

GILES COUNTY LEGISLATIVE BODY, MARCH 17, 2025

BE IT REMEMBERED AT THE Regular Session of the Giles County Legislative Body, begun and held on the 17th day of March, 2025, at the Courthouse in Pulaski, Tennessee, present and presiding the Honorable Graham Stowe, Chairman, and the following Board of Commissioners, to-wit:

1. Erin Curry, James Lathrop, Joyce Woodard
2. Terry Jones, David Wamble, Tracy Wilburn
3. David Adams, Annelle Guthrie, Tim Risner
4. Matthew Hopkins, Roger Reedy, Caleb Savage
5. Brad Butler, Gayle Jones, Matt Rubelsky
6. Evan Baddour, Rose Brown
7. Shelly Goolsby, Judy Pruett, Carman Brown

Graham Stowe, Chairman, Carol H. Wade, County Clerk, Joe Purvis, Giles County Sheriff, Chief Deputy Michael Woodard, Officer Jeremy Mitchell, and Chris Williams, County Attorney, when the following proceedings were had, to-wit:

INVOCATION

The invocation was given by Fourth District County Commissioner Roger Reedy.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America was led by Fourth District County Commissioner Roger Reedy.

AGENDA CONCURRENCE

County Executive Graham Stowe asked if there were any corrections or additions to the agenda for said meeting. Having none, he thereupon, declared said agenda confirmed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES February 18, 2025, Regular Session

Upon motion of Matthew Hopkins and seconded by Matt Rubelsky, it was ordered by the Court that said minutes of the February 18, 2025, Regular Session of the Giles County Legislative Body be accepted, filed, and approved, which said motion was put to the voice vote of the Court and carried. All present voted Aye.

The County Executive, thereupon, declared motion carried and said minutes approved as filed.

ADDRESS COMMISSION

William Bradford, United Communications

County Executive Graham Stowe introduced Mr. William Bradford of United Communications, who, along with his team have been working on bringing broadband to the northern part of the county, for customers of the Duck River Electric Membership Corporation.

Mr. Bradford stated that they will start taking orders for fiber internet service so customers will be hooked up and begin receiving service in April. United Communications is scheduled to be completely done with construction by this August.

EDC Director Philip Reese

March 2025 DIRECTOR REPORT INFO Unemployment Rates

| | JANUARY 2025 | DECEMBER 2024 (REV) Rates |
|--------------|--------------|---------------------------|
| Giles County | 4.4* | 4.2 |
| Lincoln | 3.8 | 3.5 |
| Lawrence | 4.3 | 4.0 |
| Marshall | 3.6 | 3.5 |
| Maury | 3.3 | 3.1 |
| State | 3.7 | 3.7 |
| US | 4.0 | 4.1 |

Investigating this figure with the TN DOL. The underlying calculation shows the Giles County labor force dropped from ~14,750 in 2024 down to ~13,000, or 12%. While we do normally see annual revisions in January, it is generally +/- 500.

Project Updates:

MARCH RFIs

Project Palm – a metal forming, plastics processing and tool making company. 50 jobs, \$40M Capital Investment. Need 10–15-acre site to build 175,000 sf building, rail preferred. – Submitted Mines Road property.

Project Factory2Works – zinc powered battery energy storage solution provider. 600 jobs, Total \$250M capital Investment, 15+acres and 300,000+ sf building. 8-12 MW - Did not submit

Project Paula - A food processing company. \$235M investment; 201 jobs. Looking for a location near I-40 east of Nashville. – Did not submit

Site Development Grant Update – Bids were opened on 3/13/25. We received 3 bids ranging from ~\$497K to \$790K. The bids are being reviewed by the project engineer to ensure they are in order. We will then make a recommendation to the state for approval.

Housing Study – We received the completed housing study, which concluded we need 727 new housing units, including 195 for rent, over the next 5 years: 267 for sale in the \$200K to \$300K range. 208 for sale in the \$300K to \$400K range. Data utilized included housing ownership profiles and household income profiles, including current state as well as expected future growth. A community survey was also conducted and was completed by 307 respondents, including 57 UTS students.

