

Meeting Date: 10/22/2024
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 22nd of October 2024 at 9:30 AM in the Richmond City Hall Chambers in Richmond, 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. Assistant Madison County Attorney Brooke Bowman, Madison County Clerk Kenny Barger, and Sheriff Mike Coyle were also present.

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

Judge Taylor asked Sherry Green, St. Paul A.M.E. 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 10-8-2024:

Motion by Stephen Lochmueller seconded by James Brian Combs to approve the minutes from the regularly called meeting on October 8, 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: Approval of Meeting Minutes 10-17-2024:

Motion by Billy Ray Hughes seconded by James Brian Combs to approve the minutes from the special called meeting on October 17, 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	

Treasurer's Report:

Sarah Stewart, Treasurer, addressed the Court to give the monthly treasurer's report (see on file).

IN RE: Joint Proclamation—Madison Central Boys' Golf Team State Champions:

Judge Taylor proclaimed October 22, 2024, as Madison Central Boys' Golf State Champions Day and encouraged all Madison Countians to join us in congratulating these young men on a job well done.

Coaches Kyle Congleton and Adam Herald, as well as team members Radney Bales, Reece Keeton, Tucker Jones, Jake Feldhaus, and Seth Barker were in attendance to accept this proclamation.

Coach Kyle Congleton thanked the Court for the recognition and expressed his pride in the young men of the Madison Central Boys' Golf Team and how well they have represented the community.

IN RE: 2nd Reading Ordinance 2024-16—Prohibition of Cannabis Business Operations Within Unincorporated County Jurisdiction:

Jill William, Deputy Judge Executive, presented 2nd Reading Ordinance 2024-16—Prohibition of Cannabis Business Operations Within Unincorporated County Jurisdiction for the Court's approval. This is an Ordinance

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relating to the prohibition of cannabis business operations within Madison County Fiscal Court's unincorporated county jurisdiction.

Motion by Tom Botkin seconded by James Brian Combs to approve 2nd Reading Ordinance 2024-16—Prohibition of Cannabis Business Operations Within Unincorporated County Jurisdiction as presented.

Magistrate Lochmueller stated that medical cannabis can enhance and improve the lives of those that need it and what they are doing today does not affect the access of medical cannabis for those that will need it.

There was no public comment.

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: 2nd Reading Ordinance 2024-17—Land Use Change 4050 Irvine Road from UC-7 Agriculture to UC-4 General Business:

Bert Thomas, Planning and Development Director, presented 2nd Reading Ordinance 2024-17—Land Use Change 4050 Irvine Road from UC-7 Agriculture to UC-4 General Business for the Court's approval. This is an Ordinance approving the zone change of 4050 Irvine Road, Waco, Kentucky, and authorizing the amendment of the official zoning map of Madison County, Kentucky.

Motion by Billy Ray Hughes seconded by James Brian Combs to approve 2nd Reading Ordinance 2024-17—Land Use Change 4050 Irvine Road from UC-7 Agriculture to UC-4 General Business as presented.

There was no public comment.

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: 2nd Reading Ordinance 2024-18—Land Use Change 2319 Union City Road from RC-7 Agriculture to RC-1 Single-Family Residential:

Bert Thomas, Planning and Development Director, presented 2nd Reading Ordinance 2024-18—Land Use Change 2319 Union City Road from RC-7 Agriculture to RC-1 Single-Family Residential for the Court's approval. This is an Ordinance approving the zone change of 2319 Union City Road, Richmond, Kentucky, and authorizing the amendment of the official zoning map of Madison County, Kentucky.

Motion by James Brian Combs seconded by Tom Botkin to approve 2nd Reading Ordinance 2024-18—Land Use Change 2319 Union City Road from RC-7 Agriculture to RC-1 Single-Family Residential as presented.

Chris Harrison, Attorney with Eaves, Olds, Bohannon, & Floyd, stated that there were some objections raised during the Planning Commission Hearing.

Magistrate Botkin stated that he has watched the Planning Commission hearing and stated that traffic was a common issue that came up, as well as flooding. Mr. Harrison stated that as far as the issue of traffic, the proposed subdivision is 40 houses and would increase traffic by roughly 80 cars at most for this development. Vickie Fritz, of Richmond, KY, spoke on her belief and reasons that the zone change should be denied. She spoke on the Union City community and values, as well as on her concerns that this zone change could have on the environment, pollution, access to community services, the preservation of the land, traffic, infrastructure, and safety. She provided examples of why she feels that the zone change is in disagreement with the Comprehensive Plan.

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Stuart Adams, of Union City Road, stated that Madison County is the fastest growing residential county in the state, and doesn't think that is a good thing. He stated that it could cause difficulty for the first responders to keep up with the growth. He also stated that the increase in growth puts the schools at risk.

