

Majority of aldermen skip final meeting with Poss

DUANE SHERRILL
Editor Smithville Review
Smithville, Tennessee

Outgoing mayor Jimmy Poss was stood up at his final meeting as city mayor with most of the aldermanic council skipping what promised to be an awkward gathering given the mayor's recent indictment on theft and official misconduct charges.

"We don't have a quorum so we can't do anything," Poss announced as he looked across the meeting table at the only two aldermen present, one those being the man who beat him in the recent mayor's election, Josh Miller, and the other being alderman Shawn Jacobs. Absent were Danny Washer, Gayla Hendrix and Jason Murphy, the latter of whom is a departing member of the board as Murphy did not seek reelection, citing business reasons.

"Then that's it," Mayor Poss an-

nounced after glancing at the clock that said it was five after six. "Let's go home. Meeting over."

The mayor sounded his gavel for the last time; the next scheduled meeting in September to be presided over by Miller who will have taken the oath of office by that time.

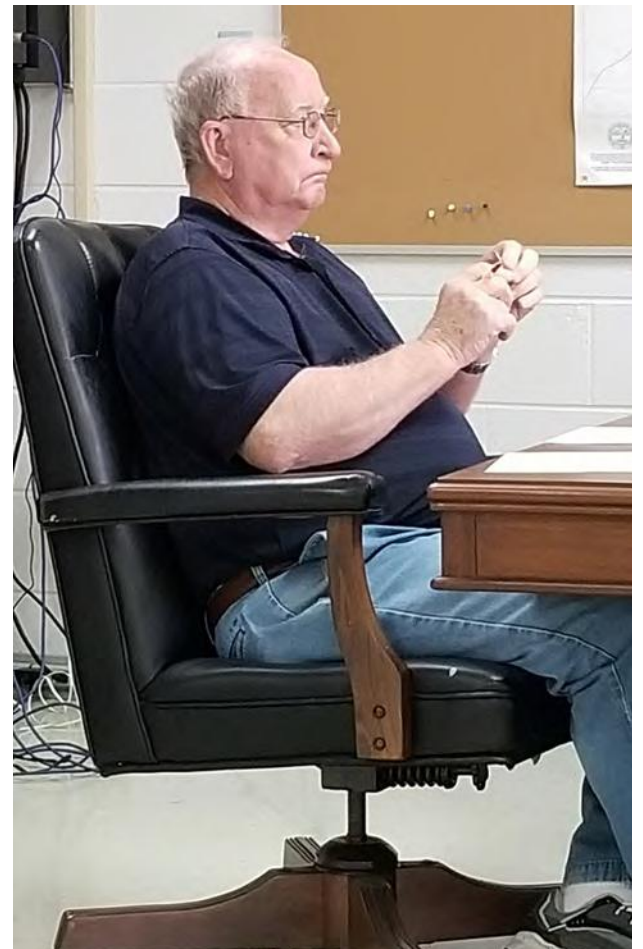
The cause of the absences was unknown, although it was noted Hendrix was on vacation, something that brought murmurs as she had been in court that morning which was coincidentally the same morning Mayor Poss and his son Anthony Poss were arraigned. Although the Posses did not appear in court, their attorneys entered not guilty pleas on their behalf.

Mayor Poss, through his attorney, proclaimed his innocence and maintained the timing of the indictment which came the week of election was politically motivated. Alderman Hendrix, in a detailed

statement, pointed out the grand jury normally meets that week and denied any political intrigue.

The charges against the Poss father and son come after the mayor hired his son to maintain the city's golf course and swimming pool without getting aldermanic consent. His son was paid over \$8,000 but no records were kept of when or if he worked during the six-month period. In a state comptroller report it was pointed out the mayor broke not only city policy regarding hiring but also broke the nepotism policy by hiring his son. He was censured by the city council for his actions.

During the election that followed the indictment, Alderman Miller defeated the incumbent Poss by 104 votes. Early voting numbers, generated before the indictment, were similar as the election day votes that came after the indictment, with Miller winning both rounds.



Outgoing mayor Jimmy Poss found himself in a largely empty meeting room as most of the aldermanic council chose to skip his final meeting before leaving office.

