

Meeting Date; 4/9/2024

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 April 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, Stephen Lochmueller, 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 Tim Lawson, River of Life Foursquare Church, to lead the Court in prayer. Judge Taylor asked Sheriff Mike Coyle to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

IN RE: Approval of Meeting Minutes 3-26-2024:

Motion by Billy Ray Hughes seconded by Stephen Lochmueller to approve the minutes from the regularly called meeting on March 26, 2024.

Motion carried on roll call vote as follows:

James Brian Combs-Yes Stephen Lochmueller- Yes

Billy Ray Hughes- Yes Tom Botkin- Yes

Reagan Taylor – Yes

IN RE: Proclamation-Fair Housing Month:

Judge Taylor proclaimed the month of April 2024, as Fair Housing Month.

Jerri Dyer, Fahe, Director of Projects, was in attendance to accept the proclamation. Jerri thanked the Court for their support. Fahe is an affordable housing agency, and they are happy to partner with Madison County in providing safe and affordable housing to those in need.

IN RE: Joint Proclamation-Prevent Child Abuse Month:

Judge Taylor, along with Richmond Mayor Robert Blythe and Berea Mayor Bruce Fraley, jointly proclaimed April as Child Abuse Prevention Month in Madison County, Kentucky, and called upon all citizens to increase their participation in our efforts to support families, thereby preventing child abuse and strengthening the communities in which we live.

Victoria Benge, CASA, Executive Director was in attendance to accept the proclamation. Victoria explained that CASA advocates on behalf of abused and neglected children in the Family Court System. Last year there were 263 children in Madison Co. that were abused or neglected.

Judge Taylor asked if CASA had enough volunteers if that number would be greater. Victoria stated that currently they are only servicing about 20% of the children that need them because they don't have enough volunteers, so if they had more volunteers, they would have been able to help more than the 263 children that were helped last year. She explained that volunteering is only about 5-10 hours per month and involves building relationships with the children and advocating for them in the courtroom.

IN RE: Joint Proclamation-National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week:

Judge Taylor, along with Richmond Mayor Robert Blythe and Berea Mayor Bruce Fraley, jointly proclaimed the week of April 14-20, 2024, as National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week in Berea, Richmond, and Madison County, Kentucky and encouraged all citizens to honor the men and women whose diligence and professionalism keep our community safe.

Wendy Lynch, 911 Director, was in attendance to accept the proclamation. Wendy stated that there are some Board Members in attendance, as well as the Sheriff, Chief Sandlin, Chief Hays, and Chief Gray. She explained

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that they are very fortunate to be a consolidated center, with a great staff and support from the County. They currently are having an Adopt a Dispatcher event going on, in which the public can adopt a dispatcher to show some appreciation to them through cards, etc. She encouraged the public to follow Madison County 911 on Facebook to stay up to date on the 911 Center.

IN RE: 1st Reading Ordinance 2024-03—Land Use Change 1072 Tates Creek Road from R-7 & UC-7 Agriculture to UC-1 Single-Family Residential:

Bert Thomas, Planning and Development Director, presented 1st Reading Ordinance 2024-03—Land Use Change 1072 Tates Creek Road from R-7 & UC-7 Agriculture to UC-1 Single-Family Residential for the Court's approval. This is an Ordinance of the Madison County Fiscal Court, Kentucky, approving the zone change of 1072 Tates Creek Road, Richmond, Kentucky, (PIDN: 0041-0000-0017) and authorizing the amendment of the official zoning map of Madison County, Kentucky.

Motion by Tom Botkin seconded by James Brian Combs to approve 1st Reading Ordinance 2024-03—Land Use Change 1072 Tates Creek Road from R-7 & UC-7 Agriculture to UC-1 Single-Family Residential as presented.

Thomas explained that this property is on Tates Creek Road between Freybrook and Tates Creek Estates. There was a unanimous approval at the Planning Commission with no objection, but there were some questions about water runoff and septic sewer issues that got answered.

