

March 25, 2024

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

The Marion County Board of Commissioners met in a regular session on March 25, 2024. Chairperson Linda Mason called the meeting to order. (Time: .01) Invocation was given by Commissioner Rollins. (Time .03) Pledge was led by Marion County Clerk, Joanie Spangler. (Time 0:58) Roll call was taken by Jaime Quick, Chief Deputy Clerk. (Time 1:16) Thirteen commissioners were present. Absent Commissioner Campbell and Commissioner Nunley.

Approval of previous month's minutes: (Time 2:04) Commissioner Cantrell made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 26, 2024, meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Hargis. 13 voting aye.

1. Recognition of Marion County Wrestlers- (Time 2:28)- Mayor Jackson recognized Mason Shrum, Josh Ramirez, and Wyatt Davis in qualifying for the 2024 Tennessee State wrestling tournament in Franklin, Tennessee. Mayor Jackson presented the young men with a plaque for their accomplishment of being the first young men to make it to this State tournament.
2. Proclamation- Commissioner Gene Hargis (Time 4:05) Commissioner Hargis read the Proclamation of Valor (Attachment) awarded to Deputy Christian Chayce Ladd for his bravery and heroism beyond the normal demands of the police

service as an off-duty officer at the Erlanger Sequatchie Valley Emergency Room in Dunlap, Tennessee on Sunday February 4, 2024.

3. Emily Bradford- TN Recovery and Monitoring - (Time 7:14) Kelly Arnold in the absence of Emily Bradford provided helpful information and left informational packets as well as contact information for the Commissioners.
4. Public Comments- (Time 9:11) None
5. Budget Amendments Marion County Local Government- (Time 9:44) (Attachment) Mayor Jackson read the budget amendments for the month for Funds 101 and 128 for approval. Commissioner Rollins made a motion to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Cantrell. 12 voting aye. Commissioner Hargis abstained due to the amendments including funding for the County's Sex Offender Registry, which he oversees for the Sheriff's Department.
6. Budget Amendments- Marion County Board of Education- (Time 11:26) (Attachment) Dr. Griffith presented item #1A a budget amendment to Fund 141 to adjust Vocational Innovative School Models for changes in instructional supplies and staff development and item #2A the cash flow analysis for February 2024. Commissioner Adkins made a motion to approve item #1A. Seconded by Commissioner Schafer. 13 voting aye. Item 2A required no action.
7. Budget Amendments Marion County Highway Department-(Time 14:01) None at this time.
8. Clarence Howard-Aetna Mountain coal mines and septic tanks (Time 14:11) (Attachments) Clarence Howard of Thunder Enterprises, Derek Kilday of GEOServices LLC, Adam Driver Civil Engineer for Thunder Enterprises, Dane Bradshaw President of Thunder Enterprises, and John "Thunder" Thornton Tennessee Developer were all present to address statements made as well as a motion made by Commissioner Schafer for Counselor Gouger to inquire about the safety and welfare of future buyers of Aneta Mountain at last month's meeting and answer questions from the Commissioners. They also presented reports and a summary report on Geophysical Services along with photos.
9. Marion County Highway Department-Declaration of Surplus Property- (Time 52:56) (Attachment) Cory Pickett Marion County Road Superintendent asked for permission to auction the attached list of surplus property except for the 2017 New Holland C238 Track Loader, which he has decided to keep. Commissioner Rollins questioned the snowplow and salt boxes listed. Mr. Pickett clarified that these items did not fit any of the current Highway Department trucks, those trucks had already been sold previously. Commissioner Blansett made a motion to approve the items. Seconded by Commissioner Hargis. 13 voting aye. Mr. Pickett also stated they would be utilizing the State aid starting April 15th. Mr. Pickett stated they would be paving Hancock Road, River Mill Road, Mount Calvary Road, three miles of Mullins Cove Road and two miles of Francis Spring Road out of the funds provided by State aid. Chairperson Mason brought to Mr. Pickett's attention the end of McCann Road that contains a huge pothole.
10. Thomas Morgan- (Time 55:55) (Attachment) Mr. Morgan was not present.

