MEDIA RELEASE

OFFICE OF COUNTY MAYOR GLENN JACOBS

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Mayor Jacobs Asks Commission to Pass Budget Proposal

KNOXVILLE, Tenn.—Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs is encouraging the County Commission to pass the FY20-21 budget proposal as is during the board's meeting at 6:30 p.m. tonight.

"*We presented the best possible budget on June 1. It wasn't the budget we wanted, but the proposal is conservative and responsible and will ensure the continuation of critical county services and access to important community amenities.*

A lot of great projects had to be put on hold because of the COVID-19 pandemic and the economic shutdown that resulted. By law, an adopted budget can be amended by resolution throughout this fiscal year as needed. I hope the projections we used were too conservative and we can make positive changes as conditions improve, including working to find funds to complete some district-specific Commission projects.

Recognizing it is a working proposal based on our current situation and keeping in mind that discussion can be ongoing, I am hopeful Commission will pass the budget as is."

Mayor Jacobs proposed an overall $849 million spending plan with no property tax increase. The $4 million reduction from the current year was necessitated by a $10 million year-over-year drop in sales tax revenue; $850 thousand decrease in gasoline tax revenue; almost $800 thousand less in hotel/motel tax revenue; and fewer dollars coming in from the courts and fee offices—all a devastating result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

It is the responsibility of the Knox County Commission to adopt the final comprehensive County budget, which includes the budget of the Board of Education, by midnight on June 30 though they may amend or alter it before doing so.

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