

February 2, 2024

Hey all,

Here's this week's report.

Blessings and keep the faith.

Bill

Williamson County Commission

The Williamson County commission met jointly with the Planning Commission to discuss the proposed changes to a Zoning ordinance with regards to telecommunications setbacks due to resident concerns about 5G towers. There were two main amendments discussed: 1. That 5G tower should be at least 1,500 ft. from school buildings where children attend, and homes and 2. That property owners adjacent to the proposed tower be notified by mail and that there be hearings held so that residents can come and comment.

At the beginning of the meeting, seven people spoke in favor of the 1,500 ft setback. After that, representatives from Verizon, ATT&T, county safety dept., an attorney from out of the county and a representative from a testing company spoke. I suggest you watch the video and decide for yourself who you support.

The Planning Commission has the amendment on their [agenda](#) for **Thursday the 8th and the County Commission will have it on their agenda, which is not out yet, for Monday the 12th.** Both meetings are at 1320 W. Main St. and start at 3:15 pm and 7:00 pm respectively.

Joint committee meeting [video](#) start at 10:11

Here are some additional links that provide additional, important information:

[Dr. Chamberlin](#) explanation of effects of EMF and specifically 5G

List of Williamson County properties advertised on Vogue Towers website - Attached. We're still waiting on their attorney to understand where the statuses come from.

Williamson County School Board

There weren't any meetings this week, but next week both the Policy committee and the Work session are meeting on **Thursday the 8th at 5:00 pm and 6:00pm respectively.** Policy agenda. The Work Session agenda is not yet available.

Franklin Board of Mayor and Aldermen (BOMA)

The only meeting this week was the Board of Zoning Appeals on Thursday the 1st. [Agenda video](#).

Next week Budget and Finance is on Thursday the 8th at 3:00 pm and Sustainability Commission is on the 9th at 8:00 am. Neither has an agendas yet. Go [here](#) next week and both should be up.

Williamson County Election Commission

- The WCEC has selected the one firm that replied to the county's RFQ (Request for Qualifications) to perform the hand-marked paper ballot feasibility study. The selection will need to be approved by the Williamson County Commission as it contains a budget beyond what the WCEC may have in hand.
 - The Elections Group, based in Burr Ridge, IL, is the only firm that replied to the RFQ and sent in information.
 - Unfortunately, their RFQ contained very little demonstrative information about their qualifications.
 - No customer list, performance contacts, case studies, other information about who they've worked with or other information to affirm their qualifications.
 - The \$50,000 budget for the study that WCEC officials initially discussed has now ballooned to \$100,000 per the Elections Group's RFQ recommendations.
 - Rod Williamson, one of the WCEC commissioners, did not support the selection and voted "no" based upon the projected budget. Commissioners Duda, Choate and Graham voted "yes" to approve their selection. The group was approved.
 - New commissioner Doug Grindstaff was not present to vote.
 - We are conducting some research on The Elections Group.
- Election day poll officials and the absentee counting board for the upcoming March 5, 2024 presidential preference primary & county primary election were approved.
- The WCEC continued discussion about an election commission communications strategy for 2024.
- Two of three new vote centers were approved, one in Brentwood and one in Arrington. A third one in the Grassland/Sneed Road area is still being worked on.
- They accepted a resolution from the City of Spring Hill calling for a referendum for the annexation of certain territory located on Clark Road in the 2nd voting district of Williamson County to be held in conjunction with the March 5, 2024 presidential preference primary as provided by the Maury County Election Commission.
- Election Day polling hours for the election day vote center locations were reaffirmed.
- It appears a new IT technician for the WCEC has been identified – but yet to be hired – by the WCEC. This person will have a variety of duties like oversight of the machines and even programming future elections. The person's name was not released.
- The meeting ended with the ES&S ExpressVote BMD and DS200 tabulator on display for any citizen to view and ask questions about.
- While we did not hear a specific date, it could be there will be another meeting in a week.

Williamson County Republican Party

The WCRP held a candidate forum on Tuesday the 30th and the following candidates were present.”

Tony Bostic D1
 Dennis Driggers D3
 Margie Johnson D5
 Angela Beaton D7
 Darlynn Jordan D9
 Claire Reeves D9
 Tonja Hibma D11

Here is the [video](#) for your edification.

There was a sheriff’s forum Thursday with the three candidates Jeff Hughes, Mark Elrod and Daren Barnes [video](#).

Tennessee Legislature

Two bills that I am following for education.

HB 1605

The Flag Bill

Flags - Amends TCA Section 5-5-114; Section 6-54-144 and Title 49. As introduced, prohibits LEAs and public charter schools from displaying in public schools’ flags other than the official United States flag and the official Tennessee state flag.

HB 1605 was rolled on Thursday to Tuesday the 6th at 4:30. The reason it wasn’t voted out of committee is because they wanted to add an amendment that that would require a parent to give a school board a ten-day notice to remove a flag before filing legal action.

This bill should past out of the K-12 sub-committee on Tuesday, but I would like to see a number of us there in support of the bill. At this time, I don’t think we need to testify as the need for that will increase as the bill moves through the house.

In short, please try to attend this **hearing on the 6th**. It is first on the agenda and the hearing starts **at 4:30pm in hearing room #2 at the Cordell Hull Building 425 Rep. John Lewis Way N, Nashville, TN 37243**. Please note that you will have to go through a metal detector to get into the building. Try to get there by 4:00 pm.

You might want to come earlier so that you can drop in on your representative. Also, if you write a note in support of HB1605, you can leave it with one with your representative and one with Kirk Haston who is chair of the committee. [Here](#) is the full K-12 sub-committee if you want to write a not to them all.

HB 1632

Education - Amends TCA Title 49, Chapter 6, Part 38. As introduced, gives a parent of a child who attends, or who is eligible to attend, a school operated by a local education agency or a public charter school standing to file a civil action against the LEA or public charter school in a chancery court of competent jurisdiction to enforce the Age-Appropriate Materials Act of 2022.

This bill passed on to the full education committee.

For more in depth info and action items go to [Tennessee Stands](#).

**If not me, who?
If not now, when?**

“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen (Heb. 11:1)