

Anderson County Board of Commissioners
OPERATIONS COMMITTEE
AGENDA

Monday
May 11, 2026
6:00 p.m. Room 312

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Prayer / Pledge of Allegiance**
- 3. Approval of Agenda**
- 4. Appearance of Citizens**
- 5. Proclamation Honoring Robert "Bob" Jameson** – requested by Chairman Isbel
- 6. Intergovernmental** – Congressional Redistricting - requested by Chairman Isbel
- 7. Legislative** – requested by Chairman Isbel
 - Discuss policy/procedure to send Private Act Amendments or new Legislative Items to State Legislators.
- 8. Robert Campbell & Associates** – Update on water in Rosedale.
- 9. Mayor's Report** – No Report
- 10. Law Director's Report**
 - A. Action Items (None)
 - B. Contracts
 - C. Cases In Litigation Involving Violations of the Anderson County Zoning Resolution
 - D. Bankruptcies
 - E. Status of Pending Lawsuits
 - F. Information Items
- 11. Discussion of walking trail between Rocky Top and Briceville** – requested by Chairman Isbel
- 12. Update on Workshop with City of Oak Ridge, Anderson County and City of Rocky Top** – from April Operations meeting– to set date for meeting.
- 13. Rails to Trails** – Revised Resolution
- 14. VSO Director** – requested by Commissioner Wandell

Unfinished Business

New Business

Adjourn

Board of Commissioners For Anderson County, Tennessee

A PROCLAMATION HONORING ROBERT “BOB” JAMESON FOR A LIFETIME OF SERVICE AND DEDICATION TO EDUCATION AND PUBLIC SERVICE

WHEREAS, Robert “Bob” Jameson, a respected educator and public servant, was a graduate of Oak Ridge High School and Union College, exemplifying a lifelong commitment to education and personal achievement; and

WHEREAS, Robert “Bob” Jameson dedicated forty (40) years to teaching social studies and government at Clinton High School, shaping the lives of countless students through his instruction, mentorship, and guidance; and

WHEREAS, Robert “Bob” Jameson further enriched the school community through active involvement in extracurricular activities, contributing to the development and success of students beyond the classroom; and

WHEREAS, in addition to a distinguished career in education, Robert “Bob” Jameson faithfully served the community in numerous public roles, including as Vice Mayor and Alderman for the City of Clinton, and as a member of the Anderson County Commission, the Anderson County Election Commission, and the Clinton Utilities Board; and

WHEREAS, Robert “Bob” Jameson’s decades of service left a lasting and meaningful impact on the citizens of Clinton and Anderson County; and

WHEREAS, the life and legacy of Robert “Bob” Jameson will be remembered with deep respect and gratitude by all who knew and were influenced by him.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, that we hereby honor the life and legacy of Robert “Bob” Jameson and express our sincere appreciation for his enduring contributions to education and public service, and extend heartfelt sympathy to his family and loved ones.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have set our hands and caused this Official Seal of Anderson County, Tennessee to be affixed on this _____ day of May , 2026.

Denise Palmer, Chair A.C. Comm.

Terry Frank, Mayor

ATTEST:

Jeff Cole, County Clerk

JAMES W. BROOKS, JR.
ANDERSON COUNTY LAW DIRECTOR

101 S. MAIN STREET, STE. 310
CLINTON, TENNESSEE 37716

jbrooks@andersoncountyttn.gov

(865) 457-6290

CASSANDRA M. POWELL, PARALEGAL
cpowell@andersoncountyttn.gov

DENISE R. JUSTICE, LEGAL ASSISTANT
djustice@andersoncountyttn.gov

May 6, 2026

Tim Isbel, Chairman
Anderson County Operations Committee

RE: Law Director's Report – MAY OPERATIONS MEETING

Chairman Isbel and
Operations Committee Members:

A. ACTION ITEMS

We Do Not Have Action Items on this report.

