

COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2022 —10:00 A.M.

AGENDA:

OPEN WITH PRAYER  
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE  
MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

APPOINTMENTS/REAPPOINTMENTS  
OATHS OF OFFICE

Mercer Day Report Center  
Employment & Oath of Office  
James Fields, Jr-Community Service Officer Aaron  
Young-Home Confinement Officer Beverly  
Thomas-Part-Time Admin. Assistant

- Mercer County Airport Authority  
Reappointment of Board Members  
Bill Archer Term: 7/1/2022 to 6/30/2027  
Tom Cole Term: 7/1/2022 to 6/30/2027

CONTRACTS/AGREEMENTS/RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution Honoring Karen Rutledge  
Bill Archer, Commissioner

- Resolution-WV HUD Community  
Development Block Grant  
McComas Waterline Extension Project  
Eric Combs, Project Manager
- Resolution-General Hugh Mercer Month  
January 2023 - Kevin Pruitt
- WV Courthouse Facilities Improvement Auth.  
Grant Contract-Upgrade Women's Public  
Restroom to ADA Compliant

Southern Highlands CMHC  
Contractual Agreement  
Candace Nelson

- Mercer County Emergency Management  
Emergency/Evacuation Plan for Courthouse,  
Annex and Memorial Building  
Keith Gunnoe, Emergency Mgt. Director

American Rescue Plan-Check Presentations  
Projects Approved-November 2022 Meeting

1. **Bluestone River Trails/MC-22-21**  
Development of Launch Sites  
Leo Lester, Board Member
2. **Cool Ridge PSD/MC-22-44**  
Ellison Ridge Water Project  
Jerry Farley, General Manager
3. **Town of Athens/MC-22-53**  
Purchase Backhoe  
Tim Pike, Mayor
4. **City of Princeton/MC-22-54**  
ADA Playground for City Park  
Michael Webb, City Manager
5. **Athens Volunteer Fire Dept./MC-22-56**  
Purchase Property for New Fire Dept  
Benjamin Holdren, Captain
6. **Bluewell PSD/MC-22-57**  
Removal of Dams I & 2  
Bryan Rotenberry, General Manager
7. **Mercer Dilapidated Structures MC-22-58**  
Demolition 101 Mercer Ave, Matoaka  
Lori Mills, Officer
8. **Mercer County Clerk MC-22-60**  
Purchase New Voting Devices  
Verlin Moye, County Clerk
9. **Mercer Sheriff's Department/MC-22-62**  
Purchase Radios & Records Mgt System  
Steve Sommers, Detective

American Rescue Plan-**Vote** on Projects  
Discussed at November 2022 Meeting

1. **Women's Center of Mercer Co.MC-22-61**  
Construction of Domestic Violence Shelter  
Kathy Rahall, Sponsor
2. **Mercer County Fellowship Home, Inc.**  
Purchase minivan & Upgrade Electric Jim  
McClanahan, Director MC-22-64

FUNDING REQUESTS:

Mercer County Development Authority  
Purchase of Land for Economic  
Development  
John O'Neal, Executive Director

City of Bluefield  
New Year's Eve Lemon Drop & Fireworks  
Chad Bailey, Fire Chief

Mercer County Animal Shelter  
Animal Care Expo  
Stacey Harman, MCAS Director

Interment Flags  
Greg Puckett, Commissioner

Stonetree Buildings  
Gene Buckner, President

DISCUSSION:

Teal Drops-Prevention of Childhood Opioid  
Addiction — Susan Kennedy, Director

Holiday Lights  
Greg Puckett, Commissioner Glenwood

Park

Glenwood Park

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

COMMISSION TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING.

1. Invoices
2. Settlements
3. Exonerations
4. List of Approved Estates for November 2022

RE: OATH – MERCER DAY REPORT CENTER

This day on motion of Bill Archer, Commissioner, seconded by Greg Puckett, Commissioner, the Commission voted unanimously to approve the Employment and Oath of Office for James Fields, Jr. to serve as Community Service Officer at Mercer Day Report Center.

RE: OATH – MERCER DAY REPORT CENTER

This day on motion of Bill Archer, Commissioner, seconded by Greg Puckett, Commissioner, the Commission voted unanimously to approve the Employment and Oath of Office for Aaron Young to serve as Home Confinement Officer at Mercer Day Report Center.

RE: OATH – MERCER DAY REPORT CENTER

This day on motion of Bill Archer, Commissioner, seconded by Greg Puckett, Commissioner, the Commission voted unanimously to approve the Employment and Oath of Office for Beverly Thomas to serve as Part-Time Administrative Assistant at Mercer Day Report Center.

RE: REAPPOINTMENT – MERCER COUNTY AIRPORT AUTHORITY

This day on motion of Greg Puckett, Commissioner, seconded by Gene Buckner, Commissioner, the Commission voted unanimously to approve the Reappointment of Bill Archer to serve as Board Member for the Mercer County Airport Authority. His term will run from 7/1/2022 to 6/30/2027.

