

Meeting Date: 6/23/2026
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 23rd of June 2026 at 9:30 AM in the Fiscal Courtroom of the Courthouse Annex Building 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. 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 Rob Taylor, Tates Creek 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 6-9-2026:

Motion by Stephen Lochmueller seconded by Billy Ray Hughes to approve the minutes from the regularly called meeting on June 9, 2026.

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: 2nd Reading Ordinance 2026-003 — Fiscal Court Budget for FY 2026-2027:

Sarah Stewart, Treasurer, presented 2nd Reading Ordinance 2026-003 — Fiscal Court Budget for FY 2026-2027 for the Court's approval. This is an Ordinance relating to the adoption of the FY 2026-2027 Madison County Fiscal Court Budget.

Motion by James Brian Combs seconded by Stephen Lochmueller to approve the 2nd Reading Ordinance 2026-003 — Fiscal Court Budget for FY 2026-2027.

Magistrate Hughes stated that he has some concerns due to the long-term effect of some pay increases, a couple of line items that have increased, and the Fire Station cost. He would like to have a work session to go over the Fire Station costs.

Magistrate Lochmueller stated that a work session has to be done before the initial vote.

There were no public comments.

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 2026-054 — Madison County Information Technology Managed Services Agreement for FY 2026-2027:

Chris Iseral, Chief Information Officer, presented Resolution 2026-054 — Madison County Information Technology Managed Services Agreements for FY 2026-2027 for the Court's approval. This is a Resolution of

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the Madison County Fiscal Court authorizing signature of FY 2026-2027 Madison County Information Technology (MCIT) Managed Services Agreement.

Motion by Billy Ray Hughes seconded by Tom Botkin to approve Resolution 2026-054 — Madison County Information Technology Managed Services Agreements for FY 2026-2027.

Magistrate Botkin asked about the statement concerning facilities that are not attached to the MCKY Fiber network must provide their own internet connection and asked who an example of this would be. Chris stated that Southern Madison Water District and the Battlefield Golf Course in Madison County would be a couple of examples; they are not attached to the fiber ring, so they must have their own internet connection to back to the data center.

Magistrate Botkin stated that there were several scopes of service and asked Chris if they negotiated within each scope. Chris stated that they did.

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 2026-055 — Madison County Sheriff's 2025 Local Tax Settlement:

Mary Margaret Young, Administrative Director, presented Resolution 2026-055 — Madison County Sheriff's 2025 Local Tax Settlement for the Court's approval. This is a Resolution of the Fiscal Court approving the 2025 Madison County Sheriff's Local Tax Settlement.

Motion by James Brian Combs seconded by Tom Botkin to approve Resolution 2026-055 — Madison County Sheriff's 2025 Local Tax Settlement.

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 2026-056 — Southern Madison Water District Board Appointment:

Jill Williams, Deputy Judge Executive, presented Resolution 2026-056 — Southern Madison Water District Board Appointment for the Court's approval. This is a Resolution for the appointment of the Madison County Fiscal Court to the Southern Madison Water District Board, appointing Leonard Bratcher to the Southern Madison Water District Board, with an expiration date of July 7, 2030.

Motion by Tom Botkin seconded by James Brian Combs to approve Resolution 2026-056 — Southern Madison Water District Board Appointment, appointing Leonard Bratcher to the Southern Madison Water District Board, with an expiration date of July 7, 2030.

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 2026-057 — Kentucky Product Development Initiative (KPDI) KEDFA Application:

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Jill Williams, Deputy Judge Executive, presented Resolution 2026-057 — Kentucky Product Development Initiative (KPDI) KEDFA Application for the Court's approval. This is a Resolution of the Fiscal Court of Madison County, Kentucky, supporting submittal of an Economic Development Application to the Kentucky Economic Development Cabinet by Central Kentucky Business Park Authority for property acquisition of the 2494 Lexington Road property located within Madison County, Kentucky.

