

Haywood Local Government/Rules Committee (LGC)



December 9, 2025; 4:30PM – 5:30PM

Haywood Justice Center - Conference Room

Committee Members - Commissioners

Sharon Hayes (Chair) • Alan O'Quin (Vice Chair)

Jim Duke • Sheronda Green • Rhonda Thompson

Minutes:

I. Call to Order - Determination of Quorum - Welcome

Chair Hayes called the meeting to order and declared a quorum, with committee members in attendance as follows: Commissioners Hayes, O'Quin, Duke, and Thompson. Absent: Green.

Others attending: Periann Houghton (*States-Graphic; County Commission*); Wally Eubanks (*County Commission*); Emma Covington, (*Vision Haywood*); Mary Priddy, (*County HR Director*); Joe Barden, Kathy Watts, and Aaron Stewart, (*Industrial Development Board-IDB*).

II. Approval of Minutes – Minutes from the previous meeting November 12, 2025 were approved upon motion.

III. Public Comments on Agenda – None

IV. Human Resources Update – Haywood County HR Director Mary Priddy provided an update on progress in Human Resources functions following adoption of the HR Resolution by the County Commission in September 2024. Ms. Priddy distributed a summary report addressing recent activities, shared her intent to form an Advisory Committee, and noted plans to begin organizing the meetings of the HR Oversight Committee as prescribed under the HR Resolution.

V. Draft Resolution on PILOT Authority – The Committee discussed a DRAFT resolution, initiated at the request of the Mayor, that would rescind authority previously granted to the Industrial Development Board (IDB) for approving Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOTS). As background, the joint City/County IDB was formed in 2015. Under a 2020 resolution, authority over the PILOT process was delegated to the IDB.

Committee members engaged in a productive discussion with IDB representatives Joe Barden, Kathy Watts, and Aaron Stewart, focusing on the PILOT process and the respective roles of the County and IDB. The discussion reflected a shared goal of supporting effective economic development while strengthening communication, accountability, and reporting to elected officials.

Commissioner Duke noted that the IDB has since adopted a formal incentive policy structure entitled "Economic Incentive Strategy" prepared by VisionFirst Advisors and approved by IDB on June 6, 2024. This policy includes a tiered tax abatement matrix.

Based on discussion and the current IDB policy framework currently in place, the Committee agreed to revisit the approach to the proposed resolution. With assistance from County Attorney Levy, the Committee will further review the authority, roles, and responsibilities.

VI. County Attorney - Private Act, Rule 12 – The committee agreed to continue review of provisions pertaining to the functions of the County Attorney as legal advisor and to carefully evaluate the original intent of the Private Act. The review will include consideration of legal service structures in other Tennessee counties, along with an assessment of potential advantages and drawbacks of any future revisions to the Private Act.

VII. Future Rules Manual Updates – Future revisions below were noted; where conflict exists, state law takes precedence.

- a.** Mayoral veto applies only to legislative resolutions, not administrative actions (Rule 9)
- b.** Veto period is ten days, not five (Rules 6M and 9A)
- c.** Special meetings and public hearings – clarification needed regarding public commenting

VIII. Rules Manual – Website Placement - The committee postponed discussion until the next meeting to allow additional time to address updates to the county website, including placement of the newly revised Rules Manual and improvements to the County Commission section.

IX. Updates & Progress on Previous Actions – Brief updates:

- a. Dyersburg State Community College** – noted as an important goal for our community
- b. Commissioner Training** – Eleven commissioners successfully completed the eight-hour minimum training requirement for 2024-2025 and are eligible for incentive compensation authorized by a resolution adopted in September 2024.
- c. Capital Planning** - Progress by CIP Committee toward development of a facilities plan was noted.

X. Next Meeting & Adjournment– The committee's standing meeting is scheduled for the second Tuesday of each month at 4:30PM.

Respectfully submitted January 13, 2026 by Commissioner Sharon Hayes