

Connie B. Blackwell
County Clerk



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Minutes-November 20, 2023, Meeting of the Macon County Legislative Body.

The Macon County Board of Commissioners met, pursuant to notice, at the Macon County Courthouse in Lafayette, Tennessee on Monday November 20, 2023, at 6:30 pm. The meeting was called to order by Mayor/Chairman Steve Jones with Sheriff Joey Wilburn opening the meeting. Commissioner Jeff Hughes gave the invocation and Commissioner Ethan Flippin led the pledge to the flag. County Clerk Connie B. Blackwell called the Roll with 16 members being present. Also made a part of the Minutes are Proclamations and Roll Call Voting.

County Commissioners absent were Mike Jenkins, Benton Bartley, Justin Dyer, and Michael Slayton.

Motion #1 by Hughes, 2nd by Newberry motion to go into a Public Hearing for the O'Neal Property Rezoning.

Motion Carried

Motion #2 by West, 2nd by Petty motion to go back into session for the O'Neal Public Hearing.

Motion Carried

Motion #3 by Petty, 2nd by Marshall to go into Election of Notaries Public.

Motion Carried

Alexis Boxold	Nominated by	Hesson
Amanda D. Marlowe		J. Wilmore
Amber Swoner		Hesson
Carey Toth		Hughes
Christy Qualls		Newberry
Cynthia Bransford		Hughes
Lindsay Dahlin		Jones
Shelly M. Cole		Wix

Motion #4 by Hughes, 2nd by Petty that nominations cease, and we elect those nominated by acclamation.

Motion Carried.

Motion #5 by J Wilmore, 2nd by West to accept minutes as presented from the 10/16/23 Legislative Body meeting, 9/19/23 Board of Zoning Appeals meeting, and 10/4/23 Joint Economic & Community and 11/6/23 Committee of the Whole Meeting.

Motion Carried

Motion #6 by King, 2nd by Hughes to accept Budget Amendments #1-#11 (#1 Capital Projects – Administrative Building, #2 Veterans Officer, #3 Sheriff's Department – SRO Grant, #4 County Clerk, #5 Library - Restricted, #6 Capital Projects – Jail Addition, #7 Sheriff's Department, #8 EMA, #9 Sheriff's Department, #10 Animal Control, and #11 Drug Fund, #12 EMS and #13 Library).

Motion Carried on Roll Call (13 yes 3 no) Snow, Flippin & B.R. King voting no

Motion #7 by Petty, 2nd by Flippin to approve 11-12/23 Recycling Month Proclamation to the Legislative Body meeting for approval.

Motion Carried

Resolution 11-13/23 Site Development Grant Resolution was denied, and Macon County did not receive the Grant this year. (No motion needed)

Motion #8 by West, 2nd by Hesson to approve 11-14/23 O'Neal Property Rezoning Resolution.

Motion Carried on Roll Call (14 yes 2 no) Hill & Marshall voting no

Motion #9 by Jones, 2nd by Wilmore to approve 11-15/23 School Nutrition Fund Resolution.

Motion Carried on Roll Call

During the Committee of a Whole Meeting on 11/06/23, Mayor Jones explained that he along with School Director Shawn Carter are going to meet with the architects tomorrow to discuss the vocational school and will be bringing back the information at the Legislative Body meeting.

Motion #10 by Newberry, 2nd by Petty to allow discussions about vocational school to a future Legislative Body meetings after receiving more information on proposed cost.

Motion Carried.

During the Committee of a Whole Meeting on 11/06/23, Mayor Jones explained that Joe Barber had contacted him regarding a portion of Cold Springs Rd/Hirestown Rd. His request is to get the road put back onto the county road list. Mayor Jones recommended the Highway Committee go look at the road and bring back recommendations to the Legislative Body meeting. The Highway Committee is to meet on Thursday November 9th at 4:00 p.m.

Motion #11 by Wilmore, 2nd by Marshall to approve the recommendations of the Highway Committee for the developer/owner to get the roads back up to Macon County Codes and approved by Road Supervisor Audie Cook.

