

LOUDON COUNTY COMMISSION

STATE OF TENNESSEE

COUNTY OF LOUDON

February 7, 2011

6:00 PM

PUBLIC HEARING

- (1)
Public
Hearing
- Loudon County Planning and Codes Director – Russ Newman
- 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 11.39 Acres from R-1 (Suburban-Residential District) to A-2 (Rural-Residential District), Located at 571 Bell Road South.
Referenced by: Tax Map 48, Parcel 109.00 City of Loudon Urban Growth Area.

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 7th day of February, 2011.
The **Honorable Roy Bledsoe** called the meeting to order.
- Commissioner Duff** opened the County Commission Meeting, led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and **Mayor Herron** gave the invocation.
- (3)
Roll Call
- Present were the following Commissioners: **Jenkins, Maples, Shaver, Franke, Bledsoe, Duff, Yarbrough, Harrelson, and Miller: (9)**
The following Commissioner was **Absent: Meers: (1)**
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 February 7, 2011 Agenda be adopted.
Mayor Herron requested the addition to the Agenda of Consideration of the Blankenship Cemetery Road under Roads Commissioner Simpson's Items.
A **motion** was made by **Commissioner Franke** with a second by **Commissioner Maples** to adopt the Agenda as amended.
Upon voice vote the motion **Passed** unanimously.
- (5)
Minutes for
January 3, 2011
Approved As
Amended
- Chairman Bledsoe** requested that the January 3, 2011 County Commission Meeting Minutes be approved and accepted.
Commissioner Miller requested a correction on the page 5 and the correction was noted.
A **motion** was made by **Commissioner Jenkins** with a second by **Commissioner Yarbrough** to approve the minutes as amended.
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.

Frank Hahn spoke about the cost of the School Building Program and the increases in the School Operating Budget and their effect on County property tax rates expressing his opinion that this increase would be detrimental to County residents and future County growth.

Gary Consorta, representing Tellico Lake Properties, spoke against the removal of Notchin Hill Road from the County Roads List. Tellico Lake Properties currently owns 804 acres on and around Notchin Hill Road and 15 platted home sites already exist fronting Notchin Hill Road. He stated that removal of this road from the List would diminish the value of these properties.

Richard Truitt spoke about Director of Schools Wayne Honeycutt's response to the Commission Letter of August 2010 agreeing with parts of the report but disagreeing with other parts.

Pandora Vreeland spoke about the School Building Program emphasizing the high cost of the current plan to build traditional schools and its effect on property taxes versus other less costly options including modular units which offer more options for relocating to facilities where they're most needed when necessary. She also described consolidation of redundant facilities and services called "regionalization" which several other municipal areas in the Country have implemented to consolidate and significantly reduce operating costs. She expressed her opinion that teachers are more important to education than buildings. She requested that the Commission investigate other options, including these, for providing adequate facilities for the schools while keeping cost under control.

Wayne Schnell spoke about the School Building Program, operating costs, number of teachers on the payroll and administrative costs and the effect of these on taxes. He agrees with the comments of Ms. Vreeland regarding "regionalization" of assets as a possible solution and encouraged the Commission to consider these other options.

Commissioner Miller spoke in response to the speakers regarding the School Building Program commenting that their points were good and worth consideration but that the Commission has no power to control the funds it provides to the County School Board and that they should direct their comments and suggestions to the School Board where the decisions on how to spend the funds provided by the Commission are made.

(7)
Board
Appointments
Approved

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

1. Consideration of a Resolution Approving Appointments to the Following Board/Committee:

- a. Loudon County Construction Board of Adjustments and Appeals

Mayor Herron made an adjustment to the submitted resolution moving one member from the Appointee List to the Alternate List.

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

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

Resolution 020711-A

**(8)
Response
to County
Commission
Letter
Requesting
Information
on the Use of
School
Operating
Fund 141**

Loudon County Director of Schools, Wayne Honeycutt, provided a response to a Commission Letter of August 9, 2010 requesting information on the Board of Education's use of School Operating Fund 141 from 2004-2009.