School board OKs raises

DUANE SHERRILL
Editor Smithville Review
Smithville, Tennessee

School employees will be getting raises instead of bonuses this year as the school board opted to fund the increase permanently instead of deciding each year if the bonus would reoccur.

The raise is \$600 a year for all employees which includes teachers, support staff and non-certified workers. Teachers are also getting \$600 from the state.

The board of education officially adopted the raise Thursday night after its hope to have the county

fund the raises out of the "sinking fund" or local option sales taxes was dashed when the commission refused to even vote on the idea in a budget meeting. The school board worried that having to pay the reoccurring raise, which will come out to about \$300,000 every year, would threaten its budget in lean years.

"We owe it to our teachers," said Director of Schools Patrick Cripps who was committed to providing the money as a raise not a bonus. He was outspoken during the budgeting process, telling commissioners local teachers are underpaid and that they are losing some

of their best and brightest to places like Putnam County where pay is higher and benefits more affordable.

The board of education voted unanimously to fund the raises with Jerry Wayne Johnson, in his last vote as a school board member, making the motion for the raises.

The amount is down from what the board originally envisioned as they wanted to give teachers a \$2,400 increase. However, the county commission pointed out that would necessitate a major tax increase and burden an already overburdened budget.

County receives \$15K grant

Money used to purchase exercise equipment

Tennessee Gov. Bill Haslam and Department of Economic and Community Development Commissioner Bob Rolfe have announced the 60 counties that will receive ThreeStar Grants.

The grants will be used for a variety of local programs addressing economic development, education and workforce development, public safety, health and efficient government.

"The ThreeStar grant for DeKalb County in the amount of \$15,000 was awarded to purchase commercial grade exercise equipment for the DeKalb County Complex Fitness Center. We have increased the amount of grant DeKalb County has received the last two years from \$10,000 to \$15,000. There is no match required by the county. The grant was written with the assistance of Chamber Director Suzanne Williams, and we are very pleased DeKalb County was one of the 60 counties to receive the Three Star grant," said DeKalb County Mayor Tim Stribling.

"Providing more opportunities for Tennesseans is one of our state's main objectives, and with the assistance of the ThreeStar Competitive Grants, the 60 recipients will be better prepared for success," Haslam said. "The ThreeStar program is a great asset to help communities across Tennessee thrive, and I look forward to seeing each of these 60 communities continue to succeed."

"I want to congratulate the 60 communities chosen in this round to receive the ThreeStar Grants," Rolfe said. "The projects that these counties complete with ThreeStar grant assistance will enhance local communities by creating a better living and working environment for residents."

ThreeStar focuses on best practices in five key community areas, including jobs and economic development, education and workforce development, fiscal strength and efficient government, public safety and health. To be eligible for this grant, the county must meet requirements in these five areas and show how the project will move the county forward in at least one of those areas.

"TNECD is able to assist the 60 recipients of the ThreeStar Grants by investing in locally-driven projects that transform communities," Amy New, assistant commissioner of Community and Rural Development, said. "We are proud to partner with these communities as they continue to work collaboratively to enhance their economic landscape."

In total, TNECD is awarding \$955,000 to Tennessee communities through this round of the ThreeStar Grant program. TNECD is committed to helping communities in the areas that they prioritize on a local level. The projects are new programs or expand upon existing programs.

OBTUARIES

Reverend Robert Jewell Presley, 84

Reverend Robert Jewell Presley, 84, of Smithville passed away Tuesday, Aug. 7 at his residence.

He was a minister for 55 years and a member of the Peoples Pentecostal Church.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Elijah Joseph and Shelly Lawrence Presley; daughter, Patsy Ann Rachel; a son, Robert Dwayne Presley; grandsons, Robert Jewel Presley and Richard Justin Presley; son-in-law, Timothy Corey; and four brothers and two sisters.

