

Mason County Fiscal Court
Regular Session
April 15, 2025
9:00 a.m.

Judge/Executive Owen McNeill called the meeting to order. Present were Commissioner Chris O'Hearn (District 2), Commissioner Peggy Frame (District 3), County Attorney John Estill, Assistant County Attorney Jacqueline Wright, Sheriff Ryan Swolsky, County Treasurer Megan Davenport, Road Department Supervisor Joe Brown, Landfill Supervisor Travis Cooley, Emergency Management Director Tony Liess and Animal Shelter Supervisor Brandy Thomas. Let the record show Commissioner Joe McKay was absent.

Invocation

Pastor Tony Liess opened the meeting with an invocation, asking for prayers for the Greenwell family with the passing of Joey Greenwell, and for Commissioner Joe McKay and his wife Patsy, who is ill.

Update

Maysville Mason County Industrial Development Authority Director Tyler McHugh gave an update to members of the court on the TC Energy pipeline to feed gas into the Spurlock Station. It will travel from Morehead to Maysville. It is forty miles of pipeline and will travel through Rowan, Fleming and Mason counties. There will be two open houses tentatively scheduled for this summer in July for constituents.

Approval of Minutes

Motion made by Commissioner O'Hearn and seconded by Commissioner Frame to approve the minutes from the March 11 regular meeting as presented.

Commissioner O'Hearn - Yes
Commissioner Frame - Yes
Judge/Executive McNeill – Yes

Motion made by Commissioner Frame and seconded by Commissioner O'Hearn to approve the minutes from the March 28 special meeting as presented.

Commissioner O'Hearn - Yes
Commissioner Frame - Yes
Judge/Executive McNeill – Yes

Maintenance for Voting Machines

County Clerk Schumacher informed the court that Hart Intercivic, the manufacturer of the election equipment, recommends routine maintenance and replacement of some parts every four

years. It is time for this to be done. A new software/firmware update will be installed on all the machines. Also, all coin batteries will be replaced. The Verity Scan devices will be tested and calibrated as well as the Duo Stand alone machines, as well as other tasks. Harp Enterprises Inc., the election vendor for Mason County, submitted an estimate of \$6,677.05, for the updates, replacements, and maintenance. Clerk Schumacher asked the court to approve the estimate.

Motion by Commissioner Frame, seconded by Commissioner O'Hearn to approve the estimate of \$6,677.05 as submitted by Harp Enterprises, Inc. for routine maintenance on the election equipment.

Commissioner O'Hearn - Yes

Commissioner Frame – Yes

Judge/Executive McNeill – Yes

Road Department

Motion made by Commissioner O'Hearn, seconded by Commissioner Frame to accept the March report as submitted by Road Department Supervisor Joe Brown and attached hereto.

Commissioner O'Hearn - Yes

Commissioner Frame – Yes

Judge/Executive McNeill – Yes

Acceptance of Bids – Buffalo Trace Road Commission

Motion by Commissioner Frame, seconded by Commissioner O'Hearn to accept and adopt all bids on the Buffalo Trace Road Commission Bidder's Contact List for 2025 as presented and attached hereto,

Commissioner O'Hearn – Yes

Commissioner Day – Yes

Judge/Executive McNeill – Yes

National Public Works Proclamation

Judge/Executive McNeill announced the week of May 18-24, 2025, as National Public Works Week in Mason County, in recognition of all public works professionals and the contributions they make to protecting our health, safety and advancing the quality of life for all.

Animal Shelter Report

Motion made by Commissioner O’Hearn, seconded by Commissioner Frame to accept the March Animal Shelter Report as presented by Director Brandy Thomas and attached hereto.

Commissioner O’Hearn - Yes
Commissioner Frame – Yes
Judge/Executive McNeill – Yes

Judge/Executive McNeill announced that the Mason County Animal Shelter has partnered with Mason County Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) in setting up “Pawsitive Boxes” for animals. People can support this cause by leaving donations of food, toys or blankets in the blessing boxes.

Sheriff’s Report

Motion by Commissioner O’Hearn, seconded by Commissioner Frame to accept the Monthly Tax Disbursement Report for March totaling \$163,363.72 as presented by Sheriff Swolsky and attached hereto.