Mr. Honeycutt provided an in-depth power-point presentation on School Operating Expenses to include: Fixed Cost Increases; Personnel Costs; Teacher's Salaries; Locally Funded Increases; and State and Federal Increases. His response to the question on Significant Increases in Staff with Minimal Increases in Students concentrated on the reasons for the additional positions. On the question of Property Tax Increases from 5.5M to 10.2M in the Past Five Years to Support the School Operating Fund his presentation maintained that school expenses have remained in balance with other County expenses and spoke about Performance Demands; the Impact of BEP 2.0 on Loudon County State Revenue; Loudon County Fiscal Capacity; Loudon County School Revenue Growth; Per Pupil Expenditures; TCAP Value Added Test Scores; Teacher Supply and Demand; Tennessee Graduation Requirements; Average Tennessee PPE Increases; and How Do We Get All the Way Up to Average.

Exhibit 020711-B

Commissioner Miller thanked Mr. Honeycutt for his presentation and stated that he believes that public safety, education, and roads are the three main functions of county government and that education is very important but that funding alone doesn't guarantee a good education. He stated that the County Commission has a responsibility to the taxpayers of the county and has limited resources to fund all the county's needs. He then presented a rebuttal to Mr. Honeycutt's presentation's conclusion that Loudon County is below average compared to other counties in the State in funding per student. He contends that to make a fair comparison you must remove the four major cities in the State from the equation since their increased resources distort the comparison of counties. He distributed a comparison using numbers without the four cities and concluded that, with this comparison, Loudon County was slightly above average. He stated that, even so, he's very concerned about the cost of education and the need for new schools and their impact on the property taxes and he discussed options for supporting the school operating budget and each's impact on the property taxes. In conclusion, he asked Mr. Honeycutt about the Commission's last question, which wasn't addressed, concerning exploring opportunities and offering options for cutting costs in school funding. Mr. Honeycutt responded that they were working on this and would provide a response in the future.

Exhibit 020711-C

Commissioner Duff expressed appreciation to **Mr. Honeycutt** and **Mr. Vance** for the presentation and stated that he wished that he had not voted for forwarding the Commission letter that prompted this response. He stated that he was frustrated and embarrassed about the situation of the education system in Loudon County and that he wanted our schools to be better than average, stating that when average is our goal, we're in serious trouble. He recommended that the Commission and the School Board need to enact a plan to address fixes to these problems.

Commissioner Shaver thanked **Mr. Honeycutt** and **Mr. Vance** and stated that he wants to best for the county's kids and education system but that the county doesn't have unlimited resources. He stressed that the Board of Education has control of how to spend the funds provided by the Commission. In response to comments in **Mr. Honeycutt's** presentation, he explained where some of the figures used by the Commission in posing their questions came from and expressed Commission concern about the significant increases in school employees.

Commissioner Franke stated that he doesn't want the future to look back at this Commission and say they didn't do their job. He stated that the County has limited resources and the Commission needs to fix the problems the best they can.

Commissioner Yarbrough applauded **Mr. Honeycutt's** presentation and stated that she was embarrassed that the Commission had asked for this report and cited that some of the data presented to him in the Commission's questions wasn't available to everyone. She stated that her main concern is for the pupils of the County and that the Commission needs to solve the problems. She stated that she's rethinking her position regarding the school building program and school funding.

Loudon County Roads Commissioner, Eddie Simpson, requested consideration of and possible action on the following items:

(9)
2011
Roads List
Approved

1. Loudon County Roads List for 2011 for Approval

A **motion** was made by **Commissioner Duff** with a second by **Commissioner Maples** to adopt the Roads List as presented.

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

Exhibit 020711-D

(10)
Blankenship
Cemetery Road
Further
Investigation
Approved

2. Approval for the County to Make Improvements to the Blankenship Cemetery Road to Allow Access to the Historical Gravesites.

A **motion** was made by **Commissioner Shaver** to deny this request to fix the road of a private cemetery. There was no second for the motion.

A **motion** was then made by **Commissioner Franke** with a second by **Commissioner Jenkins** to approve this proposal.

Commissioner Miller raised concern about setting a precedent and questioned how many more such roads exist in the county that might come forward if this is approved.

Roads Commissioner Simpson responded that he would attempt to answer this question upon which **Commissioner Franke** withdrew his motion with approval of **Commissioner Jenkins**. It was agreed that **Roads Commissioner Simpson** will provide this information to a future Commission Workshop for reconsideration of this proposal at that time.