Motion Carried

Motion #12 by Newberry, 2nd by Marshall to accept the Sheriff's Department Employee Policy and Procedures approved by County Attorney Guy Holliman.

Motion Carried

During the Committee of a Whole Meeting on 11/06/23, Sheriff Wilburn stated that the Sheriff's Department has some 40-caliber ammunition that he would like to sale due to them changing the caliber firearms they are now using.

Motion #13 Hughes, 2nd by Flippin to allow Sheriff Wilburn to sell the extra 40 caliber ammunition.

Motion Carried on Roll Call

During the Committee of a Whole Meeting on 11/06/23, Sheriff Wilburn stated the Sheriff's Department has approximately 5 vehicles that need to be sold due to being disabled for different reasons and asked approval from the Commission to sale them at auction.

Motion #14 by King, 2nd by Hughes to allow Sheriff Wilburn to sale the disabled vehicles at auction.

Motion Carried on Roll Call

Mayor Jones explained that Judge Greg Traylor would like to come and explain the new programs he would like to implement.

County Commission allowed Judge Traylor to come before the Commission to explain the implemented programs. Judge Traylor explained the process that he and the Drug Counsel would be going thru to begin various programs to help combat the drug problem in Macon County. The information was well received by the Commission.

Motion #15 by Snow, 2nd by Petty to ratify the Committee List made by County Mayor Steve Jones.

Motion Carried

During the Committee of a Whole Meeting on 11/06/23, Mayor Jones explained that 2 Animal Control officers had been hired instead of one due to the current Animal Control officer Ashley Carter replacing McKenzie Jones in the Mayor's office. Mika Pelerine and James England were the ones hired.

Motion #16 by Petty, 2nd by Hill to ratify Mayor Jones hiring of Mika Pelerine and James England for Animal Control.

Motion Carried

Motion #17 by King, 2nd by Petty to approve Chris Crowder Construction to lower the water and sewer lines at the Administrative Building and Health Department.

Motion Carried on Roll Call (14 yes 2 no) Snow & B.R. King voting no

During the Committee of a Whole Meeting on 11/06/23, Mayor Jones explained that there had been some problems during the audit with the Purchasing Policy regarding check requests, purchase orders and travel. He explained that he had changed the policy and given it to County Attorney Guy Holliman for review and corrections. He stated that it would be brought back at the Legislative Body meeting for final approval.

Motion #18 by King, 2nd by Hesson to approve the Purchasing Policy and Travel Policy that has been approved by Atty. Guy Holliman.

Motion Carried

Jacob McClard brought the requested information regarding the liability insurance for the construction of the new field at the fairgrounds along with the plans of where the field would be located.

Motion # 19 by West, 2nd by Hesson to approve the Lafayette Little League to build another ball field at the fairgrounds.

Motion Carried

During the Committee of a Whole Meeting on 11/06/23, Mayor Jones stated that he had met with Clay Whitehead with Buford and Golf Associates, who were hired by the State of TN regarding getting permission to install antennas on the emergency towers. These antennas are going to be used by TDOT, TN Highway Patrol, and the Forest Service and can also be used for our local emergency services. He stated that if given permission to install them, they would install new radios in each ambulance.

Motion #20 by King, 2nd by Petty to allow Mayor Jones to negotiate and approve the installation of radio systems and antennas on the Macon County communications tower sites.

Motion Carried on Roll Call

Mayor Jones stated that bids were accepted for ambulance remounts on Unit #31 and Unit#32. Select-Tech was the only bidder with a bid of \$159,800 for each unit. Mayor Jones stated that the bid stated that it would be 24 months until the remounts could be completed.

Motion #21 by Snow, 2nd by West to accept bids of \$159,800 each from Select-Tech for remounting ambulance unit #31 and unit #32.

Motion Carried on Roll Call

Mayor Jones stated that after speaking with Cope Architecture, the estimated bid for the Jail addition was at going to be approximately \$30M-\$31M. The interim loan is currently \$24M. Mayor Jones stated that it will take approximately 81 inmates to pay the original estimated and approximately 100 with the increase. Mayor Jones explained that once the addition is complete, the cost of additional staff will be the biggest cost, estimated at an additional \$1M per year, out of the General Fund.