Motion by James Brian Combs seconded by Stephen Lochmueller to approve Resolution 2026-057 — Kentucky Product Development Initiative (KPDI) KEDFA Application.

Magistrate Hughes expressed his concerns about this project.

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 2026-058 — American Battlefield Trust Agreement Fifth Amendment:

Jill Williams, Deputy Judge Executive, presented Resolution 2026-058 — American Battlefield Trust Agreement Fifth Amendment for the Court's approval. This is a Resolution authorizing the Fifth Amendment to an agreement between the Madison County Fiscal Court, the City of Richmond, and the American Battlefield Trust.

Motion by Billy Ray Hughes seconded by Tom Botkin to approve Resolution 2026-058 — American Battlefield Trust Agreement Fifth Amendment.

Jill explained that after going through the reappraisal and the delays, they were able to secure an additional \$62,000.

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 2026-059 — Levi Parks Cemetery Relocation:

Jill Williams, Deputy Judge Executive, presented Resolution 2026-059 — Levi Parks Cemetery Relocation for the Court's approval. This is a Resolution pursuant to KRS 381.755 and 901 KAR 5:090 authorizing the removal and relocation of graves in the Historic Levi Parks Cemetery, Radford Hollow Road, Berea, Madison County, Kentucky.

Motion by Tom Botkin seconded by Stephen Lochmueller to approve Resolution 2026-059 — Levi Parks Cemetery Relocation.

Michael Lile with Bell Engineering; Alex Bybee with Cultural Resource Associates; and Josh Gabbard, Berea Municipal Utilities Assistant GM were in attendance to answer any questions.

Judge Taylor stated that this relocation request has to do with the work of Berea Municipal to raise the water level at Owsley Fork for water service to the southern end of the county. This request came through Berea College, as current owner of the property, the City of Berea, and the United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Magistrate Combs asked about the wording of the document in which it states that the Court is authorizing the removal and relocation, but they are just deeming the cemetery abandoned. Assistant County Attorney Brooke Bowman explained that there is a specific statute that talks about this situation, which stated the Court must authorize the relocation not necessarily deem the cemetery abandoned.

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Magistrate Combs expressed his appreciation to the company that put together the packet of information and the fact that they were able to contact the descendants, who authorized the relocation of their ancestors.

Magistrate Botkin stated that he would normally have a problem with moving those that are buried, but in this instance, they will be covering that area with water. The supporting documentation of all the descendants agreeing to allow the relocations to happen was helpful as well.

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 2026-060 — Employee Classification Schedule for FY 2026-2027:

Jill Williams, Deputy Judge Executive, presented Resolution 2026-060 — Employee Classification Schedule for FY 2026-2027 for the Court's approval. This is a Resolution of the Fiscal Court approving the Madison County Annual Employee Classification Schedule for Fiscal Year 2026-2027.

Motion by James Brian Combs seconded by Stephen Lochmueller to approve Resolution 2026-060 — Employee Classification Schedule for FY 2026-2027.

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 2026-061 — Annual Employee Rate Adjustments for FY 2026-2027:

Jill Williams, Deputy Judge Executive, presented Resolution 2026-061 — Annual Employee Rate Adjustment for FY 2026-2027 for the Court's approval. This is a Resolution of the Fiscal Court adopting the Employee Rate Adjustment for Fiscal Year 2026-2027.

Motion by Tom Botkin seconded by James Brian Combs to approve Resolution 2026-061 — Annual Employee Rate Adjustment for FY 2026-2027.

Jill explained that every three (3) years, they do a market assessment and compensation analysis, the results of which are in the Court packet. The recruitment and retainment of employees, specifically in certain areas, has been a source of struggle in the past. In completing a comparison with surroundings and similar sized counties, it was determined that there were certain areas that were significantly below market.

Magistrate Hughes expressed his concern about the long-term costs of retirement this would affect. Jill stated that the greatest asset for the County is the employees, and being competitive in salary is beneficial to the County.

