

Minutes

Hardin County Fiscal Court Regular Meeting

June 13, 2023 at 3:30 p.m.

County Judge/Executive Keith Taul called the meeting to order and requested a roll call vote.

Answering:

Squire Fred Clem, Jr.: here; Squire Larry Hicks: here; Squire Kenny Muse: not present; Squire Aaron Pennington: here; Squire Kenny Saltsman: here; Squire EG Thompson: here; Squire Patsy Whitehead: here; Squire Chris Yates: here; County Judge/Executive Keith Taul: here.

The Invocation was given by Squire Larry Hicks.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Squire Aaron Pennington.

County Judge/Executive Keith Taul made opening comments welcoming those in attendance and previewing the agenda.

A Public Hearing on Hutcherson Lane Cemetery Relocation was held. The public was invited to comment. No public comments were offered.

Approve **Resolution 2023-125 related to Cemetery Relocation**

Motion to Approve by Squire Clem and seconded by Squire Pennington.

Voting:

Squire Fred Clem, Jr.: yes; Squire Larry Hicks: yes; Squire Kenny Muse: not present; Squire Aaron Pennington: yes; Squire Kenny Saltsman: yes; Squire EG Thompson: yes; Squire Patsy Whitehead: yes; Squire Chris Yates: yes; County Judge/Executive Keith Taul: yes.

Approve **Hardin County Fiscal Court 5.23.2023 minutes**

Motion to Approve by Squire Whitehead and seconded by Squire Yates.

Voting:

Squire Fred Clem, Jr.: yes; Squire Larry Hicks: yes; Squire Kenny Muse: not present; Squire Aaron Pennington: yes; Squire Kenny Saltsman: yes; Squire EG Thompson: yes; Squire Patsy Whitehead: yes; Squire Chris Yates: yes; County Judge/Executive Keith Taul: yes.

Informational Items

a. Highway Department - Annual Rural Secondary Presentation - Bo Warren, Branch Manager - District 4.

Department/Office Reports

a. Presentations

- i. Animal Control - Mike McNutt
- ii. Emergency Management - Joey Scott

b. Written Reports

- i. Planning - Adam King
- ii. Engineering - Stephanie Givens
- iii. Road Department - Dwight Morgan

Citizen's Concerns of Comments:

Prior to opening the floor for public comment, County Judge/Executive Taul requested County Attorney Oldham summarize Resolution 2023-126 and Resolution 2023-127. County Judge/Executive Keith Taul then opened the floor for citizen comments.

Ms. Cheryl Benitez of Elizabethtown spoke concerning 2023-126, stating she supported it over 2023-127. She stated her views on the importance of transparency. She stated she liked townhalls, but that they were not timely and she wants public meetings at 5:30, rather than 3:30.

Ms. Bobbie Coleman of Vine Grove spoke in support of 2023-126 to allow the public to be heard at committee meetings and if there are to be townhalls, they should be monthly, not quarterly.

Mr. Kenneth Paul Bunting of Elizabethtown spoke about the importance of the oath of office and its reference to the US and Kentucky constitutions.

Mr. Bobbie Alexander of Elizabethtown spoke about the importance of transparency and he felt it was wrong to not allow public input. He urged a no vote on 2023-127.

Ms. Trina Martin of Cecilia said she agreed with Ms. Benitez. She stated that these resolutions were in response to a recent meeting about solar panels, and she didn't want the public punished because parameters in that meeting were not set.

Ms. Dolly Guenther of Rineyville spoke about the importance of the First Amendment and said she wants the meetings to remain at 5:30 pm. She stated she supports 2023-126.

Ordinances/Resolutions/Agreements

Resolutions related to Committee Functions:

Approve **Resolution 2023-126** related to Committee Functions.

Motion to Approve by Squire Whitehead and seconded by Squire Hicks.