B. CONTRACTS

We have reviewed, revised or approved the following contracts:

1. Canon – Sheriff's Department
2. Dex Imaging, LLC – Chancery Clerks
3. EMPG Grant
4. Fiscal Agent MOU
5. Grant Amendment
6. Huntington Billboards (2) Tourism
7. Information Sharing Agreement
8. Liberty Tire Recycling
9. Marshall – Tourism Lease Agreement
10. Oak Ridge Pest Control
11. Trigreen (2)
12. CMI Equipment
13. Duracap
14. Rogers Group (4)
15. Straight Path
16. BWB
17. Meade Tractor
18. Roger's Petroleum
19. Roadway Solutions
20. Rx Benefits Addendum
21. US Able Renewal
22. USCC Services, LLC
23. Blue Titanium Media

C. CASES IN LITIGATION INVOLVING VIOLATIONS OF THE ANDERSON COUNTY ZONING RESOLUTION

1. Newly Filed:

- 328 Marlow Road
- 606 Sulphur Springs Road

2. Status of cases filed with pending deadlines:

- 301-347 Old Lake City Highway – Pending Plaintiffs Motion to Compel Defendants Discovery Responses. Trial Date set for July 22, 2026.
- 3708 Lake City Highway –Pending Plaintiffs Motion to Compel Defendants Discovery Responses. Trial Date set for July 22, 2026.
- 482 Old Lake City Highway – Defendants filed their Answer to Complaint on March 30, 2026. Pending Discovery.
- 1820 Old Lake City Highway – Pending Motion for Default Judgment. Hearing Date TBD

3. Motions for Default Judgment (MDJ):

- 1036 Byrams Fork Rd. Pending Hearing on Plaintiffs Motion for Default Judgment – reset from March 30, 2026 to May 8, 2026 to allow period for compliance.
- 2913 Hinds Creek Rd. Plaintiffs Motion for Default Judgment Granted on March 30, 2026.

4. Contempt Petitions Pending: None currently

5. Closed Cases: None during this reporting period

6. Status of Recorded Liens:

Each of these properties is subject to daily fines and penalties per court order. Liens have been executed on each property, monitoring, enforcement, and collection activities are ongoing.

- 230 Haney Hollow Road- daily fine of \$100 beginning August 26, 2024
- 177 Scott Brogan Lane- daily fine of \$50 beginning December 9, 2024
- 1824 Lake City Highway- daily fine of \$20 beginning August 8, 2025
- 438 Old Fratersville Hollow Road - daily fine of \$10 beginning March 26, 2026

D. BANKRUPTCIES

My report includes only new filings and status updates for existing cases. In addition to the five (5) cases outlined below, this office is currently monitoring fourteen (14) active bankruptcy cases and has reviewed five (5) additional cases in which the County has no interest.

1. Morgan-Motion to Dismiss for lack of payments to Trustee filed; hearing set for 05/20/26
2. Fine-Objection to Confirmation of Chapter 13 plan filed; hearing set for 05/20/26
3. Weber-Motion to dismiss case filed; Debtor passed away on 02/01/26
4. Asher-Order Confirming Chapter 13 plan entered; awaiting discharge
5. Burt-Partial payment on outstanding 2025 taxes; awaiting discharge

