

The McMinn County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on July 20, 2026, at 6:00 pm, in the Blue Room of the McMinn County Courthouse.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Curtis.

2. INVOCATION

The Invocation was given by Commissioner McPhail.

3. PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

The Pledge to the Flag was led by Commissioner Masingale.

4. ROLL CALL

Roll Call was taken by McMinn County Clerk, Melinda King as recorded:

Chairman Scott Curtis - Present
Tim King – Present
Roger Masingale - Present
Jerry Millsaps – Present
J. W. McPhail - Present
Brent Carter -Present
Tad Simpson - Present
Charles Slack – Present
Travis Crisp – Present
Scott Cass – Present

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Copies of the Minutes of the Regular Session on June 15, 2026, were provided to the McMinn County Commissioners.

MOTION made by Commissioner King, and seconded by Commissioner Simpson, to approve the minutes of June 15, 2026, meeting.

Motion carried by voice vote.

6. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF FINANCE RESOLUTIONS

- A. A Resolution to Approve Application for Statewide School Resource Officer Grant and MOU Between McMinn County, McMinn County Sheriff and McMinn County Board of Education.

Mr. Luallen presented resolution #26-045.

RESOLUTION NO. 26-045

A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE APPLICATION FOR STATEWIDE SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER
GRANT AND MOU BETWEEN MCMINN COUNTY, MCMINN COUNTY SHERIFF AND MCMINN
COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

(Res. # 26-045 con't)

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Department of Safety & Homeland Security has made available a Statewide School Resource Officer Grant to provide an SRO in each school across the state; and

WHEREAS, said grant will provide up to \$75,000 annually for each SRO and its equipment; and

WHEREAS, said grant requires an MOU be executed between McMinn County, McMinn County Sheriff and McMinn County Board of Education.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF MCMINN COUNTY, TENNESSEE, MEETING IN REGULAR SESSION THIS THE 20th DAY OF JULY, 2026 that this Commission does authorize McMinn County to apply for grant and enter into a memorandum of understanding with the McMinn County Sheriff and the McMinn County Board of Education as stipulated by the terms of the Statewide School Resource Officer Grant Program; and

FURTHER RESOLVES that the County Mayor and/or his designee is authorized to execute all documents necessary to fulfill the intent of this resolution, the public welfare requiring it.

(Orig signed by John M. Gentry)
McMinn County Mayor

Attest:

(Orig signed by Melinda King)
MOTION made by Commissioner Cass, and seconded by Commissioner Crisp, to approve this resolution.

Motion carried by voice vote.

7. APPROVAL OF BUDGET AMENDMENTS:

Mr. Luallen presented the following budget amendments, a copy of which was provided to each Commissioner.

FUND: 121 Opioid Abatement			Date: 07/16/2026	
DEPARTMENT	ACCOUNT	FOLIO	DEBIT	CREDIT
Reserve	Unassigned Fund Balance	39000	334,334.00	
Other Local Health Services	Other Charges	55190-599		334,334.00
Explanation: To budget from prior years abatement collections for distribution of contributions recommended by the McMinn County Opioid Abatement Council. Commission approved June 15, 2026				

MOTION made by Commissioner Millsaps and seconded by Commissioner King to approve these budget amendments.

- Chairman Scott Curtis – Aye
- Tim King - Aye
- Roger Masingale - Aye
- Brent Carter - Aye
- J. W. McPhail – Aye
- Jerry Millsaps - Aye
- Tad Simpson - Aye
- Charles Slack – Aye
- Travis Crisp - Aye
- Scott Cass – Aye
- Motion carried by roll call vote, as recorded:

(con’t)

Mr. Luallen presented the following budget amendments, a copy of which was provided to each Commissioner. These did have School Board approval.

Fund:141 General Purpose School Fund Date:			07/06/2026	
Department	Account	Folio	Debit	Credit
Restricted	Assigned for Education	34565	35,333.95	
Transportation	Bus Drivers	72710-146		16,806.00
Transportation	Social Security	72710-201		1,041.97
Transportation	State Retirement	72710-207		880.63
Transportation	Life Insurance	72710-217		115.00
Transportation	Medical Insurance	72710-313		16,246.67
Transportation	Employer Medicare	72710-425		243.68
Explanation: To budget a portion of the Special Education				

