

Denny Wayne Robinson  
County Executive

Brooke Luna  
Executive Assistant



1 East Bockman Way, Rm 205  
Sparta, Tennessee 38583  
P 931.836.3203  
F 931.836.3204

[executive@whitecountyttn.gov](mailto:executive@whitecountyttn.gov)

**WHITE COUNTY, TENNESSEE**  
Office of County Executive

**Steering Committee A**

Notice: **Steering Committee A** will meet on **Tuesday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2022 at 5:30 p.m.**  
in the Executive Conference Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the White County Courthouse.

**FY 2022/2023 Steering Committee A members include, Commissioners**

**TK Austin, Chair**  
**Lanny Selby**  
**Larry Daniels**

**Cain Rogers**  
**Thomas Margeson**

**Becky Golden**  
**Derrick Hutchings**

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**Agenda**

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- 1. Call to order**
- 2. Prayer**
- 3. Roll Call**
- 4. Approval of Report from December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022 Steering A Meeting**
- 5. Discussion on Parks & Rec Joint Program with the City of Sparta**
- 6. Old Business**
- 7. New Business**
- 8. Calendar Update**
  - **Monday, January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 6pm – Full Court**
  - **Tuesday, February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023 - next Steering Committee A Meeting**
- 9. Adjourn**

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## **Steering A Committee Meeting**

Date: 12/05/2022

Time: 5:30pm

Location: White County Courthouse

Recorded by: K. England

The White County Steering Committee A met on Monday, December 5, 2022 at the White County Courthouse. **Members of Committee A, for 2022/2023 include, White County Commissioners T.K. Austin, Cain Rogers, Becky Golden, Lanny Selby, Thomas Margeson, Derrick Hutchings, and Larry Daniels.**

### **Agenda item # 1 - #3; Call to Order – Roll Call – Prayer:**

Chairman Austin called the meeting of White County Steering A to order and requested roll call of members present. K. England, Recorder called the roll of members in attendance. Members present were Commissioners **Cain Rogers, Lanny Selby, Becky Golden, Derrick Hutchings and Lanny Selby. Commissioner Thomas Margeson was absent.**

Also present were Executive Denny Wayne Robinson, Chad Marcum, WC Finance Director, Commissioners Roger Mason, Chris Brewington, Robert McCormick and several White County citizens.

There being a quorum present, Chairman Austin welcomed everyone, followed by opening prayer, led by Commissioner Lanny Selby.

### **Agenda item # 4 - Approval of Minutes from October 3, 2022 Steering A meeting.**

Chairman Austin asked for review and approval of the Report from the November 7, 2022 Steering A meeting. Commissioner Rogers made a motion to approve the Report as presented, the motion was seconded by Commissioner Selby, without opposition, the motion was approved.

### **Agenda item # 5 – Discussion on Speed Limit and Length of Austin Rd:**

Before discussion on speed limit, Executive Robinson asked to discuss a discrepancy between the official county road list and E911 addresses. While researching information on Austin Road speed limit change it was discovered that White County's Road List had Austin Road shorter and Browntown Road longer than E911 and E911 addressing. After discussion it was determined that it would be less burdensome on the residents to change the official lengths on the road list rather than having E911 and residents change their addresses. Commissioners Rogers made a motion to shorten Browntown Road by 0.32 miles and extend Austin Road by 0.32 miles, contingent upon passage by the White County Planning Commission; motion was seconded by Commissioner Hutchings; with none opposed the motion was approved.

Additionally, a request was made to reduce the speed limit on Austin Rd, from 45mph to 35mph. Commissioner Goff stated that he and Road Superintendent, Jerry Sawyer went to survey the area and determined that a reduced speed limit would benefit residents in that area. A motion to

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reduce the speed limit contingent upon the Planning Committee's decision to lengthen the road by .32 mile was made by Commissioner Hutchings, seconded by Commissioner Daniels; with none opposed the motion was approved.

### **Agenda item # 6 – Old Business:**

Commissioner Hutchings asked for an update on hiring a part-time Parks & Rec employee. Executive Robinson recommended that the discussion be tabled until the Budget Committee met to finalize the 2023-2024 budget. Members of the Budget Committee will meet regularly through March – April 2023 for budgetary discussions. No further discussion or action was taken.

