

**RECONVENED SESSION OF JULY 31, 2007 MEETING
WEAKLEY COUNTY LEGISLATIVE BODY MEETING
AUGUST 23, 2007**

The Weakley County Legislative Body met in Reconvened Session on August 23, 2007 at 5:30 p.m. in the Weakley County Commission Room at the Weakley County Courthouse. Chairman Dick Phebus called the recessed meeting back to order.

County Clerk Scarbrough called the Roll with 17 members present, 1 absent, Commissioner John Salmon.

Chairman Phebus announced that the Tennessee County Commission Annual Road Show would be held at Paris Landing on August 28, 2007 at 6:30 p.m. David Connor, the Executive Director will be there. Chairman Phebus then asked if anyone would be attending the event. As of this meeting six Weakley County Commissioners will be attending and if others decided to they should contact Weakley County Mayor Houston Patrick.

NEW BUSINESS:

RESOLUTION NO. 2008-05: A resolution to authorize the construction of a building for the use of the Weakley County Election Commission, the State Department of Labor and Workforce Development, and to provide space for records storage in and for Weakley County.

Chairman Phebus asked for a report from the HEED Committee. Commissioner Westbrook gave the report, 4 for and 2 against. Chairman Phebus asked for a motion to place this resolution, 2008-05, on the table. Commissioner Owen placed the motion and Commissioner Jones placed a second to the motion. Discussion was called.

Chairman Phebus recognized Commissioner Medling. Commissioner Medling opened by reading a letter to the Commissioners from Larry Jolley stating that he had a 2500 sq. ft. building at 811 Morrow St. that he was willing to renovate to accommodate the Department of Labor and Workforce Development. He also brought up that there was a 6000 sq. ft. building on 10.6 acres on Hwy 22, formally known as Miss Kitty's for sale for \$290,000. These were 2 alternatives of buildings that were already here, but needed renovations. Commissioner Medling wanted to know how much taxes were going to have to go up to pay for a new building to be constructed.

Chairman Phebus recognized Commissioner Westbrook. He said he would like to respond to all points that had been brought up by Commissioner Medling. At the time that Mr. Steven Wright had spoken with Mr. Jolley about his location, he was not interested in making renovations to the 811 Morrow St. building. Mr. Wright stated

that if renovations weren't done on the building, it would be unsuitable for this usage. They were unaware that Mr. Jolley had changed his mind about renovating. The building on Hwy 22, formerly known as Miss Kitty's, was built as a bar. It would cost too much to renovate and he would be totally opposed to paying \$290,000 for this property or another building not suitable for the county's needs. As to the question of cost to taxpayers, Commissioner Westbrook commented that funds would be paid back to the county starting in 2011 from money that was advanced to the cities of Dresden, Gleason, Martin and Sharon. Beginning in 2011, the County will be repaid around \$90,600 per year for a total of \$453,000 over a five-year period from economic development dues advanced to the above cities to be repaid when the jail debt is paid. Commissioner Westbrook commented that the project made no difference to him, and that he just wanted to be fair and accurate.

Commissioner McAlpin commented that several months ago he had said not to tear down the old Election Commission building and then come back asking for \$500,000. He said he was against tearing down the building before they knew what they were going to do to replace it. He said he was assured at that time that we wouldn't come back and ask for \$500,000, but now we're asking for \$800,000. Chairman Phebus said that the building was torn down because it was unsuitable for the occupants.

Commissioner Stewart of Greenfield stated that based on the estimated cost of the building and the square footage to be utilized by the Election Commission; it would cost approximately \$400,000 to build the Election Commission part of the building. He thought the project might be reduced in scale and built for a lot less.

Commissioner Farmer stated that he would not be able to vote in favor of this resolution.

Chairman Phebus after hearing the discussions from the other commissioners that were against the resolution for the building commented, that he didn't know if the resolution would pass or not. It might fail, but the HEED Committee had been meeting on this subject for two years. Each time they met every commissioner and any other interested parties were invited to come to the meetings. At those meetings, none of these issues brought up tonight, were brought up before. It was time to get this done.

Commissioner Barner commented if we keep on, the Dept of Workforce and Development would go somewhere else. He stated that the commissioners needed to vote and build the building and be done with it.

Commissioner Vincent asked if the resolution passed, how long would it take before construction could get underway on the building. Chairman Phebus said that it would take approximately six weeks to get bids back and for construction to occur. It could possibly be started by November. Commissioner Vincent said he didn't think there was

anyway to get the building built before the Elections. Chairman Phebus said anything that was done tonight wouldn't get the Election Commission situated before early voting started.

Commissioner Sinclair asked for voting of Finance Way and Means Committee, five ayes and one opposed, and of the HEED Committee, four ayes and two opposed.

Commissioner Taylor stated that if in the future the state decided not to renew the lease, the county would be able to utilize the space for other purposes, such as storage space that is badly needed for the Court House records that they are required to maintain, some indefinitely. Some counties are moving out of their courthouse because they are not big enough for today's needs. Commissioner Sinclair agreed to the fact that some offices have already had to move out of our courthouse in the last five years.

Commissioner Owen called for the question. Chairman Phebus asked Weakley County Clerk Pat Scarbrough to call the Roll for the Resolution 2008-05. The motion was carried with a vote of ten ayes, seven opposed and one absent.

RESOLUTION NO. 2008-06: A resolution of Weakley County, Tennessee, authorizing the issuance of interest bearing general obligation capital outlay notes, series 2007, in an amount not to exceed \$800,000 and providing for the payment of said notes.

Chairman Phebus asked for a motion to place the resolution on the floor. Commissioner Jones made the motion and Commissioner Westbrook placed a second to the motion.

Discussion was called. There was none. County Clerk, Pat Scarbrough, called the Roll for a vote of 13 ayes and 4 opposed with 1 absent. She then asked if anyone wanted to change his or her vote. Commissioner Medling changed his vote to No. The final vote was 12 ayes, 5 opposed with 1 absent. The motion carried.

MISCELLANEOUS STATEMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Chairman Phebus asked for any statements or announcements.

Commissioner Buckley said that Veteran Affairs Officer, Keith Dublin, had been recognized on August 11, 2007 by Washington Veteran Affairs as a credited representative of their organization. He is to be commended for his preparation,

presentation and prosecution of claims on behalf of the Veterans of Weakley County. This announcement was followed by applause.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Chairman Phebus announced that the next regular meeting of the Weakley County Commission would be September 17, 2007 at 5:30 p.m. at the Weakley County Courthouse. Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Vincent and seconded by Commissioner Stewart.

ATTEST:

Pat Scarbrough, County Clerk