Fund: 141 General Purpose School			Date: 07/07/2026	
DEPARTMENT	ACCOUNT	FOLIO	DEBIT	CREDIT
Other Government Revenues	Contributions	48130-OPIOID	103,000.00	
Maintenance of Plant	Other Charges	72620-599-OPIOID		53,494.60
Maintenance of Plant	Other Equipment	72620-790-OPIOID		49,505.40
Explanation: To enter budget for the purchase of Halo sensors which will be funded through the McMinn County Commission Opioid Abatement Council which they approved on June 15, 2026				

FUND: General Purpose School Fund # 141			DATE: 07/07/2026	
DEPARTMENT	ACCOUNT	FOLIO	DEBIT	CREDIT
Regular Education Program	Medical Insurance	71100-207	45,269.00	
Regular Education Program	Career Ladder Program	71100-117	15,000.00	
Alternative Instruction Program	Career Ladder Program	71150-117	1,000.00	
Special Education Program	Career Ladder Program	71200-117	1,000.00	
Regular Education Program Support	Career Ladder Program	72210-117	8,000.00	
Regular Education Program Support	Other Equipment	72210-790		56,846.00
Vocational Education Support	Other Supplies & Materials	72230-499		1,000.00
Board of Education Services	Liability Insurance	72310-506		21.00
Board of Education Services	Worker’s Comp Insurance	72310-513	4,445.00	
Maintenance of Plant	Building & Contents Insurance	72610-502		2,53.00
Maintenance of Plant	Other Charges	72610-599		22,000.00
Transportation	Vehicle & Equipment Insurance	72710-511	7,306.00	
Explanation: To amend the original budget to account for insurance rate changes, career ladder decreases, trash bid increase, and safe schools equipment that was left out of original budget for FY 26-27.				

MOTION made by Commissioner Simpson and seconded by Commissioner Slack to approve these budget amendments.

- Chairman Scott Curtis – Aye
- Tim King - Aye
- Roger Masingale - Aye
- Brent Carter - Aye
- J. W. McPhail – Aye
- Jerry Millsaps - Aye
- Tad Simpson – Aye
- Charles Slack – Aye
- Travis Crisp - Aye
- Scott Cass – Aye

Motion carried by roll call vote, as recorded:

8. COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

None.

9. RESOLUTIONS

- A. A Resolution to Approve Authorizing McMinn County's Participation in a Litter Control Grant for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 From the Tennessee Department of Transportation, Highway Maintenance Division; and Authorizing the County Mayor to Administer Activities Associated with this Grant.

Mr. Gentry presented resolution # 26-046.

RESOLUTION NO 26-046

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING MCMINN COUNTY'S PARTICIPATION IN A
LITTER CONTROL GRANT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026-27 FROM THE
TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE
DIVISION; AND AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY MAYOR TO ADMINISTER
ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS GRANT

WHEREAS, McMinn County has received grant assistance from the Tennessee Department of Transportation for litter control activities in McMinn County, known as the "Litter Grant" since 1986; and

WHEREAS, the award of such a grant requires the authorization and consent of the McMinn County Commission for grant application and contract execution, subject to award by the Tennessee Department of Transportation; and

WHEREAS, the allocation for FY 2026-27 is \$55,100; and

WHEREAS, this body deems the continued administration of litter grant activities as in the best interest of the citizens of McMinn County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF MCMINN COUNTY, TENNESSEE, MEETING IN REGULAR SESSION THIS THE 20th DAY OF JULY, 2026, that this Commission authorizes McMinn County's participation in a litter grant in FY 2026-27 with the Tennessee Department of Transportation, the public welfare requiring it, and FURTHER RESOLVES to authorize the County Mayor to execute all necessary documents regarding this grant application.

(Orig signed by John M. Gentry)
McMinn County Mayor

Attest:

(Orig signed by Melinda King)
County Clerk

MOTION made by Commissioner King and seconded by Commissioner Millsaps to approve this resolution.

Motion carried by voice vote

- B. A Resolution to Approve the Contract Between McMinn County and Spyglass Group, LLC.

Mr. Gentry presented resolution # 26-047. This did have Budget Committee Approval.