Commissioner O’Hearn – Yes
Commissioner Frame – Yes
Judge/Executive McNeill – Yes

The Monthly Vehicle Report for March was submitted for review.

Swolsky presented an overview of activity data during the month of March for review.

Sheriff Swolsky announced that he has decided to change the tax collection calendar in his office to begin in October. Property owners will receive a 2% discount if paying their tax bills in October and will pay the face value of their tax bills for the months November and December. Sheriff Swolsky said many counties surrounding Mason County use this same collection schedule. Plus, this will bring revenue into the sheriff’s office during the month of October.

Motion by Commissioner Frame, seconded by Commissioner O’Hearn to approve the tax collection schedule change as proposed by Sheriff Swolsky.

Commissioner O’Hearn – Yes
Commissioner Frame – Yes
Judge/Executive McNeill – Yes

Detention Center Report

Motion made by Commissioner O’Hearn, seconded by Commissioner Frame to accept the March report as presented by Jailer Yeary attached hereto.

Commissioner O’Hearn – Yes

Commissioner Frame – Yes

Judge/Executive McNeill – Yes

Jailer Yeary also informed members of the court about a 2016 Trane air conditioning unit that is not working. A representative with HMC Company came to the detention center and found that there was a bad sensor and no freon. After further inspection, he found that a leak in the main coil. Jailer Yeary has requested an estimate to replace the coil as well as for replacement of the unit. This air conditioning unit cools 80% of the detention center.

Emergency Management

Motion made by Commissioner O’Hearn, seconded by Commissioner Frame to accept the March report as presented by Emergency Management Director Tony Liess and attached hereto.

Commissioner O’Hearn – Yes

Commissioner Frame – Yes

Judge/Executive McNeill – Yes

Landfill Report

Motion by Commissioner O’Hearn, seconded by Commissioner Frame to accept the March report as submitted by Supervisor Travis Cooley and attached hereto.

Commissioner O’Hearn – Yes

Commissioner Frame – Yes

Judge/Executive McNeill – Yes

Judge/Executive McNeill that bids for the new landfill office are being advertised.

Recycling Center Report

Motion by Commissioner Frame, seconded by Commissioner O’Hearn to accept the March report as submitted by Randy Hamm and attached hereto.

Commissioner O’Hearn – Yes

Commissioner Frame – Yes

Judge/Executive McNeill – Yes

Property Abatement and Illegal Dumping Report

Motion by Commissioner O’Hearn, seconded by Commissioner Frame to accept the March report as submitted by Supervisor Shane Taylor and attached hereto.

Commissioner O’Hearn – Yes

Commissioner Frame – Yes

Judge/Executive McNeill – Yes

Judge/Executive McNeill informed members of the court that several locations in the county that are being used as dumping sites under currently under surveillance. Also, Supervisor Taylor will also begin listing properties with inoperable, abandoned vehicles on the premises.

Garbage Collection Report & Litter Abatement

Motion by Commissioner Frame, seconded by Commissioner O’Hearn to accept the March report as submitted by Supervisor Shane Taylor and attached hereto.

Commissioner O’Hearn – Yes

Commissioner Frame – Yes

Judge/Executive McNeill – Yes

Treasurer’s Report

Motion made by Commissioner O’Hearn, seconded by Commissioner Frame to authorize the payment of claims, including additional claims totaling \$67,200.00, as presented, and attached hereto.

Commissioner O’Hearn – Yes

Commissioner Frame – Yes

Judge/Executive McNeill – Yes

Motion made by Commissioner Frame, seconded by Commissioner O’Hearn to approve the Quarterly Financial Statement as of March 31, 2025, as presented and attached hereto.

Commissioner O’Hearn – Yes.

Commissioner Frame – Yes

Judge/Executive McNeill – Yes

Motion by Commissioner Frame, seconded by Commissioner O’Hearn to approve the Quarterly Investment Journal as of March 31, 2025, as presented and attached hereto.

