

July 24, 2023

David Abbott	A
Don Adkins, Jr.	P
Donald Blansett	P
Ruric Brandt	P
Logan Campbell	P
Jimmy Cantrell	P
Steve Franklin	P
Gene Hargis	A
Linda Mason	P
Chris Morrison	P
Jim Nunley	P
Dennis Rollins	P
Paul Schafer	P
Peggy Thompson	A
Sherry VanAllman	P

The Marion County Board of Commissioners met in a regular session on June 26, 2023. Madam Chairman Linda Mason called the meeting to order. (Time: 01) Invocation was given by Commissioner Rollins. (Time :09) Pledge was led by Marion County Clerk, Joanie Spangler. (Time :49) Roll call was taken by Jaime Quick, Chief Deputy Clerk. (Time 1:07) Twelve commissioners were present. Absent this month Commissioner Abbott, Commissioner Hargis, and Commissioner Thompson.

Time (0:02:45) A motion was made by Commissioner Adkins to approve the June 26, 2023, Minutes, seconded by Commissioner Morrison. 12 voting aye.

1. Approval- Lodge PILOT Amendment- (Time 0:02:56) (Attachment) Mayor Jackson stated the resolution was in the packet and clarified this was a one-year extension on the property tax abatement. Commissioner Campbell made a motion to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Schafer. 11 voting aye. Commissioner Cantrell abstained.
2. Approval- CDBG Fire Grant Bids – Time (0:04:34) (Attachment) Commissioner Franklin addressed his concern that some of the equipment may not be interchangeable. Commissioner Schafer asked if the extra money they were saving could be used to buy the equipment for the departments that did not have interchangeable equipment. Mayor Jackson recommended accepting the low

bids from the three companies presented in the packet. Commissioner Blansett made a motion to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Cantrell. 12 voting aye.

3. Approval- Water Line Extension Bids- A) Kelly Cove B) South Pittsburg Mountain C) Sweetens Cove (Time: 0:06:30) Mayor Jackson read aloud the results of the bids for these three projects with the recommendation of accepting the low bid for each project as follows: Sweetens Cove project to Lofty Construction in the amount of \$772,278.00. South Pittsburg Mountain project to Green Brothers Construction in the amount of \$785,100.00. Kelly Cove (Battle Creek Rd) project to Lofty Construction for \$1,156,223.00. Commissioner Blansett questioned how long the price was good for and the money allocated. Commissioner Franklin expressed his concern if the county would go into debt on water projects. Commissioner Morrison questioned the timeline for completion. Mayor Jackson stated that the projects were one million dollars higher than expected but it would not cause a debt issue for the county. Mayor Jackson also stated the timeline for the completion of the projects would depend on the availability of supplies needed. Commissioner Blansett made a motion to accept and approve all three low bids as announced by Mayor Jackson. Seconded by Commissioner Brandt. 12 voting aye.
4. Approval- One-time allocation of \$400,000 to MCHD for paving- (Time 17:58) (Attachment) Commissioner Franklin stated he had spoken with Mr. Pickett and learned that the one-time allocation could hurt the money the Highway Department receives on the wholesale gas tax money back from the state. Commissioner Franklin asked to table this to the next meeting due to Mr. Pickett's absence at this meeting. Mayor Jackson stated the finance committee met with Mr. Pickett last week and there was not a mention of this being an issue. Counselor Gouger clarified this one-time allocation would not hurt the money given back from the State's wholesale gas tax money but could hurt if this is something that happened repeatedly for years. Commissioner Franklin changed his motion from table to a motion to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Campbell. 12 voting aye.
5. Discussion- Resolution to pay "At-Large" Committee Members- (Time 0:21:20) (Attachment) Commissioner Brandt clarified that he had asked to pay the Innovation & Tech at large committee members not all at large committee members. Commissioner Brandt made a motion to pay only the Innovation & Tech at Large Committee members. Seconded by Commissioner Franklin. Motion denied with no votes. Roll Call vote was requested with 5 voting aye, 7 voting no. Commissioner Morrison stated that if this was ever brought back up to consider paying all At Large Committee members since paying only the Innovation & Tech Committee would cost \$9900.00 per year just for that committee and to pay all At Large Committee members would cost \$23,250.00.
5. Budget Amendments- Marion County Local Government-(Time 0:33:13) None presented.
6. Budget Amendments- Marion County Board of Education- (Time 0:33:19) (Attachment) Item #1 Changes in current year property tax budget. Motion made by Commission Morrison to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Schafer. 12 voting aye. Item #2 Additional capital outlay for building improvements, Commissioner Schafer made a motion to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Campbell 12 voting aye. Item #3 Increase in Director of School's Salary based on approved 2023-2024 contract, Commissioner Franklin made a motion to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Cantrell. 12 voting aye. Item #4 new certified