11. Johnny Gholston-Building permit dispute- (Time 56:12) (Attachment) Mr. Gholston decided not to appear.
12. Resolution Approval- TOSHA Safety Plan (Time 56:14) (Attachment) Counselor Gouger explained this was a resolution all local governments are required to have and has to be updated every seven years. Commissioner Franklin made a motion to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Cantrell. 13 voting aye.
13. Opioid Fund Distribution to D.A.R.E Program- (Time 57:34) Mayor Jackson stated the Opioid Task Force recommended the County spending \$9500.00 to the D.A.R.E program to send some of the SOR Officers back for training and buy some shirts for the kids. Commissioner Schafer made a motion to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Rollins. 13 voting aye.
14. Discussion Redundant Communication- (Time 59:04) Commissioner Brandt questioned is there communication available for the County if we were to lose cellular service and internet connection at the same time. Commissioner Franklin stated that 911 has already started looking for a remedy for communication in the event of a major disaster. Steve Lamb from MCEMA stated yes, we do have redundant communication with our public safety employees and also stated that no if there was no cellular service or internet connection there would be no way to contact residents. Commissioner Brandt has knowledge of a technology radio to share with 911. Sheriff Burnette, Chairperson of the 911 board, invited Commissioner Brandt to the next 911 board meeting to discuss the technology idea that could possibly be utilized to remedy this lack of communication during a major disaster.
15. Status of South Pittsburg Water Projects- (Time 1:05:42) Counselor Gouger stated the engineers of the South Pittsburg Mountain project are in the process of obtaining some private easements from property owners to route the waterlines off the state highway right of way to avoid some permit issues there. Counselor Gouger also stated on the Battle Creek project, there was a meeting last week with Keith Garth, Manager of South Pittsburg Board of Waterworks, and he was communicating with Stephanie Allen, a representative for TDOT and they were reviewing some options available to get around an area that has been a permitting problem. Mayor Jackson clarified the "slope" area is what the problem is.
16. Freedom of Information Act Discussion- (Time 1:07:56) (Attachment) Counselor Gouger explained this is a Federal Law that applies to Federal agencies and Federal Officials. The Tennessee "Open Records Act" is the State equivalent of "Freedom of Information Act". Counselor Gouger stated why this topic is on the agenda is because he reached out to the State's office of Open Records Counsel last week for guidance on some records requests that the County had received and in the process of doing that, he made the request if the office would do some training classes on the Open Records Act.
17. Mayor's Report- (Time 1:10:44) Mayor Jackson reported the following:
 - (a) The County received 2 RFI's this month and both were looking for existing buildings.

- (b) The County received the Computer Security audit today, there were no findings.
- (c) Some of the fire equipment has been issued out to the fire departments that the grant funded. Hope to have all the gear in this week.
- (d) The Company previously approved for the cleaning of the exterior of the Courthouse should get started next week, weather permitting.
- (e) Next County Commission meeting is April 22, 2024.

18. Approval of Notaries- (Time 1:12:04) (Attachment) Marion County Clerk Joanie Spangler read the following names for approval: Christy Lawrence, Joshua D. Robinson, Madison Grace Darnell, Andrew Layne, Sheena M. Haller, Marcus Deandre Cole, Amy R. Ridge. Commissioner Rollins made a motion to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Schafer. 13 voting aye.

19. General Business- (Time 1:12:28)

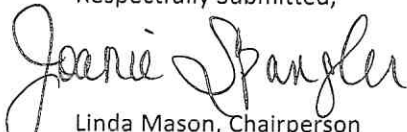
Commissioner Morrison asked Counselor Gouger for an update on the acquiring of properties on Big Fork Road. Counselor Gouger stated the letter for the deadline for response to the deeds of dedication to property owners was last week, at this time there are only approximately three left unaccounted for after discussion. Commissioner Morrison stated he would be placing this issue on next month's agenda for the Commission to make a motion on proceeding forward on the vote.

Commissioner Brandt asked is there anywhere in the County that does not have 911 service. He also had a request from Nickajack Landing asking for water. Commissioner Brandt also stated a concern for the waterworks for the South Pittsburg area, a discharge from septic systems going into the Tennessee River. Chairperson Mason stated it was actually in Crown Harbor and TDEC has it well under control. The Mayor of Jasper, Jason Turner, was present and also gave an update on the contract with the developer and TDEC. Commissioner Blansett stated for clarification, he was not indicating that Moccasin Bend was putting untreated sewer in the river.

Commissioner Cantrell recognized Vicki Messer who recently was awarded the American Ambulance Association Vanguard award that is only given out to 16 people in the United States.

20. Adjournment: (Time 1:39:46) Commissioner Blansett made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Commissioner Schafer. 13 voting aye.

Respectfully Submitted,



Linda Mason, Chairperson
Joanie Spangler, County Clerk