

Meeting Date: 11/12/2024
Meeting of: Madison County Fiscal Court
Meeting Type: Regularly Scheduled

REAGAN TAYLOR COUNTY JUDGE EXECUTIVE PRESIDING

The Madison County Fiscal Court convened in regular session on the 12th of November 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 Michael 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 Kevin Slemp, Berea Baptist 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 10-22-2024:

Motion by Stephen Lochmueller seconded by James Brian Combs to approve the minutes from the regularly called meeting on October 22, 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: Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 1066 – Deputy Veteran Award:

Emerson McAfee presented the Deputy Veteran award to Deputy Griffin Pfisterer. Emerson stated that Deputy Pfisterer has been with the Madison County Sheriff's Office since April 2022 and serves as a Captain in the U.S. Army National Guard. His military leadership and training have been a great service to the Sheriff's Office and is a great representative of the office.

IN RE: Madison County Election Update:

Clerk Kenny Barger stated that they had a 56% turnout for the 2024 General Election, with more people coming out to vote during Early Voting than during Election Day. He thanked the Election Officers for their dedication, the citizens for being prepared, and the Clerk's Office staff for all their work.

Judge Taylor asked if Saturday was the busiest day of Early Voting. Clerk Barger stated that no, Thursday was actually the busiest day.

Clerk Barger stated that there were calls about ballots stating Clay County, McCreary County, etc. He explained that Clay and McCreary are precincts within Madison County and that just meant that the voter lives in the Clay precinct and received a county ballot, not a city ballot. He also stated that there was a software issue with the ExpressVote machines in which the calibration gets off and is a problem that ES&S is working on fixing. Clerk Barger also stated that they had a Hand-to-eye Audit after the audit, in which the Election Night tapes matched the results of the audit.

Magistrate Botkin stated that he has a great experience at the Berea Church of God location during Election Day. Clerk Barger stated that he is very grateful to all the locations for allowing them to vote there. He also thanked the Court for their support over the years.

IN RE: 1st Reading Ordinance 2024-19—Land Use Change 1978 Boonesborough Road from R-7 and RC-7 Agriculture to UC-1 Single-Family Residential:

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Bert Thomas, Planning and Development Director, presented 1st Reading Ordinance 2024-19—Land Use Change 1978 Boonesborough Road from R-7 and RC-7 Agriculture to UC-1 Single-Family Residential for the Court's approval. This is an Ordinance relating to the zone change of 1978 Boonesborough 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 acknowledge the 1st Reading Ordinance 2024-19—Land Use Change 1978 Boonesborough Road from R-7 and RC-7 Agriculture to UC-1 Single-Family Residential as presented.

Magistrate Hughes stated that in general, he feels that every zone change gets passed, and that public output isn't taken into consideration.

Judge Taylor stated that what is brought to Court gets passed because people hire attorneys that follow the Comprehensive Plan.

Bert Thomas stated that by the time it gets to his office, it has been vetted by the property owner/potential developer, they have already sought out council and reviewed the Comprehensive Plan and it has been determined that it does meet the Plan. He stated it does seem like they all pass, because there is a vetting process before it even gets to the Court for presentation. He stated that they have turned down a couple of changes by the Planning Commission, but they will still see those because whatever decision the Planning Commission makes, whether it is to approve or not approve a zone change, it gets presented to the Court for the final decision.

Magistrate Hughes stated that most citizens don't have the financial ability to hire an attorney to go against any of the zone changes.

Bert stated that they have had several attorneys come before the Planning Commission against a change, and there have been several cases in which the Planning Commission has tabled a change to allow for more time to research and learn about the change.

Magistrate Lochmueller stated that most people don't think about these changes until they are in your back yard, but the developer/landowner has to follow the procedures/laws to get to the point of it being presented at court.

Judge Taylor stated that a lot of times, the concerns that are brought up about a zone change don't actually have anything to do with a zone change legally. He encouraged public participation when they are updating the Comprehensive Plan to help address some concerns the public may have on the growth of the county.