RE: REAPPOINTMENT – MERCER COUNTY AIRPORT AUTHORITY

This day on motion of Greg Puckett, Commissioner, seconded by Gene Buckner, Commissioner, the Commission voted unanimously to approve the Reappointment of Tom Cole to serve as Board Member for the Mercer County Airport Authority. His term will run from 7/1/2022 to 6/30/2027.

RE: RESOLUTION HONORING KAREN RUTLEDGE

This day on motion of Bill Archer, Commissioner, seconded by Greg Puckett, Commissioner, the Commission voted unanimously to approve a Resolution Honoring Karen Rutledge.

## Mercer County Commission

1501 West Main, Suite 210  
Princeton, West Virginia 24740  
Avenue

Phone (304)487-8306  
Fax: (304)487-8370

[mercercountycommission@frontiernet.net](mailto:mercercountycommission@frontiernet.net)

VICKY REED  
County Administrator



RESOLUTION  
HONORING  
KAREN  
RUTLEDGE

BILL ARCHER  
1322 Woodrow  
Bluefield, WV 24701

GENE BUCKNER  
118 Martingale Place email:  
Bluefield, WV 24701

GREG PUCKETT  
334 Pine Acres Way  
Princeton, WV 24740

Whereas, with the arrival of another cold weather season in Four Seasons Country, it's good for everyone to remain vigilant concerning the potential of residential and commercial structure fires. Today, the Mercer County Commission recognizes a county employee whose alert actions most likely prevented serious injury to a family and their pets; and,

Whereas, Karen Rutledge, a member of the Mercer County Commission's evening shift custodial staff, noticed smoke coming from a Princeton residence. At first, she thought to herself that it was too cold for the family to be outside cooking on their grill — something that they frequently do in the summer months—but as she was looking a large flame burst through the roof of the home; and,

Whereas, Ms. Rutledge knew the family, because when the evening shift were outside eating lunch at the picnic tables at the courthouse annex, the children would bring their pets and visit with evening shift employees; and,

Whereas, Ms. Rutledge ran to the house and shouted through the screen door that the house was on fire, and for them to gather up their pets and get out immediately. She said that she didn't call 911 immediately. "I just wanted them to get the kids out and to save their pets," Ms. Rutledge said; and,

Whereas, the Princeton Fire Department received the call at 8:04:29 pm, and arrived in three-and-one-half minutes, Ms. Rutledge said she didn't know who called the fire department, but she was thankful that they arrived. Firefighters were able to save the structure, and the homeowners have removed their smoke & fire-damaged possessions, have had the roof replaced and are hoping to move back in soon.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved that the Mercer County Commission commends Ms. Rutledge for her quick reaction to what might have become a tragedy with two adults, four children and several pets residing in the home. Thanks also to the quick response by the Princeton Fire Department for their role in saving lives and preventing extensive property damage, Now,

Further, Be It Resolved that the Mercer County Commission expresses its heartfelt thanks to Karen Rutledge for her quick response in assisting this family. Also, this Commission wishes to express its thanks to both the paid and volunteer fire departments of Mercer County who stand ready to assist any and all of the families who need them in any and every emergency situation


Dated this 13<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2022.

Mercer County Commission:

Mercer County  
Commission

  
Gene Buckner, President

  
Greg Puckett, Commissioner

  
Bill Archer, Commissioner

RE: RESOLUTION – WV HUD COMMUNITY

This day on motion of Greg Puckett, Commissioner, seconded by Bill Archer, Commissioner, the Commission voted unanimously to approve a Resolution.

1501 West Main, Suite 210  
Princeton, West Virginia 24740

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[mercercocommission@frontiernet.net](mailto:mercercocommission@frontiernet.net)

VICKY REED

BILL ARCHER  
1322 Woodrow

334 Pine



Avenue  
BLUEFIELD, WV 24701

GENE BUCKNER  
118 Martingale Place  
BLUEFIELD, WV 24701

GREG PUCKETT  
Acres Way County Administrator  
PRINCETON, WV 24739

### RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Mercer County Commission wishes to submit an application to the State of West Virginia HUD Community Development Block Grant Program to request funding for a McComas Waterline Extension Project.

WHEREAS, the Mercer County Commission must give assurances that the HUD Community Development Block Grant and Program Regulations related to grant administration, civil rights and other applicable State and Federal Laws will be followed, and;

WHEREAS, the Mercer County Commission must designate an official representative to act in connection with the application and execute all necessary program documents:

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved That:

1. The Mercer County Commission authorized the submission of an application with the State of West Virginia HUD Community Development Block Grant Program for a McComas Waterline Extension Project.
2. The Mercer County Commission will comply with all laws and regulations pertaining to the program.
3. Gene Buckner, President, is designated as the authorized official to act in connection with the

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Gene Buckner, President

application.

