

LOUDON COUNTY COMMISSION

STATE OF TENNESSEE

COUNTY OF LOUDON

August 8, 2014

6:00 PM

(1)

PUBLIC HEARING

Public Hearing

A Resolution Amending the Zoning Map of Loudon County, Tennessee, Pursuant to Chapter Seven, § 13-7-105 of the Tennessee Code Annotated, to Rezone Approximately 6.47 Acres from A-1 (Agriculture-Forestry District) to R-1 (Suburban Residential District). Referenced by: Tax Map 44, Parcels 61.27, 61.55, 61.56, 61.57, and 61.58, Located on Friendsville Road, Situated in the 3rd Legislative District.

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 8th day of August, 2014.

The **Honorable Roy Bledsoe** called the meeting to order.

Commissioner Franke opened the County Commission Meeting, led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and gave the invocation.

(3)

Roll Call

Present were the following Commissioners: **Jenkins, Meers, Maples, Quillen, Franke, Bledsoe, Duff, Yarbrough, Harrelson, and Miller: (10)**

The following Commissioners were **Absent: (0)**

Thereupon **Chairman Bledsoe** announced the presence of a quorum.

Present was the **Honorable Mayor Estelle Herron**.

(4)

Agenda
Adopted
As Amended

Chairman Bledsoe requested that the August 8, 2014 Agenda be adopted.

Commissioner Duff requested that the Order of Items #1 and #2 in **Budget**

Director Blair's presentation be reversed and **Mayor Herron** requested the Addition of an Item Regarding Loudon County Ambulance Services, presented by Loudon County Attorney Bob Bowman, as Item 6. B.

A **motion** was made by **Commissioner Duff** with a second by **Commissioner Harrelson** to adopt the Agenda as Amended.

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

(5)

Minutes for
June 30, 2014
Approved

Chairman Bledsoe requested that the June 30, 2014 County Commission Meeting Minutes be approved and accepted.

A **motion** was made by **Commissioner Miller** with a second by **Commissioner Jenkins** to approve these minutes.

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

(6)
Comments:
Agenda Items

Chairman Bledsoe asked that any visitor wishing to address the Commission regarding items on the planned Agenda come forward.

Mayor Herron allowed each of the speakers who had signed up to speak three minutes and she called the speakers to the podium in turn.

Virginia Huff spoke against taking any funding from the Schools saying that both she and her husband are teachers in the County School System.

Richard Anklin spoke in favor of giving the unspent funds back to the taxpayers.

Andy Ambrust, president of the Warrior's Chase Community Association, spoke about the original developer of the community not completing the asphaltting of the roads resulting in an incomplete roads system as well as drainage problems. He said they understand that this was caused by the Developer but the community feels that the County has some responsibility in getting the situation corrected.

Jeanne Barker spoke reminding the Commission of the impact of the decisions they make and urging them to "Invest to educate instead of paying to incarcerate".

Pandora Vreeland spoke about the declining number of students in County schools and saying the unspent funds should come back to the taxpayers.

Jason Vance spoke encouraging the Commission to leave the school's money where it is saying that taking that money away would cause a hardship on all the schools in the County system and on the incoming Loudon County Commission.

Pat Hunter spoke about the loss of students beginning about the same time as the additional property tax was put on County residents in June 2011.

Richard Truitt spoke about out-of-county students and the fact that the Director of Schools does not live in the County and that out-of-county students pay no tax to the County.

(7)
Rezoning on
Friendsville Rd.
Approved

Loudon County Planning and Codes Office, Jim Jenkins

1. Request Consideration of Approval of a Resolution Amending the Zoning Map of Loudon County, Tennessee, Pursuant to Chapter Seven, § 13-7-105 of the Tennessee Code Annotated, to Rezone Approximately 6.47 Acres From A-1 (Agriculture-Forestry District) to R-1 (Suburban Residential District).
Referenced by: Tax Map 44, Parcels 61.27, 61.55, 61.56, 61.57, and 61.58, Located on Friendsville Road, Situated in the 3rd Legislative District.

A **motion** was made by **Commissioner Franke** with a second by **Commissioner Quillen** to approve this Resolution.

