

Neighborhood Histories: Interview with Nicky Hayes

Kieanna Avery: Good Moring my name is Kieanna Avery

Briana Mays: And my name is Briana Mays

Kieanna Avery: And today is June thirty and we would like to take you thank you taking your time out of your busy schedule to come to our interview today and um, we are just going to interview you about the tales of two cities originally in Tiptonville and um

Briana Mays: Going to start off by asking some basic questions to get you comfortable in answering the questions

Briana Mays: So if you would can you please tell us your name

Nicky Hayes: My name is county commissioner Nicky Hayes

Briana Mays: Where were you born in raised?

Nicky Hayes: I was born and raised here in Tiptonville

Briana Mays: How was it like growing up in Tiptonville?

Nicky Hayes: I growing up in Tiptonville was pretty nice I mean small town you kind of ??? you know, um, I like it several people I met through the years I grown up in cities through

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Memphis, Nashville, Knoxville, um, as far as Tennessee I got friends that grew up in, um, I played baseball with them in college they grew up in St. Louis and bigger cities and there there are different kind of person they really are. Small towns you have small towns values you know friendship means more than just saying hey you my friend, um, when you give somebody your word on something that's all you knew you don't have to sign paper or contract. It's a difference set of values for a small town person.

Briana Mays: With your friendship did you have any friends from Ridgley?

Nicky Hayes: My wife is actually from Ridgley so, um, yes I guess you say she is my best friend, um but

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as far as outside my wife yes I have several friends from Ridgley

Briana Mays: So would you say when you were growing up did you sense any type of rivalry between Tiptonville and Ridgley ?

Nicky Hayes: In my generation, not so much they um, the rivalry we had more so between counties. Obion county was always are biggest rivalry now, um I know history of the county and because they were different sets of schools between Tiptonville and Ridgley and I know the old rivalry that used to be there but, been as the mid-thirties we all went to school together you know granted us started in Tiptonville, junior high ended up in Ridgley

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so there was no big rivalry between city vs. city

Briana Mays: Ok well now we are going to fast forward like to your present life. So can you tell us your occupation is?

Nicky Hayes: Day to day I work at the prison and north to Tiptonville, um, I served as a county commissioner for Lake County for district one and that's pretty much my occupation

Briana Mays: Ok you said you are a commissioner can you please explain to us what a commissioner is

Nicky Hayes: A county commissioner is we over sees all the money in the county from day a day, to year to year to, new schools, to the county road commission, the we over sees any money within

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the county. If it is spent in this county we know about it. Um, we also pass whether or not that the car tags higher or lower. We um, we over seas a lot of different things within the county if I had to sit here in explain everything we will be here two days

Kieanna Avery: Ok so how long can you be a commissioner?

Nicky Hayes: We are set on four years terms as far as many terms as you want to served. There is no you know the president as a two term limits. I'm on my second term right now, um, I know several of them that had retired recently Mr. Richard Pit which he just passed he was a county commissioner for years and years,

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um, Mr. Jimmy Yates he was a commissioner for district two now he served I think he is on his fourth term, so we have some older experiences and we have some new people within the county commission but we are four years term

Kieanna Avery: So how long have you been a commissioner?

Nicky Hayes: I'm in my fifth year this is my second term

Briana Mays: How you are elected to be commissioner are you elected or are you an employee?

Nicky Hayes: You are elected in least you there a commissioner spot that someone resigned from, last election our, um, last term we had someone, um Mr. Jason ??? he um took a job from another state he moved and which cast it left a county commissioner slot open um, we

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appointed um, Mr. Will Jackson to that spot cause um, we had the ability to point someone if there's a vacant spot in which case that happen, um someone that was elect and resign from the spot. So we um, we have the ability to appoint someone something with school board we had the ability to point someone to that board, um road commission as well if we get some if there's a vacant spot because someone had resign then we will we have the power to appoint someone

Briana Mays: Ok so when do the election to elect commissioner

Nicky Hayes: It is the um, the last election for us was 2014 which is the same as the primary for the um, president

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Briana Mays: Ok so how do you campaign to become commissioner do you do it the same way as you run for mayor or how is it to become

Nicky Hayes: Well I don't know I never run for mayor so as far as campaign go I'm you know this is a small county I go from door to door I tell people I'm running , I tell people my values I tell them how I represent and after I was elected I still go by and I still talk to people if we had something big coming up there need to be a decision made I represent with the people I want their opinion on it granted when you represent so many different people so many different personalities you not going to make everybody happy at all times but if I can make the majority of them happy I'm there to represent them not represent them myself

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I ask their opinion on things

Briana Mays: Ok so when do all the commissioners meet to discuss things about the county?

