

Meeting Date; 2/13/2024

Meeting of; Madison County Fiscal Court

Meeting Type; Regularly Scheduled

HONORABLE REAGAN TAYLOR COUNTY JUDGE EXECUTIVE PRESIDING

The Madison County Fiscal Court convened in regular session on the 9th of February 2024 at 9:30 AM in the Council Chambers' Courtroom in Berea, Ky. Present was the Honorable Reagan Taylor in the chair presiding and the following members of the Fiscal Court: James Brian Combs, Billy Ray Hughes, and Tom Botkin were present. Madison County Assistant Attorney Brooke Bowman, Madison County Sheriff Mike Coyle, and Madison County Clerk Kenny Barger were also present.

It being determined a quorum was present, the meeting was called to order.

Judge Taylor asked Pastor Stephen Hobbs, Berea Church of God, to lead the Court in prayer. Judge Taylor asked Sheriff Mike Coyle to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

IN RE: Approval of Meeting Minutes 1-23-2024:

Motion by Billy Ray Hughes seconded by James Brian Combs to approve the minutes from the regularly called meeting on January 23, 2024.

Motion carried on roll call vote as follows:

James Brian Combs-Yes Stephen Lochmueller-Not in Attendance

Billy Ray Hughes- Yes Tom Botkin- Yes

Reagan Taylor – Yes

IN RE: Approval of Meeting Minutes 2-6-2024:

Motion by Billy Ray Hughes seconded by James Brian Combs to approve the minutes from the special called work session meeting on February 6, 2024.

Motion carried on roll call vote as follows:

James Brian Combs-Yes Stephen Lochmueller-Not in Attendance

Billy Ray Hughes- Yes Tom Botkin- Abstained

Reagan Taylor – Yes

IN RE: Proclamation— FRYSC Appreciation Week:

Judge Taylor proclaimed the week of February 5-9, 2024, as Family Resource and Youth Services Coordinators Appreciation week and urged all citizens to honor the Madison County Family Resource and Youth Services Coordinators for the services they provide to our students and families each day with their "Whatever it Takes" motto.

Ashley Taylor with B. Michael Caudill Middle School and Glenn Marshall Elementary School; Kathy Coomer with B. Michael Caudill Middle School and Glenn Marshall Elementary School; Angie Daniels with Kingston Elementary School; Dayna Lowe with Silver Creek Elementary School and Shannon Johnson Elementary School; Jean Grant with Silver Creek Elementary School and Shannon Johnson Elementary School; and Marisa Stipes with Madison Central High School and Madison Southern High School were in attendance to accept the proclamation.

Ashley Taylor expressed her thankfulness to the Fiscal Court for the recognition.

Magistrate Botkin thanked the FRYSC for being at Court today and expressed his appreciation for all they do for the community.

Judge Taylor echoed Magistrate Botkin's appreciation. With the mental health crisis the County is experiencing, the FRYSC have become counselors and social workers who are on the front lines with the younger generation that are experiencing insecurities and crises in their lives.

Magistrate Combs stated that those that serve as FRYSC are touching the lives of the younger generation as well as teaching them. He thanked the FRYSC for all they do.

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IN RE: Proclamation—Support Eastern Kentucky University’s Proposal to Offer Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine Degrees:

Judge Taylor and the Madison County Fiscal Court support Eastern Kentucky University’s proposal to offer Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine degrees for professional practice and licensure in medicine.

Dr. Ryan Wilson, on behalf of Eastern Kentucky University, was in attendance to accept the proclamation. Dr. Wilson stated that a healthcare crisis is looming due to a shortage in physicians, but he believes that this is an opportunity to help Kentucky. He shared that House Bill 407, which will allow them to offer osteopathic medicine, passed out of the Education Committee this morning. Dr. Wilson also explained that Osteopathic Medicine is a general practitioner that takes a holistic approach when treating patients.

IN RE: 1st Reading Ordinance 2024-02—Land Use Change 301 Crutcher Pike and Tract 1 Crutcher Pike from UC-7 Agriculture to UC-1 Single-Family Residential:

Bert Thomas, Planning and Development Director, presented the 1st Reading of Ordinance 2024-02— Land Use Change 301 Crutcher Pike and Tract 1 Crutcher Pike from UC-7 Agriculture to UC-1 Single-Family Residential for the Court’s approval. This Ordinance approves the zone change of 301 Crutcher Pike and “Tract 1 Crutcher Pike,” Richmond, Kentucky, and authorizing the amendment of the official zoning map of Madison County, Kentucky.

Motion by Tom Botkin seconded by James Brian Combs to approve presented 2024-02— Land Use Change 301 Crutcher Pike and Tract 1 Crutcher Pike from UC-7 Agriculture to UC-1 Single-Family Residential. Magistrate Botkin thanked Thomas for the provided map and description, and asked if there were any complaints.