TJ Smith, of Union City Road, stated that he owns the land neighboring this development, and as a developer himself, he sees both sides of the situation. With the passing of this zone change, it will lead to more land being changed and developed in the future, which will lead to more traffic issues as well as sewer issues. He doesn't feel that there needs to be more undue burden put onto the citizens in the area.

Stephen Richter, of the Diamond Brook Subdivision, spoke on the growth of the county and stated that having suburban and rural development instead of inside of the Urban Corridor isn't sustainable. He stated that we have to preserve, in all cases that are possible, land that will grow our food, and provide the animals and plants we need to sustain ourselves. He also talked about the soil in the area, which is not conducive to septic lines, making septic capacity limited, and the streams that run through the area, which have been tested to show high levels of E. coli in them.

Roy Goldstein, of Union City, spoke of his concerns on the first responders with the increase of growth.

Gary Fritz, of Richmond, KY, stated that something needs to be done with the infrastructure to make things more feasible.

Judge Taylor stated there were some comments that were emailed to them from those that couldn't be at Court today, and those were provided to the Court members for review.

Attorney Chris Harrison stated that Kentucky as a whole is in a housing shortage crisis. According to a study and analysis released by KACo and the Kentucky Housing Corporation in June 2024, Madison County has a housing gap of 7% right now. He asked the Fiscal Court to consider all of those issues before making a decision.

Judge Taylor asked Bert Thomas about the upgrade to the road that the developer will be doing on Dunbar Lane. Bert stated the developer will be widening Dunbar Lane at his expense, but the decision on the exact plan hasn't been made to know if it will include the entire road or not.

Judge Taylor also asked about the septic system. Bert stated that they talked with the Health Department on it, but from the Planning Commission and Fiscal Court standpoint, they don't regulate septic systems. They do require site evaluations and final septic approval before they issue certificates of occupancy or plats get submitted.

Magistrate Hughes stated that the Comprehensive Plan was used to approve this change, but the people that spoke also gave overwhelming arguments based on the Comprehensive Plan on why it shouldn't be approved.

Magistrate Botkin stated that this subdivision highlights a situation that isn't unique to Union City. The county is growing, and unfortunately the State roads need to be improved to maintain that growth but they run behind. Magistrate Lochmueller agreed that traffic is an issue. He stated that they have to fight with Frankfort to get the traffic issues fixed.

Motion carried on roll call vote as follows:

James Brian Combs-Yes Stephen Lochmueller- Yes

Billy Ray Hughes- No Tom Botkin- Yes

Reagan Taylor – Yes

IN RE: Resolution 2024-106—State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) Program Subaward Agreement for Kirksville Water Association:

Jill Williams, Deputy Judge Executive, presented Resolution 2024-106— State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) Program Subaward Agreement for Kirksville Water Association for the Court's approval. This Resolution approves a subaward agreement between the County of Madison, Kentucky and Kirksville Water Association.

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Motion by James Brian Combs seconded by Stephen Lochmueller to approve Resolution 2024-106— State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) Program Subaward Agreement for Kirksville Water Association.

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 2024-107— State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) Program Subaward Agreement for Madison County Utilities District:

Jill Williams, Deputy Judge Executive, presented Resolution 2024-107— State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) Program Subaward Agreement for Madison County Utilities District for the Court's approval. This Resolution approves a subaward agreement between the county of Madison, Kentucky and Madison County Utilities District.

Motion by Stephen Lochmueller seconded by Tom Botkin to approve Resolution 2024-107— State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) Program Subaward Agreement for Madison County Utilities District.

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 2024-108—Regional Economic Development Interlocal Cooperation Agreement:

Judge Taylor presented Resolution 2024-108—Regional Economic Development Interlocal Cooperation Agreement for the Court's approval. This is Resolution of the Madison County Fiscal Court regarding an Economic Development Partnership pursuant to KRS 154.050 et seq, authorizing the County Judge Executive to represent the County to entering into a Regional Economic Development Interlocal Cooperation Agreement between Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government, Kentucky, the County of Madison, Kentucky, the County of Scott, Kentucky, the City of Berea, Kentucky, the City of Georgetown, Kentucky, and the City of Richmond, Kentucky each of which is a political subdivision of the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

Motion by Tom Botkin seconded by Stephen Lochmueller to approve Resolution 2024-108—Regional Economic Development Interlocal Cooperation Agreement.

Magistrate Botkin stated that there are four ways to generate revenue; cut people, increase population, grow the economy, or raise taxes. This is an opportunity to generate income for the future of Madison County by not using local tax dollars.

Magistrate Lochmueller stated that this is supported by the Kentucky Economic Development Cabinet, and by the experts of economic development. It is their responsibility to bring growth, whether it be jobs or population, for the future.