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

Resolution 080814-A

(8)
Notice of
Default to
Rural Metro
Approved

Loudon County Attorney, Bob Bowman

1. **Attorney Bowman** reminded the Commission of a recent discussion at a Commission Workshop Meeting regarding the Ambulance services in the County and the concerns about the quality of those services. He said the County could enter into its own agreements for this service and that the two companies currently providing services – Priority and Rural Metro – were working on an agreement on how to function together. County residents have been complaining about the Rural Metro services being provided – that they're not adequate - and he agrees with the residents. He asked that the Commission instruct him regarding how they want to proceed with Rural Metro. Do they want to terminate their contract and, if so, Rural Metro would have a 60-day notice to fix their problems or be terminated. Their current contract expires

in December 2015. He commented that **Sheriff Guider** had said he noted that the deficiencies of Rural Metro had not surfaced until Priority showed up. **Commissioner Yarbrough** said she was confused on procedure regarding why the E-911 Board had not brought this to the Commission.

Commissioner Miller asked what would be next if the County terminated the Rural Metro contract. He said the County needs to have a plan.

Commissioner Quillen questioned why, if Rural Metro's inadequacies were a danger to the community, they couldn't be immediately terminated.

Commissioner Meers noted that the E-911 Board had communicated displeasure with Rural Metro in the past.

Jennifer Estes, Director of Loudon County E-911, commented that a GPS system, which would help with some of the problems, would not be available until November due to the software platform not being in place until then.

Attorney Bowman said that, if the Commission was so inclined, the County needed to give Rural Metro a 60-day Notice, with the chance to improve, before they could terminate the contract.

Commissioner Meers made a **motion** with a second by **Commissioner Franke**, on the recommendation of the County Attorney, to send a notice of default to Rural Metro.

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

County Purchasing Director, Joan Lovelace

(9)
Postage
Machine
Lease
Contract
Approved

1. Request Consideration of Approval of a Five-year Lease Contract on Postage Machines for County Departments.

A **motion** was made by **Commissioner Maples** with a second by **Commissioner Quillen** to approve this request.

Upon roll call vote the following Commissioners voted **Aye: Meers, Maples, Quillen, Franke, Bledsoe, Duff, Yarbrough, Harrelson, Miller, and Jenkins: (10)**

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

The following Commissioner was **Absent: (0)**

Thereupon the Chairman declared the Motion **Passed: (10,0,0)**

Loudon County Budget Director, Tracy Blair, requested consideration of Approval of the following items:

(10)
Tax Levy
For Fiscal Year
Year Beginning
July 1, 2014
Approved

1. Request Consideration of a Recommendation to Approve a Resolution Fixing the Tax Levy in Loudon County, Tennessee for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2014.

Commissioner Duff made a **motion** with a second by **Commissioner Yarbrough** to leave the tax rate the same as it is now at 1.8987 which would leave the 0.0400 pennies in the Education Debt Services Fund and the 0.0281 in the General Purpose School Fund. Lengthy discussion followed regarding parliamentary procedure which resulted in **Commissioner Duff withdrawing his motion.**

Commissioner Franke made a **motion** with a second by **Commissioner Miller** to approve the Budget Committee's recommendation to set the County tax rate at 1.8306.

Commissioner Duff then made an **amendment to that motion** with a second by **Commissioner Yarbrough** to leave the tax rate as is at 1.8987 which would leave the 0.0400 pennies in the Education Debt Services Fund and 0.0281 in the General Purpose School Fund.

Commissioner Yarbrough commented that she would vote in favor of this amendment because she feels the schools have not received any new monies in the last five years for operations even though they've sent numerous requests which the Commission has ignored. She also said that without the thirty four cents in this fund the County will not be able to meet their debt.

Chairman Bledsoe asked **Chair Pro-Tem Maples to take the Chair** so that he could speak.

Commissioner Bledsoe responded that **Ms. Blair** has assured the Commission that there is sufficient money in the fund to pay the debt and that he would not support anything that would affect the County's ability to pay its debt. **Ms. Blair confirmed.**

Commissioner Franke said they are giving Lenoir City more money this year than last year and he believes there's enough money in the budget for the schools to finish their projects. He said the Commission is supposed to be looking out for all the County – not just a few.

Commissioner Jenkins said the money should go back to the taxpayers – it's not fair to change the rules at the last minute.

Discussion followed regarding how **Commissioner Duff's** amendment would affect other requirements in the overall Budget, particularly the Maintenance of Effort in the Highway Department Fund.