Recreational Development in Dan Speer IPS – Savannah Jenkins, Public Health Educator at the Giles County Health Department, made us aware of the Healthy Built Environment Grant from TN Department of Health. It can provide Phase 1 funding up to \$50K for assessment and planning and then Phase 2 funding of up to \$80K for design and construction of a healthy space. The IDB has authorized me to submit a letter of intent by April 15. The completion of an Active Living Workshop is part of the scoring process, and we have missed the window for this round; however, it is only 10% of the overall score.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments at said meeting of the Giles County Legislative Body.

ELECTIONS

NOTARIES PUBLIC AT LARGE

Upon motion of Tracy Wilburn and seconded by Terry Jones, it was ordered by the Court that the following names and persons be nominated as Notaries Public at Large for Giles County, Tennessee: (Re-Elections) Nikki Ree Crews, Vickie Ann Edgmon, Mae H. Fuller Daniel E. Haney, Kelly Richardson, Barry Taylor, which said motion was put to the voice vote of the Court and carried.

The County Executive, thereupon, declared motion carried and Notaries Public at Large elected.

E911 BOARD: Jeff Bain appointed

Upon motion of Evan Baddour and seconded by Rose Brown, it was ordered by the Court that the appointment of Jeff Bain to complete Barry Taylor's term on the E911 Board until November 2028, be approved, which said motion was put to the voice vote of the Court and carried.

The County Executive, thereupon, declared motion carried and Jeff Bain to serve on the E911 Board until November 2028.

EQUALIZATION BOARD: David Bolden, Northern Division, and Paul Allen, Southern Division

Upon nomination of David Bolden, Northern Division, and Paul Allen, Southern Division by Tracy Wilburn and seconded by Roger Reedy, it was ordered by the Court that said persons be elected to serve on said Equalization Board for two year terms, which said motion was put to the voice vote of the Court and carried.

The County Executive, thereupon, declared motion approved and David Bolden, Northern Division, and Paul Allen, Southern Division elected to serve two year terms on the Equalization Board.

REPORTS

- 1. Giles County Finance Director (January, 2025) Which Includes: Giles County General Fund, Drug, Highway, School, Federal, Food Service, Debt Service, Capital Projects, Highway Capital Projects, Educational Capital Projects, Education Capital #2, And Other Capital Projects**
- 2. Financial Management Policies and Procedures update, on file in County Clerk's office**

Upon motion of David Wamble and seconded by Gayle Jones, it was ordered by the Court that Report 1 be approved, which said motion was put to the voice vote of the Court and carried.

The County Executive, thereupon, declared Report 1, Giles County Finance Director for January 2025 approved.

Upon motion of Matthew Hopkins and seconded by Matt Rubelsky, it was ordered by the Court that Report 2 be approved, which said motion was put to the voice vote of the Court and carried.

The County Executive, thereupon, declared motion carried and said Report 2, Financial Management Policies and Procedures update approved.

AMENDMENT RESOLUTION 2025-13**Authorizing the amendment of the 2024-2025 Budget,
County General Fund 101**

Upon motion of Shelly Goolsby and seconded by Rose Brown, it was ordered by the Court that said amendment resolution be approved, which said motion was put to the voice vote of the Court and carried. All present voted Aye.

The County Executive, thereupon, declared motion carried and said amendment resolution approved.

AMENDMENT RESOLUTION 2025-14**Authorizing the amendment of the 2024-2025 Budget,
General Purpose School Fund 141**

Upon motion of Judy Pruett and seconded by Evan Baddour, it was ordered by the Court that said amendment resolution be approved.

Matthew Hopkins questioned the SPARC Grant Payback.

Finance Director Beth Moore-Sumners addresses Commission

Finance Director Beth Moore-Sumners addressed the Commission due to the Director of Schools being out of town, concerning said refund. She stated that the county had received the funds, however, it was not fully executed before the term of the grant expired so the state has recalled those funds. Motion on the floor was put to the voice vote of the Court and carried. Matthew Hopkins voted No. All others present voted Aye.

The County Executive, thereupon, declared motion carried and said amendment resolution adopted.

