

THE SPECIAL CALL SESSION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSION
OF
UNICOI COUNTY, TENNESSEE
SEPTEMBER 10, 2012

BE IT REMEMBERED that the Unicoi County Board of Commissioners met in Special Call Session at the Unicoi County Court House on Monday, September 10 2012, at 6:00 p.m. Present and Presiding, the Honorable Sue Jean Wilson, Chairman, the Honorable Greg Lynch, County Mayor, the Honorable Mitzi Bowen, County Clerk, Doug Shults, County Attorney, and the following Commissioners:

ROLL CALL: Esq. Dwight Bennett, "Yes", Esq. Doug Bowman, absent, Esq. Kenneth Garland, "Yes", Esq. Mickey Hatcher, "Yes", Esq. Bill Hensley, absent, Esq. James Howell, "Yes", Esq. Loren Thomas, "Yes", Esq. Gene Wilson, "Yes", Esq. Sue Jean Wilson, "Yes".

7- Present

2- Absent

Esq. Loren Thomas opened the meeting with Prayer and the Pledge to the Flag was led by Esq. Dwight Bennett.

Agenda Item #4

Recognize Visitors and Citizens

Esq. Sue Jean Wilson stated that Esq. Bill Hensley was unable to attend the meeting due to a medical procedure.

None

Agenda Item #5

Consider Resolution Authorizing a Motor Vehicle Tax as a Condition Precedent to the Operation of a Motor Vehicle Within the County in the amount of \$ (unknown amount) and Directing the County Election Commission to Call an Election for Purposes of Approving or Rejection said Resolution

Esq. Dwight Bennett asked if there needed to be one motion made for the wheel tax and the amount. Esq. Sue Jean Wilson stated there would be two separate motions made, to put it on the ballot and then the amount.

Motion made by Esq. Dwight Bennett, said motion seconded by Esq. Loren Thomas to consider Resolution authorizing a motor vehicle tax as a condition precedent to the operation of a motor vehicle within the county and directing the County Election Commission to call an election for purposes of approving or rejection of said resolution. Esq. Gene Wilson stated he has had a lot of calls today, people don't want this. Esq. Dwight Bennett stated it should be put on the ballot for people to vote on. Esq. Loren Thomas stated he has done a lot of research on wheel tax, and it's not for everybody. Esq. Loren Thomas also stated that overall it would help the property owners and would give them a little bit of a break next year. A \$25.00 wheel tax would bring in approximately \$450,000.00, which would allow an offset in property tax of about 15 cents next year, according to Esq. Loren Thomas. Esq. Loren Thomas added if you own \$150,000.00 or more in property you would benefit from this, if not then it will cost you more. Esq.

James Howell stated he thought it shouldn't be passed if there isn't a figure of what it will bring in. Esq. Sue Jean Wilson stated what is being decided is whether or not to put it on the ballot so the people can decide if they want one or not. Esq. Mickey Hatcher stated that's why he has decided to vote for it, to allow the people to vote on it. Esq. Mickey Hatcher added this is the cheapest way it can be done, if it is done in the middle of the year a separate election would have to be set up and would cost quite a bit of money. County Attorney Doug Shults stated that just for clarification the commission does need to set an amount. Esq. Mickey Hatcher stated that the resolution has the amount in it. Mr. Shults stated that the commission could change anything in the resolution. Mr. Shults added \$25.00 to the Resolution because that is what he was told had been discussed in the finance meeting. Esq. Loren Thomas asked if there was ever an increase would it be voted on by the public. Mr. Shults stated that in the research he has done, he has been unable to find any specifications on this, from what other counties are doing is submitting it to the public on increases. Mr. Shults also stated he believes this is the only appropriate, safe way to do it. Esq. Sue Jean Wilson stated the amount is \$25.00 that goes in the blank. Esq. Loren Thomas the commission has worked very hard on the budget, that the wheel tax would not just be to have more money to spend next year, and it could safely decrease the property tax by 15 cents next year. Esq. Loren Thomas stated it's not asking people to pay more in taxes; it's taking the place of property taxes. Esq. Mickey Hatcher called for question.

5-Yes

2-No (Esq. Kenneth Garland and Esq. Gene Wilson)

2-Absent

Motion approved.

Agenda Item #6

Motion for Adjournment

Motion made by Esq. Dwight Bennett, said motion seconded by Esq. Loren Thomas to adjourn the Special Call Meeting of September 10, 2012.

GREG LYNCH, COUNTY MAYOR

MITZI BOWEN, COUNTY CLERK

SUE JEAN WILSON, CHAIRMAN