Nicky Hayes: The third Monday of every month unless there's something major that needs to go on that we need to vote on sooner, um we will however special call meeting the um special call meeting if we have to vote on anything it has to be run on the Lake County banner it has to be public notice, um every meeting we had is public knowledge so we have to acknowledge it a week in advance to let everyone know that we are having that meeting

Kieanna Avery: Ok what is the budget for Lake County for the upcoming physical year?

Nicky Hayes: Oh goodness, um caught me off guard on that one its several million right off the top of my head right if I had my paperwork right in front of me I could tell you the exact number but it's for the entire county

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its several million

Briana Mays: So how do y'all determine the budget for the county?

Nicky Hayes: To determine the budget it's based on the previous year plus any changes in the economy. For example I'm over the jail that's every commissioner had a certain area that there assigned to that they make sure that they working in operation because if for example chief Brain Avery comes up to any commissioner or any commissioner goes to him ??? It just how things going or everything going good. Mine what I'm over is I can actually sit down with Sheriff Avery. Brain how is your numbers going we actually pull out numbers we crush the numbers to found out hey look, um

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the price of milk is gone up fifty cent a gallon now its cost us instead fifty dollars a week worth a milk we're up to sixty-five dollars' worth a milk a week you may set up over fifty-two weeks that will come in a increase number that was not allowed in the budget and you know that just one example milk and you know gas goes up patrol cars still got to go around which still got to have you know duty out um, this reason case of ??? Boy that I mean that's cost a lot of cause we had to go get witnessed here in dyer you know that's we send duties all the way to Pennsylvania so that's an extra thousand dollars' worth gas right there. We take what previous year add to the economy and then we come up with a round about number

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that fits we still have money in the generous funds save us if we do go over budget by certain calls. I mean you could never predict ,um a major ??? Or anything like that that may cost you more money but you treated to have a little bit more set back just in case

Briana Mays: Well ok you said that you're role is based off the prison what other places do commissioners have now is there a certain ??? For each place like the schools and the grizzly squad

Nicky Hayes: Well the schools had its own school board we um, they have an lot of federals funding that we don't save for they operational budget they, um we management operational calls for the um, buses such thing like

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that if the school building itself need it to operational maintenance we were that budget, um the um, the county waste at Wynnburg, the big dump, um we set that budget we are the ones who pay the labor

out there and we the ones who pay for clean up. So I hope I'm answering your question I'm key you on that one

Briana Mays: Ok so um, do you know any budgets been set on the other side to build us a new school

Nicky Hayes: Well a budget not so much I grant, I'm not really incline to tell it this point but we are working on it because the high school

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is a major need major major need and it in the works

Kieanna Avery: So if you do get this grant where y'all thinking about putting the new school

Nicky Hayes: There been three locations Tiptonville, Ridgley, and a centralized location in Wynnburg

Briana Mays: Where do you think will be best to put the high school for your perceptive?

Nicky Hayes: Me myself Wynnburg is a very centralized location. Five minutes from Tiptonville, five minutes from Ridgley plenty of open land that you can build nice facility. You don't have to you know in Tiptonville oh we got five acres we can build on, Wynnburg we got twenty- five acres, we got fifty acres. Not only

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can we build a new high school we can build a gymnasium that is just awesome we can build you know facilities that are just unbelievable

Kieanna Avery: Why don't Ridgley have?

Nicky Hayes: Hmmm

Kieanna Avery: Why don't Ridgley cause you said we have acres in Tiptonville we have acres in Wynnburg but you didn't say any acers in Ridgley

Nicky Hayes: Well mainly because the new school in Ridgley. Ridgley just got a new school what six or seven years ago

Briana Mays: Eleven

Nicky Hayes: Eleven years ago ok it's just ??? New compared to the other two schools Margaret Newton elementary and Lake County high school um, the gymnasium was a lot nicer than what it was when I went to junior high I mean the facility is nice new

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and ??? Modern, um the reason being that I wanted say Ridgley is because I like the idea of the central location you know there no ??? People from Ridgley have to committed while the people from Tiptonville don't have to committed ??? If we can meet in the middle five minutes from either direction

Briana Mays: So do you think that if we do put the school in Wynnburg that it will cut down on all the um, like confusion between the two cities even like even them out a little bit cause you know Tiptonville have a lot of business here Ridgley doesn't do you think the school have something do with that