Loudon County Economic Development Agency Director, Pat Phillips, requested consideration of and possible action on the following item:

(11)
Local
Management
of Environmental
And Design
Phases For
Dixie Lee
Junction
Improvements
Approved

1. Consideration of Adopting a Resolution Requesting Local Mangement of Environmental and Design Phases for Improvements to Dixie Lee Junction (Hwy 70 (S.R. 1) and Hwy 11 (S.R. 2)).

A **motion** was made by **Commissioner Duff** with a second by **Commissioner Yarbrough** to approve this Resolution.

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

Resolution 020711-E

Loudon County Planning and Codes Director, Russ Newman, requested consideration and possible action on the following item:

(12)
Rezoning
Resolution
Approved

1. 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 11.39 Acres from R-1 (Suburban-Residential District) to A-2 (Rural Residential District) Located at 571 Bell Road South. Referenced by: Tax Map 48, Parcel 109.00 City of Loudon Urban Growth Area.

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

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

Resolution 020711-F

(13)
Investigate
Making NACO
Prescription
Drug Cards
Available to
County
Residents
Approved

Loudon County Commissioner, Bob Franke, requested consideration and possible action on the following items:

1. A Recommendation to Make NACO (National Association of Counties) Prescription Discount Cards Available to All Loudon County Residents.

Following discussion, a **motion** was made by **Commissioner Franke** with a second by **Commissioner Maples** to proceed with investigation of this option to determine if it is appropriate for Loudon County.

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

(14)
Letter to
TDOT and
Officials on
Caution Lights
Approved

2. A Letter to TDOT, with a Copy to Officials in Nashville, Requesting Review of Heavy Accident Intersections to Evaluate the Need for Caution Lights.

A **motion** was made by **Commissioner Franke** with a second by **Commissioner Harrelson** to submit a letter from the Commission and the Mayor.

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

Loudon County Purchasing Agent, Leo Bradshaw, requested consideration and possible action on the following item:

(15)
Place Sheriff's
Department
Surplus
Vehicles on
Surplus List
Approved

1. Request Approval for Placing the Remaining Surplus Vehicles in the Sheriff's Department on the Surplus List so That They Can be Sold.

A **motion** was made by **Commissioner Duff** with a second by **Commissioner Yarbrough** to approve this request.

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

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

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

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

Commissioner Yarbrough requested that **Mr. Bradshaw** ask the Sheriff's Department for a list of officers who received a new car and where the new cars were assigned in response to a previous request from her. **Mr. Bradshaw** responded that the information was available and he would provide it to her.

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

(16)
County
Assume
Increase
In Life
Insurance
Premium
Approved

1. Consideration of a Recommendation for the County to Assume Increase in Life Insurance Premium.

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

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

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

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

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

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

(17)
Fund 101
Approved

- a. County General Fund 101

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: Shaver, Franke, Bledsoe, Duff, Yarbrough, Harrelson, Miller, Jenkins, and Maples: (9)**

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

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

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

Exhibit 020711-G

(18)
Fund 115
Approved

- b. Public Library Fund 115

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

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

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

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

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

Exhibit 020711-H

(19)
Fund 116
Approved

- c. Recycling Center Fund 116

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

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

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

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

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

Exhibit 020711-I

(20) d. Highway Department Fund 131
Fund 131 A **motion** was made by **Commissioner Yarbrough** with a second by **Commissioner**
Approved **Harrelson** to approve this recommendation.
Upon roll call vote the following Commissioners voted **Aye: Duff, Yarbrough,**
Harrelson, Miller, Jenkins, Maples, Shaver, Franke, and Bledsoe: (9)
The following Commissioners voted **Nay: (0)**
The following Commissioner was **Absent: Meers: (1)**
Thereupon the Chairman declared the motion **Passed: (9, 0, 1)**
Exhibit 020711-J

(21) e. General Purpose School Fund 141
Fund 141 A **motion** was made by **Commissioner Miller** with a second by **Commissioner**
Approved **Shaver** to approve this recommendation.
Upon roll call vote the following Commissioners voted **Aye: Yarbrough, Harrelson,**
Miller, Jenkins, Maples, Shaver, Franke, Bledsoe, and Duff: (9)
The following Commissioners voted **Nay: (0)**
The following Commissioner was **Absent: Meers: (1)**
Thereupon the Chairman declared the motion **Passed: (9, 0, 1)**
Exhibit 020711-K