Another item of Old Business was brought before the committee by Executive Robinson. Executive Robinson stated that he had been in contact with the state elections office and any "special called" elections would have a specific timeline. Robinson stated that a special called election is required to take place between 75 and 90 days of filing the paperwork with the state's election office. Executive Robinson noted that he had spoken with School Superintendent, Kurt Dronebarger regarding any issues in closing the schools due to voting precincts being at multiple schools throughout the district. Also, Robinson noted that citizens living inside the Sparta city limits would not be eligible to vote. March 7, 2023 OR March 14<sup>th</sup> are two dates that will be discussed with Mr. Dronebarger for the county to have a special called election. Executive Robinson will confirm a date and report back to Steering A members before proceeding with the official paperwork.

After brief discussion and unanimous consensus, the committee is in favor of calling a special election to increase the sales tax (within the county) to match the current sales tax rate in the city. If passed, the sales tax increase would match the city's 9.75% rate. Commissioner Hutchings made a motion to call for a special election to increase the county sales tax rate from 9.5% to match the city's sales tax rate of 9.75%, motion was seconded by Commissioner Selby; with none opposed the motion was approved.

Mr. Dewayne Howard, citizen and farmer in White County respectfully requested to bring an item of Old Business to the committee. With permission, Howard explained that the WC School System has been awarded a 1.5 million dollar Integrated Agricultural Grant from the State of Tennessee to be used for agriculture educational programs. Howard recommended that the county partner with the school system and allow the use of property located at Hwy 70 for agricultural, hands-on training. Executive Robinson stated that the committee had discussed this previously, however, the last update he (Robinson) received from Mr. Dronebarger was that the school system would not be doing anything regarding the Agricultural program until April 2023. Chairman Austin suggested that Executive Robinson contact Mr. Dronebarger and request an update on the grant and what their needs would be to establish the agricultural program(s).

### **Agenda item # 7 – New Business:**

Chairman Austin opened the floor for new business. Chairman Austin asked if a conference phone could be purchased for the purpose of those who wish to call in during county meetings. Additional discussion included technology that would allow meetings to be broadcast over social

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media outlets. Executive Robinson stated that he or Chad Marcum could contact Ben Lomand to request a quote on adding an additional line or phone for this purpose. Robinson further stated that a new meeting area would need to be established in order to set up or purchase the equipment necessary to broadcast meetings live over social media outlets. No further action was taken.

Kim England requested to speak about the new Empower Program. With permission, England invited the commissioners and citizens to attend the Empower Introduction meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 6th, 8:30 at Oldham Theatre to learn more about this new poverty management program that will assist White Co. families, with children overcome barriers that prevents them from working or increasing their income. England explained that additional information about the Empower program will be discussed at the meeting on 12/6/22.

Commissioner Chris Brewington raised the question regarding conflict of interest by county elected officials. Executive Robinson and Chad Marcum, Finance Director explained that an elected official could not bid on contracts paid by the county, whether it be a written contract or a verbal contract. Robinson suggested that anyone who questions this could contact CTAS or the state to review the law prohibiting county/state elected officials from bidding or joining in any type of paid contract with the county government. No further action was taken.

## **Agenda item # 8 – Calendar Update**

The White County Legislative Body Regular Call meeting will be Monday, December 19, 2022 at the White County Courthouse, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor courtroom at 6:00 pm.

The next Steering A meeting will be Tuesday, January 3, 2023 (Monday, Jan 2<sup>nd</sup> is the regular meeting date, however it is recognized as a holiday for 2023.) The meeting will be held at the White County Courthouse, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor Executive Conference Room at 5:30 pm.

## **Agenda item # 9 – Adjourn:**

There being no further business, Commissioner Rogers made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Golden, with none opposed, the motion was approved. Meeting was adjourned at 6:57pm.

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Chairman, T.K. Austin  
Steering A Committee

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Secretary, Lanny Selby  
Steering A Committee