

STEERING, LEGISLATIVE & GOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE

August 5, 2013

5:30 p.m.

Courthouse

MINUTES:

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Commissioner Jack Black  
Commissioner Gary Farley  
Commissioner Trey Gooch  
Commissioner Jeff Jordan  
Commissioner Allen McAdoo  
Commissioner Steve Sandlin  
Commissioner Adam Coggin, C

OTHERS PRESENT:

Ernest Burgess      Lisa Nolen  
James O. Baker      Bill Jones  
Robert Arnold      Randall Allen  
Steve Schroeder      Susan Allen  
Sonya Stephenson      Becky Shelton  
Tiffany Phillips

Chairman Coggin presided and called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. with all members being present at that time.

MINUTES:

"Commissioner Gooch moved, seconded by Commissioner Sandlin, to approve the minutes of the last meeting as mailed. This motion passed unanimously by acclamation."

FILL TWO VACANCIES ON INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD AND HEALTH, EDUCATION & FACILITIES BOARD:

Chairman Coggin advised applications had been received from James O. Baker, William Sutton Jones and Randall K. Allen for appointment to the Industrial Development Board and Health, Education & Facilities Board. The applicants were in attendance and addressed the Committee. Following discussion,

"Commissioner Sandlin moved, seconded by Commissioner Farley, to nominate all three applicants and vote for two. This motion passed unanimously by acclamation. James O. Baker and William Sutton Jones will be recommended for appointment to the Industrial Development Board and Health, Education & Facilities Board by unanimous roll call vote."

ANNOUNCE CITIZEN-AT-LARGE VACANCY ON INSURANCE COMMITTEE TO FILL UNEXPIRED TERM OF DONNA ANDREWS:

Chairman Coggin advised Donna Andrews had submitted her resignation from the Insurance Committee and the vacancy for the citizen-at-large position was accordingly being announced. The position expires August, 2016.

ANNOUNCE TWO VACANCIES ON CODES ENFORCEMENT ADJUSTMENTS & APPEALS BOARD:

Chairman Coggin advised the positions of Robert Dean Warren and Joe Meshotto on the Codes Enforcement Adjustment & Appeals Board were expiring and accordingly being announced.

REQUEST FROM U.S. BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES TO CHANGE NAME OF OVERALL CREEK TO GROVE CREEK:

The Committee was advised a letter had been received from the United States Board on Geographic Names requesting the name of Overall Creek which is located in both Rutherford County and Williamson County be changed to Grove Creek. The Committee was advised this is not the Overall Creek which crosses Manson Pike in Murfreesboro but is in Eagleville. Deeds since 1796 called the creek Grove Creek but in 1957 the name was changed to Overall Creek. The Mayor did not know why the name was changed but advised it was more historically appropriate to be called Grove Creek. Commissioner J. Jordan advised the County historian recommended the County approve the

request. Commissioner T. Phillips advised she could research the matter before the Commission but she had no recommendation at this time. The Committee was advised with no action taken, the Board on Geographic Names would go ahead and make the name change. Following discussion,

"Commissioner J. Jordan moved, seconded by Commissioner Sandlin, to recommend the County Mayor fill out the form requested by the U.S. Board on Geographic Names to approve the change making clear it is the small creek in Eagleville. This motion passed unanimously by acclamation."

DISCUSS AUDIT COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP:

Lisa Nolen, Finance Director, provided a copy of the Resolution establishing an Audit Committee advising she needed direction on the intended make up under Section 2 relating to elected members. Ms. Nolen advised David Nipper was appointed to the Committee as a citizen but was subsequently elected to the School Board and a question has been asked whether this violates the Resolution which states no member will be an elected official with the exception of elected County Commissioners, members of the Board of Education and members of the Road Board. The question was posed to the County Attorney who advised the Resolution does not indicate that the three citizens could not be officials or employees of the County. However, the Resolution suggests that the four County officials are the only "elected" officials that are to serve on the Committee. Mr. Nipper may be disqualified since he is now an elected official. Ms. Nolen advised when the Resolution was drafted the intent was full time elected officials such as the Trustee, Register of Deeds or County Clerk were not to serve. The County Attorney advises the Resolution can be amended to clarify the language.

Commissioner Farley advised Mr. Nipper was not a School Board member when he was appointed to the Committee. Commissioner Gooch advised the Committee could ultimately be completely filled by elected officials. Commissioner Sandlin advised Mr. Nipper could serve on the Committee at a later time as the School Board representative. Commissioner J. Jordan advised the original intent was to have one School Board member serve.