Magistrate Botkin added that acknowledging the 1st Reading of a zone change gives the Court the opportunity to go out and look at the property.

Motion carried on roll call vote as follows:

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

IN RE: Resolution 2024-109—Bissell Pet Foundation Empty the Shelters Grant Funds Application:

Jill Williams, Deputy Judge Executive, presented Resolution 2024-109—Bissell Pet Foundation Empty the Shelters Grant Funds Application for the Court's approval. This Resolution is for the application and administration of the Bissell Pet Foundation Empty the Shelters Grant Funds.

Motion by Tom Botkin seconded by James Brian Combs to approve Resolution 2024-109—Bissell Pet Foundation Empty the Shelters Grant Funds Application.

Motion carried on roll call vote as follows:

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

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IN RE: Resolution 2024-110—Shiloh Pointe Subdivision Road Adoption:

Scott Shepherd, Road Supervisor, presented Resolution 2024-110—Shiloh Pointe Subdivision Road Adoption for the Court's approval. This Resolution is for the Madison County Fiscal Court to adopt the remainder of Falcon Crest Drive, Falling Waters Lane, and Stone Ridge Drive for County maintenance.

Motion by Stephen Lochmueller seconded by Tom Botkin to approve Resolution 2024-110—Shiloh Pointe Subdivision Road Adoption.

Magistrate Botkin asked if the 260 feet of Falcon Crest Drive that is being adopted today gets a new CR number. Scott stated that they believe it will be the same CR number as what was previously adopted. Judge Taylor asked if this completed the Shiloh Pointe Subdivision. Scott stated that it does complete the subdivision. Judge Taylor stated that the Shiloh Pointe development started around 1998, and it is just now getting completed; the process it takes to develop a property completely can take a long time.

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 2024-111—State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) Program Subaward Agreement for Southern Madison Water District:

Jill Williams, Deputy Judge Executive, presented Resolution 2024-111—State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) Program Subaward Agreement for Southern Madison Water District for the Court's approval. This Resolution approves a subaward agreement between the County of Madison, Kentucky and Southern Madison Water District.

Motion by James Brian Combs seconded by Tom Botkin to approve Resolution 2024-111—State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) Program Subaward Agreement for Southern Madison Water 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 2024-112—Madison County Cooperative Extension Board Appointment:

Judge Taylor presented Resolution 2024-112—Madison County Cooperative Extension Board Appointment for the Court's approval. This Resolution approves the appointment of Victoria Faoro to the Madison County Cooperative Extension Board, with an expiration date of December 31, 2027.

Motion by Stephen Lochmueller seconded by James Brian Combs to approve Resolution 2024-112—Madison County Cooperative Extension Board Appointment, approving the appointment of Victoria Faoro to the Madison County Cooperative Extension Board, with an expiration date of December 31, 2027.

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 2024-113— Madison County Cooperative Extension Board Appointment:

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Judge Taylor presented Resolution 2024-113— Madison County Cooperative Extension Board Appointment for the Court's approval. This Resolution approves the appointment of David Pigg to the Madison County Cooperative Extension Board, with an expiration date of December 31, 2027.

Motion by Billy Ray Hughes seconded by Stephen Lochmueller to approve Resolution 2024-113— Madison County Cooperative Extension Board Appointment, approving the appointment of David Pigg to the Madison County Cooperative Extension Board, with an expiration date of December 31, 2027.

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 2024-114—Madison County Board of Adjustments Appointment:

Judge Taylor presented Resolution 2024-114—Madison County Board of Adjustments Appointment for the Court's approval. This Resolution approves the appointment of Ryan Robinson to the Madison County Board of Adjustments, with an expiration date of June 20, 2028.

Motion by Tom Botkin seconded by James Brian Combs to approve Resolution 2024-114—Madison County Board of Adjustments Appointment, approving the appointment of Ryan Robinson to the Madison County Board of Adjustments, with an expiration date of June 20, 2028.

