



Municipal Technical Advisory Service
INSTITUTE *for* PUBLIC SERVICE

MUNICIPAL E-NEWS

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Selected New MTAS Resources

[MTAS Purchasing Guide and Sample Purchasing Procedures 2023](#)

[Fire Hydrants and Potential Fees in Municipal Water Systems](#)

[Solving the Puzzle of Organic Waste Diversion](#)

[Communicating with Impact](#)

[New Knowledgebase materials](#)

[New MRLn materials](#)

[New MORE materials](#)

[Register for MTAS Training Event \(K@TE\)](#)



VIEW OUR CURRENT
TRAINING CALENDAR

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Summer Vacation

Ah yes, it is now that time of year when the kids are out of school and families begin to take summer vacations. I am a firm believer in the purpose of vacation. If you think a minute about the word, it is derived from the verb vacate.

Do you vacate when you take a vacation? With smart devices all around us now, the challenge of vacating while on vacation becomes increasingly harder. The lure of checking work emails is sometimes too great to resist. Sometimes we put this pressure upon ourselves and sometimes our employer has expectations of us that necessitate checking in periodically, even when we are away.

Many organizations today grant employees paid time off for annual leave or vacation. Why would an employer pay an employee NOT to work? Employers realize that workers need a period of rest and recovery that is longer than a couple of back-to-back days (weekends for most office workers). Time away allows an employee time to decompress, relax and refocus. I am always re-energized when I return to work after a vacation, IF, I have vacated the job.



Margaret Norris
MTAS Executive Director

So, as you plan that next trip to visit family, the mountains, the beach, a national park, or a tourist destination like the 15-foot-tall concrete garden gnome named Gnome on the Grange, please be gracious to your employer for giving you the time for your mental health; and unplug as much as you can.

Remember to vacate while you are on vacation. Even if travel is not a part of your summer vacation, and your intent is a staycation, remember to take time for yourself. Wherever you are, be there. Be present with the ones you are with and do what you enjoy. Happy vacation!

New Statutory Requirements for Meetings of Municipal Governing Bodies

The 113th General Assembly amended the Tennessee Open Meetings Act with two separate public chapters that will impact your municipality. Those public chapters are [Public Chapter 213](#), Acts of 2023, and [Public Chapter 300](#), Acts of 2023. MTAS Legal Consultants Elisha Hodge, Melissa Ashburn and Stephanie O'Hara have provided [this summary analysis](#) to bring you up to date on these changes.

The legislation will be discussed in depth during the upcoming MTAS [Legislative Update classes](#) in June 2023. However, if you have questions before the classes, please contact your assigned MTAS attorney.

Juneteenth Recognized as a State Holiday



This year, the Tennessee General Assembly passed [Public Chapter 337](#), Acts of 2023. The public chapter was signed into law on May 5, 2023. This bipartisan legislation adds June 19 to the list of legal holidays in Tennessee.

While most enslaved African Americans were purported to have gained their freedom when Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863, that was not the case for enslaved African Americans in Texas. It was not until federal troops arrived in Galveston, Texas, on June 19, 1865, carrying the message of freedom, that all enslaved African Americans were freed from the bonds of slavery. The significance of what occurred on June 19, 1865, is celebrated



Elisha Hodge
MTAS Legal Consultant

every year throughout the United States on June 19, or Juneteenth.

Most state and federal government offices will be closed on June 19. Municipal staff should consult personnel policies to determine whether the municipality adheres to the same legal holiday schedule as the state.

There are many Juneteenth celebrations being held across the state. Check your community calendar for events near you.

You can find additional information about Juneteenth at [The History Channel's website](#) or the Smithsonian's [National Museum of African American History and Culture's website](#).

MTAS Consultants Rex Barton and Brett Ward to Retire June 30, 2023

Tennessee is a better place to live, work and play because of the efforts of these public service professionals. MTAS Police Management Consultant Rex Barton and Utility Operations Consultant Brett Ward will be retiring in July of this year.

Rex joined MTAS in April 1995. Prior to joining MTAS, he was a captain with the Athens Police Department. Rex served police departments across Tennessee until January 2019, when David Moore was selected to serve as a second police consultant. David shares this experience which gave him an idea of Rex's reach across the state: "As a new MTAS consultant visiting one of my police departments in uppermost West Tennessee, the police chief welcomed me to the city and then asked, 'Where's Rex?' MTAS and municipal governments across the state thank Rex for his dedicated service of 28 years and for his lifelong service to the law enforcement profession.

Brett joined MTAS in April 1996. Before joining MTAS, he was a wastewater plant operator. Brett has maintained his professional credentials of Tennessee Drinking Water/Wastewater Class IV licensure for his entire career. Brett has served the state of Tennessee's municipal wastewater

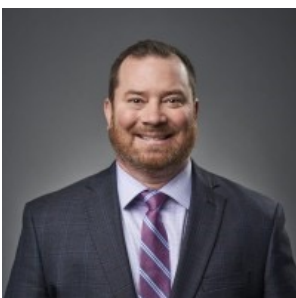
systems, both large and small, with professionalism and excellent advice (and a passion for good BBQ) as an MTAS consultant for 27 years.