Nicky Hayes: I don't know so much it's the school system has the fact that the county seed is in Tiptonville same way you look at other counties the county seed of

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Obion county is union city look as big it is compared to Troy or Hornbeck or Obion. The county seed have a lot to do with anything if the county seed was in Wynnburg there will be more than a post office there, um, the reason that Tiptonville grown bigger is because more they just want open up around the county seed the courthouse is here, there four older businesses was conducted a lot more than the streets of Tiptonville. I you know I never seen it through mines but to hear the older people talks. The older people would tell you the streets of Tiptonville on a Monday night we jam pack on a Friday night you couldn't walk past each other without touching shoulders it was just that pack of people know things have settle down

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but the county seed was here therefore all business in this county was conducted in Tiptonville therefore Tiptonville got bigger than Ridgley was Ridgley has held its own but it's never been what Tiptonville is because the county seed was here if thing were ??? We would be talking why Tiptonville so small compared to Ridgley

Kieanna Avery: So what you said the physical the new physical you ??? Is bigger for Tiptonville than it is for Ridgley

Nicky Hayes: I don't think so no

Kieanna Avery: Ok so it's pretty much equal

Nicky Hayes: Yea it's pretty much even out as far as county money spent

Briana Mays: Ok when a person wants to bring a business into Lake County do they have to go to the commissioner to do it?

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Nicky Hayes: Depends on what kind of business it is, um, just a regular business you pay a business license with the county clerk, um you would first have to get a Tennessee state tax ide than go through the county clerk or um, yes the county clerk and um, apply for business license for or just throw a

business out there you know if you want to open up a restaurant you can do that without a acknowledging us as long as it in a business district um, than as far as if you want served alcohol you want beer license it has to come through us if um, if you want a just a normal restaurant open it up

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while ever consenting us you have to get a business license now if you in a residential area that is not consider a business area you have to come through us to get approve to be able to have a business from that area

Briana Mays: So when is the craftier did y'all go by to approve business that has to go through y'all

Nicky Hayes: If parse it's in residential area say it's going to open up in a neighborhood between your house your house and your house it's right across road from anybody at right next door you um, I'm not going to come to that person that open a business saying you know what um, you want to open up a um, a fish market here as it going you know this isn't

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any business area this is a residential area, um, I'm consult a neighbor around there to see how they feel about it, you know how do you feel about a fish market being right next door to your house or how do you feel about a fish market being next door to your house you know it's going to attract wild animals, skunks, possums, coyotes etc. The smell is going to be bad especially in the hot summer time, um, how do you fell about it you know, this isn't about this person open up businesses this is about the residential ground this going to have a problem with it now let's reversed it and say alright this person open up a shirt shop you know they going to print shirts there is no real danger that, there not going to smell bad and it's not going caused any wild animals to come up I'm going still come and ask you but the situation is different

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you know the factor own the neighborhood is not going to be the same so I'm still going to ask your opinion but the situation is different therefore you going have different opinion on the business than I'm going reported to everybody that's on the county commission and tell them look this is what the neighborhood said and that's how I'll go by

Kieanna Avery: Ok do y'all have any incentive that y'all use to bring businesses to Lake County

Nicky Hayes: Small business not so much big business absolutely we can give tax cuts, county property taxes um, we can give cuts on utilities and such like

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that the reason being if we get a factory here it will hire hundred people that's hundred people going to come to this county work without saying you know we got a hundred people in this county ready to go to work if they hire hundred people we say on the average we'll get half the job for people in Lake

County so its fifty people that we haven't in our county that's going to work we have fifty more people that are coming in to the county to work. There are going to commute for so long and then realized hey you know what I can just move to Lake County it will be a whole lot closer that tax break we gave them we're going to generated revenue from other people migrating in our county that will be paying car tags they will be paying property taxes they will be paying extra utilities that make it cheaper for you you you and me, um, everything we give breaks on that

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we'll give back tenfold by generating more people in this county if we have more people in this county there will be more cause for extra people to work at the gas stations, it will be more cause for people to work at the fast food restaurants because more people will be spending more money. Everything will build up from that

Briana Mays: Well we don't have any more questions to ask you were there anything else that you will like to add on that we didn't touch

Nicky Hayes: I don't know y'all hit me on a few and stump me on and I had to think for a minute um, but everything was pretty good I don't know if I can add anything

Briana Mays: Ok we will like to thank you for your time coming out your busy schedule and do this interview with us

Nicky Hayes: Ok thank you