

**RESOLUTION AMENDING THE RULES, REGULATIONS AND PROCEDURES OF
THE WILLIAMSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS CONCERNING CALLING
TOWN HALL MEETINGS**

- WHEREAS,** pursuant to the Rules, Regulations and Procedures (“Rules”) for the Williamson County Board of Commissioners, a rule shall remain in effect until such time as it is appealed or amended; and
- WHEREAS,** recently, there has been confusion among the Board of Commissioners concerning calling special called meetings or town hall meetings by individual members of the Board of Commissioners under the false pretenses that the meeting is an official Board of Commissioners meeting; and
- WHEREAS,** Rule 11 provides that any amendment to the Rules requires a two-thirds majority vote if the proposed amendment is introduced to any regularly scheduled meeting other than the October or November meeting; and
- WHEREAS,** currently, Rule 8.1.i. provides that if for any reason, the Chairperson of a committee fails or refuses to call a meeting of the committee, the Chairperson of the Board or a majority of the committee membership may call into session a committee meeting; and
- WHEREAS,** Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 5-5-105(a) provides that the county mayor or a majority of the legislative body members may make written application to the Commission Chairman to call into special session, that in the County Mayor’s opinion, the public necessities require it; and
- WHEREAS,** the Board of Commissioners have determined that the practice of calling a town hall meeting under the pretext of the meeting being an official Board of Commissioner or County committee meeting needs to be adopted to avoid any confusion concerning whether an event is called outside the authority referenced above:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Williamson County Board of Commissioners, meeting in regular session this the 11th day of September, 2023, by a two-thirds majority vote and upon recommendation of the Rules Committee, makes the following revisions to the Rules, Regulations and Procedures of the Williamson County Board of Commissioners:

Amend Rule 8 by including the following as a new section labeled Rule 8.7 to read as follows:

8.7. TOWN HALL MEETINGS

Town hall meetings must be called outside the statutory authority contained in Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 5-5-105 and Rule 8.1.i, by any single Board of Commissioner (“Commissioner”) conditioned on full compliance with the guidelines:

- a. For the purposes of this Rule 8.7, “Town Hall meeting” shall mean an informal public meeting organized, sponsored, or presented by a Commissioner concerning any topic that is of public interest, but may not necessarily be a current issue before the full Board of Commissioners.
- b. The Commissioner that intends to call a Town Hall meeting shall be responsible for determining whether the Town Hall meeting requires adequate public notice satisfying the adequate public notice requirement.
- c. Should the Town Hall meeting require adequate public notice in accordance with Tenn. Code Ann. § 8-44-101 et. seq., it shall be the responsibility and sole cost of the Commissioner to post the notice in a manner that is consistent with the Open Meeting Act.
- d. The Commissioner shall be responsible for arranging the location, planning, and scheduling the Town Hall meeting.
- e. All printed material, notices, and advertisements concerning the Town Hall meeting shall contain the following language in a clear and legible manner:

DISCLAIMER OF ENDORSEMENT. The Williamson County Board of Commissioners does not endorse or sponsor the Town Hall meeting called by Commissioner _____. Any individual Board of Commissioner’s participation in the Town Hall meeting does not constitute endorsement by the Williamson County Board of Commissioners nor is the Town Hall meeting sanctioned, endorsed, or sponsored by the Board of

Commissioners. Commissioner shall not make any statement or exercise any conduct that may be construed to imply that Williamson County or the Board the Commissioners authorizes, supports, endorses, or sponsors the Town Hall meeting or any topic discussed during the meeting.

- f. Because Williamson County does not have staff to monitor the use of the auditorium located in the Williamson County Administrative Complex outside normal business hours, the auditorium shall not be available for Town Hall meetings. Williamson County has rooms available at its Enrichment Center and the Williamson County Agricultural Exposition Park.
- g. The sponsoring Commissioner shall not provide any official minutes or descriptions of the meeting, or any topic discussed during the Town Hall meeting which states, references, or eludes that the Town Hall meeting was a meeting or gathering sponsored or conducted by the Williamson County Board of Commissioners.
- h. All costs associated with the Town Hall meeting shall be solely borne by the sponsoring Commissioner.
- i. Adoption of this rule shall not infringe on the authority granted by Tenn. Code Ann. § 5-5-105 and Rule 8.1.i in any manner to call special called Board of Commissioners meetings.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that upon approval of this resolution and its signing, the Board of Commissioners directs the County Clerk's Office to make the revisions to the Rules, Regulations and Procedures of the Williamson County Board of Commissioners.



County Commissioner

COMMITTEES REFERRED TO & ACTION TAKEN:

Rules Committee:	For <u>5</u>	Against <u>1</u>	*As Amended
Commission Action Taken	For <u> </u>	Against <u> </u>	Pass <u> </u> Out <u> </u>

Jeff Whidby, County Clerk

Commission Chairman

Rogers Anderson, Williamson County Mayor

Date

* Amend 8.7B to add the language "by notifying County Mayor's Office and determining the proper protocol" 5 - 1 abstain (Richards)

* Amend 8.7F to include the language "as well as other available County owned facilities" 6 - 0