

April 24, 2023

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

The Marion County Board of Commissioners met in a regular session on April 24, 2023. Chairman David Abbott called the meeting to order. (Time: 03) Invocation was given by Commissioner Rollins. (Time 0:17) Pledge led by Chief Deputy Clerk, Jaime Quick. (Time 2:00) Roll call was taken by Jaime Quick. (Time 2:28) Fourteen commissioners were present.

1. (Time 0:02:47) A motion was made by Commissioner Morrison to approve March 27, 2023, Minutes, seconded by Commissioner Rollins. 14 voting aye
2. Discussion- Appointment to fill District 2 Seat A Commissioner vacancy- (Time 0:02:58) Commissioner Cantrell made a motion to table to next Commission meeting in May and get a workshop date and time in place that will be sent out to all Commissioners. Seconded by Commissioner Schafer. 14 voting aye
3. Discussion- request for use of the old Chattanooga State facility (Time 0:03:40) Mayor Jackson met with a group of gentlemen from the Jasper Highlands. The group also met with the Building Use Committee. Commissioner Franklin as Chairman of the Building Use Committee stated that the spokesperson presented a great proposal but at this time the Building Use Committee recommends to the Commission that we do not follow through with the request but leave the proposal open so that they could come back later and revisit the proposal. No action taken.

4. Discussion- Early Alert System (Time 0:04:50) Mayor Jackson stated in a discussion in a previous meeting that Commissioner Blansett had recommended meeting with EMA Director Steve Lamb concerning this system. EMA Director Steve Lamb was present to address the pros and cons as well as the expenses of this type of system and does not recommend it as a wise investment. No action taken.
5. Award Bid- Restoration and cleaning exterior of Courthouse and surrounding wall (Time 0:18:38) Mayor Jackson spoke of the much-needed improvement to the courthouse and surrounding wall. The improvements made would provide a sealant that would require no maintenance for 10-12 years. There were two bids submitted. Midwest Maintenance Inc. with a start date of August 1, 2023, with completion in 90 days at \$164,931.00. Quality Restoration Company, approximate start date November-December 2023 with completion in March-April 2024 depending on the weather at \$149,657.22. (Attachments) Mayor Jackson recommended going with the low bid. Commissioner Schafer questioned the condition of the roof. Mayor Jackson stated the roof of the courthouse was replaced about a year ago. Commissioner Franklin made a motion to approve the low bid, seconded by Commissioner Schafer. 14 voting aye
6. Appointment- New member for Finance Committee (Time 0:23:40) Mayor Jackson asked to table this item until next meeting. Commissioner Mason made a motion to table, seconded by Commissioner Thompson. 14 voting aye
7. Cory Pickett- Marion County Highway Department Superintendent- Requested approval for disposal and/or auction of surplus equipment and vehicles (Time 0:24:17) Mr. Pickett also presented the 2023 County Road List for approval. Mr. Pickett stated there were only minor corrections on mileage changes to some roads. Commissioner Morrison made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Campbell. 14 voting aye. This list is filed in the Marion County Clerk's office and in addition Mr. Pickett also provided each Commissioner with a copy. On Mr. Pickett's request for approval of a surplus equipment/vehicle on May 13th (Attachment), Commissioner Blansett made a motion to approve, Commissioner Campbell seconded. 14 voting aye
8. Notice- Delinquent Tax Property Bid withdrawals (Time 0:27:30) Mayor Jackson announced that the bidder for the previous approved sale of Map 050A, Group A, Parcel 022.00, and Map 050A, Group A, Parcel 023.00 in the March Commission meeting has rescinded his bids. Commissioner Schafer made a motion to bid out the sale of the properties again, seconded by Commissioner Cantrell. 14 voting aye

9. Approval- TCRS Contribution Rate of 2023/2024 (Time 0:28:16)
(Attachment) Mayor Jackson stated the TCRS employer rate is going up to 7.2% from 5% beginning July 1, 2023. Commissioner Cantrell made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Blansett. 14 voting aye.

10. Discussion- Adoption of Local Rules (Time 0:28:36) (Attachment)
Commissioner Brandt presented the idea of adopting local rules he had gathered from the CTAS website. Counselor Gouger explained Robert's rules of order and how this is used as a template or the framework for creating the rules of the commission and suggested having a workshop or special committee to move forward. Commissioner Morrison stated from reviewing there are some of these rules already in place. Commissioner Nunley recommended and moved for a workshop. Commissioner Mason seconded. 14 voting aye

11. Discussion-MITAC Committee Membership (Time 0:41:51) Commissioner Brandt stated the three candidates for approval of membership at this time: Larry Ziegler, William Brannan, and William Jansen. Commissioner Brandt made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Campbell. 14 voting aye Commissioner Blansett questioned is this the full committee. Commissioner Brandt responded that they are still looking for more qualifying members. David Riley from [Marion County News](#) asked Commissioner Brandt to explain this new technology committee.

