

## LOUDON COUNTY COMMISSION

STATE OF TENNESSEE

COUNTY OF LOUDON

March 5, 2012

6:00 PM

- (1) **Presentation** **Miss Hannah Koeshall**, Eastern Region Public Speaker Winner, presented her address on the benefits of the 4H Program and encouraging young people to join.

### REGULAR MEETING

- (2) **Opening of Meeting** **BE IT REMEMBERED** that the Board of Commissioners of Loudon County convened in regular session in Loudon, Tennessee on the 5th day of March, 2012. The **Honorable Vice- Chair Earlena Maples** called the meeting to order. She invited **Commissioner Yarbrough** to speak, as requested. **Commissioner Yarbrough** expressed, **on behalf of the Loudon County Commission**, sincere condolences to **Richard Truitt** on the recent sudden loss of his wife. **Commissioner Jenkins** opened the County Commission Meeting, asking **Miss Koeshall** to lead the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America following which he gave the invocation.
- (3) **Roll Call** Present were the following Commissioners: **Jenkins, Meers, Maples, Shaver, Franke, Duff, Yarbrough, Harrelson, and Miller: (9)**  
The following Commissioner was **Absent: Bledsoe: (1)**  
Thereupon **Vice Chairwoman Maples** announced the presence of a quorum. Present was the **Honorable Mayor Estelle Herron**.
- (4) **Agenda Adopted As Amended** **Chairwoman Maples** requested that the March 5, 2012 Agenda be adopted. **Mayor Herron** requested adding to the Agenda Consideration of a Resolution to the Tennessee State Legislature Objecting to Unfunded Mandates. A **motion** was made by **Commissioner Shaver** with a second by **Commissioner Franke** to adopt the Agenda as amended. Upon voice vote the motion **Passed** unanimously.
- (5) **Minutes for February 6, 2012 Approved** **Chairwoman Maples** requested that the February 6, 2012 County Commission Meeting Minutes be approved and accepted. A **motion** was made by **Commissioner Meers** with a second by **Commissioner Jenkins** to approve these minutes. Upon voice vote the motion **Passed** unanimously.
- (6) **Comments: Agenda Items** **Chairwoman Maples** asked that any visitor wishing to address the Commission regarding items on the planned Agenda come forward. **Rick Terry, Chairman, Loudon County Visitor's Bureau**, came forward to speak in favor of the proposal to help fund a feasibility study for an Agricultural Center in Loudon County and urged the Commission to approve the Resolution.

**Pat Hunter** also spoke about the proposed Agricultural Center expressing concerns regarding the cost to build such a facility and the County's fiscal situation with the School Building Program underway. She also expressed concern that the County still has a depressed economy and urged the Commission to look at funding issues carefully and try to refrain from incurring additional budget commitments.

**Richard Truitt** also spoke about the Agricultural Center cautioning that he does not believe that this will "pay for itself" and that it has the potential to be a "money pit" in the future.

**Estelle Herron, Loudon County Mayor**, requested consideration and possible action on the following item:

**(7)**  
**Urge TN**  
**Legislature**  
**Against**  
**Unfunded**  
**Mandates**  
**Approved**

1. A Resolution asking the Tennessee General Assembly to Carefully Investigate and Reject Any Legislation Which Places New Financial Obligations on County Governments or Transfers Obligation from the State to Local Governments and Asking All Counties to Join in Passing This Resolution and Forwarding it to Their State Delegations.

**Commissioner Miller** clarified a sentence in the Resolution that does not apply to Loudon County and the Mayor agreed. He explained the Budget Committee's feelings on this issue stating that this type of action at the County level has to be used judiciously being careful not to overuse it with the State Legislature.

A **motion** was made by **Commissioner Miller** with a second by **Commissioner Harrelson** to approve this Resolution.

Upon voice vote the motion **Passed** unanimously.

**Resolution 030512-A**

**(8)**  
**Board**  
**Appointments**  
**Approved**

2. Consideration of a Resolution Approving Appointments to the Following Board/Committee:
  - a. Loudon County Board of Zoning Appeals
  - b. Loudon County Regional Planning Commission

A **motion** was made by **Commissioner Franke** with a second by **Commissioner Harrelson** to approve these appointments.

Upon voice vote the motion **Passed** unanimously.

