

CUMBERLAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING

April 20, 2020 Monthly Meeting Minutes

Be it remembered that the Cumberland County Commission met in monthly session on Monday, April 20, 2020 via teleconference in Crossville, Tennessee. This meeting was audio recorded and posted on the Cumberland County website upon adjournment in accordance with Tennessee Governor Bill Lee's executive order 16. Mayor Allen Foster called the meeting to order at 6:00 o'clock P.M. Present and presiding was Commission Chairman, County Mayor Allen Foster who invited Commissioner Wendell Wilson to deliver the invocation. Mayor Allen Foster led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America. Also present on this teleconference were County Clerk Jule Bryson, Finance Director Nathan Brock, County Attorney Philip Burnett and the following County Commissioners:

Chad Norris	Sue Ann York (ABSENT)
Kyle Davis	Nancy Hyder
Rebecca Stone	Darrell Threet
David Gibson	Charles Seiber
Jack Davis	Terry Lowe
Wendell Wilson	Joseph Sherrill
Mark Baldwin	Jerry Cooper
Jim Blalock	Deborah Holbrook
Colleen Mall	John Patterson

A quorum being present via teleconference, the Cumberland County Commission Meeting was opened in due form of law and the following proceedings were had to wit:

1. APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 20, 2020 COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA:

On motion of Commissioner Hyder to accept the agenda, second by Commissioner Stone, bundle Resolutions 04-2020-1, 04-2020-2, 04-2020-3 together and 04-2020-4, 04-2020-5, 04-2020-6 together. The motion to approve the agenda with these amendments carried by unanimous roll call vote from the Commissioners present.

2. MINUTES OF MARCH 16, 2020 CUMBERLAND COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING:

On motion of Commissioner Holbrook, second by Commissioner Stone, moved to approve the March 16, 2020 Commission Meeting Minutes as presented at the April 20, 2020 meeting made a matter of record and filed as presented. The motion to approve the minutes carried by unanimous roll call vote from the Commissioners present.

SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS, MEMORIALS, ETC

Mayor Foster wanted to commend the county employees for their hard work during this difficult time and first responders that are on the front line and representing our county so well. Commissioner Stone wanted to recognize Cumberland County Health Dept for being a testing site in Cumberland County. Commissioner Patterson and Commissioner Stone gave kudos to the Mayor and Director of EMS for jobs well done during the COVID-19 crisis.

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New Business

Ben Lomand has provided the line for this teleconference. Like with many other issues during this time, we are doing the best we can with what we have under less than ideal circumstances. We have always endeavored to be open with our meetings and will continue to do so. Cumberland County commission will comply with the Governor's Executive Order 16 by making audio recordings available after any meetings that are held. On motion of Commissioner Hyder, second by Commissioner Patterson moved to make the determination on record that meeting electronically is necessary to protect public health, safety and welfare in light of the Coronavirus. The motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote from the Commissioners present.

An updated copy of the Cumberland County Clerk's office Personnel Policy was presented for record only to the County Commission. On motion of Commissioner Stone, second by Commissioner Holbrook moved to place the updated Cumberland County Clerk's Office Personnel Policy into the commission minutes, carried by unanimous roll call vote from the Commissioners present.

3. RESOLUTION 4-2020-1 – TO APPOINT MEMBERS OF THE CUMBERLAND COUNTY BOARD OF EQUALIZATION:

On motion of Commissioner Stone, second by Commissioner Holbrook moved to adopt resolution 04-2020-1.

The motion to adopt resolution 04-2020-1, appointing Willie Freeman, Bill Hargis, Daniel Husk, Levon Hubbard and Rhonda Rector to the Cumberland County Board of Equalization terms expiring April 30, 2022, carried by a unanimous roll call vote from the Commissioners present.

4. RESOLUTION 04-2020-2 – TO APPOINT A COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINER (FOSTER):

On motion of Commissioner Stone, second by Commissioner Holbrook moved to adopt resolution 04-2020-2.

The motion to adopt resolution 04-2020-2, re-appointing James Wojcik, M.D. on May 1, 2020 to serve a (5) five year term expiring April 30, 2025, carried by a unanimous roll call vote from the Commissioners present.

5. RESOLUTION 04-2020-3 – TO APPROVE UPDATING THE CURRENT CUMBERLAND COUNTY PERSONNEL POLICY:

On motion of Commissioner Stone, second by Commissioner Holbrook, moved to adopt resolution 04-2020-3.

The motion to adopt resolution 04-2020-3, to amend and update the personnel policy with Federal and State employment law, carried by a unanimous roll call vote from the Commissioners present.

6. RESOLUTION 04-2020-4– BUDGET AMENDMENT, GENERAL FUND, FIRE DEPARTMENT \$1,600.00:

On motion of Commissioner Cooper, second by Commissioner Stone, moved to adopt resolution 04-2020-4.

The motion to adopt resolution 04-2020-4, accepting a budget amendment donation from Middle Tennessee Natural Gas Utility District- Project Hometown Help in the amount of \$1,600.00 for the Cumberland County Fire Department, carried by a unanimous roll call vote from the Commissioners present.

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7. RESOLUTION 04-2020-5 – BUDGET AMENDMENT, GENERAL FUND, COUNTY CLERK \$7,400.00:

On motion of Commissioner Cooper, second by Commissioner Stone, moved to adopt resolution 04-2020-5.

The motion to adopt resolution 04-2020-5, approving budget amendment funding for computer technology upgrades at a cost of \$7,400.00 for the County Clerk's office, carried by unanimous roll call vote from the Commissioners present.

8. RESOLUTION 04-2020-6 – BUDGET AMENDMENT, GENERAL FUND, EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE \$40,761.00:

On motion of Commissioner Cooper, second by Commissioner Stone, moved to adopt resolution 04-2020-6.