Judge Taylor stated that the retirement change the State made several years ago has made it hard to recruit; people were willing to work for a lesser wage in order to receive their retirement benefits after 27 years, and now it is not the case.

Magistrate Botkin stated they have seen people leaving for a minimum amount of increase, which costs the County an enormous expense for the training, certifications, DOJCT (if applicable), that could have been avoided if they had been more competitive in salary.

Motion carried on roll call vote as follows:

James Brian Combs-Yes Stephen Lochmueller- Yes
Billy Ray Hughes- No Tom Botkin- Yes
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IN RE: City of Richmond Partnership Requests:

Jill Williams stated that the City of Richmond reached out to the Court to ask them to formally support them with Haven of Hope in a 50/50 Lease Agreement Partnership at a cost of \$22,500 for each government.

Magistrate Botkin stated that he is all for supporting Haven of Hope and the work they do.

The City of Richmond has also asked for the Madison County Fiscal Court to support the One-Stop Resource and Referral Hub, a division of Enrich, with a request to operate at their current level from November 2026 through June 2027. The requested amount would be \$163,598.96 each for the County and the City of Richmond.

Magistrate Lochmueller stated that he has been impressed with these organizations and what they do for the community. He asked what the City of Richmond has partnered with the County recently. Jill stated it was with the Battlefield Trust.

Magistrate Combs stated that they have met with these organizations, and they are starting to capture the data that shows the impact these organizations are having on the community and the taxpayers.

IN RE: Amend the Agenda:

Judge Taylor requested an amendment to the agenda to add Resolution 2026-062— Haven of Hope City Partnership and Resolution 2026-063 — One-Stop Resource Referral Hub City Partnership.

Motion by James Brian Combs seconded by Billy Ray Hughes to Amend the Agenda to add Resolution 2026-062— Haven of Hope City Partnership and Resolution 2026-063 — One-Stop Resource Referral Hub City Partnership.

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 2026-062 — Haven of Hope City Partnership:

Jill Williams, Deputy Judge Executive, presented Resolution 2026-062 — Haven of Hope City Partnership for the Court's approval. This is a Resolution of the Fiscal Court authorizing a one-time annual funding partnership with the City of Richmond for the Haven of Hope Homeless Shelter lease payment.

Motion by Tom Botkin seconded by James Brian Combs to approve Resolution 2026-062 — Haven of Hope City Partnership.

Monica Barnes, founder and Executive Director of Madison County Haven of Hope, was in attendance to speak about Haven of Hope. She stated that they are a homeless shelter that has been 100% funded up to this point by local churches and private donations, and 100% volunteer ran. From December 2025 through this morning, they have sheltered 182 unique individuals. They open at 6:00 PM every evening and they house guests until 8:00 AM the following morning when another service opens.

Magistrate Botkin asked if they shelter families. Monica stated that they don't normally. They do have a building behind their property that has an apartment above a garage, and they are working on converting that into an area for families with children. They have an open layout within the facility, and it is not conducive for families with children.

She stated that they are always looking for volunteers and donations through their Facebook page, Madison County Haven of Hope, or their website at www.havenofhopeky.com. She expressed her appreciation to the Court for their support.

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

IN RE: Resolution 2026-063 — One-Stop Resource Referral Hub City Partnership:

Jill Williams, Deputy Judge Executive, presented Resolution 2026-063 — One-Stop Resource Referral Hub City Partnership for the Court's approval. This is a Resolution of Madison County Fiscal Court authorizing a funding partnership with the City of Richmond to support the One-Stop Resource Referral Hub of Madison County with one-time funding.

Motion by Billy Ray Hughes seconded by Tom Botkin to approve Resolution 2026-063 — One-Stop Resource Referral Hub City Partnership.

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:

Jessica Coffey, HR Director, recommended the hiring of Kenton Webb as Firefighter, at a rate of \$11 per hour, effective June 24, 2026; and the hiring of Jazmyn Dozal as Planning and Codes Administrative Assistant II, at a rate of \$15 per hour, effective June 24, 2026.