(Res. # 26-047 con't)

RESOLUTION NO. 26-047

A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE CONTRACT BETWEEN
McMINN COUNTY AND SPYGLASS GROUP, LLC

WHEREAS, it is often in McMinn County’s interest to enter into contracts with other entities to assist in cost savings; and

WHEREAS, McMinn County desires to enter into a contract with SpyGlass Group, LLC to analyze existing telecommunications services to identify potential opportunities for savings; and

WHEREAS, SpyGlass Group, LLC will offer cost recovery, service elimination, and cost reduction recommendations to McMinn County; and

WHEREAS, if McMinn County agrees to these recommendations, SpyGlass Group will be authorized to act on behalf of the county with its current telecommunications service providers to implement the cost saving recommendations and will be paid 50% of any cost recovery and one year’s worth of any monthly savings identified; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF McMINN COUNTY, TENNESSEE, MEETING IN REGULAR SESSION THIS THE 20th DAY OF JULY, 2026, that this Commission does hereby agree to enter into contract with SpyGlass Group, LLC, AND FURTHERMORE RESOLVES to grant authority to the County Mayor or his designee to carry out the duties of said contract.

(Orig signed by John M. Gentry)
McMinn County Mayor

Attest:

(Orig signed by Melinda King)
County Clerk

MOTION made by Commissioner McPhail and seconded by Commissioner Simpson to approve this resolution.

Motion carried by voice vote.

- C. A Resolution to Approve Additional Match Funds for Appalachian Regional Commission Grant for Mt. Verd Industrial Park.

Mr. Gentry presented resolution # 26-048.

RESOLUTION NO. 26-048

A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE ADDITIONAL MATCH FUNDS FOR
APPALACHIAN REGIONAL COMMISSION GRANT FOR MT. VERD INDUSTRIAL PARK

WHEREAS, the McMinn County Commission recognizes the recruitment of new industry is highly competitive and it is imperative our industrial properties are site ready; and

(Res. # 26-048 con't)

WHEREAS, the McMinn County Commission has ranked the site preparation of its industrial parks as a funding priority during its annual strategic planning sessions; and

WHEREAS, the Appalachian Regional Commission approved the State of Tennessee’s recommendation to fund industrial park site improvements at the Mt Verd Industrial Park in the amount of one million dollars; and

WHEREAS, McMinn County agreed by resolution at the January 8, 2024, Commission meeting to provide half of the one-million-dollar match from its 189 Capital Fund and hotel/motel fund with the remaining five hundred thousand match provided by the City of Athens; and

WHEREAS, the project has encountered unsuitable soils in the pad area of the project resulting in a cost overrun; and

WHEREAS, the City of Athens has requested McMinn County participate in the cost overrun at the same 50:50 grant rate match, with said participation not to exceed twenty-five thousand dollars; and

WHEREAS, the County Mayor is authorized to execute all documents related to the execution and administration of the grant and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF McMINN COUNTY, TENNESSEE, MEETING IN REGULAR SESSION THIS THE 20th DAY OF JULY, 2026 that this Commission does hereby agree to provide half of the project cost overrun, not to exceed twenty-five thousand dollars for improvements at the Mt. Verd Industrial Park.

(Orig signed by John M. Gentry)
McMinn County Mayor

Attest:

(Orig signed by Melinda King)
County Clerk

MOTION made by Commissioner Cass and seconded by Commissioner Slack to approve this resolution.

Motion carried by voice vote.

D. A Resolution to Approve Hotel/Motel Event Funding Request.

Mr. Gentry presented resolution # 26-049. This did have Budget Committee Approval.

RESOLUTION NO. 26-049

A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE HOTEL/MOTEL EVENT FUNDING REQUEST

WHEREAS, the county’s Hotel/Motel Tax Fund may be used to promote events and tourism related activities in McMinn County; and

WHEREAS, funding is limited to a maximum of \$3,000 per event, with the organization applying for funding listed below with their respective events and financial requests:

(Res. # 26-049 con't)

	<u>REQUESTED</u>	<u>RECOMMENDED</u>
Main Street Athens	\$3,000 Downtown Halloween/Fright Fest	\$2,000
	\$3,000 Old Fashioned Downtown Christmas	\$3,000
	\$3,000 Art Crawl & Daffodil Days	\$2,000

WHEREAS, to assist in the funding the advertising and the entertainment, the McMinn County Commission agrees to provide funding from the Hotel/Motel Tax Fund.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF McMINN COUNTY, TENNESSEE, MEETING IN REGULAR SESSION THIS THE 20th DAY OF JULY 2026, that this Commission does hereby approve the requested funding for Main Street Athens community special events.

(Orig signed by John M. Gentry)
McMinn County Mayor

Attest:

(Orig signed by Melinda King)
County Clerk

MOTION made by Commissioner Slack and seconded by Commissioner Simpson to approve this resolution.

Motion carried by voice vote.

E. A Resolution to Amend Agreement with Direct Primary Care Associates, PLLC for Increase in Costs of Services at the McMinn County Justice Center.