Magistrate Botkin stated that they have had CSEPP funding for the past 30 years and this is a way for the County to generate funds without local dollars being involved.

Magistrate Combs stated that he has been a direct beneficiary of a corporation such as this in Berea with the Berea Industrial Authority recruiting jobs to come to Berea, so he didn't have to drive to other counties to provide for his family. This is an investment in the community.

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: Personnel:

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Jill Williams, Deputy Judge Executive, recommended the hiring of Victoria Thompson as an Animal Control Officer, at a rate of \$20 per hour, effective October 30, 2024; the hiring of Kimberli Stevenson as a Custodial I, at a rate of \$12 per hour, effective October 23, 2024;

Motion by James Brian Combs seconded by Billy Ray Hughes to approve the hiring of Victoria Thompson as an Animal Control Officer, at a rate of \$20 per hour, effective October 30, 2024; the hiring of Kimberli Stevenson as a Custodial I, at a rate of \$12 per hour, effective October 23, 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: Employee Spotlight:

Jill Williams, Deputy Judge Executive, spotlighted Amy Bruner, Deputy Clerk since 2013. A colleague stated that Amy is polite and professional and is always willing to step in to help any coworker in need. She takes time to explain things to citizens when they may not completely understand the process of certain transactions, and is a great addition to the team.

Clerk Barger stated that Amy has worked in every department in the office and they are glad to have her.

IN RE: Judge's Report:

- Starting October 21st and running through November 17th, Madison County residents can take advantage of free fire alarm installations through the American Red Cross National "Sound the Alarm" initiative. In partnership with the Madison County Fire Department, this program aims to keep homes and families safe by ensuring every household has working fire alarms. Scheduling your installation is quick and simple. Just call the Fire Department at 859-624-4774 to book your appointment.
- Join us for the Madison County Animal Shelter Howl-a-ween Adoption Event on Friday, October 25th from 4:00 PM – 7:00 PM at White Hall Park in Richmond.
- EKV's Homecoming parade will be on Friday, October 25th beginning at 6:00 PM. Please be mindful of road closures and pedestrians in the downtown area. Kickoff for their homecoming game is 3:00 PM on Saturday, October 26th.
- DEA's National Rx Take Back Day will be on Saturday, October 26th from 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM at Richmond Walmart. This provides a safe, convenient, and responsible disposal method for prescription drugs while educating the general public about medication abuse.
- Kentucky River Foothills' Senior Citizen Centers are in need of compassionate volunteers to assist with meal delivery and lead engaging activities for our beloved seniors. Call Richmond Active Living Center at 859-623-0474 or Berea Senior Center at 859-986-8350 for more information.
- Visit our website at www.madisoncountky.gov/community-events to see a list of some of the events happening throughout our community. If you have an event you would like to feature on this page, simply click on the "Submit an Event" button and complete the form.

Comments from Magistrates:

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Judge Taylor expressed his appreciation to the Richmond Mayor and Richmond Commission for allowing them to use their space while the Courthouse is under construction. He also spoke on the investment that the Court has made in their first responders over the years and the services they provide.

Magistrate Lochmueller stated that he is very proud of the work they are doing, and the vision they have for the betterment of the community.

Magistrate Hughes stated that he didn't have anything to report.

Magistrate Botkin stated that when he first got into office, not all of the Sheriff's Deputies had bullet proof vests, none had back-up weapons, etc. They have improved the equipment that the Sheriff's Department needed because the community stated that the top concern that they had was safety. He also stated that the Comprehensive Plan isn't a static document, it is a living document that has to be improved upon as they go along.

Magistrate Combs stated that he hopes they are able to leave a good inheritance for their children with this economic development.

Clerk Barger encouraged the public to get out and vote. Walk-in excused voting starts October 23rd through October 30th at the Clerk's Office in Richmond, and the Early Voting dates are October 31st, November 1st, and November 2nd from 8AM-4PM.

Assistant Attorney Brooke Bowman stated that her family participated in the tire event, she said it was a very smooth experience and they appreciated the service.

Sheriff Mike Coyle stated that they have 5 deputies off right now with injuries and are still trying to maintain their schedule.

Comments from Department Heads:
No Comments from Department Heads.

Public Comments:
No Comments from the Public.

IN RE: Pay Claims and Approve Transfers:
Motion made by Tom Botkin seconded by Stephen Lochmueller to approve to pay the claims and transfers.

ANNOUNCE NEXT COURT DATE:
Judge Taylor announced the next court date for November 12, 2024, in the Council Chambers' Courtroom in Berea, Ky at 9:30 AM.

IN RE: ADJOURNMENT
Motion from Tom Botkin to adjourn, seconded by Stephen Lochmueller. Hearing no objection, the meeting adjourned at 11:53 AM.

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REAGAN TAYLOR, MADISON COUNTY JUDGE/EXECUTIVE