Discussion:

Squire Thompson stated that he would not support 2023-126 because it limits his freedom of speech by limiting his right to bring forth items heard in committee to the fiscal court agenda if not in attendance. He stated that fiscal court only has authority when it meets as a whole, not in committees. He stated he believes that 2023-127 allows for more avenues for public participation.

Squire Hicks stated that he opposed both 2023-126 and 2023-127 as they were against what he pledged while campaigning. However, he would vote for 2023-126 as it was the lesser of two evils.

Squire Whitehead stated that she made few promises while campaigning, other than her commitment to transparency, honesty, and integrity. She didn't want either resolution on the agenda, but would vote for 2023-126 because it was better than 2023-127. She stated that quarterly townhall meetings were not sufficient.

Squire EG Thompson made a motion to table resolutions 2023-126 and 2023-127 to allow time to work out a compromise. Motion was seconded by Squire Hicks.

Voting:

Squire Fred Clem, Jr.: no; Squire Larry Hicks: yes; Squire Kenny Muse: not present; Squire Aaron Pennington: no; Squire Kenny Saltsman: no; Squire EG Thompson: yes; Squire Patsy Whitehead: yes; Squire Chris Yates: no; County Judge/Executive Keith Taul: yes.

Motion failed.

Squire Whitehead asked to complete her comments and stated that she desires to keep her commitment to the county and wants the public's voice at the committee meetings. She said she will vote yes on 2023-126.

Squire Saltsman stated that the change was about efficiency and that Judge Taul promised to review this issue after six months. He stated that there hasn't been great attendance as the committee meetings, and that it was important to take care of Hardin County employees.

Squire Clem stated that 2023-126 limits the magistrates and is structurally flawed. He encouraged the public to call, text, or email their representatives on fiscal court and to speak at fiscal court meetings. Regarding 2023-127, he stated that townhalls allow the public to speak on any topic. He warned that giving the committee chair the power to set the time could result in them setting them at any time. He stated he would vote no on 2023-126 and yes on 2023-127. He also spoke to the impact on county employees.

Squire Pennington stated that he believed that fiscal court and Judge Taul have a phenomenal record on transparency. He said nothing by the court is ever signed, sealed, and delivered until fiscal court acts. He said he would be available to the public. He said he would be voting for 2023-127 and not 2023-126. He said it was important to respect the county employees and their time. He stated that townhall meetings are a great idea.

Squire Yates said all the magistrates are in favor of transparency and that today's fiscal court meeting demonstrated it. He said it is time to vote.

Judge Taul spoke about when he took office he wanted to set the committee meeting times to a more convenient time. He stated that he did agree to reevaluate that after six months. He stated that in his observation, three of the committees had little public participation and one has had very high participation. This led to the evolution of 2023-126 as a compromise. He said he didn't agree removing public comment. He also said he was in favor of the townhall concept, but would be voting against 2023-127.

Voting:

Squire Fred Clem, Jr.: no; Squire Larry Hicks: yes; Squire Kenny Muse: not present; Squire Aaron Pennington: no; Squire Kenny Saltsman: no; Squire EG Thompson: no; Squire Patsy Whitehead: yes; Squire Chris Yates: no; County Judge/Executive Keith Taul: yes.

Approve **Resolution 2023-127** related to Guidelines for Committee Meetings and Establishment of Town Hall Forums.

Motion to Approve by Squire Clem and seconded by Squire Yates.

Voting:

Squire Fred Clem, Jr.: yes; Squire Larry Hicks: no; Squire Kenny Muse: not present; Squire Aaron Pennington: yes; Squire Kenny Saltsman: yes; Squire EG Thompson: yes; Squire Patsy Whitehead: no; Squire Chris Yates: yes; County Judge/Executive Keith Taul: no.

Second Reading of **Ordinance No.332 Series 2023** FY 2023-2024 Budget.

Motion to Approve by Squire Clem and seconded by Squire Yates.

Squire Clem said he is basing his votes on the discussions during the April 28, 2023 finance committee meeting and reflected in those minutes.

Squire Thompson stated he is voting no due to the identified revenue source.