Rex and Brett, thank you for your diligent service to the residents of Tennessee, for the way you expertly mentor those you are in contact with and above all, for your friendship.



**HAPPY RETIREMENT,
REX AND BRETT!**

Welcome, Del Sable!



MTAS is pleased to welcome Del Sable to the training team! Del is the new training consultant in Middle Tennessee and will be based in Nashville.

Successful Spring Peer Roundtables Completed

MTAS recently led a series of roundtable meetings in Kimball, Cleveland and Kingston. These meetings cover a variety of finance-related topics including new legislation, proper accounting policies and procedures, employee issues, and any additional topics the group may wish to discuss. The roundtable format allows peer-to-peer learning and networking in an open forum. This networking provides participants an additional resource for questions, problem solving and collaborating on the myriad issues faced each day.

The Kingston roundtable included a discussion led by Brigadier General Jim Mungenast, chair of the Employer Support of The Guard and Reserve (ESGR) organization.

There were 22 cities represented in these three meetings with 35 finance professionals in attendance. Finance and Accounting Consultants



Brad Harris
Finance and Accounting
Consultant

Brad Harris and Tonya Travis, Municipal Management Consultant Honna Rogers, and HR Consultant Betsy Cunningham worked as a team to conduct these meetings. Attendees noted that this learning format is one of the best opportunities they have, and the benefits of collaborating with peers and learning from each other is a valuable tool in helping them do the best job possible for their own city. Additionally, each participant receives four hours of Certified Municipal Finance Officer (CMFO) continuing education credits at no cost to the city.



Top left: City of Kingston. Top right: City of Cleveland. Bottom: Town of Kimball

Continuing Municipal Education

2023 Legislative Update

June 14 and June 15 | 8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. CDT | Zoom

Reserve your space for this year's Legislative Update! This session continues to grow in popularity as our MTAS Legal Consultant Elisha Hodge, provides a straightforward summary of legislation passed in the most recent legislative session. Elisha covers everything from A to Z that may impact municipal governments. Register at kate.tennessee.edu/MTAS or email MTAS Training at mtas_training@tennessee.edu.

MTAS Training | Tennessee Municipal League Conference July 2023

Elected Officials Academy: Pre-conference Sessions

MTAS Elected Officials Academy signature programs, Municipal Foundations and Municipal Operations, will be offered as pre-conference sessions at the TML Annual Conference in Nashville.

*Please note: Interested elected officials may register for either program or both. It is **not** required to attend both or to have completed Foundations before attending Operations. Seats in both programs are limited and priority is given to elected officials. **The registration deadline is July 14, but seats may fill before then.***

Friday, July 21: Municipal Foundations - \$185

9:00-5:30 CT

Location: Renaissance Nashville

This program, formerly Elected Officials Academy Level 1, familiarizes elected officials with foundational aspects of municipal governance. Topics include forms of government, charters, ethics, public meetings, open records, effective meetings, and finance. [Register for Municipal Foundations.](#)

Saturday, July 22: Municipal Operations - \$185

9:00-5:30 CT

Location: Renaissance Nashville

This program, formerly Elected Officials Academy Level 2, provides an overview of the responsibilities and oversight of the elected board related to operational functions in municipalities. Topics include human resources, public works, fire and police services. [Register for Municipal Operations.](#)

Utility Training @ TML

MTAS will present Governing Water/Wastewater Utility Systems at TML. Utility board members can earn 4.0 hours of utility training. There will be four, one-hour training blocks and you must attend all four sessions for credit.

Be sure to check the [MTAS Training Calendar](#) for all upcoming training opportunities.

Municipal Leadership Training Spring and Fall 2023

More than 70 mid-level municipal leaders representing 19 municipalities across the state participated in the Spring 2023 cohorts of the MTAS Connect Municipal Leadership Program. The program includes training sessions and self-directed learning experiences to prepare mid-level leaders to manage current and future workforce needs and positively influence organizational success. Connect includes virtual and in-person training, peer group sessions, and mentoring. Fall 2023 dates will be coming soon!

Program participants can choose their own mentor or pair with a mentor from the MTAS network. The MTAS network includes more than 35 senior-level mentors. As the program grows, we will need more mentors! If you're interested in volunteering as a mentor, please [email Yolanda Dillard](mailto:Yolanda.Dillard@mtas.org).

Be sure to check the [MTAS Training Calendar](#) for all upcoming training opportunities.

TREEDC News

TREEDC RELEASES ANNUAL REPORT

The Tennessee Renewable Energy and Economic Development Council (TREEDC) recently completed its [annual report for 2022](#). The report contains information about how TREEDC embarked on a new strategic partnership with the Energy Services Coalition (ESC) to help match local community energy needs with appropriate renewable energy technologies to reduce costs and emissions. TREEDC and ESC promoted Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (C-PACE) as a financing mechanism used by local governments to advance renewable energy.