Motion #22 by Hill, 2nd by King to allow discussion about the Jail addition bid and defer any action until a future meeting after more information has been gathered.

Motion Carried on Roll Call

During the Committee of a Whole Meeting on 11/06/23, Mayor Jones explained that Solid Waste had received a \$50,000 grant for new scales. He stated that the bids are currently being taken and would be brought back for approval at the Legislative Body meeting. He stated that he estimated the difference to be approximately \$100,000 and that would come out of Solid Waste's fund balance.

Motion #23 by King, 2nd by Marshall to defer bids for Solid Waste scales to the December Legislative Body meeting for approval.

Motion Carried

Mayor Jones stated that he was going to have foot surgery at the end of November and requested not to have the December 4th meeting.

Motion #24 by Snow, 2nd by Hesson to not have the December 4th Committee of the Whole meeting.

Motion Carried

Motion #25 by Petty, 2nd by Newberry to approve Macon County Soil and water Conservation FY23 Annual Report.

Motion Carried

Motion #26 by King, 2nd by Newberry to allow an Interim Loan with Macon Bank and Trust set up for the construction cost for the Administration Building.

Motion Carried on Roll Call

During the Committee of a Whole Meeting on 11/06/23, Commissioner Bobby Ray King had requested to discuss the Fair Board financials. Fair Board Treasurer Angie Doss presented the treasurer's report from October 2022 to September 2023 for the Commissioners to review. Some of the Fair Board members were also there to answer any questions the Commission had. Discussion ensued. Mr. King asked for this report to be given to the Commissioners every November.

Motion #27 by B.R. King, 2nd by Newberry to accept the Fair Board Financial Report and asked that the report be brought back every year in November with complete.

Motion Carried

During the Committee of a Whole Meeting on 11/06/23, Commissioner Bobby Ray King stated that he had some people contact him about donating to the Roark Cemetery. Mayor Jones explained that anyone wanting to donate could send the money to the mayor's office and it would be set aside for it.

During the Committee of a Whole Meeting on 11/06/23, Commissioner Jeff Hughes requested to increase the number of school board members. County Attorney Guy Holliman sent them an information sheet on the procedure to add new seats. The number of members was discussed but not determined.

Motion #28 by Snow, 2nd by Newberry to leave the School Board Members as is currently.

Motion Carried with Roll Call (14 yes, 2 no) Hughes and B. R. King voting no

During the Committee of a Whole Meeting on 11/06/23, Commissioner Ethan Flippin requested to discuss increasing the Impact Fees. Mayor Jones stated that the commission had already approved in March 2021 to increase the amount from \$1.00 per sq ft to \$2.50 per sq ft by private act. Mayor Jones stated that recommendations would be needed by Attorney Holliman on the proper procedures if the commission wanted to proceed with an additional increase:

No Motion was made concerning Impact fees.

During the Committee of a Whole Meeting on 11/06/23, Commissioner Keith Newberry requested to discuss extending Gann Hollow Rd for Ricky Smith. Mayor Jones stated that the extension had already come before the commission in April 2019 and Attorney Holliman had explained that the county was not responsible for building a road to the property and it would be up to the property owner to get legal counsel and take it to Court for a Judge to decide about an easement to the property due to it being landlocked. Discussion ensued.

No Motion was made concerning Gann Hollow Road.

Motion #29 by Hesson, 2nd Newberry to accept Building Codes/Impact Fee Report.

Motion Carried

Motion #30 by Hesson, 2nd Marshall to accept Animal Control Report.

Motion Carried

Motion #31 by Wilmore, 2nd by Marshall to accept EMS Operational Report.

Motion Carried

Mayor Jones opened the 15-minute period for public comments, no one wished to speak.

Mayor Jones stated that Attorney Holliman would be having an executive session with the Commission at the November 20th meeting.

Motion #32 by Petty, 2nd by Hill to go into executive session with Attorney Holliman.

Motion Carried

Motion #33 by Petty, 2nd by B. Wilmore to go back into regular session.

Motion Carried

Motion #34 by Hesson, 2nd by J. Wilmore to adjourn.

Motion Carried