Mr. Gentry presented resolution # 26-050. This did have Budget Committee Approval.

RESOLUTION NO. 26-050

A RESOLUTION TO AMEND AGREEMENT WITH DIRECT PRIMARY CARE ASSOCIATES, PLLC FOR INCREASE IN COSTS OF SERVICES AT THE McMINN COUNTY JUSTICE CENTER

WHEREAS, Direct Primary Care Associates, PLLC, herein referred to as “DPCA,” provides medical care to inmates at the McMinn County Justice Center; and

WHEREAS, DPCA has incurred a significant increase in cost of medical malpractice insurance, and

WHEREAS, DPCA has requested an increase in cost for services provided from its current monthly amount of \$5,635.00 to \$22,916.67 per month for a total of \$275,000; and

WHEREAS, \$90,000 of the \$275,000 will be paid as a single up-front payment and applied toward professional liability insurance for the correctional program; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to increase the cost paid for medical care in the Medical Care Agreement.
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF McMINN COUNTY, TENNESSEE, MEETING IN SPECIAL CALLED SESSION THIS THE 20th DAY OF JULY, 2026, that this

(Res. # 26-050 con't)

Commission hereby approves amending the Medical Care Agreement between McMinn County and DPCA to the requested monthly amount of \$22,916.67.

Orig signed by John M. Gentry)
McMinn County Mayor

Attest:

(Orig signed by Melinda King)
County Clerk

MOTION made by Commissioner King and seconded by Commissioner Slack to approve this resolution.

Motion carried by voice vote.

10. ELECTIONS, APPOINTMENTS AND CONFIRMATIONS

None.

11. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES, COUNTY OFFICIALS, COMMENTS FROM COMMISSIONERS

Chairman Curtis—Budget Committee met before this meeting and recommended resolutions 26-047, 26-048 and 26-050 for approval.

12. COMMENTS FROM THE COUNTY MAYOR

Public Chapter 1090—Mr. Gentry said that many know that McMinn has planning regions and urban growth boundaries form our cities and that this is something we've been requesting since the state annexation laws changed to where cities can't just go out and annex. Basically, it requires the request of the adjacent property owners can have to be contiguous to the city limits. That made this whole back to public chapter 1101 that happened in 2000 that set up urban growth boundaries, plan growth boundaries in rural areas.

You ended up with two of our cities that have significant planning regions, Athens and Etowah. So, you have citizens within this large area in the county, but not in the cities of Etowah or Athens.

When they come to the subdivided property, we would have to say, sorry, you're not in that zone. You must go to Athens City Government or Etowah City Government. What it amounted to you always heard taxation without representation. This was regulation without representation because these folks had no one that they voted on to ever appeal to because they weren't citizens of the city.

So, what's happened, the state has now passed this law that counties must vote on that, so we are taking those planning regions back.

So, everything outside of the city limits will now go before the McMinn County Planning Commission. This has to take a proactive vote of the county commission.

Mr. Gentry said he has not talked to the Cities yet, he wanted to go ahead and let the commissioners know this will be in their packets in August because there are some provisions if there are some developments in progress now and maybe their preliminary plats have already been worked on and they are making improvements based on those. He said they may let them be grandfathered in.

Mr. Gentry said he will be working with both the City of Athens and Etowah and their Planning Regions. Mr. Gentry said there are not a lot of differences in our planning documents as far as subdivision until you get into some road things and some of those, maybe the cities may require a sidewalk, whereas we don't.

Health Department—Mr. Gentry said the Health Department is getting close to being finished. Maybe having Grand Opening at the end of August.

Airport—Mr. Gentry said the structure is now going up, the roofs on. He said they are moving quickly. So, hopefully that'll be ready in August as well to be rented out.

13. APPROVAL OF NOTARY APPLICATIONS

Notaries to be elected July 20,2026

FELICIA PAIGE CANTRELL	MARY LOUISE KITCHENS
NINA EDMONDS	TISHA L MARTIN
EMILY FARRAR	JEANNIE BETH MILLER
CHRITY GAINNEY	DANIEL PHILLIPS
ALYSSA DESTA GESOLGON	SHALYN GUARDIOLA

MOTION made by Commissioner Simpson, and seconded by Commissioner Slack, to approve these notary applications.

Motion carried by voice vote.

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT MAY LEGALLY COME BEFORE THE COMMISSION

None.

There being no other business, Chairman Curtis declared the Commission meeting adjourned at 6:25 pm.

MELINDA KING
McMinn County Clerk

Attest:

Deputy Clerk (date)