CALLOWAY COUNTY
FISCAL COURT MEETING
October 21, 2026, Regular Meeting

An adjourned regular meeting of the Calloway County Fiscal Court was held at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday October 21, 2026, in the Calloway County Courthouse Annex. Judge Executive Kenneth C. Imes called the meeting to order, led the Pledge of Allegiance, and led a prayer. The following duly qualified members of the Court were present: Squire Don Cherry, Squire Paul Rister, Squire Larry Crutcher, and Squire Ricky Stewart. Also, present were County Treasurer Tonya Robinson, Deputy Judge Gina Winchester, County Attorney Bryan Ernstberger, and County Clerk Antonia Faulkner.

Judge Imes began with recognizing Emily Cook and the staff of the Animal Shelter for achieving a 90% no kill status, a community cat program. He also recognized Emily's nomination for an award through the Kentucky Animal Care and Control Association, in which she received the Excellence in Public Service Award.

The Court reviewed the minutes of the September 16 regular meeting. Motion made by Squire Rister seconded by Squire Crutcher to waive the formal reading and approve the minutes as presented. All voted aye and it was so ordered.

Judge Imes called on County Treasurer Tonya Robinson for the treasurer's report. Motion made by Squire Rister seconded by Squire Stewart to approve the financial statement. All voted aye and it was so ordered. Motion made by Squire Stewart was seconded by Squire Crutcher to pay the bills as presented. All voted aye and it was so ordered. The Court then discussed the transfers. Motion made by Squire Rister seconded by Squire Crutcher to approve the transfer from Auto Tax to Road Dept. for $400,000. All voted aye and it was so ordered.

Judge Imes brought before the Court the second reading of the Data Center Ordinance. Motion made by Squire Rister seconded by Squire Stewart to bring to consideration the Ordinance that was tabled at the September meeting for amendments. Motion made by Squire Rister seconded by Squire Stewart to approve the amendments as presented. Ernstberger explained that by adding section (2C) allows a company proposing a data center to request an exception to the county's moratorium by submitting detailed plans addressing infrastructure needs, traffic, storm water, noise, public safety, and other potential impacts. The Fiscal Court retains full discretion to approve, deny, or place conditions on the exception, including requiring financial guarantees to ensure the company fulfills its commitments before construction or operations can begin.

David Smart of WKRECC gave comments regarding the requirements and restrictions that WKRECC, TVA have in place. He discussed the benefits of data centers and answered questions of the priority of customers from Squire Cherry. Mike Burchett questioned the Fiscal Courts interest in this; he was offended that they would not trust the WKRECC board and their discussions on the matter of data centers. Squire Rister expressed no doubts about the WKRECC board or its decisions; his concern was the location of data centers in the county. The Court did not choose 'to step on toes' just check boxes to make sure we protect the resources of Calloway County.

Judge Imes discussed his opinion of the county to protect property rights and the government interference of landowner rights. He discussed the tax money to be generated from data centers and that the moratorium black balls Calloway County, stopping future development. Squire Stewart mentioned the lack of planning and zoning in the County that the moratorium takes the place of such for now with so much to consider. Squire Rister agrees with needed revenue but still goes back to protecting neighboring properties, and agrees the electric, water, air ext. are covered but a buffer zone is needed.

With a roll call vote of four ayes (Squires Cherry, Rister, Crutcher, Stewart) and one nay (Judge Imes) the second reading for the Data Center Moratorium Ordinance was approved.

The Court then reviewed the jail policy changes, after a discussion motion made by Squire Crutcher seconded by Squire Stewart to approve the changes as presented. All voted aye and it was so ordered.

During board appointments, Chris King was appointed to a term to fill the unexpired term (5/19/2029) on the Dexter-Almo Water District, motion by Judge Imes, seconded by Squire Crutcher. All voted aye and it was so ordered. Motion made by Squire Rister seconded by Squire Stewart to accept Gina Crider appointment to the Library Board. All voted aye and it was so ordered. Dr. Babb has stepped down from his position on the Senior Citizens Center Board, however because there is only one meeting left this year, the Court will wait until December to appoint a replacement. The Court then considered personnel report changes. Motion made by Judge Imes seconded by Squire Rister to approve the changes as presented. All voted aye and it was so ordered.

Staff/Official reports began with Ms. Gina Winchester presenting update for the Admin/Ordinance Committee. Josh Kerr EM director, asking the court to approve the Judge to sign documents for a grant through with the CCFR. Motion made by Squire Crutcher seconded by Squire Stewart to approve the request as presented. All voted aye and it was so ordered.

Sheriff Nicky Knight requested approval to increase his bond from $300,000 to $600,000 to accommodate a planned increase in his state loan from $300,000 to $600,000. The higher bond will increase the annual renewal cost by only $1,000, bringing the total annual bond cost to approximately $2,000. The loan increase would be reflected in his budget as cash received and cash paid out. The additional funds are needed to cover payroll during September and October, when the department has minimal cash flow. Following discussion, Squire Stewart moved to approve the increase as presented, and Squire Crutcher seconded the motion. All voted aye, and it was so ordered.

Judge Imes discussed Mayor Rogers' request that the City of Murray have potential naming opportunity for the new construction of the portion of the Weaks Center that the Senior Citizens occupy. There were no objections from the Court, motion made by Squire Rister seconded by Squire Stewart to approve the request as presented. All voted aye and it was so ordered. The Court discussed the County owned Western Shore lots, motion made by Judge Imes seconded by Squire Rister to auction the lots off. All voted aye and it was so ordered.

Squire Rister explained that he voted for the previously discussed cash transfers because they were necessary to pay the Murray Paving invoice. However, he emphasized the need to address the county's cash flow issues and make changes to avoid periods of limited funds since there were no other reserves

available. Judge Imes agreed. Ms. Winchester mentioned the State Tire Amnesty, thanking the Fair Board and Justin Tidwell for all the work. She also mentioned the questionable discussion of county utilizing grants; in 5 years, the county has been awarded $9 million in state and federal grants.

There being no further business before the Court, motion made by Judge Imes seconded by Squire Stewart to adjourn. All voted aye and it was so ordered.

Approved this 18th day of November 2026 by Judge Executive Kenneth C. Imes.

Judge Executive, Kenneth C. Imes