Motion carried on roll call vote as follows:

James Brian Combs-Yes	Stephen Lochmueller- Yes
Billy Ray Hughes- Yes	Tom Botkin- Yes
Reagan Taylor – Yes	

IN RE: Resolution 2024-28—MWM Consulting, LLC Economic Development Services Agreement:

Jill Williams, Deputy Judge Executive, presented Resolution 2024-28—MWM Consulting, LLC Economic Development Services Agreement for the Court's approval. This Resolution is to approve a professional services agreement between the Madison County Fiscal Court and MWM Consulting, LLC that will lay a solid foundation for strategic and long-term economic growth in Madison County.

Motion by James Brian Combs seconded by Tom Botkin to approve Resolution 2024-28—MWM Consulting, LLC Economic Development Services Agreement.

Magistrate Hughes asked what the cost was last year for this agreement. Judge Taylor stated that he believed it was \$3500 a month. Magistrate Hughes also asked if MWM had anything to do with the interlocal agreement with the Cities of Richmond and Berea, Fayette County, and Scott County. Judge Taylor said that they did; they were very involved in the joint interlocal agreement representing Madison County and the City of Berea.

Magistrate Hughes stated he was concerned about the price increase from last year to this year and asked for an update. Judge Taylor stated that MWM has been doing more than what last year's agreement consisted of, which is the reason for the cost increase. He believes that they are doing a great job and are well deserving of the additional increase and will provide an update when he is able to due to confidentiality.

Magistrate Lochmueller stated that over the year that he has been on Fiscal Court, he has seen an increase in support and commitment behind the economic development and believes that this will seem like a small investment once they know more. He is very excited about the potential of where Madison County can go.

Magistrate Botkin asked, with the confidentiality involved, if they could get quarterly updates. Judge Taylor stated that he would be glad to do that, with the understanding that a lot of things that involve economic development is very confidential with NDA's signed by all parties.

Motion carried on roll call vote as follows:

James Brian Combs-Yes	Stephen Lochmueller- Yes
Billy Ray Hughes- Yes	Tom Botkin- Yes

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IN RE: Resolution 2024-29—Blue Grass Chemical Activity-Blue Grass Army Depot MOU:

Tim Gray, EMA/CSEPP Director and Fire Chief, presented Resolution 2024-29—Blue Grass Chemical Activity-Blue Grass Army Depot MOU for the Court’s approval. This Resolution is to approve the updated Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Blue Grass Chemical Activity (BGCA), Blue Grass Army Depot (BGAD), Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives (ACWA), and Madison County, Kentucky. Motion by Tom Botkin seconded by Stephen Lochmueller to approve Resolution 2024-29—Blue Grass Chemical Activity-Blue Grass Army Depot MOU.
Magistrate Combs asked, on the BGAD part, if the County had other agreements with them besides this chemical MOU. Chief Gray said they do through their Fire Department and the County Fire Department in case they need any assistance.

Motion carried on roll call vote as follows:

James Brian Combs-Yes Stephen Lochmueller- Yes
Billy Ray Hughes- Yes Tom Botkin- Yes
Reagan Taylor – Yes

IN RE: Resolution 2024-30—CSEPP Grant MOA Contract Extensions:

Tim Gray, EMA/CSEPP Director and Fire Chief, presented Resolution 2024-30—CSEPP Grant MOA Contract Extensions for the Court’s approval. This Resolution approving the extensions of the CSEPP Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) Grant funds for Madison County Fiscal Court.
Motion by Billy Ray Hughes seconded by James Brian Combs to approve Resolution 2024-30—CSEPP Grant MOA Contract Extensions.

Motion carried on roll call vote as follows:

James Brian Combs-Yes Stephen Lochmueller- Yes
Billy Ray Hughes- Yes Tom Botkin- Yes
Reagan Taylor – Yes

IN RE: Resolution 2024-31—Commonwealth of Kentucky Lease Agreement for Unified Prosecutorial System:

Jill Williams, Deputy Judge Executive, presented Resolution 2024-31—Commonwealth of Kentucky Lease Agreement for Unified Prosecutorial System for the Court’s approval. This Resolution is approving a lease agreement renewal between the Commonwealth of Kentucky and Madison County Fiscal Court for Unified Prosecutorial System (also known as the Commonwealth Attorney).
Motion by Tom Botkin seconded by James Brian Combs to approve Resolution 2024-31—Commonwealth of Kentucky Lease Agreement for Unified Prosecutorial System.