Magistrate Combs thanked all those that participate on the boards.

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 2024-115— Golf Cart Purchase Package Bid Award:

Gary Vanderoef, Director of Golf and Recreation, presented Resolution 2024-115— Golf Cart Purchase Package Bid Award for the Court's approval. This Resolution approves a golf cart purchase bid award to Ladd's Golf & Turf, LLC in the amount of \$347,032.04 for 56 golf cars and one utility vehicle with a cargo box.

Motion by Tom Botkin seconded by James Brian Combs to approve Resolution 2024-115— Golf Cart Purchase Package Bid Award.

Magistrate Botkin asked why they are buying golf carts instead of leasing them. Gary stated that they will save thousands of dollars for the County because of interest fees that are associated with leasing them. It also gives them the opportunity to sell these carts or purchase new ones without being tied to a lease. It would save the County at least \$40,000 to purchase them instead of leasing, and that doesn't include the resale value of the carts that would go back to the County. Also, they currently have 46 golf carts and are purchasing 56. They have been having to cut-off tee times due to not having enough carts, so this will benefit the course and allow more players to be out on the course.

Magistrate Lochmueller asked if Gary could explain the servicing end of the carts since Ladd's Golf & Turf, LLC is out of state. Gary stated that they have always maintained the fleet themselves and will continue to do that. They have used Ladd's in the past and have been pleased with them. In most situations, they will not have emergency situations in which the carts will need a 1–2-day turnaround time frame to have them looked at, normally 2-5 days is the turnaround time for someone at Ladd's to come look at the carts.

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

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IN RE: Personnel:

Jill Williams, Deputy Judge Executive, recommended the status change of Cayden Tinsley from Firefighter Recruit to Firefighter, at a rate of \$11 per hour, effective November 20, 2024; the change of status of William Copper Firefighter Recruit to Firefighter, at a rate of \$11 per hour, effective November 20, 2024; the hiring of Levi Taylor as a seasonal Firefighter, at a rate of \$11 per hour, effective November 13, 2024; the hiring of David Watson as CDL Truck Driver/General Laborer, at a rate of \$18 per hour, effective November 13, 2024; the hiring of Kyra Soto as Kennel Tech II-Animal Care and Control, at a rate of \$15 per hour, effective November 25, 2024; and the hiring of Kaden Davis as Kennel Tech, at a rate of \$13 per hour, effective November 25, 2024.

Motion by Billy Ray Hughes seconded by James Brian Combs to approve the status change of Cayden Tinsley from Firefighter Recruit to Firefighter, at a rate of \$11 per hour, effective November 20, 2024; the change of status of William Copper Firefighter Recruit to Firefighter, at a rate of \$11 per hour, effective November 20, 2024; the hiring of Levi Taylor as a seasonal Firefighter, at a rate of \$11 per hour, effective November 13, 2024; the hiring of David Watson as CDL Truck Driver/General Laborer, at a rate of \$18 per hour, effective November 13, 2024; the hiring of Kyra Soto as Kennel Tech II-Animal Care and Control, at a rate of \$15 per hour, effective November 25, 2024; and the hiring of Kaden Davis as Kennel Tech, at a rate of \$13 per hour, effective November 25, 2024.

Magistrate Botkin asked Chief Gray what these hires and status changes did for his staffing. Chief Gray stated that it adds one seasonal employee to cover a shift for about six months, and the two recruits will be able to go on shift in two weeks after their graduation. They will still be short two full-time positions.

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: Student Spotlight:

Jill Williams, Deputy Judge Executive, spotlighted Julia Luxon, Intern with the Judge Executive's Office. Julia's dedication, creativity, and organizational skills played an integral role in making the Howl-a-ween event a memorable experience for both community members and their furry friends. Her passion for animal welfare and positive energy have left a lasting impact on the team, and they look forward to seeing her continued success.

Judge Taylor stated that Julia faced a lot of challenges with this event, but she never let it bring her down. They are all very proud of her and her hard work.