Commissioner O’Hearn – Yes

Commissioner Frame – Yes

Judge/Executive McNeill – Yes

Motion by Commissioner O'Hearn, seconded by Commissioner Frame to approve budget transfers in the amount of \$191,500.00, as presented and attached hereto.

Commissioner O'Hearn – Yes

Commissioner Frame – Yes

Judge/Executive McNeill – Yes

Lastly, Treasurer Davenport proposed increasing meal reimbursement rates for county employees to match the state's rate which would be increasing breakfast reimbursement from \$10 to \$11, lunch from \$12 to \$14, and dinner from \$18 to \$24.

Motion by Commissioner O'Hearn, seconded by Commissioner Frame to approve the increase in the meal reimbursement rates for county employees as presented by Treasurer Davenport.

Commissioner O'Hearn – Yes

Commissioner Frame – Yes

Judge/Executive McNeill – Yes

Tourism Report

The Tourism Report for March was submitted for review and is attached hereto.

EMS Report

Fire Chief Kyle Carpenter with the Maysville Fire Department submitted the March EMS Report for review. The report is attached hereto.

Permit Report

The Permit Report for March was submitted for review and is attached hereto. Judge/Executive McNeill also announced the May 2025 is designated Building Safety Month in Mason County in recognition of those professionals who work year-round to ensure the safe construction of buildings, thereby protecting members of the community.

New Business

Judge/Executive McNeill introduced Dr. Craig Denham and asked him to give an update on Primary Plus. Dr. Denham said there are currently four medical residents in the program now, with an additional four coming in July. This year, there were 587 applicants for the four positions. Primary Plus has hired a full-time dermatologist as well as an adult psychologist. They are also working on plans for a new building on Tucker Drive for an additional pharmacy. Dr. Tyler Elam is the program director and to date, just under \$12 million has been invested in the J. Ugrin Medical Center downtown, which was formerly the Browning Medical Arts Building.

Resolution 25-03 – CDBG Application for Western Lewis Rectorville Water & Gas District

Motion by Commissioner O’Hearn, seconded by Commissioner Frame to adopt Resolution 25-03, authorizing Judge/Executive McNeill to execute and file a grant application for \$1,250,000.00, for the replacement of the water tank in the Western Lewis Rectorville Water & Gas District. This a 50 percent match grant.

Commissioner O’Hearn – Yes

Commissioner Frame – Yes

Judge/Executive McNeill – Yes

Resolution 25-04 – Grant Program of 2024 for Western Lewis Rectorville Water & Gas District

Motion by Commissioner Frame, seconded by Commissioner O’Hearn authorizing Judge/Executive McNeill to execute any documents necessary when filing the Government Resources Accelerating Needed Transformation (GRANT) Program of 2024 application for up to \$1,250,000.00 in GRANT Program of 2024 funds.

Commissioner O’Hearn – Yes

Commissioner Frame – Yes

Judge/Executive McNeill – Yes

Motion made by Commissioner Frame, seconded by Commissioner O’Hearn authorizing Buffalo Trace Area Development District to advertise and subsequently bill Mason County Fiscal Court for said advertisement to conduct the required CDBG public hearing.

Commissioner O’Hearn – Yes

Commissioner Frame – Yes

Judge/Executive McNeill – Yes

The Addendum to Conclude CDBG 19-034 project grant agreement listed on the agenda was replaced with Resolution 25-06.

Resolution 25-05 – Mason County Public Library’s Southern Annex in Mays Lick

Motion made by Commissioner O’Hearn, seconded by Commissioner Frame to adopt Resolution 25-05, authorizing Judge/Executive McNeill to enter a Memorandum of Understanding with the Mason County Public Library to proceed with creating a branch library in May’s Lick at the Rosenwald School.

Commissioner O’Hearn – Yes

Commissioner Frame – Yes

Judge/Executive McNeill – Yes

Resolution 25-06 – Patient Tech LLC

Motion made by Commissioner O’Hearn, seconded by Commissioner Frame authorizing Judge/Executive McNeill and Treasurer Davenport to execute any documents necessary to facilitate the settlement of claims by the Department for Local Government.