Motion carried on roll call vote as follows:

James Brian Combs-Yes Stephen Lochmueller- Yes
Billy Ray Hughes- Yes Tom Botkin- Yes
Reagan Taylor – Yes

IN RE: Resolution 2024-32—Purchase EMA/CSEPP Specialty Trailer:

Tim Gray, EMA/CSEPP Director and Fire Chief, presented Resolution 2024-32—Purchase EMA/CSEPP Specialty Trailer for the Court’s approval. This Resolution is approving the purchase of a Specialty Trailer for Madison County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) and Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program (CSEPP) with JHB Group to allow operations and emergency response to continue at an offsite location during an emergency situation.

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Motion by James Brian Combs seconded by Tom Botkin to approve Resolution 2024-32—Purchase EMA/CSEPP Specialty Trailer.

Magistrate Botkin asked Chief Gray how they are currently performing the functions that are listed in this Resolution. Chief Gray stated that they don't currently perform any of those functions. They originally proposed the purchase of a mobile command unit, but after looking into that, it was determined that it would cost a yearly salary of about \$50,000 just to upkeep that equipment. In doing research and talking to other areas, they decided to go this route due to the upkeep and longevity being more feasible. This trailer will have 2 consoles in it that can be used to dispatch from anywhere in the county, as well as being able to print maps to aid in search and rescue or wildfire situations.

Motion carried on roll call vote as follows:

James Brian Combs-Yes Stephen Lochmueller- Yes

Billy Ray Hughes- Yes Tom Botkin- Yes

Reagan Taylor – Yes

IN RE: Employee Spotlight:

Ryan Wade, Director of Human Resources, introduced Maggie Ratliff, the new Animal Care & Control Director. Ryan Wade spotlighted Ricky Foster, Road Department Mechanic, who always goes above and beyond when dealing with the service and maintenance of County vehicles. He ensures that each County vehicle is safe and well maintained as if they were his own.

RE: Judge's Report:

- Tasty Tuesdays are back at Irvine-McDowell Park every Tuesday from 5:00 PM – 8:00 PM through September. Visit the Richmond Parks & Recreation Facebook page for more information.
- Don't forget the Madison County Animal Shelter's 2024 Spring Vendor & Adoption Event will be on Saturday, April 13th from 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM at the Richmond Mall. They will have live music, food trucks, local businesses, and same day adoptions.
- White Hall Park Lake will be stocked with 1,200 catfish on Thursday, April 18th.
- Churchill's Spring Artisan Market will be on Saturday, April 20th from 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM at 100 Churchill Court in Berea.

Comments from Magistrates:

Judge Taylor discussed an article in the Richmond Register addressing animal control intitled "Current Animal Control Leaves RDP in Difficult Situations." He didn't want the citizens to get a false message concerning the County government due to this headline and article. He asked Jill Williams to talk about timelines and conversations in trying to work together on this issue.

Jill Williams, Deputy Judge Executive, stated that in 1976 Madison County, the City of Richmond, and the City of Berea had a joint ordinance to adopt an interlocal agreement for animal control services. In April of 2017, Madison County requested payment from both governments as part of that Ordinance. Then in the spring of 2018, Madison County met with both cities requesting payment be added to both budgets to comply with the Ordinance. In February of 2019, Madison County invoiced the payments for both the City of Richmond and City of Berea; they provided a budget planning and broke down the cost of animal control in all areas and the shelter. On June 13, 2019, an interlocal government meeting took place concerning animal control. That produced a work section with the City of Berea, and an interlocal agreement was adopted with the City of Berea

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in August 2019 for them to pay \$30,000 for animal control services that would be provided by Madison County.

The City of Richmond also had an agreement at that time for animal control services, in which they paid \$75,000 on June 27, 2019. In 2020, the City of Richmond rescinded that agreement and Ordinance, deciding to do animal control on their own. Since that time, there have been several conversations to continue to create partnerships with both cities to provide that service, which they currently do with the City of Berea with great success. In reference to the article that Judge Taylor mentioned, that was a choice with the leadership of Richmond and how that works with RPD; it wasn't a choice with the County nor with the Animal Control Officer. This can lead to frustration for city residents and city employees, but it hasn't been a decision on the County to put RPD officers in difficult situations, as referenced in the article.