The motion to adopt resolution 04-2020-6, approving budget amendment to improve and enhance Medicare/Medicaid payments for Cumberland County Emergency Medical Services, carried by unanimous roll call vote from the Commissioners present.

9. RESOLUTION 04-2020-7 - ENCOURAGING ALL ELECTED OFFICIALS TO PREPARE A NO GROWTH BUDGET PROPOSAL FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021:

On motion of Commissioner Hyder, second by Commissioner Seiber, moved to adopt resolution 04-2020-7.

The motion to adopt resolution 04-2020-7, encouraging all elected officials to follow the lead of the State Legislature, Governor and County Mayor and submit no growth budget proposal for the initial round of budget request for Fiscal Year 2020-2021, carried by (16) sixteen ayes from Commissioners Norris, Kyle Davis, Hyder, Stone, Threet, Gibson, Seiber, Jack Davis, Lowe, Wilson, Sherrill, Baldwin, Cooper, Holbrook, Patterson, Mall, (1) one nay from Commissioner Blalock.

Discussion: Commissioner Blalock stated he opposed this resolution due to the financial uncertainty of what is to come for some departments. Commissioner Stone stated she would be for this resolution for the reason that in May when the Budget Committee begins planning the upcoming Cumberland County budget there may not be a clear financial impact of this virus to each department. Each department will be given the opportunity to present to the Budget Committee why they can or cannot follow a no-growth budget. Commissioner Sherrill questioned if there would be a stimulus for the county from this crisis. Mayor Foster stated that as a whole the county does not know what expenditures may come due to the shut down. Mayor also stated that combined with the loss of revenue, the no growth budget was a starting point for this fiscal situation. Mayor has received no information regarding a stimulus for county government as of yet.

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10. RESOLUTION 04-2020-8 - ESTABLISHING FISCAL GUIDANCE DURING STATE OF EMERGENCY CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC:

On motion of Commissioner Stone, second by Commissioner Patterson, moved to adopt resolution 04-2020-8.

The motion to adopt resolution 04-2020-8, resolve that Cumberland County will continue to follow the budget adopted on August, 5, 2019 for payroll expenses and request that Department Heads work with the Mayor and consider the State's lead to defer or postpone non-essential, or discretionary expenditures such as certain capital outlays, equipment and travel, and take action to better manage and monitor overtime for hourly employees, carried by unanimous roll call vote from the Commissioners present.

Discussion: Commissioner Stone stated that the current crisis came at a good time when looking at the fiscal year. If this had developed earlier in the year there may have been need to change the budget for the year. This is something to keep in mind for future commissions. The current pandemic happened at a time in the fiscal year that where the bulk of revenue had been received. We are fortunate in the timing of this crisis.

COUNTY OFFICIAL REPORT; FINANCE DIRECTOR NATHAN BROCK:

Finance Director Nathan Brock stated he emailed the financial report out along with comments, observations and forecast of things that may come. This information report is all pre-pandemic. The affected sales tax will not show up until the May report. Some local revenues represent early March collections and are trending down when comparing them to previous years. Director Brock asked that the commission keep in mind that the court systems are closed with little court activity with the exception of traffic citation payments. With offices closed, a negative will be shown. The Mayor commented that some offices like the County Clerk have been given an grace period to get their motor vehicle tags. So therefore there will be a delay on that revenue. The director is hopeful that revenue will catch up when the courthouse is back to normal order.

COUNTY OFFICIAL REPORT; ATTORNEY PHILIP BURNETT:

Attorney Philip Burnett stated he has no report this month. Commissioner Hyder asked in Attorney Burnett's opinion, did he think the Harvel case will go to court on June 8th, 2020. He stated that he had no idea and that everything has been stalled. He has not been given any dollar amount that they are seeking from the county. Burnett thought that the criminal case would be tried at that time.

The Budget Committee is still scheduled to meet on Tuesday, May 5, 2020 at 4:30. The Building and Grounds Committee will be meeting on Monday, May 4th, 2020 at the courthouse. If the courthouse is not open these meetings will be held by teleconference.

22. ELECTION OF NOTARIES:

On motion of Commissioner Holbrook, second by Commissioner Cooper, moved be elected Alexandra Scarbrough, Paula D. Steinman, Denise Yates, Paula Abner, Jennifer Baird, Jordan Houston, Vicky Lay, Kristen Ward as Notary Publics for the State of Tennessee.

The motion to approve the notaries carried by unanimous roll call vote from the Commissioners present.

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ANNOUNCEMENT:

Commissioner Stone shared news from the Joint Economic Development Board that Cumberland County had been awarded a \$40,000.00 grant for comprehensive community branding marketing strategy. The Marketing Initiative Committee sent out RSP's to marketing firms and selected hiring Good Folks Creative.

A second broadband grant was awarded to Ben Lomand for 1500 homes on Highway 127 North of Cumberland County.

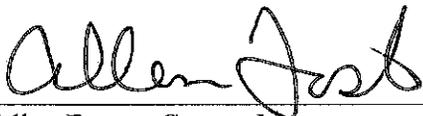
Commissioner Joe Sherrill brought up the legality of the Executive Order 23 from his constituents.

23. ADJOURNMENT:

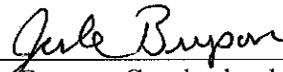
On motion of Commissioner Hyder, second by Commissioner Stone, moved the April 20, 2020 Commission Meeting be adjourned at 6:35 o'clock P.M.

The motion to adjourn the meeting carried by unanimous roll call from the Commissioners present.

MINUTES APPROVED FOR ENTRY THIS 21st DAY OF MAY 2020.



Allen Foster, County Mayor
Chairman, Cumberland County Commission



Julie Bryson, Cumberland County Clerk