

Connie B. Blackwell

County Clerk



Macon County Courthouse, Room 104
Lafayette, Tennessee 37083

Phone (615) 666-2333
Fax (615) 666-2202

Minutes-September 18, 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 September 18, 2023, at 6:30 pm. The meeting was called to order by Mayor/Chairman Steve Jones with Sheriff Joey Wilburn opening the meeting. Commissioner Keith Newberry gave the invocation and Commissioner Todd Gentry led the pledge to the flag. County Clerk Connie B. Blackwell called the Roll with 18 members being present. Also made a part of the Minutes are the Roll Call Voting.

County Commissioners absent were Billy Wilmore and Dan Hill.

Motion #1 by B. King, 2nd by Newberry to go into Election of Notaries Public.

Motion Carried

Tammy Bray Nominated by Gentry

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

Motion Carried.

Motion #3 by Jenkins, 2nd by Dyer to accept minutes as presented from the 8/21/23 Legislative Body meeting Motion Carried, 7/18/23 Planning Commission meeting Motion Carried, 7/18/23 Board of Zoning Appeals meeting Motion Carried, 8/7/23 Special Called meeting (Elementary School) Motion Carried, 8/7/23 Special Called meeting (Administrative Building) Motion Carried with B. R King voting no. 09/05/23 Committee of the Whole Meeting Motion Carried.

Motion Carried

Motion #4 by B. King, 2nd by Hesson to accept Budget Amendments #1-#7 (#1 Parks and Fair Boards, #2 Chancery Court, #3 Election Commission, #4 Workhouse, #5 Sheriff's Department, #6 Drug Fund, and #7 Sex Offender Registry).

Motion Carried on Roll Call

Motion #5 by Petty, 2nd by Newberry to approve 9-8/23 Strategic Plan Resolution and Debt Management Policy.

Motion Carried on Roll Call

Motion #6 by Petty, 2nd by Hesson to approve 9-9/23 Title VI Resolution.

Motion Carried

Motion #7 by B. King, 2nd by Petty to approve 9-10/23 Suicide Prevention Proclamation.

Motion Carried

During the Committee of a Whole meeting on Sept 7th,2023, School Director Shawn Carter updated the Commissioners on the renovation projects going on at the schools. He stated that the gym at the RBS Elementary School is being constructed now along with the addition at MCHS, which is ahead of schedule and hoping to be ready by the beginning of the next school year. He, along with Mayor Jones, have started the funding process for the new Elementary School.

During the Committee of a Whole meeting on Sept 7th,2023, Sheriff Joey Wilburn requested for 2 of the K-9 animals to be retired.

Motion #8 by Dyer, 2nd by Newberry to approve retirement for 2 of the K-9 animals.

Motion Carried on Roll Call

During the Committee of a Whole meeting on Sept 7th,2023, Sheriff Joey Wilburn stated that Sgt. William Cherry's family had reached out to him about donating Mr. Cherry's service weapon.

Motion #9 by Snow, 2nd by Gentry to approve donating Sgt. Cherry's service weapon to his family.

Motion Carried on Roll Call

During the Committee of a Whole meeting on Sept 7th,2023, Sheriff Joey Wilburn proposed a pay scale increase for the deputies, guards, and clerical employees at the Sheriff Department and Jail. He explained that he had lost 5 officers to higher paying jobs since July and would like to implement a step pay scale depending on rank and years served. He stated that other counties are starting out at \$20-22 per hour. The total cost difference for the pay increases would be approximately \$531,280 for the FY23-24 budget. He stated that this year, he requested to move \$100,000 out of the vehicle budget in 171-Capital Outlay, use some of the Commissary funds and move some of the budget lines around to help fund some of the cost for the FY23-24 budget. He explained that the Commission would have to fund \$205,208 for the rest of the increase. He explained that once the new jail is built that he would have to double the staff at that time to take care of the increase in inmates. The State of TN will pay for state inmates at \$41 per inmate per day once the jail is credited which should happen once the jail addition is completed. He stated that he is hoping this increase will keep the current staff, but he is afraid it will not get new employees. Mayor Jones stated that this funding plan the Sheriff has proposed to pay for raises will take of this year's budget, but taxes will have to be raised to take care of the pay raises next year.

