

Minutes

Hardin County Fiscal Court Regular Meeting

December 21, 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: here; Squire Aaron Pennington: here; Squire Kenny Saltsman: here; Squire EG Thompson: not present; 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 Patsy Whitehead.

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

Approve Hardin County Fiscal Court 12.12.2023 minutes

Motion to Approve minutes was made by Squire Muse to include requested corrections by Squire Clem. The motion was seconded by Squire Whitehead.

Voting:

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

Informational Items

Department/Office Reports

a. Presentations

- i. Coroner – Pat Elmore
- ii. Sheriff – CY 2024 Budget – John Ward, Sheriff
- iii. Clerk – 2024 Budget & 2023 Year-End Presentation – Brian D. Smith, County Clerk

Written Reports

- i. EMS – Mark Peterson
- ii. E-911 – Mike Leo
- iii. Detention Center – Josh Lindblom

County Judge/Executive Keith Taul opened the floor for citizen comments. Bobby Alexander of Elizabethtown stated that he has seen improvement in his ability to see and hear since technology improvements were added to the fiscal court room.

Ordinances/Resolutions/Agreements

a. Approve **Resolution 2023-248** authorizing the issuance of the Industrial Revenue Bonds and authorizing the Judge Executive to execute the Form of the Bonds, a Payment in Lieu of Tax Payment Agreement, Lease Agreement, Quitclaim Deed and Disbursement Agreement.

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

Voting:

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

b. Approve **Hardin County Clerk's CY 2024 Budget**

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

Voting:

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

c. Approve **Hardin County Sheriff's CY 2024 Budget**

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

Voting:

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

d. Approve **Resolution No. 2023-246** relating to Affiliation Agreement between Hardin County, KY and Hardin County Crimestoppers, Inc.

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

Voting:

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

e. **Resolution No. 2023-250** approving amendment to Sheriff's CY 2023 Budget

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

Voting:

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

f. Approve to pay **Voucher #10001739 to VISA (0985) in the amount of \$978.03.**

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

Discussion: Squire Clem explained his reasoning for pulling this item from the prior meeting's consent agenda. He said he initially had concerns about this when he learned of it and heard privately expressed concerns from others. He describes the sign as a custom metal sign ordered from R & L Metal Works of Tell City, Indiana. The cost of the sign was \$901, plus \$50 for delivery and \$27.03 for credit card fees, for a total cost of \$978.03. He stated his opposition to the county paying for this sign.

Squire Hicks asked why there was questioning of a \$978 sign when other expenditures have been thousands and hundreds of thousands. He expressed he thought it was silly.

Squire Clem replied that his concerns were based on section 8 of the ethics code, and the fact that it read "Judge Taul," meaning only one person's name was on it and it was paid for by taxpayer dollars. He asked if in the future he wanted a sign that read "Magistrate Clem" on it, should it be approved?

Squire Hicks said he wouldn't have a problem if Squire Clem was the judge.

Squire Whitehead stated that the display represents all of county government, including Judge Taul. She said she was ok with the expense.

County Judge/Executive Taul explained his intent to spruce up the Christmas display and didn't do as much as liked. The sign of "heartfelt Christmas wishes" is a positive message that Hardin County would want to display for people to read and be encouraged. He said he wanted the sign to feel personal and that the Judge/Executive position represents the people of the county. He said if the court doesn't approve payment, he would pay for it himself.

Squire Yates stated that he believed there was no ill intent, but he would be voting no.

Squire Clem stated that he also was not questioning the Judge's intent but the precedent it was setting.

Voting:

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

Consent Agenda

- a. Approve **Treasurer's Financial Report.**
- b. Approve **December Claims Batch.**
- c. Approve **November Payroll with Registers – 11.9.23, 11.14.23, 11.24.23.**
- d. Approve **Resolution No. 2023-245** relating to Finance Personnel.
- e. Approve **Resolution No. 2023-247** relating to EMS Personnel.
- f. Approve **Resolution No. 2023-249** relating to Financial Transfers.
- g. Approve **Emergency Services Committee Meeting Minutes 12.14.2023**
- h. Approve **Finance Committee Meeting Minutes 12.19.2023**

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

Voting:

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

Concluding Comments:

Squire Chris Yates wished all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Squire Kenny Saltsman wished all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. He said he was thankful for the opportunity to serve the citizens of Hardin County. He stated it has been exciting, and he's looking forward to next year. He said it's been great to work with his fellow elected officials and get to know the county government staff.

Squire Patsy Whitehead said she appreciated the opportunity to serve District III. She thanked fiscal court, the Judge/Executive, and the department heads for patience and help. She thanked the Hardin County community. She wished all a Merry Christmas and encouraged everyone to stay safe and "God Bless your journey."

Squire Fred Clem, Jr. invited the public to the January 16, 2024 Finance Committee and the January 30, 2024 Town Hall. He wished all a Merry Christmas, and reminded folks to neither drink and drive, nor text and drive.

Squire Aaron Pennington wished all a Merry Christmas to everyone. He thanked the county employees and his constituents.

Squire Larry Hicks stated he takes his job seriously and is humbled to represent District VII. He sees it as an honor and humbling experience. He asked for patience as he continues to learn. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. He stated he prays for our country and children in need all over the world.

Squire Kenny Muse wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. He thanked the members of the court this first year. He said it's been an honor to serve.

Judge/Executive Taul reminded the public of the next fiscal court meeting and the holiday county closure dates. He wished all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Adjourn

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



KEITH L. TAUL
HARDIN COUNTY JUDGE/EXECUTIVE

ATTEST:



BRIAN D. SMITH
CLERK, HARDIN COUNTY FISCAL COURT