Survivors include his wife of 67 years, Eula Lawson Presley of Smithville. Seven daughters, Phyllis and James Brown of Sparta, Jackie and Larry Worley of North Carolina, Linda and Thomas Theiss of Smithville, Evie and Jeffery Miller of Ohio, Pamela Corey of Smithville, Teresa and Timothy Simmons of Illinois, and Babbie Presley of Smithville; 24 grandchildren, 46 great grandchildren, and 27 great-great-grandchildren along with a brother, Donald and Joy Presley of Columbus.

Funeral service was held Friday, Aug. 10 at the Chapel of Love-Cantrell Funeral Home. Jason Nunley, Thomas Hewell, and Timothy Simmons officiated with burial following in DeKalb Cemetery. Serving as pallbearers were Cornelius Perry, Sean and Michael Blake, Regan Presley, Edwin Crawford, Jonathan Summers, Paul Fultz and Melissa Hoomes.

Love-Cantrell Funeral Home of Smithville was in charge of the arrangements.

Smithville Review
(Smithville, Tenn.) Aug. 15, 2018



Winona Faye Rhea, 80

Winona Faye Rhea, 80, a McMinnville resident and Richmond, Va., native was born Jan. 3, 1938 and died Aug. 11 at her residence following a sudden illness.

She was a homemaker, member of the Baptist Church and daughter of the late Wallace R. and Lily Brock Carter. Mrs. Rhea was married Aug. 21, 1954 to Lawson Lee Rhea who preceded her in death. In addition to her parents and husband, she was preceded in death by sister, Wilma Poss.

Survivors include children and spouses, Garry Lee and Debra Rhea of McMinnville, Terry and Janet Rhea of McMinnville, Kimberly Rhea of Smithville, Jeff Rhea and Debbie Young of Smithville; seven grandchildren, Rachel (Jake) Debuty, Jana (William) Whitaker, Ashley Rhea, Cameron Rhea, Kaitlyn Rhea, Rylan Rhea and Kylan Rhea; great-grandson, Asher Grey Casterina; special niece, Tanya Shockley Bess of McMinnville; special friends, Webb and Sandy Luna of McMinnville and Charles and Ann Buckner of McMinnville.

Funeral service will be held Tuesday, Aug. 14 in High's Chapel with Jake Debuty to officiate. Interment will follow in Mt. View Cemetery. Online condolences may be made at www.highfuneralhome.com.

High Funeral Home of McMinnville was in charge of the arrangements.

Smithville Review
(Smithville, Tenn.) Aug. 15, 2018

Love-Cantrell
Funeral Home
Obituary Line:
597-7275
Phone: 597-5275

SMITHVILLE
REVIEW
.com

AVANT
FUNERAL HOME
ALEXANDRIA
529-2323
Obit Line: 529-2221

Anderson
Funeral Home
Alexandria
529-2173 • 574-0931
529-2988
Obit Line: 529-2170

Quality Cabinets
for the Money for 28 Years.
All Plywood
Oak & Maple
Unfinished Maple Now In Stock
Budget Sales
931-528-8879 Hours: M-F 9-5
1930 E. Spring St. • Cookeville
cabinets@budgetsalesinc.com

DeKalb
Funeral Chapel
Phone: 597-9400
Obit Line: 597-9600

Gondola RESTAURANT
Ciao Down!
Gondola
Pizza & Steakhouse
The Home Of Fine Food
In McMinnville!
Pizzas, Steaks, Chicken, Seafood,
Italian Dishes, Sandwiches & more
Dine-In & Carry-Out Available
305 Mullican St. • McMinnville
473-5555 or 473-7866
WE ARE OPEN SEVEN DAYS A WEEK 6:00 am - 10:00 pm

WE INVITE YOU TO LET US BE YOUR
PROFESSIONAL PRINTING SERVICE
Complete Commercial Printing Services
BROCHURES | SALES SHEETS | BUSINESS FORMS
LETTERHEADS | ENVELOPES | BUSINESS CARDS | NOTEPADS
TIME CARDS | INVOICES | RECEIPT BOOKS
INVITATIONS | PRICE LISTS
(931) 473-7212
Womack
PRINTING CO., INC.
Commercial Printers
Since 1922
105 Donnell Street • McMinnville, TN 37110 • Fax: (931) 473-6252