construction maintenance position, Commission Franklin made a motion to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Campbell. 11 voting aye Commissioner Morrison abstained. Item #5 ESL teaching position that can no longer be paid using federal funds, Commissioner Schafer made a motion to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Campbell. 12 voting aye. Commissioner Brandt questioned Dr. Griffith for an explanation of STEM. Dr. Griffith explained STEM vs STEAM.

7. Budget Amendments- Marion County Highway Department- (Time 0:38:12) None presented.
8. Mayor's Report- (Time 0:38:20) Mayor Jackson recognized Chairman Mason as the first female chairman of the County Commission. Mayor Jackson reported 6 RFI's this month. Mayor Jackson stated the hold up on the Egypt Hollow water project was because of the requirement to complete an endangered species study. Mayor Jackson also stated that starting July 31, 2023, the Marion County Airport will be closed for 90 days. Mayor Jackson stated the contract for the cleaning and painting of the exterior of the Justice Center was signed. They should begin moving equipment on site tomorrow. Last Tuesday Mayor Jackson received an email from the Comp Controller that the FY 23-24 budget has been approved. If anyone is interested in a 6-week heavy equipment operator program is available now at Chattanooga State. Mayor Jackson stated they are still trying to get a stimulator moved here for CDL training. Mayor Jackson stated the county does have a new county newspaper, Marion Tribune and an online newspaper called Sequatchie Valley now. Mayor Jackson announced he was notified last Thursday morning The ARC power grant in the amount of 1.5 million dollars has been approved and the county has received that. Next County Commission meeting will be held on August 28, 2023, at 6pm.
9. Approval of Notaries- (Time 0:46:48) (Attachment) Marion County Clerk Joanie Spangler read the following notary names for approval: Rusty Tuders, Angela R. Easterly, Brittany Joyce Garrett, Janice C. Silva. Commissioner Campbell made a motion to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Schafer. 12 voting aye.
10. General Business- (Time 0:47:16) Commissioner Cantrell stated that he received a call a few months ago about a section of interstate I24 that had not been chartered anywhere to a fire department. Commissioner Cantrell asked for approval for Halletown Fire Department to expand their charter to cover this section of I-24 from mile marker 148 to 143 in both directions of travel. After discussion and clarification this is only to cover car/truck fire incidents. Commissioner Schafer made a motion to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Blansett. 12 voting aye. Commissioner Schafer expressed his dislike for being called out for \$1100.00 in travel spendings and discussed the spending budget for County Commissioners and the Mayor. Commissioner Schafer made a motion to have the Commissioner's name or the Mayor's name shown on the agenda for travel, what conference they attended and the amount of their spendings. Commissioner Brandt seconded. Commissioner Schafer requested a roll call vote. 12 voting aye. Commissioner Franklin made a motion for the Finance Committee to look into and set up a group on freezing property taxes on people 65 years of age and older. After Counselor Gouger explained this law Commissioner Blansett seconded to Commissioner Franklin's motion. 12 voting aye. Commissioner Rollins commented asking Counselor Gouger about a letter to be sent to the state concerning the county's state highways about the trees hanging over. Counselor Gouger will send another letter.

11. Public Comments- (Time 1:05:00) Sheriff Burnette asked for approval to make Lee Morrison Rd a 25mph road. Commissioner Rollins made a motion to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Campbell. 12 voting aye. Ronnie Kennedy questioned and addressed his concerns of the water projects, trees hanging over the road and his 911 addressed at Aetna Mountain Road coming up as Guild. Justin Silva from the skydiving school at the Marion County Airport asked the commission about contract issues concerning his rent and lease. Counselor Gouger asked to meet with Mr. Silva to go over his contract. Commissioner Blansett questioned what happened to the airport board and suggested Mr. Silva meet with the airport board committee and make a recommendation at the next county commission meeting.
12. Adjournment- (Time 1:15:07) Commissioner Schafer made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Commissioner Blansett. 12 voting aye

Respectfully Submitted,
Linda Mason, Chairman
Joanie Spangler, County Clerk