RESOLUTION 2025-15**Approving the write-off of \$138,834.85 of uncollected taxes from the
books of the Giles County Trustee**

County Executive Graham Stowe provided the following explanation of said Resolution:

- "Resolution 2025-15 is a write-off of uncollected taxes from the Trustee's office. Mr. Risner will correct me if I'm wrong, but my understanding is that uncollected taxes that are over 10-years past due are considered by statute as uncollectible, and therefore must be written off. The write off must be documented by a resolution of the commission. The resolution is sponsored by the Budget Chair, Mr. Rubelsky. The floor is open for a motion."

Upon motion of Matt Rubelsky and seconded by Matthew Hopkins, it was ordered by the Court that said resolution be adopted.

Trustee Tony Risner addresses Commission

Trustee Tony Risner explained that he had gone back in the office books from 1995 to 2011 researching the uncollectable taxes for those years. He stated that most were personal property taxes which were small amounts individually. In order to "write off" these amounts the Commission must give it's approval. Risner added that he plans to make this an annual report for the uncollectable taxes.

Said motion on the floor was put to the voice vote of the Court and carried. All present voted Aye.

The County Executive, thereupon, declared motion carried and said resolution approved.

RESOLUTION 2025-16

Committing to fund capital projects

County Executive Graham Stowe provided the following explanation of said Resolution:

- "Resolution 2025-16 also needs an introduction. Over several months the commission has received a number of briefings on several capital projects. Each of these projects has a preliminary scope of work and a rough estimate, and each has previously received unanimous committee approval. But when lumped together these projects amount to over \$20M, which is why in January the Budget Committee started looking at funding these projects, and began discussing the possibility of a wheel tax as preferable to a property tax increase. It was during that meeting that commission support for some of the projects started to waiver. And as I've mentioned previously, I need concrete direction from the commission. The job of the County Executive is to execute what the commission funds, and conversely, to disregard what the commission doesn't fund. So that's the purpose of this resolution - to finalize and document the commission's commitment - or lack of commitment - to move these projects forward. After this decision is made we can get back to the work of deliberating how they will be funded.
- One more introductory comment - the resolution is broken down into 4 sections, with each project getting a separate vote. For each project there are 2 possible outcomes ... a yes vote is to fund the project exactly as it was presented in committee ... a no vote is to not fund the project as it was presented. If a majority of the commission votes "no" on any project, I'll follow up with another question, asking the commission whether you want a down-voted project to return to committee for more consideration.
- Are there any questions before I open the floor for a motion?
- The resolution is sponsored by Dr. Lathrop, and the floor is open for a motion."

1. Courthouse Phase I

Upon motion of Erin Curry and seconded by Judy Pruett, it was ordered by the Court that the appropriation for Courthouse Phase I be funded. Upon motion of David Wamble and seconded by Evan Baddour, it was ordered by the Court that said motion be amended to have no funds spent on engineering for geothermal systems until or unless grant funds are received, which said motion was put to the roll call vote of the Court, the detailed results were as follows, to-wit:

Aye: Terry Jones, David Wamble, Tracy Wilburn, Annelle Guthrie, Caleb Savage, Gayle Jones, Evan Baddour, Shelly Goolsby

No: Erin Curry, James Lathrop, Joyce Woodard, David Adams, Tim Risner, Matthew Hopkins, Roger Reedy, Brad Butler, Matt Rubelsky, Rose Brown, Judy Pruett, Carman Brown

Absent: Joseph Sutton

The County Executive, thereupon, declared motion failed for lack of a majority.

Additional discussion followed, and upon motion of Gayle Jones and seconded by Terry Jones, it was ordered by the Court that the scope be confined solely to structural and masonry repair, which said motion was put to the roll call vote of the Court, the detailed results were as follows, to-wit:

Aye: Terry Jones, Tracy Wilburn, David Adams, Annelle Guthrie, Tim Risner, Caleb Savage, Gayle Jones

No: Erin Curry, James Lathrop, Joyce Woodard, David Wamble, Matthew Hopkins, Roger Reedy, Brad Butler, Matt Rubelsky, Evan Baddour, Rose Brown, Shelly Goolsby, Judy Pruett, Carman Brown

Motion and second on the floor of Curry and Pruett was put to the roll call vote of the Court, the detailed results were as follows, to-wit:

Aye: Erin Curry, James Lathrop, Joyce Woodard, David Wamble, Matthew Hopkins, Roger Reedy, Caleb Savage, Brad Butler, Matt Rubelsky, Evan Baddour, Rose Brown, Shelly Goolsby, Judy Pruett, Carman Brown

No: Terry Jones, Tracy Wilburn, David Adams, Annelle Guthrie, Tim Risner, Gayle Jones

The County Executive, thereupon, declared motion carried and the appropriation for Courthouse Phase I approved.