E. STATUS OF PENDING LAWSUITS

1. *Barker v. Provision*. Pending Review of Discovery
2. *Butler v. Anderson Co. Gov't*. Pending Order of Dismissal after negotiated settlement.
3. *Dietlin v. Kirk, et al.* Attorney Alix Michael is defending the lawsuit filed in Anderson County Circuit Court. The Plaintiff's case survived a Motion to Dismiss. We will monitor and report any developments.
4. *Partin v. ACSO et al.* Attorney Reid Spaulding is defending the lawsuit filed in Federal District Court which alleges civil rights violations. A third amended Complaint has been filed naming additional Defendants. Trial date is set for March 2, 2027. We will monitor and report on any developments.
5. *Harber et al. v. Anderson Co. Gov't and Estate of Jay Yeager*. We are in the discovery phase for this Anderson County Chancery Court case.
6. *Williams Manor, Inc. v. Anderson Co. Gov't and the BZA*. Our office has assumed representation of Anderson County Government in this matter, which is currently set for hearing in Anderson County Chancery Court on November 12, 2026.
7. *King v. Anderson County Detention Facility*. Pro se filing in U.S. District Court alleging civil right violations. Ried Spaulding has been assigned as Defense Counsel. Plaintiff has filed a Motion for Leave to Amend Complaint and Defense Counsel has filed a request for extension to file Answer and the case is pending a ruling from the court on those Motions. Our office will continue to monitor and report on any developments.
8. *Smith et ux. v. Anderson Co.* Our Motion to Dismiss set for hearing on June 1, 2026.
9. *Michelle Lewellen v. Anderson County Schools*. Submitted to Insurance Defense Counsel. I anticipate Anderson County will be dismissed leaving Anderson County Schools as the Defendant.
10. *Colt Jennings v. Russell Barker and Anderson County*. Former deputy who was dismissed for violating Section 17 of the Rules of Civil Service has filed suit alleging violation of his

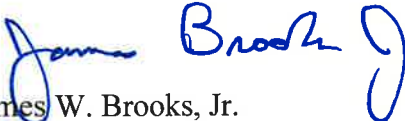
civil rights. Our insurance company has assigned attorney Dan Pilkington to defend Russell Barker and Mary De'Camp to defend Anderson County.

F. INFORMATION ITEMS

These items require no action and are for Informational Purposes.

1. Prepared proclamation honoring Robert "Bob" Jameson
2. Completed and recorded Lease Agreement between Anderson County and Second Baptist Church of Clinton
3. Finalized proclamation recognizing May as ALA Awareness Month
4. Reviewed recent statutory change by the Tennessee General Assembly regarding public comment at commission meetings and drafted proposed revision to the Rules of Procedure to be considered by our Rules Committee
5. Preparation of Agreement regarding dissolution of Tennessee Veterans Museum and donation to the Veterans Service Office for operation of the museum.
6. Researched and Prepared Fire Code Resolution Pending Finalization and Approval of Fire Marshall and Mayor.
7. Reviewed Sheriff's Office General Orders and made recommendations
8. Reviewed Library Board Personnel Policy and prepared recommendations to add disciplinary and personnel records review procedure
9. Reviewed 264 Sherwood Rd. Zoning Variance Request and Prepared Memorandum of Law and Fact for BZA consideration
10. I will be attending the TCAA Conference in Knoxville on May 8 and 9. Many subjects, which will provide important and timely information, will be covered. These include conflicts of interest, zoning, environmental clean-up and a legislative update.

Respectfully submitted,


James W. Brooks, Jr.
Law Director

cc: Annette Prewitt

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE RAILS TO TRAILS PROJECT

WHEREAS:

1. The County of Anderson recognizes that R.J. Corman has abandoned the 41-miles rail line that ran from Oneida to Devonia; and
2. The Rails to Trails initiative aims to convert the former Oneida Line corridor into a multi-use trail for pedestrians, bicyclists, runners, and non-motorized recreation; and
3. Trust for Public Land (TPL) is negotiating to acquire the corridor under a Notice of Interim Trail Use (NITU), with the goal that another public or private/public entity will ultimately take on the corridor from TPL to secure its permanent preservation as a trail; and
4. The County recognizes the public health, economic development, outdoor recreation, and connectivity benefits such a trail would provide to local communities.
5. The County recognizes specifically that the local community known as the New River Community could benefit from the leverage the trail could provide to bring needed infrastructure to their community, including but not limited to improvements in water service, emergency response access, public safety support and a zip code unique to the New River community;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED:

1. **Support Without Financial Commitment:** That the Anderson County Commission supports the Rails to Trails Project and TPL's interim acquisition efforts, *without* committing County funds at this time.
2. **State Engagement Endorsement:** That the County encourages and supports TPL's efforts to obtain State funding for the final purchase of the corridor to ensure its permanent preservation as a public trail.
3. **Partnership for Implementation:** That, upon trail acquisition and pending future appropriations from grants, private philanthropy, or other sources, the County is willing to collaborate with TPL, TCWP, and other nonprofits to support trail construction, maintenance, programming, and stewardship—*only to the extent that no direct County contribution is required unless separately authorized.*
4. **Proactive Resource Identification:** That the County supports seeking and leveraging available grant funding (federal, state, regional) and philanthropic resources to help fund construction, maintenance, and trail-related amenities.

