfare in light of the coronavirus."**

"Commissioner Ealy moved, seconded by Commissioner Read, to approve the Steering meeting being held electronically is necessary to protect public health, safety and welfare in light of the coronavirus. This motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote."

Chairman Harris announced the latest numbers concerning the Opioid epidemic in Rutherford County. Since March there have been forty-one (41) deaths, eighteen (18) suicides and three hundred sixty-seven (367) overdose calls. Chairman Harris is meeting with Probation and Recovery Court in an effort to work together to combat this ongoing crisis.

MINUTES:

Chairman Harris requested a motion to approve the minutes from the last meeting.

"Commissioner Read moved, seconded by Commissioner Wrather, to approve the minutes as mailed. This motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote."

LIQUOR and BY THE DRINK:

Chairman Harris advised we have stopped the City from continued annexation. Rutherford County is growing and needs a revenue stream for economic development. All cities have liquor by the drink. Rutherford County receives sixty-one-point eight (60.8) percent of fifty (50) percent of that revenue for schools K-6th. If we place a Liquor by the Drink referendum on the November ballot and allow the citizens of Rutherford County to decide, we will get one hundred (100) percent of the revenue collected. Chairman Harris requested a resolution to go to the Commission to allow the people decide. Commissioner Kusch inquired if this included grocery stores. Chairman Harris advised this was restaurants, bars and any other business that sells liquor by the drink. Mayor Ketron stated he was approached by Doug Bodary about this revenue stream being earmarked for schools. This would help with economic development in other areas of the county. The County Attorney, Nick Christiansen advised this petition would need two-thirds vote from the governing body to allow the referendum for the November ballot. Once this is passed, then at a

later election period, this would allow for wine in grocery stores County wide. We can't do both at the same time, we must do the liquor by the drink first. Commissioner Stevens questioned if this would be only voted on by the unincorporated areas only and do, we have numbers comparing the liquor by the drink revenue against retail package stores. Mr. Christiansen advised he would inquire about the difference but would not have an answer by the August 13 Commission. Following discussion,

"Commissioner Kusch moved, seconded by Commissioner Wrather, to forward a resolution for Liquor by the Drink as a referendum for the November ballot to the full Commission. This motion passed with Commissioners Ealy, Kusch, McAdoo, Stevens, Wrather and Chairman Harris voting "Yes". Commissioner Read voting "No".

LIBRARY BOARD VACANCIES:

Chairman Harris announced Janita Bauman, Phil King and Frank Lambert to fill the Library Board Vacancies. The Library Board appointment is for a three (3) year term. Following discussion,

"Commissioner Ealy moved, seconded by Commissioner Read, to approve Janita Bauman, Phil King and Frank Lambert for the Library Board Vacancies and forward to the full Commission. This motion passed unanimously with a roll call vote."

ANNOUNCE RE-APPOINTMENT OF CHARLOTTE PEAY AND DAVID JONES TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION:

Chairman Harris announced the re-appointment of Charlotte Peay and David Jones to the Planning Commission. This position is appointed by the Mayor and no vote is required. The Planning Commission appointment is for a four (4) year term.

RECOVERY COURT AND PROBATION LICENSURE:

Chairman Harris requested Trish Breeding, Recovery Court Director and Alissa Phillips, Probation Director to address the Committee. Ms. Breeding advised that obtaining two separate licenses for each department would be costly and unnecessary. Recovery Court and Probation could operate under an "umbrella" licensure with the Mayor as Supervisor. Commissioner Read questioned would it be better for the departments to have individual licenses. Ms. Breeding advised that this license is for DUI school. Recovery Court doesn't have classes as often as Probation and other departments could also use the license, if needed. Following discussion,

"Commissioner Read moved, seconded by Commissioner Ealy, to approve the single "Umbrella" licensure for both Recovery Court and Probation with the Mayor as Supervisor and forward. This motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote."

INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT TO FUND THE LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY DIRECTOR'S SALARY:

Chairman Harris explained that the cities agree to pay a fifty (50) percent portion of the EMA director's salary. Mayor Ketron advised this has been done since the early 1980's but was done by a "gentlemen's agreement". Rutherford County Funds pay fifty (50) percent, the City of Murfreesboro pays thirty (30) percent, the Town of Smyrna pays eleven (11) percent, the City of Laverne pays eight-point-five (8.5) percent and the City of Eagleville pays zero-point-five (0.5) percent. We need a legal agreement for the auditors. Commissioner Read commented on just how involved our EMA Director is with our county. Following discussion,

"Commissioner Read moved, seconded by Commissioner Wrather, to approve the Interlocal Agreement to Fund the local EMA Director's

Salary as presented and forward to budget. This motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote."

MOTIVATE ME INCENTIVES PROGRAM:

Chairman Harris requested Ed Elam to address the Committee. Mr. Elam introduced Mr. Chapa. Mr. Chapa reviewed the Cigna Incentive Program for Rutherford County and advised they are adding health coaching to the program and this is at no extra cost. Following discussion,

"Commissioner Wrather moved, seconded by Commissioner Ealy, to approve the Motivate Me Incentives Program as presented and forward. This motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote."

FSA ROLLOVER CHANGE:

Chairman Harris requested Ed Elam to address the Committee on the Flexible Spending Account Rollover change. The FSA is funded by employees pre-tax. In order to increase the amount, there must be a resolution approved by a governing body. Following discussion,

"Commissioner Wrather moved, seconded by Commissioner Read, to allow the FSA Rollover amount to increase from \$500.00 to \$550.00. This motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote."

Mr. Elam thanked Commissioner Joyce Ealy for filling the interim District #19 seat and for her continued service to Rutherford County.

LITIGATION LIST:

County Attorney, Nick Christiansen, presented the Litigation list for use and information. Chairman Harris called for an Executive Session. Everyone was requested to leave the meeting except the Commissioners, the County Attorney, and the Mayor.

OTHER BUSINESS:

The September 7, 2020 Steering Meeting was moved to August 31, 2020 at 5:30 due to the Labor Day holiday.

Commissioner Wrather requested information concerning handguns and employees for the next Steering meeting.

There appearing to be no further business to come before the Committee, Chairman Harris adjourned the meeting at 6:30 P.M.

CRAIG HARRIS, Chairman