I, Verlin Moye, County Clerk for Mercer County, certify that the above is a true copy of a Resolution adopted on the day of December, 2022 at a meeting of the Mercer County Commission. I further certify that a quorum was present and a majority of its members voted affirmatively for this Resolution.

Verlin Moye, County Clerk

MERCER COUNTY COMMISSION IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

RE: RESOLUTION – GENERAL HUGH MERCER

This day on motion of Bill Archer, Commissioner, seconded by Greg Puckett, Commissioner, the Commission tabled Resolution until next meeting.

RE: CONTRACT – WV COURTHOUSE FACILITIES IMPROVEMENT  
AUTHORITY

This day on motion of Greg Puckett, Commissioner, seconded by Bill Archer, Commissioner, the commission voted unanimously to accept Grant Contract in the amount of \$67,760.00 to be used to upgrade women’s public restroom to ADA compliant.

RE: CONTRACT – SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS CMHC

This day on motion of Greg Puckett, Commissioner, seconded by Bill Archer, Commissioner, the commission voted unanimously to accept Contractual Agreement submitted by Candace Nelson.

RE: MERCER COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

This day on motion of Bill Archer, Commissioner, seconded by Greg Puckett, Commissioner, the commission voted unanimously to accept an Emergency Evacuation plan for Courthouse, Annex and Memorial Building. Plan was submitted by Keith Gunnoe, Emergency Management Director.

RE - AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN – CHECK PRESENTATIONS

PROJECTS APPROVED – NOVEMBER 2022 MEETING

1. Bluestone River Trails MC-22-21 Leo Lester, Board Member
2. Cool Ridge PSD MC-22-44 Jerry Farley, General Manager
3. Town of Athens mc-22-53 Tim Pike, Mayor
4. City of Princeton MC-22-54 Michael Webb, City Manager
5. Athens Volunteer Fire Department MC-22-56 Benjamin Holdren, Captain
6. Bluewell PSD MC-22-57 Bryan Rotenberry, General Manager
7. Mercer Dilapidated Structures MC-22-58 Lori Mills, Officer

8. Mercer County Clerk MC-22-60 Verlin Moye, County Clerk
9. Mercer Sheriff's Department MC-22-62 Steve Sommers, Detective

RE: AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN – **VOTE ON PROJECTS**

RE: AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN – WOMEN'S CENTER OF MERCER CO. MC-22-61

This day on motion of Greg Puckett, Commissioner, seconded by Bill Archer, Commissioner, the Commission tabled discussion until next meeting.

RE: AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN – MERCER CO. FELLOWSHIP HOME, INC. MC-22-64

This day on motion of Greg Puckett, Commissioner, seconded by Bill Archer, Commissioner, the Commission voted unanimously to approve \$50,000.00 to the Mercer County Fellowship Home, Inc. This is application MC-22-64 from Jim McClanahan, Director and funds will be used for the purchase of a new minivan and update electrical.

RE: **FUNDING REQUESTS**

RE: FUNDING REQUESTS – MERCER COUNTY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

This day on motion of Gene Buckner, Commissioner, seconded by Bill Archer, Commissioner, the Commission voted to approve funding request form the Mercer County Development Authority for the amount of \$100,000.00 to purchase land for the Economic Development. Greg Puckett, Commissioner opposed.

RE: FUNDING REQUEST – CITY OF BLUEFIELD – NEW YEAR'S EVE

This day on motion of Greg Puckett, Commissioner, seconded by Bill Archer, Commissioner, the commission voted unanimously to approve a funding request from Chad Bailey, Fire Chief, for fireworks. Funding in the amount of \$5090.00 will be taken from the Hotel/Motel fund.

RE: FUNDING REQUEST – MERCER COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER

This day on motion of Bill Archer, Commissioner, seconded by Greg Puckett, Commissioner, the commission voted unanimously to approve a funding request from Stacey Harman, Director for Animal Care Expo. Funding in the amount of \$3000.00 will be taken from the General Fund.

RE: FUNDING REQUEST – INTERMENT

This day on motion of Greg Puckett, Commissioner, seconded by Bill Archer, Commissioner, the commission voted unanimously to approve a funding request for interment flags. Funding in the amount of \$899.90 will be taken from the Video/Lottery fund.

RE: FUNDING REQUEST – STONETREE BUILDINGS

This discussion has been tabled pending more information.

DISCUSSION:

Teal Drops – Prevention of Childhood Opioid Addiction – Susan Kennedy, Director  
Holiday Lights – Greg Puckett, Commissioner – Community voted to change color to blue until the end of the year 2022.