Judge Taylor stated that animal control and animal shelter are 2 different things but are often viewed as one and the same. The City of Richmond choose to do animal control on their own, and the issues RPD is having have no reflection on the County's animal control staff.

Magistrate Botkin asked where he should direct the calls that he receives to from those that live in the City of Richmond concerning animal control.

Magistrate Lochmueller stated that as a resident of the City of Richmond, he hasn't had much luck in getting such issues taken care of, but he suggested calling the RPD, not 911.

Jill Williams stated that she believed it is a combination of Codes and Planning at the city and RPD. She said that the County 911 does get caught in the middle of it.

Clerk Barger asked Jill to explain what it means when an animal could interfere with RPD or an ambulance showing up at a home. Jill explained that when emergency services go to a call where there is an animal present that may be interfering with an investigation or with the ability to provide treatment in the County or in the City of Berea, the Sheriff's Office would ask for animal control to come on site. The Animal Control Officer would then take care of the animal part of that situation. If you don't have that resource, then the law enforcement officers are having to provide law enforcement services as well as animal control enforcement.

Judge Taylor wanted to clarify that the "Current Animal Control Leaves RPD in Difficult Situations" is referring to Richmond City's current animal control, which he doesn't believe they currently have anyone in that position; it is not a reflection of the animal control services that are provided to those in the county or in the City of Berea.

Magistrate Lochmueller stated that he has had several situations over the last couple of weeks due to the rain in which some roads had needed some attention; he thanked the Road Department for all the work they have done to get those roads repaired. He also asked about the Exit Beautification Program. Judge Taylor stated that it is still in the works, and they have had some meetings concerning that project.

Magistrate Hughes stated that in the 3rd District there are several subdivisions that have small quarter acre lots with narrow streets where people are parking on side of the street. He asked Bert Thomas if he could verify with the City of Richmond in their subdivision regulations what is the minimum street width in those situations.

Magistrate Botkin thanked the 911 Dispatchers that came today and expressed his appreciation for all they do. He spoke with the State Road Department about roads that are needing attention, particularly at the Buc-ee's exit and around Barnes Mill, and is hopeful that they will address those issues soon. He also stated that he has talked with the Sheriff's Department about semi-trucks parking on the Buc-ee's exit, which is very dangerous. He expressed his appreciation to the Sheriff's Department on sending officers out to ask those truckers to move.

Magistrate Combs stated that there is a lot of good things that are going on in the county, and expressed his gratefulness to those in the community that are supporting the community.

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Clerk Barger stated that their push for election workers has been working, they currently have 170 signed up for the Primary. He encouraged those that have signed up to complete the process by attending the training classes that are coming up on April 24th and 25th and expressed his appreciation for those that have signed up.

Sheriff Coyle advised the Court that they still haven't received their new cars yet and are spending more money on the older, high mileage cars to keep those going. He also advised county drivers to pay more attention when driving; there have been several accidents recently due to inattention from the drivers.

There was an escaped inmate from Franklin Co. that was apprehended on Friday, April 5th by the Madison County Sheriff's Department, and he thanked his officers for the work they did during that search. He also commended Wendy and her staff at the 911 Center for the great, professional job they do; he is very honored to work with them.

Comments from Department Heads:

No Comments from Department Heads.

Comments from the Audience and Facebook Comments:

Judy Keith, South Dogwood Drive, thanked the Court for the trash pick-up on the side of the road of Peggy Flat, Big Hill Ave, and Flat Gap Road. There is so much disrespect from those that are trashing the roads, and she asked if everything is being done to let those folks know there is a law for no littering. She suggested when the organizations that participate in the litter abatement program, have someone following them with signs that state "No Littering, \$500 Fine." She also suggested making those that are cited for littering pick up the trash along the side of the road for a time frame.

No Facebook Comments.

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 April 23, 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 10:46 AM.


REAGAN TAYLOR MADISON CO. JUDGE/EXECUTIVE