5. **Community Consideration:** That the County acknowledges the importance of ensuring that rural communities such as New River are considered in future planning efforts related to the trail, including coordination with appropriate agencies, such as TWRA and partners to support infrastructure needs that may enhance public safety, access, and quality of life.
6. **Continued Coordination:** That the County expresses its intent to work cooperatively with local municipalities, TCWP, TPL, Echoes of the Rail Foundation and other community partners in planning, promoting, and sustaining the trail as a shared regional asset.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

This Resolution shall become effective upon its adoption and be forwarded to the State of Tennessee, TPL, TCWP, and relevant municipal partners as evidence of the County's supportive posture.

ADOPTED this [DAY] of [MONTH], 2026.

Terry Frank, Anderson County Mayor

Denise Palmer, Chair, Anderson County Commission

ATTEST:

County Clerk

THE NATIONAL TRAILS SYSTEM ACT AND THE RAILBANKING PROCESS

Understanding Railbanking and the National Trails System Act

A Brief History

At the height of America's railroad era in 1916, more than 270,000 miles of track connected communities across the country. As trucking and highways expanded, rail use declined sharply, and by the 1970s thousands of miles of lines were abandoned each year. Recognizing the loss of this national infrastructure, Congress acted to preserve rail corridors for future transportation and public benefit.

National Trails System Act and Section 8(d)

Congress passed the National Trails System Act (1968) to promote outdoor recreation, historic preservation, and public access to the nation's open spaces. In 1983, Section 8(d)—known as the Railbanking Amendment—was added to protect unused rail corridors from being permanently lost. This provision allows railroads to transfer out-of-service lines to qualified public agencies or nonprofits **for interim trail use, while keeping the corridor intact for potential future rail service.**

Volunteers and nonprofit trail groups play a vital role in this system, maintaining, managing, and improving these corridors so they remain safe, scenic, and accessible for non-motorized use.

How Railbanking Works

When a railroad wishes to discontinue service, it must seek approval from the Surface Transportation Board (STB), the federal agency that regulates rail lines.

1. The railroad files for abandonment with the STB.
2. A public agency or nonprofit can request to "railbank" the corridor—agreeing to manage and maintain it as a trail.
3. If both parties agree, the STB issues a Notice of Interim Trail Use (NITU), pausing full abandonment.
4. The corridor enters the national railbank, where it remains protected for trail use until, or unless, rail service is ever restored.

This process keeps the corridor under unified rail authority jurisdiction while ownership and title research continue.

Ownership and Quiet Title Questions

In many historic rail corridors, ownership history is complex. Deeds dating back to the late 1800s often differ—some conveyed property in fee simple, while others granted easements limited to railroad use. When service ends, these mixed records can create uncertainty about ownership.

Without railbanking, fragmented ownership can lead to years of "quiet title" litigation—costly lawsuits seeking to determine who owns which parcels. By keeping the corridor intact under the STB's oversight, the railbanking process allows careful title research and resolution before permanent changes in use or ownership occur.

Why It Matters

Railbanking is one of the most effective tools for conserving and re-using America's transportation corridors. It turns unused rail lines into community assets—linking towns, supporting local economies, protecting wildlife habitats, and providing recreation and transportation opportunities for future generations.

Every successful rail-trail depends on volunteers, community partners, and nonprofit organizations whose dedication keeps these historic pathways alive for all to enjoy.

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