

07-20-2026 Minutes

McDonald County Commission—Minutes

July 20th, 2026

Present:

Bryan Hall - Presiding Commissioner

Jamey Cope - Eastern Commissioner

Rick Lett - Western Commissioner

Jessica Cole - County Clerk

General Business

8:33am Rick Lett, Western Commissioner moved to close the open session and enter Closed Session Meeting. Jamey Cope seconded the motion. Motion entered into closed.

9:05am Jamey Cope moved to close the closed session and enter back into open session. Second by Bryan Hall. Motion carried.

9:30am Commissioners met with Sean Thurman who represents Lifetime Events associated with the Big Sugar Classic. A few things that wanted to be touched during this meeting was addressing the negative feedback from County residents, Mr. Thurman was informed residents near the Arkansas trail connections continue to be upset by the cycling riders who travel through that region. Main topics to address was the rerouting of the helicopter that live streams the racing event along with the intersection delays near Whistling Springs establishment. Alternative options like drones were discussed but the connectivity was concerning. Commission stated the helicopter was not welcomed by residents and requested that it not cross into the County.

Mr. Thurman added local McDonald County business like Whistling Springs Brewery and Rockford Grange at Bear Hollow Ranch see a positive impact by revenue generated nearly \$10,000 in revenue strictly from the racing event these were statistics from the 50 mile race. Mr. Thurman has attempted to work with McDonald County High School in partnering on education for cycling. Lifetime Events has history of assisting schools with purchases of Stryder bikes for primary schools, School Buses to encourage and promote transportation to and from bike parks, and gym equipment to help with sports athletic departments. Mr. Thurman has seen no efforts from the Superintendent office of any kind, as they only wanted cash contributions. Lifetime Events cannot do cash donations as their policies need to show a partnership rather than just monetary contributions.

To end, Mr. Thurman will be meeting with locals to encourage the outlook towards cycling and work towards solutions. Both Commission and Mr. Thurman agree there is nothing that can be done on daily casual riders as that is their hobby and share Missouri rights of the road. The racing event is undergoing the permitting process to adhere to County Ordinance and Safety Enforcement by the Law agencies serving the County.

11:00am Cavanaugh Studyvin and Isa Greenwood with the ESC- CARS Program met with Commissioners regarding the program that directly impacts McDonald County. This program originated only two years and in those two years they have grown drastically. The program has driven 640,000 miles and 154,000 are directly only McDonald County miles. They began their program with 5 drivers to now 47 drivers, 11 of those are from McDonald County stationed from Goodman, Lanagan, Noel, and Anderson area. The group that CARS is serving age ranges from 40-59 for mainly medical and or getting them to their places of employments.

Purpose for this meeting was to discuss funding partnerships. Letter of Support for the CARS program as they are working on applying for Federal Grant funding deadline to meet is September 9th.

1:00p.m. resident Joe Cook, met with the Commissioners regarding residential and commercial zoning in the County. Although no one wants to be told how to maintain their property, with the impact and growth coming into the County at this point there is nothing that stops a dispensary or large corporation from beginning construction on the property in your back door. Commissioners said this has been requested of them to look into and stated they would take it into advisement.

1:30p.m. Bids were received for surplus vehicles. Jamey Cope moved to table the decision until further review. Rick Lett second. All were in favor. Motion carried.

SIGNATURES



Jamey Cope



Bryan Hall



Rick Lett

Approved

Wednesday July 22nd, 2026

Book PP pg. 659