



## COMPTROLLER'S INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

### City of Maynardville

*June 25, 2021*

**Jason E. Mumpower**  
*Comptroller of the Treasury*



**DIVISION OF INVESTIGATIONS**



JASON E. MUMPOWER  
*Comptroller*

June 25, 2021

City of Maynardville  
Mayor Ty Blakely  
125 Johnson Road  
Maynardville, TN 37807

Mayor Blakely:

The Office of the Comptroller of the Treasury conducted an investigation of selected records of the City of Maynardville, and the results are presented herein.

Copies of this report are being forwarded to Governor Bill Lee, the State Attorney General, the District Attorney General of the 8<sup>th</sup> Judicial District, certain state legislators, and various other interested parties. A copy of the report is available for public inspection in our Office and may be viewed at <http://www.comptroller.tn.gov/ia/>.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jason E. Mumpower", is written over a light blue circular stamp.

Jason E. Mumpower  
Comptroller of the Treasury

JEM/MLC

# INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

## City of Maynardville

The Office of the Comptroller of the Treasury investigated allegations of malfeasance related to the City of Maynardville. The Comptroller's Office initiated the investigation after City of Maynardville officials reported questionable signatures on grant documents submitted on behalf of the city. The investigation was limited to selected records for the period January 1, 2015 through September 30, 2020. The results of the investigation were communicated with the Office of the District Attorney General of the 8<sup>th</sup> Judicial District.

### BACKGROUND



Incorporated in 1870, the City of Maynardville (city) is in Union County, Tennessee. The city's governing body consists of a mayor, vice mayor, and three city commissioners. Each member of the city's governing body is elected at-large to a four-year term and the mayor serves as its head. The city obtains some of its operating funds from various grants.

During the period reviewed, the city obtained grant funding through the Tennessee Department of Transportation's Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program, which focuses on creating more opportunities for Tennessee children to walk and bike safely to school. That program provides grants to state, local and regional agencies for projects designed to encourage walking and biking among elementary and middle school children. The city used the services of a grant administrator to perform the necessary work to obtain and monitor the grant, and to maintain adequate records related to the projects that were done pursuant to the SRTS grant agreement.

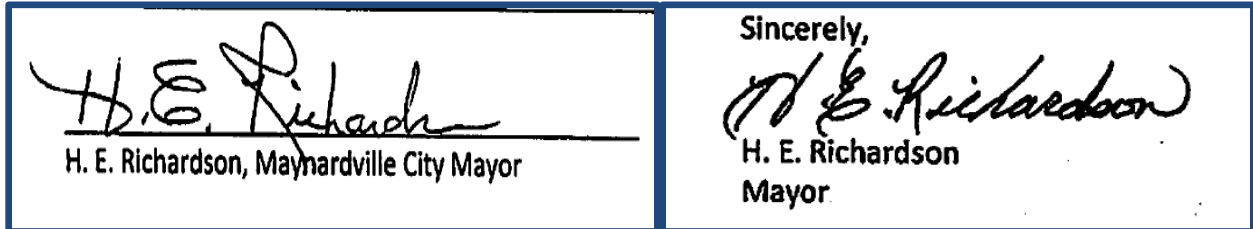
### RESULTS OF INVESTIGATION

- **THE GRANT ADMINISTRATOR SIGNED THE NAMES OF CITY OFFICIALS TO GRANT DOCUMENTS WITHOUT THEIR PRIOR KNOWLEDGE OR CONSENT**

The investigation revealed that the grant administrator signed the names of at least three city officials to grant documents related to selection of an engineer without their prior knowledge or consent.

- A. The unauthorized signatures were discovered when the city recorder noticed that Mayor Richardson’s name was misspelled as “H. E. Richards” on the Scoring of Engineering firms Request for Qualifications (RFQ). (See **Exhibit 1**). The grant administrator told investigators that she signed the name of the city mayor on Scoring of Engineering firms RFQ’s without his prior knowledge or consent.

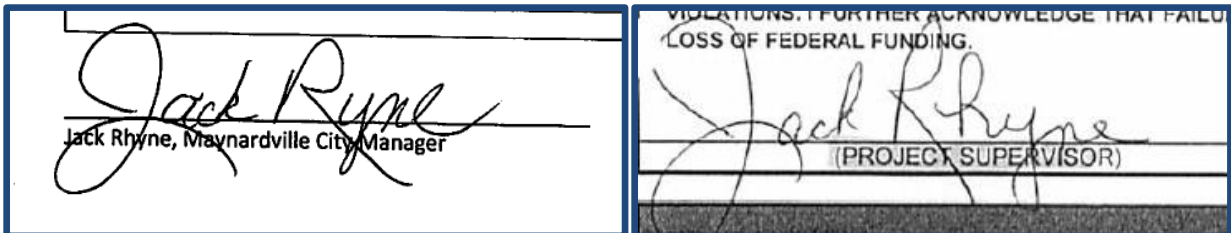
**Exhibit 1**



*The signature on grant documents (left) compared with the genuine signature (right) of the city mayor*

- B. The city recorder also noticed that the city manager’s name was misspelled on the Scoring of Engineering firms RFQ’s. The grant administrator signed the name of the city manager Jack Rhyne, omitting the “h” in the last name on at least two documents (See **Exhibit 2**). The grant administrator told investigators that she signed the Scoring of Engineering firms RFQ’s as well as a Local Government Design Costs Invoice without the city manager’s prior knowledge or consent.