Thomas stated that there were some people at the meeting that had concerns with the traffic and property values, but those concerns were put to ease when the developer explained the number of houses that would be built and the layout of the houses.

Magistrate Botkin thanked Scott Shepherd for driving him out to the property to get a visual on what was being discussed.

Motion carried on roll call vote as follows:

James Brian Combs-Yes Stephen Lochmueller- Not in Attendance

Billy Ray Hughes- Yes Tom Botkin- Yes

Reagan Taylor – Yes

IN RE: Resolution 2024-11—General ASAP Grant FY25:

Jill Williams, Deputy Judge Executive, presented Resolution 2024-11—General ASAP Grant FY25 for the Court’s approval. This Resolution is confirming the Madison County Fiscal Court to serve as the applicant agent for the FY25 General Agency Substance Abuse Policy (ASAP) Grant and authorizing the Judge Executive to sign on behalf of the County.

Motion by Tom Botkin seconded by James Brian Combs to approve Resolution 2024-11—General ASAP Grant FY25.

Magistrate Botkin asked Laura Nagle, Madison County ASAP Board Treasurer, how do they check the progress levels that come as a result from these funds.

Ms. Nagle explained that it is really difficult to measure and link the long-term outcomes of these small grants. They do ask everyone to provide a report and presentation at the end of the year on the outcome of their stated goals, how many people were helped, did anything change, etc.

Magistrate Botkin asked if when they receive those feedback reports, if they could send them to Fiscal Court as well. Ms. Nagle agreed.

Magistrate Botkin also asked about transportation. Ms. Nagle explained that transportation is the biggest issue they have. There are a lot of resources in the county but if they can’t get to those resources, it doesn’t help them. ASAP will be putting together a transportation committee with Tyler at KY River Foothills with part of this Grant.

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Magistrate Combs thanked Laura and ASAP for all that they do.

Motion carried on roll call vote as follows:

James Brian Combs-Yes Stephen Lochmueller- Not in Attendance

Billy Ray Hughes- Yes Tom Botkin- Yes

Reagan Taylor – Yes

IN RE: Resolution 2024-12—Madison County Sheriff's 2024 Budget:

Judge Taylor presented Resolution 2024-12—Madison County Sheriff's 2024 Budget for the Court's approval. This Resolution is for the Madison County Fiscal Court to approve the Madison County Sheriff's 2024 Budget with monthly updates provided as to the financial position of the Madison County Sheriff's Office.

Motion by Tom Botkin seconded by James Brian Combs to approve Resolution 2024-12—Madison County Sheriff's 2024 Budget.

Sheriff Coyle thanked everyone for their help and input in the budget. The meetings and work session they had with the Judge's Office and the Magistrates was very productive, informative, and successful. He is very proud of those within his office and all the hard work they do on a daily basis. In 2023, the Madison County Sheriff Deputies worked 286 non-injury accidents, 594 injury accidents, 392 animal control, 12 animal welfare checks, 40 burglaries in progress calls, 38 burglaries worked, 929 warrants served, 48 K-9 activation calls, 333 processed and served court directives, 63 criminal mischief cases, 185 domestic violence calls, 453 motorist assists, 116 drug tipline complaints all through 911 dispatch, in which most calls take 2 officers for their safety. With court security, they provided 3,870 transported, traveling 82,419 miles within the State of Kentucky during 2023. He expressed his desire for the court system across the state to use the camera system to be able to cut costs down with transporting prisoners. He also expressed his appreciation to the Court for their support in law enforcement.

Major Anothony Terry spoke on some of the most expensive and time-consuming cases they work on. In the past year, they have worked on 28 sex abuse case investigations, 40 misdemeanor assault cases, 31 violent felony offenses, and 33 death investigations with 8 of those being overdose cases. Regarding the number of drug cases and the number of lives that have been saved in the past five (5) years, as a team working with the Richmond Police Department, Kentucky State Police, Berea Police, EKU Police Department, and the Blue Grass Army Depot, as well as with federal agencies, they have seized \$2.613 million worth of "heavier" drugs. That breaks down to 3.88 pounds of Methamphetamine, 2,929 dosage units of Oxycodone, 8.5 pounds of Cocaine, 10 pounds of Heroin, and 8.38 pounds of Fentanyl. In explanation of a legal dose of Fentanyl, a sugar packet is 3 grams, 2 milligrams within that packet of Fentanyl are enough to kill 1,500 people. The DEA has said that 2.2 pounds of Fentanyl is enough to kill 500,000 people.