Commissioner Bledsoe made a **second amendment to the motion** with a second by **Commissioner Jenkins** to reduce the tax rate by 0.0400 from the Rural Bond Fund, while leaving the Maintenance of Effort as it is now in the General Purpose School Fund, which is the same level of funding.

Discussion continued regarding giving money back to the taxpayers.

Chairwoman Maples called for a **vote on Amendment #2** to give the 0.0400 pennies back to the taxpayer and leave the Maintenance of Effort as it is now.

Upon roll call vote on **Amendment #2** the following Commissioners voted **Aye:**

Maples, Quillen, Franke, Bledsoe, Harrelson, Miller, Jenkins, and Meers: (8)

The following Commissioners voted **Nay: Duff, and Yarbrough: (2)**

The following Commissioners were **Absent: (0)**

Thereupon the Chairwoman declared the Amendment **Passed: (8,2,0)**

Chairwoman Maples then called for a **vote on Amendment #1** to leave the tax rate as it is at 1.8987 which would leave the 0.0400 pennies in the Education Debt Services Fund and the 0.0281 in the General Purpose School Fund.

Upon roll call vote on **Amendment #1** the following Commissioners voted **Aye: Duff, and Yarbrough: (2)**

The following Commissioners voted **Nay: Quillen, Franke, Bledsoe, Harrelson, Miller, Jenkins, Meers, and Maples: (8)**

The following Commissioners were **Absent: (0)**

Thereupon the Chairwoman declared the Amendment **Failed: (2,8,0)**

Upon roll call vote on the **Original Motion to approve the recommendation of the Budget Committee as altered by approved Amendment #2**

The following Commissioners voted **Aye: Franke, Bledsoe, Harrelson, Miller, Jenkins, Meers, Maples, and Quillen: (8)**

The following Commissioners voted **Nay: Duff, and Yarbrough: (2)**

The following Commissioners were **Absent: (0)**

Thereupon the Chairwoman declared the **Original Motion as Amended Passed: (8,2,0)**

Commission acknowledged that the property tax rate approved is the Budget Committee's initial recommendation.

Resolution 080814-B

Chairman Bledsoe resumed the Chair.

(11)
Appropriations
To Various Funds,
Departments,
Institutions,
Offices & Agencies
of Loudon
County for Year
July 1, 2014 to
June 30, 2015
Approved

2. Request Consideration of a Recommendation to Approve a Resolution Making Appropriations for the Various Funds, Departments, Institutions, Offices, and Agencies of Loudon County, Tennessee for the Year Beginning July 1, 2014 and Ending June 30, 2015.

A **motion** was made by **Commissioner Miller** with a second by **Commissioner Quillen** to approve the recommendations of the Budget Committee.

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

The following Commissioners voted **Nay: Duff, and Yarbrough: (2)**

The following Commissioners were **Absent: (0)**

Thereupon the Chairman declared the Motion **Passed: (8,2,0)**

Resolution 080814-C

(12)
Appropriations
To Non-Profit
Organizations
Serving Loudon
County for Year
July 1, 2014 to
June 30, 2015
Approved

3. Request Consideration of a Recommendation to Approve a Resolution Making Appropriations to Non-Profit Organizations Serving Loudon County, Tennessee for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2014 and Ending June 30, 2015.

A **motion** was made by **Commissioner Meers** with a second by **Commissioner Franke** to approve the recommendations of the Budget Committee.

Upon roll call vote the following Commissioners voted **Aye: Duff, Yarbrough, Harrelson, Miller, Jenkins, Meers, Maples, Quillen, Franke, and Bledsoe: (10)**

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

The following Commissioners were **Absent: (0)**

Thereupon the Chairman declared the Motion **Passed: (10,0,0)**

Resolution 080814-D

(13)
Notaries
Approved

Loudon County Commissioner, David Meers, made a **motion** with a second by **Commissioner Maples** to approve the following Notaries:

Jo Brewster; Ella G. Carman; Samantha O. Cross; Deborah K. Farmer; Kimberly Ford; Tonya J. Freels; Andy Hamilton; Patricia Haynes; Cheryl R. Howard; Angela Mikolajewski; Deborha D. Ninis; Susan L. Pangle; Michael L. Payne; Jennifer R. Russell; and Chris D. Thomas.