**Resolutions 030512-B&C**

**(9)**  
**Decline to**  
**Join Proposed**  
**TN Oversight**  
**Agreement Re**  
**Oakridge**  
**Reservation**  
**Approved**

3. Request Consideration of Approving a Resolution of the Loudon County Commission Declining to Join the Proposed Tennessee Oversight Interlocal Agreement for Implementing the Tennessee Oversight Agreement on Issues Related to the U.S. Department of Energy's Environmental Management Program and Emergency Management Activities at the Oak Ridge Reservation.

A **motion** was made by **Commissioner Shaver** with a second by **Commissioner Miller** to approve this Resolution.

Upon voice vote the motion **Passed** unanimously.

**Resolution 030512-D**

**(10)**  
**AG Center**  
**Feasibility**  
**Study**  
**Approved**

4. Request Consideration of Approving a Resolution to Authorize the Submission of a USDA Rural Development Agency Rural Business Enterprise Grant to Fund a Market Feasibility and Economic Impact Study of a Multi-Use Agricultural Facility.

**Mayor Herron** presented the resolution adding that the City of Loudon had already approved their contribution to this feasibility study.

A **motion** was made by **Commissioner Meers** with a second by **Commissioner Jenkins** to approve this Resolution.

**Commissioner Meers** asked how such a facility would fit into the “light industry” concept of the Centre 75 possible site location and also expressed concern about the money still owed on Centre 75. **Donna Eason-Pile** responded that they would also be looking at the Hwy 72 Corridor and would consider other suggested locations. They would be looking at a “regional” concept for the site locations. This is a good approach because both Blount and Knox Counties do not have the land necessary to build such a facility but are very interested in the potential of such a venture. Regarding the Centre 75 sight, she stated that the fact that this location is available is the only thing they know at this time. She said that the model of the facility looks very much like the front of a department store and would fit into the Centre 75 concept. Creating this facility would result in the need for more hotel/motel facilities and bring additional customers to all the stores and businesses in the area. She stated that there are many companies that do feasibility studies and they’re looking for a totally independent company with experience in the AG Center area. **Commissioner Jenkins** asked about the concept for the day-to-day operations of the facility. She responded that other such facilities are owned by the Counties or Cities but are run by a local community group that would answer to the County or City for direction and management. Such a facility would require an experienced Manager. **Commissioner Shaver** asked why the County is involved at all. She responded that Montgomery County is doing this using the mechanism to build and then gifting the facility to the County. That’s one way to do it. Another way would be to go to USDA for a loan and you can also look for private funds to help finance the venture. **Commissioner Miller** stated that he’s very concerned about the many other financial constraints currently on the County and stated that they really need to prioritize the Countys’ spending. He stated that he wants to be clear that just because he votes in favor of a feasibility study it does not mean that he would vote in favor of actually building the facility – he would need more information from the feasibility study to make such a decision. **Ms. Eason-Pile’s** response was that they have not received any negative comments on this project and that this is a bit worrisome therefore she feels that the feasibility study is very important to help understand the options and consequences. They’re also looking at other similar facilities everywhere to see how they have done and learn from their experiences. She stated that the study should point out both the positive and negative sides of the venture. She added that the feasibility study cannot be done without the support of the City and County – and therefore, they would not be able to ask for the Grant.

**Commissioner Yarbrough** stated that she is also concerned about the sustainability of such a facility and wants to be assured that a vote on this proposal is a vote in favor of the feasibility study only and not the project. **Ms. Eason-Pile’s** response was that they clearly understood this and that no decisions would be made until the feasibility study was completed. She went on to describe all the support they have received for the project. **Commissioner Meers** requested that once the study is completed the Commission meet with the City of Loudon group to discuss the project and there was general agreement. **Commissioner Franke** requested that the study look at areas other than the 75 Corridor as well for the location of a facility.

**Commissioner Miller** asked if adjoining counties would be willing to help with the funding for the feasibility study. **Clayton Pangle, Director of the Loudon County Visitor's Board**, responded that he does not believe that others would be willing to contribute funding to this project until it could be proven. **Ms. Eason-Piles** also noted that Knox County already considers Loudon County part of "Greater Metro Knoxville" for attracting tourism and business opportunities. **Mr. Pangle** spoke about several upcoming events that Knoxville is currently working with the County on that will be using Loudon County facilities so there is already cooperation in this area. He also suggested that this facility could be used for outdoor sporting events that the County could get taxes from the funding.