Magistrate Botkin stated that this process was very in-depth and helpful to the Court to know where the funds go, but it is putting a dollar amount on lives, and this budget supports the Sheriff's Department as well as the community. He expressed his appreciation to the Sheriff's Department for all they do. He stated that it is a problem in the future, but it is something that they need the public to weigh in on.

Judge Taylor stated that the Sheriff's total requested budget is \$6,112,798 and the Fiscal Court's contribution will be \$2.63 million, which is about \$100,000 more than last year. He stated that Magistrate Botkin brought up a good point, that they need to ask the community what it is that they want; 12 years ago, Fiscal Court didn't give anything to the Sheriff's Department and as they have supported the Sheriff's Department with an increase in funding, they have never asked the taxpayers, which is their revenue stream, how they want to pay for this increase. There will be some big expenditures that will be hitting the Fiscal Court with CSEPP leaving in the future, so it will be important to get a better understanding of what the community wants.

Magistrate Combs thanked Jill, Judge Taylor, and the Sheriff's Department for all the work that went into preparing the budget. It was necessary for the Court to know the areas they can help, such as going to the Legislature, asking to use the video system for court, etc. He believes that this is a good starting point and that it is a fair budget, but they do need to look at things harder in the future.

Judge Taylor stated that breaking the budget down into the different functions of the Sheriff's Department shows how the unfunded mandates affect the Sheriff's Department and County as a whole, such as court security. The amount that it costs the Sheriff's Department and the amount that AOC gives back for court

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security is a \$300,000 difference that the County is out. He encouraged everyone to go to the Legislature as a team to help get some of these unfunded mandates funded.

Magistrate Hughes stated that he is very proud of the Sheriff's Department and expressed his appreciation for all they do, but with the changes that the County will be facing in the future and expenses rising, he doesn't believe they can afford this budget.

Motion carried on roll call vote as follows:

James Brian Combs-Yes Stephen Lochmueller- Not in Attendance

Billy Ray Hughes- No Tom Botkin- Yes

Reagan Taylor – Yes

IN RE: Resolution 2024-13—Media Content Specialist Professional Services

Agreement:

Jill Williams, Deputy Judge Executive, presented Resolution 2024-13—Media Content Specialist Professional Services Agreement for the Court's approval. This Resolution is to approve a professional services agreement with Landry Luxon Consulting, LLC for media content specialist services.

Motion by Tom Botkin seconded by James Brian Combs to approve Resolution 2024-13—Media Content Specialist Professional Services Agreement.

Clerk Barger stated that Landry Luxon came to the Clerk's Office as an intern in high school. She has provided and educated the Clerk's Office on the importance of social media and Google keyword searches to increase traffic flow to the Clerk's website. Landry also will bring institutional knowledge and won't have to be taught on how things work within the government. He is very proud of her and the work that she does.

Magistrate Botkin agreed with Clerk Barger.

Motion carried on roll call vote as follows:

James Brian Combs-Yes Stephen Lochmueller- Not in Attendance

Billy Ray Hughes- No Tom Botkin- Yes

Reagan Taylor – Yes

IN RE: Personnel:

Ryan Wade, Director of Human Resources, recommended the promotion of Shane Thornton from a Firefighter II to a Firefighter III, at a rate of \$9.53 per hour, effective February 14, 2024; the hiring of Jay Rowse as CDL Truck Driver/General Laborer, at a rate of \$18 per hour, effective February 14, 2024; the hiring of Veronica Benitez as Kennel Technician, at a rate of \$13 per hour, effective February 14, 2024; and the hiring of Aleaya Dixon as a Kennel Technician, at a rate of \$13 per hour, effective February 14, 2024.

Motion by Billy Ray Hughes seconded by James Brian Combs to the promotion of Shane Thornton from a Firefighter II to a Firefighter III, at a rate of \$9.53 per hour, effective February 14, 2024; the hiring of Jay Rowse as CDL Truck Driver/General Laborer, at a rate of \$18 per hour, effective February 14, 2024; the hiring of Veronica Benitez as Kennel Technician, at a rate of \$13 per hour, effective February 14, 2024; and the hiring of Aleaya Dixon as a Kennel Technician, at a rate of \$13 per hour, effective February 14, 2024.

Motion carried on roll call vote as follows:

James Brian Combs-Yes Stephen Lochmueller- Not in Attendance

Billy Ray Hughes- Yes Tom Botkin- Yes

Reagan Taylor – Yes

IN RE: Employee Spotlight:

Ryan Wade, Director of Human Resources, spotlighted Gregory Lovett, Fire Captain. Lovett has been with the County for 6 years. A Colleague stated that Captain Lovett always goes above and beyond in his daily duties. He strives to teach those under him how they can be the best version of themselves, and always has an open ear to listen and a positive attitude.