Commissioner O’Hearn – Yes

Commissioner Frame – Yes

Judge/Executive McNeill – Yes

Patient Tech and Mason County Fiscal Court entered into an agreement with the Department of Local Government for grant funding in the amount of \$493,143.00, with Mason County being the recipient of the grant funds. Patient Tech has ceased operations and DLG has demanded payment of the funds. Patient Tech made payments totaling \$159,255.16. The Maysville Mason County Industrial Development Authority has approved payment of the additional \$333,887.84 owed by Patient Tech to Mason County.

Mason County Conservation District

Judge/Executive McNeill said the Mason County Conservation District had submitted its district budget for fiscal year 2025-2026.

Clear Gov Update

Project Manager Kim Muse updated the fiscal court on the progress of Clear Gov, the online site housing the county’s financial information, for use by the public. The site is expected to launch May 1. The link to Clear Gov will be posted on the county’s website

Elisha Green Update

Judge/Executive McNeill said Elisha Green Statue campaign is now up to \$27,742.00.

Board Appointments

Judge/Executive McNeill announced that Desarae Perry has been appointed to the Buffalo Trace Area Development District Board of Directors. This was a joint appointment by both Judge/Executive McNeill and the Mayor of Maysville.

Contributions

Lauren Lax, President of the Maysville/Mason County Arts Commission, submitted a request to fiscal court asking for its consideration of a donation of \$5,000.00 in support of the organization and its programs.

Motion made by Commissioner O'Hearn, seconded by Commissioner Frame to approve the donation of \$5,000.00 to the Maysville/Mason County Arts Commission. This was the same amount donated last year.

Commissioner O'Hearn – Yes

Commissioner Frame – Yes

Judge/Executive McNeill – Yes

Tonya Wenz and Lamont Johnson with the Limestone YMCA asked the court for its consideration of a donation to help fund the building of the Mini-Maysville Mason County project, which is a play space featuring scaled down version of local businesses and landmarks. After some discussion, members of the court agreed to table the request until July, to be able to plan for this donation request in the 2025-2026 fiscal year budget.

Arbor Day Proclamation

Judge/Executive McNeill proclaimed April 25, 2025, as Arbor Day in Mason County and encouraged its citizens to commemorate the day by planting a tree.

Next, Judge/Executive McNeill explained that the Cummins Nature Preserve had received a grant for \$40,000.00 from the Kentucky Department of Forestry. Per the grant requirement, the court would have to expend the \$40,000.00 upfront to purchase trees. A year later, an arborist would come back to check that everything had been planted correctly. If so, the court would then be reimbursed the \$40,000.00. In the meantime, Grant Felice, supervisor at the preserve, was able to find funding locally. Therefore, Judge/Executive McNeill asked the court to graciously decline the Kentucky Department of Forestry grant.

Motion by Commissioner Frame, seconded by Commissioner O'Hearn to decline the grant from the Kentucky Department of Forestry in the amount of \$40,000.00.

Commissioner O'Hearn – Yes

Commissioner Frame – Yes

Judge/Executive McNeill – Yes

Motion made by Commissioner O'Hearn, seconded by Commissioner Frame, to approve the Arbor Day Proclamation.

Commissioner O'Hearn – Yes

Commissioner Frame – Yes

Judge/Executive McNeill – Yes

Communication from Judge/Executive and Commissioners

Judge/Executive McNeill welcome Hogs Trough restaurant to Mason County. It will be located in the building on US 68 where Greg's Pizza was location. Also, the 2 Bridge Run, hosted by the Rotary Club, will be held April 19. Wald Park held its Opening Day, last Saturday

on April 12. Lastly, Kroger announced it will be expanding into a Kroger Marketplace.

Adjournment

Having no further business, motion made by Commissioner Frame, seconded by Commissioner O'Hearn to adjourn.

Commissioner McKay – Yes O'Hearn – Yes

Commissioner Frame – Yes

Judge/Executive McNeill – Yes

The next fiscal court meeting will be Tuesday, May 13, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted on this the 15th day of April 2025:

Stephanie G. Schumacher

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Fiscal Court Clerk

Approved for Review:

Owen J. McNeill

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Mason County Judge/Executive