**Chairwoman Maples** asked for a vote on the motion.

Upon roll call vote the following Commissioners voted **Aye: Meers, Maples, Franke, Duff, Yarbrough, Harrelson, Miller, and Jenkins: (8)**

The following Commissioner voted **Nay: Shaver: (1)**

The following Commissioner was **Absent: Bledsoe: (1)**

Thereupon the Chairman declared the motion **Passed: (8, 1, 1)**

**Resolution 030512-E**

**Loudon County Budget Director, Tracy Blair**, requested consideration and possible action on the following items:

**(11)**  
**Application**  
**For Pettway**  
**Grant**  
**Approved**

1. Consideration of a recommendation to approve an Application for a \$2,000.00 Pettway Grant for Lenoir City Library; no matching funds.

A **motion** was made by **Commissioner Franke** with a second by **Commissioner Miller** to approve this recommendation.

Upon roll call vote the following Commissioners voted **Aye: Maples, Shaver, Franke, Duff, Yarbrough, Harrelson, Miller, Jenkins, and Meers: (9)**

The following Commissioner voted **Nay: (0)**

The following Commissioner was **Absent: Bledsoe: (1)**

Thereupon the Chairman declared the motion **Passed: (9, 0, 1)**

**(12)**  
**Accept**  
**Technology**  
**Grant**  
**Approved**

2. Consideration of a Recommendation to Accept a \$1,500.00 Technology Grant for Loudon Library; \$1,500.00 required match.

A **motion** was made by **Commissioner Shaver** with a second by **Commissioner Yarbrough** to approve this recommendation.

Upon roll call vote the following Commissioners voted **Aye: Shaver, Franke, Duff, Yarbrough, Harrelson, Miller, Jenkins, Meers, and Maples: (9)**

The following Commissioner voted **Nay: (0)**

The following Commissioner was **Absent: Bledsoe: (1)**

Thereupon the Chairman declared the motion **Passed: (9, 0, 1)**

**(13)**  
**Fund 101**  
**Approved**

3. Consideration of a Recommendation to Approve Amendments in the Following Funds:

a. County General Fund 101

A **motion** was made by **Commissioner Yarbrough** with a second by **Commissioner Franke** to approve this recommendation.

Upon roll call vote the following Commissioners voted **Aye: Franke, Duff, Yarbrough, Harrelson, Miller, Jenkins, Meers, Maples, and Shaver: (9)**