12. Appointment-Special Committee for "The Cumberlands at Sewanee" (Time 0:45:46) Commissioner Brandt discussed the issues with this development and requested to pass a resolution to form a special committee. Commissioner Adkins asked could all properties that failed could be included in this study as well. Commissioner Brandt would oversee this committee. Mayor Jackson stated the county has already spent \$12,000.00 in legal fees previously. Commissioner Brandt made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Campbell. 14 voting aye.

13. Consideration- Private Act regarding Law Enforcement employees serving on the County Commission (Time 1:01:53) Commissioner Brandt brought the discussion to the Commission recommending a private act be put in place that Law Enforcement employees could not run for County Commission positions. No action taken.

14. Discussion-Purchasing two patrol cars for Sheriff's Department out of Drug Funds (Time 1:18:22) Sheriff Bo Burnette requested approval to purchase a 2019 and 2020 patrol car from the State of Missouri out of the drug fund.

Commissioner Schafer made a motion to approve the purchase, seconded by Commissioner Morrison 13 voting aye Commissioner Hargis abstained.

15. Discussion- Right to outside counsel for Commissioners (Time 1:19:21)
Commissioner Brandt requested from the Commission the right to hire outside counsel. Commissioner Blansett questioned who would pay for this counsel. Commissioner Thompson questioned how many occurrences like this have ever been necessary. Commissioner Brandt made a motion to approve, motion denied from lack of second.

16. Budget Amendments- Marion County Local Government (Time 1:26:40)
(Attachment) Mayor Jackson requested a change in Fund 101 for the purchase of a storage building for the Christmas for kids' items.
(Attachment) Commissioner Hargis made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Morrison 14 voting aye

17. Budget Amendments-Marion County Board of Education (Time 1:27:39) Dr. Griffith requested approval for budget amendment to replace the South Pittsburg High School pedestrian bridge, changes in health Services and Coordinated School Health personnel and changes in regular instruction personnel and math textbooks for 2023-2024. Commissioner Schafer made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Campbell 14 voting aye.

Dr. Griffith also requested approval of the federal funds to Federal Projects Fund 142 Amendment #6. Dr. Griffith, Commissioner Campbell made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Cantrell. 14 voting aye

Dr. Griffith updated the Commission on the progress of the new Jasper Middle School as well as the renovation of Whitwell High School and expected August completion of the South Pittsburg High School pedestrian bridge.

18. Budget Amendments – Marion County Highway Department (Time 1:34:51)
None Requested

19. Mayor's Report- (Time 1:35:03) Mayor Jackson stated the county had 2 RFI's this month, both looking for buildings we do not have. Mayor Jackson met with the President of Chattanooga State regarding a letter of intent on a lease agreement before we start to build-out. Mayor Jackson also reported they are still trying to get the stimulator brought to Chattanooga State for the CDL program and discussed doing a heavy equipment operator class. Colonial Chemical also wants to use the building to do some chemical training classes. Mayor Jackson also gave an update on the airport project. This will be on the May agenda for approval. There was an update given on the 3 water projects in the south end of the county.

20. Approval of Notaries- (Time 1:40:18) Jaime Quick read the following names for approval: Donna G. Kilgore, April C. Prince, Amanda Rae Kilgore, Carla Marie Pickett, Brandy Cheryl Pruitt, Howard Graham Swafford Jr., Cheryl Tolliver, Laura Ireland, Caroline Anderson, Renee Taylor, Sharlee Hobbs, Robert Allen Kirk, Emma M. Davis, Anna Knudsen. Commissioner Cantrell made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Thompson. 14 voting aye

21. General Business (Time 1:41:22) Commissioner Hargis stated that due to an oversight on his part, the County Commission designated an insufficient dollar amount for some employees to go to Washington D.C. to place the memorial on the wall for Matt Blansett. There was an additional \$425.95 charge to get them all on the same flight. Commissioner Hargis asked for approval and ratification for this money spent. Commissioner Mason made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Schafer. 14 voting aye.

Commissioner Morrison stated that Mayor Jackson did finally receive a response back from TDOT regarding the request for turn lanes on Suck Creek Mountain. No action is needed at this time but there was a written response.

Commissioner Mason asked about the cleaning of the Justice Center. Commissioner Franklin stated there would be a workshop by the Building Use Committee in which all department heads would be invited to attend.

Commissioner Brandt asked to revisit the question for funds allocated for the water projects. Mayor Jackson confirmed the numbers came from the engineering firms.

Commissioner Franklin asked if the drug money from opioid settlements discussed last month had been spent. Mayor Jackson confirmed this money has not been spent. Counselor Gouger is working to determine the dos' and don'ts of how this money can be spent.

Adjournment (Time 2:04:00) Commissioner Hargis made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Morrison. 14 voting aye



Respectfully Submitted,
David Abbott, Chairman
Joanie Spangler, County Clerk