Glenwood Park – Executive Session



PETITION FOR EXONERATION OF TAXES  
DATE 12/13/2022

Tax Year 2020

Rock District

<u>TICKET #</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>REASON</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
1100000127	Calvin D. Bennett	Paid Supplement ticket	\$ 7.83

PETITION FOR CANCELLATION OF ERRONEOUS CHARGES  
DATE 12/13/2022

Tax Year 2021

Bluefield

<u>TICKET #</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>REASON</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
300001246	Billy C. Banks, Jr.	Did not own vehicle 7/1/20	\$ 79.52

Tax Year 2022

Bluefield

<u>TICKET #</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>REASON</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
305110	Genesis Transport LLC	Plane should be salvage value	\$ 8328.00

Tax Year 2022

Beaver Pond

<u>TICKET #</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>REASON</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
301065	Kimberly Coomes	Did not own MH 7/1/2021	\$ 66.78
302121	Tenika Jackson	Double assessed on MH	\$ 55.52
302170	Lewis R. Johnson	Double assessed on MH	\$ 74.08

This day the following accounts were presented against the County of Mercer, and the Commission having examined each and all of them, doth allow payment from the different accounts, check numbers listed below: December 2022

GENERAL COUNTY	- Check # 76574-76905	VOID Check #
76574,76867		
COAL SEVERANCE	- Check # 4241-4246	
JUSTICE FINES	- Check # 5371	
HOME CONFINEMENT	- Check # 2585-2589	
HOTEL MOTEL	- Check # 4459-4475	
COURTHOUSE EQUIPMENT	- Check # 846-848	
COURTHOUSE ANNEX	- Check # 1863-1870	
VIDEO LOTTERY	- Check # 1535-1537	
HOTEL/MOTEL RESERVE	- Check # 1000	
COAL REALLOCATION	- Check # 1050	
MCDRC FEES	- Check # 5784-5802	
ASSESSOR REAPPRAISAL	- Check # 6708-6714	
FINANCIAL STABILIZATION	- Check # 1051	
TEEN COURT	- Check # 232	

RECYCLING GRANT	Check # 1046-1047
AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN	Check # 1027-1033
DEPUTY SHERIFF RETIREMENT	Check # 311

RE: EXECUTIVE SESSION

This day on motion of Bill Archer, Commissioner, seconded by Greg Puckett, Commissioner, the Commission voted unanimously to go into executive session. On motion of Bill Archer, Commissioner, seconded by Greg Puckett, Commissioner, the Commission voted unanimously to come out of executive session and go back into regular session. No votes were taken.

It is ordered that this Commission be and is hereby adjourned until December 20, 2022.

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Gene Buckner PRESIDENT

**EMERGENCY MEETING DECEMBER 20, 2022 12:00 P.M.**

Warming station – Mercer County Commission called for an Emergency Meeting to discuss a Warming Station/Shelter for people during extremely low temperatures.

This day on motion of Bill Archer, Commissioner, seconded by Greg Puckett, Commissioner, the Commission voted unanimously to put up a tent provided by the Princeton Rescue Squad.

It is ordered that this Commission be and is hereby adjourned.

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PRESIDENT

**NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING**

THE MERCER COUNTY COMMISSION WILL MEET IN A SPECIAL SESSION ON TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2022 AT 12:30 PM IN THE COUNTY COMMISSION COURTROOM LOCATED ON THE SECOND FLOOR OF THE MERCER COUNTY COURTHOUSE. THE PURPOSE OF THE MEETING IS FOR CONSIDERATION OF THE FOLLOWING:

1. APPROVAL OF CONTRACTOR TO PERFORM ELECTRICAL UPGRADES AT GLENWOOD PARK SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE
2. PRESENTATION OF ARP CHECK FOR BRIDGE REPAIR & REMOVAL OF REFUGE IN THE EAST RIVER DISTRICT
3. PRESENTATION OF ARP CHECK TO CITY OF PRINCETON FOR CONSTRUCTION OF AN ADA PLAYGROUND FOR CITY PARK

GENE BUCKNER, PRESIDENT  
MERCER COUNTY COMMISSION

RE: ELECTRICAL CONTRACT - GLENWOOD PARK SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

This day on motion of Bill Archer, Commissioner, seconded by Gene Buckner, Commissioner, the commission voted unanimously to approve electrical contract in the amount of \$7207.00 from Mister Sparky.

This day on motion of Bill Archer, Commissioner, seconded by Gene Buckner, Commissioner, the commission voted unanimously to amend motion for contract from Mister Sparky. Contract must include meter base.

RE: AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN – CHECK PRESENTATIONS

1. Saunders Grove Baptist Church – MC-22-63 - Reverend Earl Rogers - Bridge Repair
2. City of Princeton – MC-22-54 – Mike Webb, City Manager – ADA Playground

It is ordered that this Commission be and is hereby adjourned until January 3, 2023.

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President Gene Buckner