The following Commissioners voted **Nay: (0)**

The following Commissioner was **Absent: Bledsoe: (1)**

Thereupon the Chairman declared the motion **Passed: (9, 0, 1)**

**Exhibit 030512-F**

- (14) Fund 122 Approved                      b. County Drug Fund 122  
A **motion** was made by **Commissioner Shaver** with a second by **Commissioner Jenkins** to approve this recommendation.  
Upon roll call vote the following Commissioners voted **Aye: Duff, Yarbrough, Harrelson, Miller, Jenkins, Meers, Maples, Shaver, and Franke: (9)**  
The following Commissioners voted **Nay: (0)**  
The following Commissioner was **Absent: Bledsoe: (1)**  
Thereupon the Chairman declared the motion **Passed: (9, 0, 1)**  
**Exhibit 030512-G**
- (15) Fund 131 Approved                      c. Highway Department Fund 131  
A **motion** was made by **Commissioner Miller** with a second by **Commissioner Franke** to approve this recommendation.  
Upon roll call vote the following Commissioners voted **Aye: Duff, Yarbrough, Harrelson, Miller, Jenkins, Meers, Maples, Shaver, and Franke: (9)**  
The following Commissioners voted **Nay: (0)**  
The following Commissioner was **Absent: Bledsoe: (1)**  
Thereupon the Chairman declared the motion **Passed: (9, 0, 1)**  
**Exhibit 030512-H**
- (16) Fund 141 Approved                      d. General Purpose School Fund 141  
A **motion** was made by **Commissioner Shaver** with a second by **Commissioner Duff** to approve this recommendation.  
Upon roll call vote the following Commissioners voted **Aye: Yarbrough, Harrelson, Miller, Jenkins, Meers, Maples, Shaver, Franke, and Duff: (9)**  
The following Commissioners voted **Nay: (0)**  
The following Commissioner was **Absent: Bledsoe: (1)**  
Thereupon the Chairman declared the motion **Passed: (9, 0, 1)**  
**Exhibit 030512-I**
- (17) Fund 142 Approved                      e. School Federal Projects Fund 142  
A **motion** was made by **Commissioner Franke** with a second by **Commissioner Yarbrough** to approve this recommendation.  
Upon roll call vote the following Commissioners voted **Aye: Harrelson, Miller, Jenkins, Meers, Maples, Shaver, Franke, Duff, and Yarbrough: (9)**  
The following Commissioners voted **Nay: (0)**  
The following Commissioner was **Absent: Bledsoe: (1)**  
Thereupon the Chairman declared the motion **Passed: (9, 0, 1)**  
**Exhibit 030512-J**
- (18) Fund 151 Approved                      f. General Debt Services Fund 151  
A **motion** was made by **Commissioner Shaver** with a second by **Commissioner Miller** to approve this recommendation.  
Upon roll call vote the following Commissioners voted **Aye: Miller, Jenkins, Meers, Maples, Shaver, Franke, Duff, Yarbrough, and Harrelson: (9)**  
The following Commissioners voted **Nay: (0)**  
The following Commissioner was **Absent: Bledsoe: (1)**  
Thereupon the Chairman declared the motion **Passed: (9, 0, 1)**  
**Exhibit 030512-K**

- (19)**  
**Fund 176**  
**Approved**
- g. Highway Capital Projects Fund 176
- A **motion** was made by **Commissioner Meers** with a second by **Commissioner Jenkins** to approve this recommendation.
- Upon roll call vote the following Commissioners voted **Aye: Jenkins, Meers, Maples, Shaver, Franke, Duff, Yarbrough, Harrelson, and Miller: (9)**
- The following Commissioners voted **Nay: (0)**
- The following Commissioner was **Absent: Bledsoe: (1)**
- Thereupon the Chairman declared the motion **Passed: (9, 0, 1)**
- Exhibit 030512-L**
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- (20)**  
**Summary**  
**Financial**  
**Statements**  
**Distributed**
- Budget Director, Tracy Blair**, requested that records reflect that the Summary Financial Statements for the month of February 2012 have been distributed.
- Exhibit 030512-M**
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- (21)**  
**Notaries**  
**Approved**
- Loudon County Commissioner, David Meers**, made a **motion** with a second by **Commissioner Harrelson** to approve the following Notaries: ***Starlet Rene Summitt; Whitney Edwards; Diane Link; Jacqueline E. Trice; Timmy L. Tallent; Hannah Dewsen; Brittany R. Monger; Yurisan Cornejo; Deborah R. Baker; Kimberly L. Gage; G. Keith Alley; and Lisa P. Packett.***
- Upon voice vote the motion **Passed** unanimously.
- Exhibit 030512-N**
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- (22)**  
**Legislative**  
**Reviews**  
**Distributed**
- Commissioner Duff** distributed Legislative Documents as follows: Legislative Update for March 2, 2012 and Capitol TCSA Update. He noted that the Commissioners receive these updates individually and asked whether or not they wanted him to continue to bring these to the Commission Meeting and **Commissioner Shaver** responded that he saw no reason to discuss these at the meetings.
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- (23)**  
**Comments:**  
**Non-Agenda**  
**Items**
- Chairwoman Maples** asked that any visitor wishing to address the Commission regarding items not on the Agenda come forward.
- Commissioner Meers** made a request to **Mayor Herron** that the Commission approve and present a Resolution to the Lady's Basketball Team at the next Commission Meeting to honor and support them for their fine record this year. She responded that they had a great season and we're waiting for the final games.

**Chairwoman Maples** asked if there were any further comments and, upon receiving none, she asked for a **motion** to adjourn.

**(24)**  
**Adjournment**

There being no further business, a **motion** being duly made and seconded, the March 5, 2012 County Commission Meeting stood adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

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**CHAIRMAN**

**ATTEST:**

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**COUNTY CLERK**

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**COUNTY MAYOR**