2. Ambulance Building

Upon motion of Evan Baddour and seconded by Matt Rubelsky, it was ordered by the Court that funding for the Ambulance Building be approved. Upon motion of Terry Jones and seconded by Gayle Jones, it was ordered by the Court that said appropriation be amended to two million dollars. Discussion followed among the Court. Motion on the floor was put to the roll call vote of the Court, the detailed results were as follows, to-wit:

Aye: Terry Jones, Tracy Wilburn, David Adams, Tim Risner, Gayle Jones

No: Erin Curry, James Lathrop, Joyce Woodard, David Wamble, Annelle Guthrie, Matthew Hopkins, Roger Reedy, Caleb Savage, Brad Butler, Matt Rubelsky, Evan Baddour, Rose Brown, Shelly Goolsby, Judy Pruett, Carman Brown

The County Executive, thereupon, declared motion failed for lack of a majority.

Motion on the floor of Baddour and Rubelsky to approve funding for the ambulance building was put to the roll call vote of the Court, the detailed results were as follows, to-wit:

Aye: Erin Curry, James Lathrop, Joyce Woodard, Roger Reedy, Brad Butler, Matt Rubelsky, Evan Baddour, Rose Brown, Judy Pruett

No: Terry Jones, David Wamble, Tracy Wilburn, David Adams, Annelle Guthrie, Tim Risner, Matthew Hopkins, Caleb Savage, Gayle Jones, Shelly Goolsby, Carman Brown

The County Executive, thereupon, declared motion failed for lack of a majority.

Upon motion of Shelly Goolsby and seconded by Rose Brown, it was ordered by the Court that said appropriation request be sent back to the Building Committee for additional study, which said motion was put to the voice vote of the Court and carried. All present voted Aye.

The County Executive, thereupon, declared motion carried and said appropriation request to be sent back to the Building Committee for additional study.

3. Minor Hill Ambulance Satellite Station

Upon motion of Caleb Savage and seconded by Matt Rubelsky, it was ordered by the Court that said appropriation request be sent back to the Building Committee for additional study, which said motion was put to the voice vote of the Court and carried. All present voted Aye.

The County Executive, thereupon, declared motion carried and said appropriation request to be sent back to the Building Committee for additional study.

4. County wide water distribution study

Upon motion of Shelly Goolsby and seconded by Matt Rubelsky, it was ordered by the Court that funding be approved for a county wide water distribution study. Discussion followed among members of the Court. Upon motion of Tracy Wilburn and seconded by Tim Risner, it was ordered by the Court that said motion be amended to convene a meeting of the Public Service committee and invite directors of the water districts to attend and explain their needs to determine the need for said study, which said motion was put to the roll call vote of the Court, the detailed results were as follows, to-wit:

Aye: Erin Curry, James Lathrop, Joyce Woodard, Terry Jones, David Wamble, Tracy Wilburn, David Adams, Annelle Guthrie, Matthew Hopkins, Roger Reedy, Caleb Savage, Brad Butler, Gayle Jones, Rose Brown, Carman Brown

No: Matt Rubelsky, Evan Baddour, Shelly Goolsby, Judy Pruett

The County Executive, thereupon, declared motion carried and a Public Service Committee meeting to be called and invitations to the water districts directors be provided.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business considered at said meeting of the Giles County Legislative Body.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business considered at said meeting of the Giles County Legislative Body.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

ADJOURNMENT

With no other business on the agenda, upon motion of Caleb Savage and seconded by Carman Brown, it was ordered by the Court that said March 17, 2025 meeting of the Giles County Legislative Body be adjourned at 11:10 AM.