Motion by James Brian Combs seconded by Stephen Lochmueller to approve the hiring of Kenton Webb as Firefighter, at a rate of \$11 per hour, effective June 24, 2026; and the hiring of Jazmyn Dozal as Planning and Codes Administrative Assistant II, at a rate of \$15 per hour, effective June 24, 2026.

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: Judge's Report:

- Join us Saturday, June 27th for our next Adopt Joy event at PetSmart in Richmond from 10:00 AM until 2:00 PM. Every visit gives the adoptable dogs a chance to be seen.
- Visit our website at www.madisoncountyky.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.
- Madison County Government and its related offices will be closed Friday, July 3rd for the Independence Day holiday. Offices will re-open on Monday, July 6th at 8:00 AM.

Comments from Magistrates:

Magistrate Botkin stated that over the last couple of weeks, he has gotten calls and emails on some road issues; and explained the process in getting those issues fixed. He also asked for a Hagan Mill Road bridge update.

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Scott Shepherd explained that Hagan Mill Road bridge has been turned over to the engineering company, and they are engineering a set of plans for the carbon fiber mat that will be laid into and epoxied to the concrete of the bridge.

Judge Taylor stated they should hear back from the engineering company about the design at any time. He is hoping to have the bridge open by the end of July.

Magistrate Combs thanked the City of Richmond for reaching out on the partnerships with Haven of Hope and Enrich. He thanked Monica and those that are involved in Enrich for their work in the community.

Magistrate Lochmueller also thanked those involved in Haven of Hope and Enrich; they are great organizations that support the community. He also thanked the Road Department for their cleanup efforts from the recent storm.

Magistrate Hughes stated that at the Magistrate Conference this week, they found out that the State is working on some regulations involving data centers. He stated that he would like to put a temporary moratorium on data centers until the State gets their work done. Judge Taylor stated that they haven't had anyone reach out concerning data centers, but he is open to working on getting information together to see what they can do within their legal liabilities.

Magistrate Combs stated that Fayette County did a temporary moratorium, which is in litigation as of now.

Magistrate Lochmueller agreed that they need to research all the information, but they are all in agreement with not supporting data centers.

Comments from Department Heads:

No Comments from Department Heads.

Public Comments:

Mary McMahan of Cedar Hill stated that Preserve Madison County will be having a data center forum this Thursday at 5:30 PM at the Madison County Public Library.

She also asked about the Court having 4 meetings in June. Jill explained that they post all their regularly scheduled meetings a year in advance, and starting last year, they have had to add the June 30th meeting to the schedule as it is the final day of the Fiscal Year to pay the final claims of the Fiscal Year; they will always have three (3) regularly scheduled meetings in June. They did have a special called meeting on June 1st to have a 1st Reading of the budget to meet DLG guidelines.

Mary also encouraged the Court to meet with and work with the incoming administration on some of the projects the Court is interested in doing.

Karl Lindblom of the Upper Hines Creek area believed the Court should reconsider the industrial park.

Mary Kearns of Wimbledon Terrace expressed her opposition to a business/industrial park in the county. She also asked about the North Fire Station and where they stood at. Judge Taylor stated that the footers are being installed now and the building is on site to be constructed in the very near future.

Michael Frazier of Richmond expressed his appreciation for the investment in the homeless shelters. He spoke on smart growth and not making decisions based on social media influences, but on facts.

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IN RE: Approve the Transfers and Pay the Claims:

Motion made by Stephen Lochmueller seconded by Billy Ray Hughes to approve the transfers and pay the claims.

ANNOUNCE NEXT COURT DATE:

Judge Taylor announced the next court date for June 30, 2026, in the Fiscal Courtroom of the Courthouse Annex Building 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 10:59 AM.



REAGAN TAYLOR, MADISON CO. JUDGE/EXECUTIVE