**Exhibit 2**



*The signature on grant documents (left) compared with the genuine signature (right) of the city manager*

- C. After noticing the unauthorized signatures of the city manager and the city mayor, the city recorder reviewed the remaining Scoring of Engineering firms RFQ’s which required her signature and identified that the signature on the form was not hers. The grant administrator told investigators that she signed the Scoring of Engineering firms RFQ’s without the city recorder’s prior knowledge or consent.

- **THE GRANT ADMINISTRATOR CREATED AND SUBMITTED SCORING SHEETS FALSELY INDICATING ONLY ONE ENGINEERING FIRM'S INTEREST**

The grant administrator for the SRTS project told investigators that Robert G. Campbell & Associates was the only engineering firm that responded to the city's RFQ and that she created documentation which listed four engineering firms for city officials to score based on past experiences. The four engineering firms listed on the RFQs: Robert G. Campbell & Associates, Fulghum, Macindoe & Associates, Amec Foster Wheeler Infrastructure and Allen & Hoshall, Inc. (See Exhibit 3).

**Exhibit 3**

Scoring of Engineering Firms RFQ'S for the City of Maynardville  
SRTS -PIN # 122237.00  
Maynardville Elementary School Sidewalk Project

**Robert G. Campbell & Associates, L.P., 7523 Taggart Lane, Knoxville, TN 37938**

	Points
1.Past experience in essential following and monitoring of TDOT regulations	20
2.Qualifications and availability of staff	20
3.Evaluations of prior TDOT projects	20
4.Demonstrate ability to meet schedules without compromising engineering practices	20
5.Encourage DBE Participation	10
6. Firm must be TDOT Certified	10
	100

**Mr. Aaron M. Gray – Fulghum, Macindoe & Asso., 1030 Harden Valley, Kn, TN 37932**

	Points
1.Past experience in essential following and monitoring of TDOT regulations	
2.Qualifications and availability of staff	
3.Evaluations of prior TDOT projects	
4.Demonstrate ability to meet schedules without compromising engineering practices	
5.Encourage DBE Participation	
6. Firm must be TDOT Certified	

*No Response*

**Mr. Brent Chambers – Amec Foster Wheeler Infrastructure, 2030 Falling Water Rd. Kn, TN 37922**

	Points
1.Past experience in essential following and monitoring of TDOT regulations	
2.Qualifications and availability of staff	
3.Evaluations of prior TDOT projects	
4.Demonstrate ability to meet schedules without compromising engineering practices	
5.Encourage DBE Participation	
6. Firm must be TDOT Certified	

*No Response*

**Mr. Richard A. Yeager – Allen & Hoshall, Inc., 8331 E. Walker Springs Ln., Kn. TN 37923**

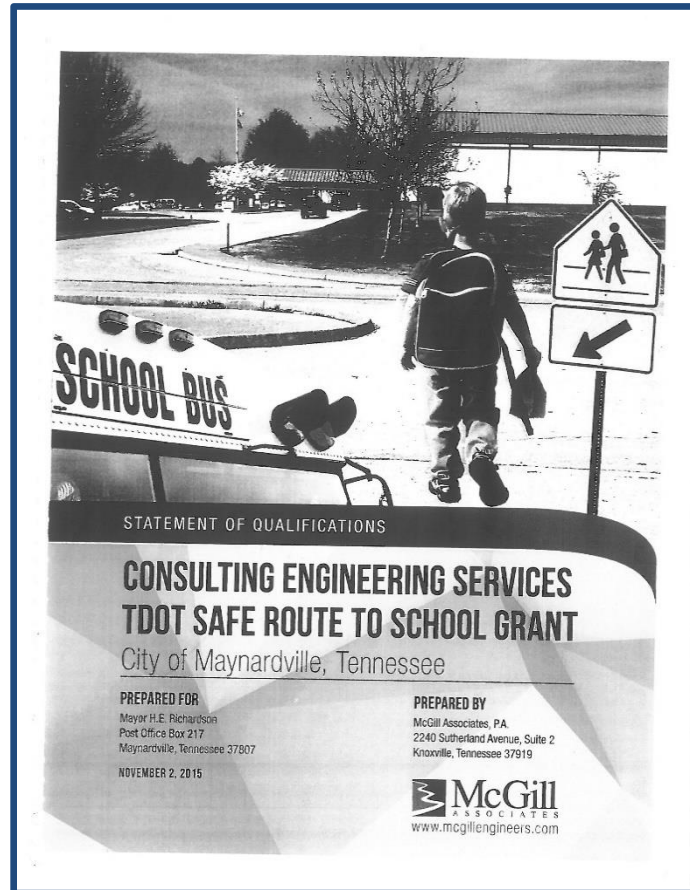
	Points
1.Past experience in essential following and monitoring of TDOT regulations	
2.Qualifications and availability of staff	
3.Evaluations of prior TDOT projects	
4.Demonstrate ability to meet schedules without compromising engineering practices	
5.Encourage DBE Participation	
6. Firm must be TDOT Certified	

*No Response*

***RFQ documentation, created by the grant administrator,  
displaying only one response submitted***

City officials provided investigators with a RFQ as submitted by McGill & Associates for the 2015 SRTS project (See Exhibit 4). McGill and Associates was not included on the RFQ created and submitted by the grant administrator.

Exhibit 4



*The Statement of Qualifications submitted by  
McGill & Associates to the City of Maynardville*

The grant administrator stated to investigators that she created grant documents and signed the names of these three city officials without their prior knowledge or consent to keep the process moving. City officials replaced the project grant administrator and are using another grant administrator for city projects.