UT IPS PODCAST EPISODE ON TREEDC

The UT Institute for Public Service podcast series In Touch with Tennessee featured Warren Nevad and TREEDC President Dwayne Land. The episode explores the history and mission of TREEDC. [Listen to the episode](#) on the institute's website.



Warren Nevad
Municipal Management
Consultant

MEMPHIS' FIRST C-PACE LOAN GIVES ASSIST TO UPTOWN STUDIO AND STORAGE PROJECT

The Uptown Studio and Storage Project has received \$2.3 million in Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy, commonly known as C-PACE, financing. This project, which will convert the former Greyhound bus station at 525 N. Main St. into a mixed-use site, has become the first project to receive C-PACE financing in the city of Memphis and the second in Tennessee. The C-PACE lending mechanism provides for water and energy efficiency, renewable energy and resiliency projects. The program allows property owners to finance building retrofits, gut rehabilitations, and new constructions with no upfront costs.

TREEDC NEWS (continued)

Memphis has long been working toward getting a C-PACE program online. In 2021, the Tennessee State House passed legislation allowing local cities and counties to establish their own programs. The Economic Development Growth Engine for Memphis and Shelby County (EDGE) passed the Memphis C-PACE program in September of last year.

The Memphis program, which is administered by EDGE, is known locally as C-PACER. The R stands for resiliency, a requirement for Tennessee, but not present in all programs nationwide. The first C-PACE deal in Tennessee took place north of Nashville in White House to help with the construction of a senior living facility.

PARIS BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES COMPLETES SOLAR PROJECT

[Silicon Ranch](#), one of the nation's largest independent power producers and a community-focused renewable energy company, the Paris Board of Public Utilities (Paris BPU), and the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) recently held a Flip the Switch event to celebrate the completion of a new 6.75-megawatt (MWAC) solar facility in Puryear. This solar facility will generate enough renewable, cost-effective energy to power approximately 1,000 homes annually.

The Paris Solar Farm—Puryear was developed as part of TVA's Generation Flexibility Program. The nationally renowned program is designed to encourage local power companies (LPCs) to develop distributed generation facilities and provide local solutions to the renewable needs of customers. With economic development being an integral part of Paris BPU's mission, the ability to take advantage of flexible solutions helps ensure that Paris BPU can continue to provide Henry County customers with safe, reliable, cost-effective energy.



KUB ANNOUNCES COMPLETION OF NEW COMMUNITY SOLAR PROJECT

Recently, the Knoxville Utilities Board (KUB) announced the completion of the first community solar array in Knoxville. Community solar is a way for KUB customers to support local solar projects and subscribe to the benefits of a shared solar array. KUB will own, operate and maintain the site, with customers signing up for a monthly subscription. People who subscribe are then credited back a portion of their subscription fee based on the amount of renewable energy produced by the array each month.

KUB said the array will produce an average of 1.36-gigawatt hours of solar energy per year, which is enough to fill the energy requirements of around 100 homes. Renewable energy generation from KUB's community solar array will also help avoid approximately 964 metric tons of CO₂e emissions per year, which is equal to saving more than 100,000 gallons of gasoline.

Update Your Municipal Information on the MTAS Website

Newly elected official? New department head level staff member? Please let us know so we can maintain the most current information for each Tennessee municipality on our website.

MTAS maintains a large variety of information on each city in Tennessee. Everything from city hall hours, when the council meets, incorporation date, all elected officials, department heads and so much more. We provide this information as a service to cities and Tennesseans across the state and we need your help to keep it up-to-date.

How to review your data on the MTAS website

Go to the [MTAS Tennessee Cities webpage](#) to review your data. Easily locate your city or town by selecting your municipality's name in the drop-down list on this page. Click on your city's name in the list to open the complete city directory page.

What to do if you have updates

- If you have updates to any staff or elected official's information, [email Michelle Buckner](#) with your updated contact information.
- If you need to update the information such as city hall hours, population or what utilities you provide, please [use this form](#) to send us the new information.

If you have any questions regarding the information in the MTAS City Directory, send your questions to mtas@tennessee.edu.

Join Our Team!

MTAS is looking for our next great team members. Are you the perfect person for one of these positions, or do you know someone who might be? Reach out today!

- [Legal Consultant](#) (West Tennessee)
- [Legislative Legal Consultant](#) (Nashville)
- [Public Works Consultant](#) (Nashville)
- [Utility Management Consultant](#) (Knoxville)
- Police Consultant (Coming soon)



CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS FOR MUNICIPAL STAFF AND OFFICIALS

TENNESSEE CITY MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

Fall Conference 2023

TENNESSEE ASSOCIATION OF MUNICIPAL CLERKS AND RECORDERS

Fall Conference 2023

TENNESSEE MUNICIPAL LEAGUE

Annual Conference | July 22-24, 2023 | Nashville

TENNESSEE GOVERNMENT FINANCE OFFICIALS ASSOCIATION
FALL CONFERENCE

September 27-29, 2023 | Murfreesboro

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