Ms. Nolen advised she could come back to the Committee with proposed language to clarify that one member is to be from the School Board and Road Board respectfully and citizen representatives are not to be elected to any Committee and if elected will be expected to step down. The Committee discussed the difference between being an elected official and a County elected official.

Ms. Nolen was directed to bring back language to clarify the Audit Committee will be composed of one member from the School Board and one member from the Road Board and citizen representatives are not to be elected to any public position and if elected will be expected to step down. Commissioner Sandlin asked that the County Attorney define elected official.

ANNOUNCE ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN PRO TEM AT SEPTEMBER COMMISSION MEETING:

Chairman Coggin advised the position of Chairman Pro Tem was being announced and will be elected at the September Commission meeting.

ANNOUNCE ELECTION OF CHAPLAIN AT SEPTEMBER COMMISSION MEETING:

Chairman Coggin advised the position of Chaplain was being announced and will be elected at the September Commission meeting.

ANNOUNCE TENTATIVE ELECTION OF COMMISSION CHAIRMAN AT AUGUST COMMISSION MEETING:

Chairman Coggin advised the position of Commission Chairman was being announced and would tentatively be elected at the August Commission meeting.

ANNOUNCE ELECTION OF STEERING COMMITTEE AT AUGUST COMMISSION MEETING:

Chairman Coggin advised the election of the Steering Committee was being announced and would be elected at the August Commission meeting.

DEPARTMENT HEADS REPORTS TO COMMITTEES:

Commissioner Tiffany Phillips advised there has been an issue in the past year with Commissioners not knowing all the information they may should have known and in thinking about reports presented by the various departments they vary drastically as to general information. The Sheriff presents line item information but nothing is presented from the Highway Department unless it requires a vote. Commissioner T. Phillips advised she thought it would be beneficial to have a standardized list of information to ask for from the departments heads including budgets, activities, State inspections or audits. This would benefit the department head to let them know what is needed and wanted. Commissioner Sandlin advised the Chair has the latitude to ask the department head for information. Commissioner T. Phillips advised there are so many new Commissioners on Public Works they did not know what they should be looking at which resulted in the feeling a policy was needed. Commissioner Farley advised he felt his job as a Commissioner was to set legislation and not micro manage departments that report to the Mayor. Historically, when information has been requested the department head provides the same. Commissioner T. Phillips questioned if more information is being presented than needed and also if Committees are getting all the information they need.

Commissioner T. Phillips advised she did not have a proposal at this time because the Committee would be changing shortly but she wanted to present the information for thought.

Mayor Burgess advised the only elected officials making reports are the Mayor and Sheriff. Others only report on budgets and amendments and he did not know the reason for this but it is inconsistent. The duties in the departments are vastly different. Mayor Burgess advised he was not equipped at this point to set up a standardized report as he did not have the history of who reports and why. Sheriff Robert Arnold questioned why he is the only elected official to report and has to first present to Public Safety and then again to the Budget Committee. The Finance Director provides monthly information on what departments are spending.

Commissioner J. Jordan advised he chaired the Health & Education Committee and he could not think of anything he would change and could not recall when sufficient information wasn't presented. Commissioner Farley advised he is constantly in contact with the department heads reporting to Public Safety as well as the Committee members. Commissioner McAdoo advised a communication link needed to be set up with the department heads and it was hard to set up a standardized information request for all Committees.

Commissioner T. Phillips advised the Committee could think about the issue over the next month. Chairman Coggin advised he thought it would be great to have a standardized form when new Commissioners come in but it would be hard to do and he thought Commissioner T. Phillips and the Public Works Committee could work up a suggested form and then have something to go off of. Commissioner T. Phillips advised each Committee could craft a form for new members coming in and this would help new Chairs coming in. Commissioner

McAdoo advised the old Chair could brief the new Chair. Commissioner T. Phillips is to do an information sheet to give to new Committee members with a copy to the Steering Committee.

RESCHEDULE SEPTEMBER MEETING DATE DUE TO LABOR DAY HOLIDAY:

The next Steering Committee meeting will be September 4, 2013 at 5:30 p.m. due to the Labor Day holiday.

There appearing to be no further business to come before the Committee, Chairman Coggin declared the meeting adjourned at 6:38 p.m.

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ADAM COGGIN, Chairman