(22) **Budget Director, Tracy Blair,** requested that records reflect that the Summary
Summary Financial Statements for the month of January 2011 have been distributed.
Financial Statements Distributed

Loudon County Commissioner, David Meers, requested consideration and possible action on the following items:

(23) 1. Consideration of Approving Forwarding a Proclamation to our
Request Legislators in Nashville Requesting Approval for Counties to Elect their
Legislators Director of Schools versus Appointment.
Approve **Chairman Bledsoe** spoke on behalf of **Commissioner Meers.**
Allowing A **motion** was made by **Commissioner Shaver** with a second by **Commissioner**
Election **Maples** to approve this request.
Of Schools **Commissioners Yarbrough and Miller** made comments and stated that they would
Director vote against this proposal.
Failed Upon roll call vote the following Commissioners voted **Aye: Maples, Shaver,**
Bledsoe, and Duff: (4)
The following Commissioners voted **Nay: Harrelson, Miller, Jenkins, Franke, and**
Yarbrough: (5)
The following Commissioner was **Absent: Meers: (1)**
Thereupon the Chairman declared the motion **Failed: (4, 5, 1)**

(24) 2. Election of Bonds and Notaries
Notaries **Commissioner Maples** made a **motion** with a second by **Commissioner Jenkins** to
Approved approve the following **Notaries: Janice F. Tucker; T. A. Leach; Ann C. Pass; Betty**
Collier; Judith Hinson; Brenda Ann Bright; William T. Custead; Catherine Joann
Akins; Mary Ellen Nichols; Glenn A. McNish, Sr.; Steve Oran; and Andy Hamilton.
Upon voice vote the motion **Passed** unanimously.
Exhibit 020711-L

(25)
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 came forward to speak about what he considered a violation of procedural rules at the last Commission Workshop Meeting when **Commissioner Yarbrough** began a discussion regarding the Fire Study Group without asking to have the topic placed on the Agenda when given the opportunity to do so.

Commissioner Yarbrough clarified her action by responding that she had asked a question of **Mayor Herron** which prompted the discussion that followed and she thanked **Mr. Truitt** for his comments.

Commissioner Shaver spoke in rebuttal to **Commissioner Yarbrough** and **Commissioner Duff's** comments regarding embarrassment for the Commission's letter of inquiry to the Director of Schools' on justifying spending in the School Operating Fund and **Commissioner Yarbrough's** accusations directed toward him and **Commissioner Miller** alleging that they used information not previously available to all the Commissioners. He provided information on his data regarding where and when it had been available and defended **Commissioner Miller's** actions as well.

Commissioner Yarbrough responded that she was referring to the handout information sheet that **Commissioner Miller** provided immediately prior to this meeting.

Commissioner Duff announced that he had provided copies of the most recent TCCA News Bulletins to each of the Commissioners and was available to answer any questions or address any concerns they may have.

Commissioner Franke suggested that more Commissioners use the Commissioner's On-line Forum, also available to the public, to discuss topics and share information to help insure that all Commissioners have the same information at the same time.

Commissioner Maples agreed with **Commissioner Shaver's** comments above and stated that she appreciates **Commissioner Miller's** efforts in exploring options for funding and inquiring about spending in an effort to use the taxpayer's money wisely and to try to minimize tax increases as much as possible while still providing a good education for our children.

Commissioner Duff asked **Commissioner Miller** if the information he provided tonight was not the same information he had previously provided in his "Finance 101" presentation and **Commissioner Miller** responded that he wasn't sure.

(26)
Mayor's
Comments:

Mayor Herron announced that Jennifer Estes had dropped off copies of the E911 Year End Audit and that she had one hardcopy but that she had copies on disk for all the Commissioners.

Mayor Herron provided a copy of the newspaper announcement of the recent Budget Committee Workshop Called Meeting to **Pat Hunter** who spoke at last month's meeting to complain that the meeting had not been announced in the newspaper.

Ms. Hunter responded detailing the events leading up to her complaint at the meeting and reminding that Called Meetings must be announced in accordance with the regulations to make them legal.

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

(27)
Adjournment

There being no further business, a **motion** being duly made and seconded, the February 7, 2011 County Commission Meeting stood adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

COUNTY CLERK

COUNTY MAYOR