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

Exhibit 080814-E

It was brought to the Commission's attention that an item which was discussed at the last Workshop Meeting had been overlooked by the Budget Committee and therefore needed to be addressed before adjournment of this meeting.

(14)
Amendment
to Appropriations
Resolution to
Increase
Property
Assessor's
Budget

A **motion** was made by **Commissioner Miller** with a second by **Commissioner Meers** to amend the Appropriations Resolution to increase the Property Assessor's Budget by \$30,000. for Independent Appraisal Services.

Upon roll call vote the following Commissioners voted **Aye: Yarbrough, Harrelson, Miller, Jenkins, Meers, Maples, Quillen, Franke, Bledsoe, and Duff: (10)**

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

The following Commissioners were **Absent: (0)**

Thereupon the Chairman declared the Motion **Passed: (10,0,0)**

- (15)**
- Comments:**
- Non-Agenda Items**
- Chairman Bledsoe** asked that any visitor wishing to address the Commission regarding items not on the Agenda come forward.
- Richard Truitt** thanked the Commissioners for their service to the County and spoke about the News Herald referring to people who attend the Commission Meeting regularly and speaking as “the usual suspects”. He urged more members of the County to come forward and participate in County Government Meetings.
- Scotty Newman** thanked the Mayor and Commission, on behalf of the School Board, for their service and said the County has two new, very fine schools as a result of this group’s work.
- Pandora Vreeland** thanked the Commissioners and Mayor for their work and dedication.
- Pat Hunter** commented on the amount of work the Commissioners and Mayor do, behind the scenes, that the public doesn’t see and thanked them for their service.
- Jason Vance, Director of Schools,** thanked the Commissioners for all their time, professional judgment, and effort and said the new Commissioners could call on him if he can help. He thanked the Mayor and said “she’s done a great job”.
- Jeanne Barker** thanked everyone for their compassion and thanked Jason Vance also.
- Chairman Bledsoe** gave the Commissioners who were leaving a chance to speak.
- Commissioner Jenkins** said that it was an honor to serve the citizens of the County and thanked everyone.
- Commissioner Quillen** said that it had been an honor and she was thankful for the opportunity to work with everyone on the Commission and the Mayor.
- Commissioner Franke** said that it had been an honor to serve for 12 years and that the Commission had accomplished quite a bit while keeping the tax rate reasonably low which was one of the reasons the County has grown by 22% in these years. He thanked **Budget Director Tracy Blair** for the long hours she puts in and the outstanding job she does.
- Commissioner Bledsoe** said that he appreciated serving the County, blessed the new Commission, and wished them well. **Mayor Herron asked him how long he had been on the Commission and his response was 48 years. He received a standing ovation!**
- Commissioner Yarbrough** said she appreciated serving the County and she knew what she was getting into from her previous experience at CTAS. She said she appreciated working with her fellow Commissioners and particularly **Mayor Herron** and **Sheriff Tim Guider** who were previous students of hers.
- Commissioner Miller** reflected on the history of the County for him over the past 12 years that he’s served on the Commission and feels the County is a lot better off now, and fiscally prudent, with the 15th lowest County tax rate in the State. He said he appreciated working with everyone and that they had respected each other’s opinion. He thanked **Budget Director Blair and Mayor Herron** for doing a great job. He spoke about the candy the Mayor brought to the Budget Committee meetings to keep them going. He concluded by thanking everyone and wished the best to the new Commission and new Mayor.
- Mayor Herron** said that she had worked for the Loudon County Government since 1985 and that it had been a great journey but this County Commission was her favorite! She spoke about disagreements with **Commissioner Yarbrough** but they walked away with peace. She said this Commission was the easiest to work with and that **Budget Director Tracy Blair** had been awesome. She said she’s passionate about the citizens of the County, thanked the County Commission, saying she loved the Commission and the citizens of the County. She said the new Commission coming in will have to work hard! She concluded by explaining the candy – 1 Hershey’s kiss is a hug and the other Hershey’s Kiss is a Kiss and this is the last one this Commission will get from her.

Chairman Bledsoe asked if there were any further comments and, upon receiving none, he asked for a motion to adjourn.

(16)
Adjournment

There being no further business, a **motion** being duly made and seconded, the August 8, 2014 County Commission Meeting stood adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

COUNTY CLERK

COUNTY MAYOR