

BLEDSON COUNTY COMMISSION, SPECIAL CALLED SESSION, AUGUST 21, 2023

THE BLEDSON COUNTY COMMISSION MET IN A SPECIAL CALLED SESSION AUGUST 21, 2023 AT 7:00 P.M. IN THE HONORABLE JUDGE EDWARD H. SAPP COURTROOM. PRESENT AND PRESIDING WERE COMMISSION CHAIRMAN JOHNNY M. SWAFFORD, COUNTY MAYOR GREGG RIDLEY, COUNTY CLERK GENESE SAPP, COUNTY ATTORNEY HOWARD UPCHURCH AND DEPUTIES THOMAS WATSON AND PEYTON WATSON.

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS PRESENT WERE TIM CAMPBELL, HEATH HUDSON, TANYA ROBERSON, RONNIE SAPP, ROGER SIMMONS, PERRY SWAFFORD, JUNIOR L. HANKINS, RUTH BURTON, ROBERT REECE, SHAWNA FARMER, ROY C. DEBORD AND ANDREW SWAFFORD.

THE FOLLOWING BUSINESS WAS CONDUCTED:

ONLY TWO ITEMS OF BUSINESS WERE ON THE MEETING AGENDA. BOTH CONCERNED CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES.

THE FIRST ITEM ON THE AGENDA WAS ACTION ON HUMAN SEWAGE WASTE BEING TRANSPORTED FROM THE CITY OF CHATTANOOGA TO BLEDSON COUNTY. AFTER MUCH DISCUSSION AND COMMENTS FOR AND AGAINST, A MOTION TO TABLE ANY ACTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER SHAWNA FARMER AND SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER TIM CAMPBELL. THIS MOTION FAILED BY A SIX YEAS 7 NAYS VOTE. THE FLOOR WAS RE-OPENED FOR MORE DISCUSSION AND COMMENTS BY CHAIRMAN JOHNNY SWAFFORD. ANOTHER MOTION WAS MADE TO TABLE ANY ACTION BY COMMISSIONER TIM CAMPBELL AND SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER SHAWNA FARMER. THIS MOTION FAILED BY A 5 YEAS AND 8 NAYS VOTE. AS BEFORE, CHAIRMAN JOHNNY SWAFFORD RE-OPENED THE FLOOR FOR MORE DISCUSSION AND COMMENTS. AFTER A LENGTHY PERIOD, COMMISSIONER HEATH HUDSON MADE A MOTION TO HAVE THE COUNTY ATTORNEY DRAW A RESOLUTION REQUEST TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FOR A PRIVATE ACT REFERENDUM CONCERNING HUMAN SEWAGE WASTE TO BE A CLASS A EQ AND ALLOW THE CITIZENS OF BLEDSON COUNTY TO VOTE ON USAGE IN BLEDSON COUNTY. THIS MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER ROBERT REECE AND PASSED BY A 12 YEAS VOTE.

THE SECOND ITEM ON THE AGENDA WAS ACTION ON WILSON ROAD WEST. THIS ITEM ALSO HAD MUCH DISCUSSION AND COMMENTS.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER ROBERT REECE AND SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER TANYA ROBERSON TO RE-ESTABLISH WILSON ROAD WEST TO .75M IN LENGTH, WAS AMENDED TO VERIFY WILSON ROAD WEST TO .75M LENGTH WITH A MOTION MADE BY COMMISSIONER ROBERT REECE AND SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER RUTH BURTON WHICH PASSED BY A 12 YEAS VOTE. THE ORIGINAL MOTION, AS AMENDED, PASSED BY A 12 YEAS VOTE. COMMISSIONER ANDREW SWAFFORD ABSTAINED ON BOTH VOTES.

DURING THE DISCUSSION AND COMMENTS ON THIS SUBJECT, IT BECAME KNOWN THAT A BUILDING

WAS ON WILSON ROAD WEST AND ATTORNEY HOWARD UPCHURCH WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO REPRESENT BLEDSOE COUNTY BECAUSE OF THE INVOLVED PARTIES.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER ROBERT REECE AND SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER SHAWNA FARMER TO HIRE AN ATTORNEY TO REPRESENT BLEDSOE COUNTY AND PURSUE THE REMOVAL OF AN OBSTRUCTION ON WILSON ROAD WEST SINCE COUNTY ATTORNEY HOWARD UPCHURCH WILL HAVE A CONFLICT PASSED BY A 12 YEA VOTE WITH COMMISSIONER ANDREW SWAFFORD ABSTAINING.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER RONNIE SAPP AND SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER HEATH HUDSON, THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED BY A VOICE VOTE.