RE: Judge's Report:

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- Madison County Animal Shelter is having a Valentine's Pup Date Day Out event on Wednesday, February 14th. In exchange for a \$20 donation, which will go toward the dog's adoption fee upon adoption, you can sign out one of the sweet dogs to spend the day with. Visit the Madison County Animal Shelter Facebook page or call 859-624-4744 for more information.
- During "Heart Month," donations can be made to the February Food Drive and Fitness benefitting God's Outreach Food Bank at the Richmond Mall through February 29th.
- Madison Central is having a Fishing Tackle Swap Meet on Saturday, February 24th from 8:00 AM-1:00 PM at B. Michael Caudill Middle School in Richmond.
- The Berea College Forestry Outreach Center at the Pinnacles is hosting a geocaching adventure on Sunday, February 25th from 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM. Call 859-756-3315 or visit their Facebook page for more information.
- The Madison County Courthouse and its related offices will be closed on Monday, February 19, 2024 for the Presidents' Day holiday. Offices will re-open on Tuesday, February 20th at 8:00 AM.

Comments from Magistrates:

Judge Taylor thanked the Mayor of Berea and the Berea City Council for allowing them to use their facility.

Magistrate Hughes stated that all is well in the 3rd District.

Magistrate Botkin thanked Chris Iseral and Jill Williams for sending them the broadband map this week and for putting it up on the County's website. He also thanked Sarah and Elizabeth in Finance for answering his questions on some of the claims, as well as Scott Shepherd for working on some requests for gravel roads. He stated that he spoke with Brandon at the State about the potholes that are on I-75 where the blacktop was just put down a year ago, as well as the bridge and apron approaches at Buc-ee's and Barnes Mill.

Magistrate Combs expressed his appreciation that the County missed the bad weather last night; with \$78,000 being spent on salt during the last snow event, any time they don't have these snow events they can save money.

Clerk Barger expressed his appreciation to Pastor Hobbs for allowing the Clerk's Office to use the church as a voting location, and for what he is doing for the community. He also stated that Kavis has fixed many issues but there are still some that they are working on. They are still busy, and the State is behind on printing titles, so he asked for continued patience from the public.

Sheriff Coyle thanked the Court for their continued support.

Comments from Department Heads:

No Comments from Department Heads.

Comments from the Audience and Facebook Comments:

Jarrold Davis, 2118 Kentucky River Road Richmond, KY, advocated for having affordable housing in Madison County. He stated that larger companies are purchasing homes and converting them into rentals, which is resulting in a more competitive market, fewer available houses, and inflated home prices. This has radically affected home buying across the country, by focusing on single-family homes and starter homes over larger homes. Most of these companies purchase these homes for Airbnb rentals, which makes up for 81% of Airbnb's revenue. He wants to know what is being done for those that are struggling to find affordable homes when

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corporations are buying them up. Many states are putting in regulations that restrict the number of Airbnb's that can be in a certain area. He encouraged the Court to research this topic.

Stephanie Adkins, 2221 Kentucky River Road Richmond, KY, expressed her continued struggle with her neighboring Airbnb and stated that they sent her a cease-and-desist order when she hasn't spoken with the owner. She asked if there would be any changes with the regulations concerning Airbnb's.

Judge Taylor stated that there won't be any changes with the regulations at this time. If there are any issues with noise, that then becomes a law enforcement issue, and he encouraged the Sheriff's Department if there is a complaint in that area to put it at the top of their list if possible. Judge Taylor stated that they want to monitor the situation and if it becomes a county-wide problem, then the Fiscal Court will be open to discussions on how to fix it. As of now, all Airbnb's have to fill out an application and complete a process with Planning and Zoning. Judge Taylor stated that they did contact the owner of the Airbnb to get information and facts from both sides.

Magistrate Botkin stated that he has read up on some of what Mr. Davis was talking about, and that is becoming a nation-wide problem. This issue with affordable housing has a lot of facets involved that is above Fiscal Court level, but it is something they need to keep an eye on.

Facebook Comments:

Deputy Judge Executive Jill Williams stated that there was a comment in support of utilizing the camera court system.

Comments from Department Heads:

No Comments from Department Heads.

IN RE: Pay Claims and Approve Transfers:

Motion made by Tom Botkin seconded by James Brian Combs to approve to pay claims and transfers.

ANNOUNCE NEXT COURT DATE:

Judge Taylor announced the next court date for February 27, 2024, in the Richmond City Hall Commission Chambers in Richmond, Ky at 9:30 AM.

IN RE: ADJOURNMENT

Motion from Billy Ray Hughes to adjourn, seconded by James Brian Combs. Hearing no objection, the meeting adjourned at 10:51 PM.


REAGAN TAYLOR MADISON CO. JUDGE/EXECUTIVE