

## **Minutes**

### **Hardin County Fiscal Court Regular Meeting**

**June 25, 2024 at 5:30 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: here; Squire Patsy Whitehead: here; Squire Chris Yates: here; County Judge/Executive Keith Taul: here.

The Invocation was given by Squire Chris Yates.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Squire Kenny Muse.

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

### **Approve Hardin County Fiscal Court 6.11.2024 minutes**

Motion to Approve by Squire Saltsman 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: yes; Squire Patsy Whitehead: yes; Squire Chris Yates: yes; County Judge/Executive Keith Taul: yes.

Motion passed.

### **Department/Office Reports**

#### **a. Presentations**

- i. Coroner – Shana Norton
- ii. Sheriff – Teri Bennett
- iii. Clerk – Brian D. Smith

#### **b. Written Reports**

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

### **Citizen's Concerns or Comments**

County Judge/Executive Keith Taul opened the floor for citizen comments. Julie Cantwell, of Rineyville, introduced herself as the founder of Kentucky Moms for Medical Cannabis. She stated that her son has epilepsy. She spoke in favor of the county opting in to Medical Cannabis, or at least putting it on the ballot for voters to make the choice.

Elijah Rosenbaum, of Louisville, also spoke in favor of the county opting in or to allow the voters to choose for themselves.

### **Ordinances/Resolutions/Agreements**

a. Second Reading of **Ordinance No. 269, Series 2009, Amendment Number 3** to Zoning Ordinance.

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: yes; Squire Patsy Whitehead: yes; Squire Chris Yates: yes; County Judge/Executive Keith Taul: yes.

Motion passed.

b. First Reading of **Ordinance 342, Series 2024** Prohibiting the Operation of Cannabis Businesses in Hardin County.

Prior to the motion, Judge Taul explained that members of Fiscal Court had gone through training on this issue. He said the purpose of the law is to make medical cannabis available to those in need. He went through some of the legislative action and administrative actions that have taken place to license future cannabis businesses. He described the types of businesses allowed and the fees associated with those businesses. He stated he believes because of Hardin County's size; our community would only see one dispensary. He also stated that school boards will need to make decisions on what they would allow. He described the types of ordinances available, then read Ordinance 342, Series 2024 into the record. He then stated his reasons for voting to prohibit the operation of cannabis businesses in Hardin County. He said with Elizabethtown already approving it, availability would not be an issue, but it could be compromised if the lottery put a dispensary in a more remote part of the county. He also stated that the state's system for dealing with medical cannabis is untested. He also warned that if the county opted in, it could not undo that action. He also stated that since this will be available, there was no need for the county to rush into this. He said he's not opposed to medical cannabis, but would vote to opt out.

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

When the Judge opened the floor to discussion, Squire Yates stated that the discussion had begun before the motion.

Squire Clem stated that despite the thorough training, that no one could have a full understanding of the pros and cons of medical cannabis, but he believes it will be a benefit to some. He raised concerns that the county will have no way of knowing what decisions will be made in Frankfort. He said that opting out will give the county some control over its future. He said we can reserve the right to monitor this program before opting in. He said the ability to expand this program lies with the regulatory agency and not the legislature. He also said the county could still consider this without pressure so that decisions could be made based on facts. He will vote yes on this ordinance.

Voting:

Squire Fred Clem, Jr.: yes; Squire Larry Hicks: yes; Squire Kenny Muse: no; Squire Aaron Pennington: no; Squire Kenny Saltsman: no; Squire EG Thompson: yes; Squire Patsy Whitehead: no; Squire Chris Yates: no; County Judge/Executive Keith Taul: yes.  
Motion failed.

c. Approve **Resolution 2024-134** related to Operation of Cannabis Businesses in Hardin County. Judge Taul read the resolution into the records, then opened the floor for comments from members of Fiscal Court.

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

Squire Yates said he was elected to be the voice of his constituents. He laid out the options available under the law. He said he believes whenever there is an option to put a question before the voters, he will support it. He said to do otherwise would deny voters the right to vote on this issue and citizens should have that right. He said we live in a great county that is home to heroes who have fought and sacrificed for our right to vote.

Squire Whitehead said medical cannabis is a personal issue, medical issue and ethical issue. After talking with folks, she said many people need it. Others may not today, but could in the future. She wants to allow voters to make the choice and have a voice. If the resolution passes, she encourages all voters to become educated on this issue. She said voter's opinions are important and would be reflected on the ballot. She said she would vote in favor of putting this on the ballot.

Squire Clem stated that there was a difference of opinion, but no one is suppressing the vote. He said that members of Fiscal Court have had the opportunity to learn about this issue that not every constituent can do that and understand the ramifications. Access and need are not the issue. Rather, he wants to let this play out allowing the county to opt in in the future.

Judge Taul said since the opt out ordinance failed, he would now prefer to put this before the voters.

Voting:

Squire Fred Clem, Jr.: no; Squire Larry Hicks: no; Squire Kenny Muse: yes; 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.  
Motion passed.

### **Consent Agenda**

- a. Approve **Treasurer's Financial Report May 2024**.
- b. Approve **May Payroll with Registers (5.10.24, 5.14.24, 5.24.24)**.
- c. Approve **June Claims** 06-25-2024, June Library Claims, 06-25-2024.
- d. Approve **Resolution 2024-128** related to Tetra Tech Work Orders and **Amendment No. 8** to Agreement.
- e. Approve **Resolution 2024-129** related to Animal Care and Control personnel.

- f. Approve **Resolution 2024-130** related to Road personnel.
- g. Approve **Resolution 2024-131** related to EMS personnel.
- h. Approve **Resolution 2024-132** related to Judge/Executive Office job description revisions.
- i. Approve **Resolution 2024-133** related to Cash Drawer Fund for Finance-Occupational License.
- j. Approve **Resolution 2024-135** related to reappointment of John Tindall to the HCWD#1 Board.
- k. Approve **Resolution 2024-136** related to Financial Transfers.
- l. Approve **Public Works Committee Meeting Minutes 6.14.2024**.
- m. Approve **Emergency Services Committee Meeting Minutes 6.10.2024**.
- n. Approve **Resources & Community Support Committee Meeting Minutes 6.17.2024**.
- o. Approve **Finance Committee Meeting Minutes 6.18.2024**.

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

In discussion, Squire Saltsman applauded the reappointment of John Tindall to provide continuity on the board.

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: yes; Squire Patsy Whitehead: yes; Squire Chris Yates: yes; County Judge/Executive Keith Taul: yes.

Motion passed.

**Concluding Comments were offered by:**

Squire Yates commended Clerk Smith for being a “man of his word” and reopening the Radcliff branch office.

Squire Saltsman also commended the Hardin County Clerk and his staff. He stated he was looking forward to the Hardin County Fair.

Squire Whitehead congratulated Clerk Smith on the Radcliff office and invited the public to attend the Hardin County Fair. She invited the public to the next meeting of the Resources and Community Support Committee.

Squire Clem invited the public to the next meeting of the Finance Committee and the next Townhall Meeting on July 30, 2024. He also reminded the public to not drink and drive, nor text and drive.

Squire Muse invited the public to the Vine Grove First Fridays, with the next being on July 5, 2024. He also applauded the accomplishments of local star and professional golfer Lauren Hartlage.

Judge Taul invited the public to the next meeting of Fiscal Court.

**Adjourn**

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



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KEITH L. TAUL  
HARDIN COUNTY JUDGE/EXECUTIVE

ATTEST:



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BRIAN D. SMITH  
CLERK, HARDIN COUNTY FISCAL COURT