Voting:

Squire Fred Clem, Jr.: yes; Squire Larry Hicks: yes; Squire Kenny Muse: not present; Squire Aaron Pennington: yes; Squire Kenny Saltsman: yes; Squire EG Thompson: no; Squire Patsy Whitehead: yes; Squire Chris Yates: yes; County Judge/Executive Keith Taul: yes.

Consent Agenda

- a. Approve Claims Batch 06.13.2023.
- b. **Executive Order No. 2023-006** related to provide Notice of the Special Called Fiscal Court Meeting (KRS 61.823).
- c. **Executive Order No. 2023-007** related to Appointment of Chairman of the Board of Assessments of Appeals.
- d. Approve **Resolution 2023-110** related to step-in-grade salary increase +3% COLA.
- e. Approve **Resolution 2023-111** related to 911 Job Description Revisions.
- f. Approve **Resolution 2023-112** related to 911 Personnel.
- g. Approve **Resolution 2023-113** related to Finance Job Description Revisions.
- h. Approve **Resolution 2023-114** related to Finance Personnel.
- i. Approve **Resolution 2023-115** related to Emergency Management Job Description Revisions.
- j. Approve **Resolution 2023-116** related to Emergency Management Personnel.
- k. Approve **Resolution 2023-117** related to Coroner Job Description Revisions.
- l. Approve **Resolution 2023-118** related to Coroner Personnel.
- m. Approve **Resolution 2023-119** related to Buildings & Grounds Personnel.
- n. Approve **Resolution 2023-120** related to EMS Personnel.
- o. Approve **Resolution 2023-121** related to service agreement with Motorola Solutions per State Contract 758-1800000262.
- p. Approve **Resolution 2023-122** related to Insight Public Sector Verkada Cloud services for Road Department cameras.
- q. Approve **Resolution 2023-123** related to Finance Transfers.
- r. Approve **Resolution 2023-124** related to Kentucky Emergency Management. Performance Grant Additional EMA Funding Allocation grant application(s).
- s. Approve **Public Works Committee Meeting Minutes 05.22.2023.**

Motion to Approve by Squire Yates and seconded by Squire Pennington

Voting:

Squire Fred Clem, Jr.: yes; Squire Larry Hicks: yes; Squire Kenny Muse: not present; Squire Aaron Pennington: yes; Squire Kenny Saltsman: yes; Squire EG Thompson: yes; Squire Patsy Whitehead: yes; Squire Chris Yates: yes; County Judge/Executive Keith Taul: yes.

Concluding Comments were offered by:

Squire Chris Yates thanked West Point Mayor Richard Ciresi for attending Fiscal Court and noted that West Point Rocking on the River will take place the next 3rd Fridays of the months in June, July and August.

Squire Kenny Saltsman congratulated Radcliff Mayor JJ Duvall and Radcliff Councilwoman Michelle Mitchell on their victory in the City vs. City Cookoff. He also urged residents to attend Vine Grove's First Fridays.

Squire Patsy Whitehead congratulated Hardin County Jailer Big Josh Lindblom on being elected Jailer of the Year in Kentucky.

Squire Fred Clem, Jr. urged the public to neither text and drive nor drink and drive.

Squire Aaron Pennington let the public know that the June 15, 2023 Emergency Services Committee meeting would be canceled.

Squire E.G. Thompson commended the public for exercising their right to free speech during tonight's fiscal court meeting and pledged to continue to be transparent. He expressed his appreciation to the Sheriff's Office for responding to a recent incident in his district and his gratitude that no one was injured.

Squire Larry Hicks thanked the employees of Hardin County government, especially Dwight Morgan and Stephanie Givens who responded to constituent concerns he brought to them.


Adjourn

Motion to adjourn by Squire Yates and seconded by Squire Whitehead. Court was adjourned without objection, County Judge/Executive Keith Taul presiding.



Keith L. Taul
Hardin County Judge/Executive

ATTEST:



Brian D. Smith
Hardin County Clerk