Motion #10 by Slayton, 2nd by Jenkins to approve Sheriff's Department & Jail pay scale increase.

Motion Carried on Roll Call (vote was 13 yes / 3 no / 2 pass)

During the Committee of a Whole meeting on Sept 7th,2023, Library Director Dana Richardson explained to the Commissioners that the library had moved from a level 3 to a level 4 library due to the growth of the county. Due to this, the State of TN suggested adding an assistant director. Ms. Richardson requested that the FY23-24 budget be increased to include this along with the increased cost of expenses.

Motion #11 by Dyer, 2nd by Newberry to accept the library proposed FY23-24 budget increase.

Motion Carried on Roll Call (vote was 17 yes / 1 no)

Motion #12 by West, 2nd by B. King to approve procurement for architecture firm for the new Health Department.

Motion Carried on Roll Call (vote was 17 yes / 1 no)

Discussion on a new vocational school took place with how much the project might cost and the 3-year contract with TCAT ending in 3 years as part of what was discussed. CTE instructor Tony Boles stated that just by moving the nursing program to MCHS the number of students had increased so much that students were having to be turned down and expectations were that it would be that way with all the classes if the vocational school was built at MCHS. Mayor Jones stated that with the recommendation from Raymond James, the county's financial advisor, the county could increase the wheel tax by \$36 to fund this project. Commissioner Benton Bartley stated that he was in favor of the vocational school but was concerned on how the county would fund future projects with all the projects started already, including the new administrative building, jail addition, and new elementary school. The estimation at this time is that a new vocational school would cost approximately \$12M. Mayor Jones stated that unless the commissioners moved forward with the project, there wouldn't be a way to know the actual cost of a new vocational school.

Motion #13 by West, by Hesson to do more research on the cost of building a new vocational School. The cost is estimated to be between \$15,000 and \$20,000 to do the research.

Motion Carried on Roll Call (vote was 15 yes / 3 no)

Motion #14 by B. King, 2nd by Jones to approve the Industrial Development Board appointments and make their terms retroactive to each one's appointment date.

Motion Carried

Motion #15 by Hughes, 2nd by Gentry to approve the copier and postage machine lease for the Circuit Court Clerk office.

Motion Carried on Roll Call (vote 17 yes)

Motion #16 by Jones, 2nd Hughes to accept Building Codes/Impact Fee Report.

Motion Carried

Motion #17 by Slayton, 2nd Hill to accept Animal Control Report.

Motion Carried

Motion #18 by Hughes, 2nd by Slayton to accept EMS Operational Report.

Motion Carried

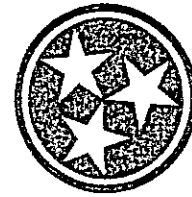
Mayor Jones opened the period for public statements. One gentleman stood and expressed his feelings about the Wheel Tax also two Macon County High Students spoke in favor of building a Vocational School and how beneficial it will be to them.

Motion #19 by Hughes, 2nd by Slayton to adjourn.

Motion Carried

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Regular Meeting
September 18 2023

	RC	#4	#5	#8	#9	#10	#11	#12	#13	#15
1	PHILLIP SNOW	✓	✓	✓	✓	NO	NO	✓	NO	✓
1	TODD GENTRY	✓	✓	✓	✓	NO	✓	✓	✓	✓
2	KEITH NEWBERRY	✓	✓	✓	✓	NO	✓	✓	✓	✓
2	MIKE JENKINS	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
3	BENTON BARTLEY	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
3	ETHAN FLIPPIN	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
4	BILLY WILMORE									
4	JUSTIN DYER	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
5	DAN HILL									
5	BARRY MARSHALL	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
6	TONY WIX	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	NO	✓
6	MICHAEL SLAYTON	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
7	JEFF HUGHES	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
7	BARRY KING	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
8	BOBBY RAY KING	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	NO	NO	✓
8	KYLE PETTY	✓	✓	✓	✓	PASS	✓	✓	✓	Left
9	WENDELL JONES	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
9	JARHEA WILMORE	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
10	HELEN HESSON	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
10	LARRY WEST	✓	✓	✓	✓	PASS	✓	✓	✓	✓

Kyle had to Leave

MC MC MC MC MC MC MC MC MC
13-3
2 PASS