

Madisonville City Library Board Meeting
August 11, 2026
Library Community Room

Meeting called to order around 4:00 p.m. by the Board Chair, Kim Townson, presiding.

Board members in attendance: Kim Townson, Betsy Moore, Mary Nelle Thornton, Nancy Franklin, Liddell Kirk, Lindsay Liszeski, Debbie Hearl.

Also in attendance: Heather Jones (Madisonville Library Director), Liz Schreck (Regional Library Director, Ocoee River Region).

Not in attendance: Vice-Chair Don Browder (off doing good deeds in Alabama), Mitzi Lane.

Public comments: None.

Previous Minutes (by Donna Sovern) of the May 12, 2026 meeting presented and read (silently). Liddell motioned to approve. Mary Nelle seconded. Unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report (Heather Jones). Liddell motioned to approve. Seconded by Betsy. Unanimously approved.

Director's report (Heather):

* The summer reading program was a tremendous success. 218 participants read more than 8,800 books. 460 people attended summer reading shows.

* Library received the Pettway grant (\$5,500, to be used for art and sewing classes for the community).

* On July 23, the Library hosted a 10th anniversary celebration (for the new building, now fully paid) with a presentation by Don Browder on the history of the library, and remarks by Heather Jones on its future. Approximately 50 people attended. Excellent snacks and drinks for all, including charcuterie style meat and cheeses, broccoli and cauliflower bites, wheat crackers, skewers of fruit, a variety of desserts, some kind of pineapple fruit punch, sweet and non-sweet tea.

* Heather will attend another full week of training with the Public Library Management Institute, November 8-13. This can help the Library become TEMA-certified, to serve as a drop-off location during natural disasters, and \$5,000 from the state to purchase supplies for a potential emergency.

* The Library has a new 12'x20' outdoor storage shed, purchased with \$2,000 from Monroe County and \$4,800 from the Friends of the Library.

* The Library is now a member of the Monroe County Chamber of Commerce. Partnerships are good.

* The upcoming general election will include a city proposal to adjust the sales tax from 2.25% to 2.75% to support essential services and avoid the need for a property tax increase. This would pace with neighboring cities which already have a 2.75% sales tax. Early voting: October 14-29. Election: November 3. The new rate could help the library potentially get more funding. Heather is preparing a PowerPoint presentation for the Town Hall meeting on August 27 at 6:00 p.m.

Regional Director's Report (Liz):

* Liz provided a state-generated spreadsheet comparing Tennessee counties by population, income per capita, and funding per capita to public libraries. The data ranks Monroe County #60 in income per capita, and #45 in library funding appropriation per capita.

* The upcoming 2026 Tennessee Trustee Workshop will be Thursday, September

24, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., at the Art Circle Public Library in Crossville. Liz encourages board members to attend this workshop if they can. Kim said Alfred Greenwood has previously attended, found it helpful, and thought the food was good. Heather would like to attend.

* Regional E-Books and E-Audiobook downloads are available through the Ocoee River Regional Library.

Friends of the Library report (Kim):

* The golf tournament in May was a success, thanks to Don Browder and the players and sponsors he recruited. The tournament raised \$6,000, which was more than the previous two tournaments.

* Fourth of July celebration bake sale raised \$250 and served cold bottled water to many thirsty America 250/ Fourth of July revelers.

* Friends of the Library balance: \$20,949.57.

* Thanks to Don Browder, the Library now hosts a Liberty Tree (for Tennessee's America 250 Liberty Tree Initiative), formalized in a great ceremony outside the Community Room on June 20. The Tennessee Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, in uniform, provided an official plaque and live bagpipe music.

* Kim further applauded the 10th anniversary celebration and its excellent snacks.

* Friends of the Library membership is open to nearly anyone who supports the Library and would like to join.

Old Business:

* Library policies. Betsy Moore motioned to approve. Liddell Kirk seconded. Unanimously approved.

* Ideas list, color coded. Blue: the idea has been implemented. Green: in progress. Red: rejected. Black: yet undecided. Most of the ideas are in blue.

* Planned Library closings for the 2026-2027 year. Liddell motioned to approve. Nancy Franklin seconded. Unanimously approved.

* City council will appoint our three new board members on September 14. Nancy and Liz suggested moving the next Board meeting from September 8th to September 22. Liddell motioned. Betsy seconded. Unanimously approved.

New Business:

* 2026-2027 budget. Heather noted that the library received a \$5,500 funding increase from Monroe County and received helpful private donations, including from Peggy White. This will support its present hours (38 hours per week).

* Kim wants to maintain the Library's hours as much as possible. Liz suggested approving present hours and reviewing again in six months. Liddell motioned. Mary Nelle seconded. Unanimously approved.

* The Board further discussed support for the local sales tax adjustment. Nancy noted its advantages over a property tax increase. The sales tax adjustment would allow for a broader tax base. Kim supports it. Liddell likes that the sales tax captures revenue from tourism, visitors, and drifters, in addition to local shoppers.

* Liz presented Liddell with his official Tennessee Public Library Trustee Certificate. Liddell accepted congratulations from all. Board members are encouraged to take the online course for trustee certification during their first year on the board.

Having completed the agenda for the day's meeting, and hearing no further business, the Chair declared the meeting adjourned at approximately 5:00 p.m.

The next meeting will be September 22, at 4:00 p.m., in the Library Community Room.

Minutes submitted by Liddell Kirk on August 22, 2026.