Magistrate Lochmueller stated that he was able to attend the event and thought it was very well run. He stated that he is very proud of Julia and her accomplishments.

RE: Judge's Report:

- Kentucky River Foothills began accepting applications for the Subsidy portion of their **Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)** on Tuesday, November 5th. The agency encourages all potentially eligible or vulnerable households to apply as soon as possible. Applications will be accepted through December 20, 2024, or until funds are depleted.
- Berea College Homecoming 2024 will begin on Friday, November 15th and continue through Sunday, November 17th. Please be mindful of increased traffic in the area.

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- An Expungement Clinic Resource Fair will be on Thursday, December 5th from 4:00 PM – 7:00 PM at First United Methodist Church located at 200 West High Street in Lexington.
- 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:

Judge Taylor expressed his appreciation to Berea Mayor and City Council for allowing the Court to use their chambers.

Magistrate Lochmueller thanked Clerk Barger and his staff for the success of the Election and in representing the county well. He thanked the County employees as well for their focus and delivering good services to the citizens. He stated that the animal shelter is moving forward in a positive fashion, and thanked Judge and Jill for their dedication to improve on the animal shelter.

Magistrate Hughes stated he was able to attend the annual Farm City Banquet at the Extension Office. For many years, Madison County had been one of the leading beef-producing counties east of the Mississippi River, and there are still a lot of good farmers in the county. He also stated that John Thomas, of Union City, was accepted into the Agriculture Hall of Fame, and congratulated him on this accomplishment.

Magistrate Botkin stated that when he gets calls from a citizen concerning an issue that he can't resolve, he directs them to Judge Taylor, and he has always set up a meeting with that citizen to try to get the situation resolved. He expressed his appreciation to Judge Taylor and he encouraged the public to call the Judge's Office if they have a problem or concern. He also stated that he was able to go to Shannon Johnson Elementary School on Thursday and participate in their Veterans Day program. He was able to see many veterans, including a Vietnam Veteran. The Berea Memorial Park also had a Veterans Memorial program yesterday in which Robert Glenn Gallaway was added to the monument that is there.

Magistrate Combs expressed his appreciation to the veterans that have served in our community, as well as thanking all the County department leaders for all their work. He also stated that there has been a lot of road work that has been going on throughout all the districts.

Sheriff Coyle stated that four new Court Security Officers have been sworn in last week, so they are at full staff there, but has four road deputies that are off due to medical issues. Also, the tax collection is still going on and they are doing well with it.

Comments from Department Heads:

Bert Thomas, Planning and Development Director, updated the Court on the Property Maintenance Program. They had a challenging case last week, and they still get calls about people not maintaining their property. He stated that if there is an issue with a property where the lawn isn't being mowed or trash isn't being disposed of properly, citizens can call the Planning and Zoning Department or go online to fill out a form. Through October of 2024 they had 102 complaints, closed 71 of those with 21 still open within some stage of the process, and 8 of those 102 were turned over to the County Attorney's Office.

Scott Shepherd, Road Supervisor, provided an update on the tire event. In 2021 they collected 15,862 tires, this year they collected 36,910 tires.

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Tim Gray, Fire Chief, stated that they had five days left in the Sound the Alarm program. If citizens don't have smoke alarms or detectors, they can call the station at 624-4774 to sign up so they will come out and install those for them free of charge. They have already installed 20-30 homes with alarms within the last two weeks.

Comments from the Audience Comments:

No Comments from the Audience.

IN RE: Pay Claims and Approve Transfers:

Motion made by James Brian Combs 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 26, 2024, in the Richmond City Hall Commission Chambers in Richmond, Ky at 9:30 AM.

IN RE: ADJOURNMENT

Motion from Stephen Lochmueller to adjourn, seconded by Tom Botkin. Hearing no objection, the meeting adjourned at 10:54 AM.



REAGAN TAYLOR MADISON CO. JUDGE/EXECUTIVE