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**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
WASHINGTON COUNTY QUORUM COURT**

Thursday, October 20, 2016
6:00 p.m.
Washington County Quorum Court Room

- 439.1 The Washington County Quorum Court met in regular session on Thursday, October 20, 2016. The meeting was called to order by Judge Marilyn Edwards.
- 439.2 S. Madison led the Quorum Court in a prayer and in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- 439.3 MEMBERS PRESENT: Daniel Balls, Rick Cochran, Robert Dennis, Lisa Ecke, Ann Harbison, Sharon Lloyd, Tom Lundstrum, Eva Madison, Sue Madison, Joel Maxwell, Gary McHenry, Joe Patterson, Butch Pond, and Bill Ussery.
- 439.4 MEMBERS ABSENT: Harvey Bowman.
- 439.5 OTHERS PRESENT: Chief of Staff George Butler, County Comptroller Ashley Farber, County Attorney Steve Zega, Interested Citizens; and Members of the Press.
- 439.6 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA: Judge Edwards noted that there were some changes to be made to the agenda.
- 439.7 S. Madison stated that she wanted to thank the co-sponsors that joined her on Resolution #20.1, but is pleased to move to remove it from the agenda as it is no longer necessary.
- 439.8 **S. Madison made a motion to adopt the agenda with Resolution #20.1 deleted. R. Cochran seconded. The motion passed unanimously by those present by voice vote. The agenda was adopted as amended.**
- 439.9 **E. Madison made a motion to add to the agenda Ordinance #21.1 to appropriate money from Environmental Affairs Grant Fund and adopt the agenda as amended. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously by those present by voice vote. The agenda was adopted as amended.**

- 440.1 CITIZEN COMMENTS: Judge Edwards announced that they have changed the rules over the last couple meetings and are taking the 15-minute citizen comment period at this time.
- 440.2 Josh Bergstrom, agent of the Washington County Extension Service, addressed the Quorum Court as a taxpayer of Washington County, stating that when he joined the Army in 1996, one of his commanders would tear your head off if you came to him with a problem and no solution. He stated listening to the conversation about financing the Extension Service to the level it needs; either by the County or by the State; he researched public records and either way, tax dollars will pay for it. He reported in the fiscal year 2016, 75 Counties contributed \$3.8 million to the Extension Service with the solution of giving Extension responsibility back to the state. Using the U.S. census for its estimated population of just under 3 million in Arkansas, the cost per person is \$1.27. He stated when reviewing the 2017 proposed budget for the Washington County Extension Service at \$222,000 and with a U.S. census of 255,477 living in Washington County, for the exact same service, they are looking at 87 cents per person. J. Bergstrom stated that means giving it back to the State and making them control it will cost the taxpayers an extra 41 cents. He stated as a taxpayer and resident of Washington County, he thinks they need to keep that responsibility here and not take on the burden of paying for 74 other County's Extension Services. He encouraged the court to fully fund the 2017 Extension Service budget as presented.
- 440.3 Louise Powers, resident of South Washington County, addressed the Quorum Court in support of the additional funding for the Extension Office as it is a very important and good program for the county.
- 440.4 APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Approval of the minutes from the regular Quorum Court meeting of August 18, as well as the special Quorum Court meetings on September 1 and 12.
- 440.5 **S. Madison made a motion to adopt the three sets of minutes as presented. R. Cochran seconded. The motion passed unanimously by those present by voice vote. The regular minutes of the Quorum Court meeting of August 18, and special Quorum Court meetings on September 1 and 12 were approved as presented.**

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- 441.1 TREASURER'S REPORT: County Treasurer Bobby Hill addressed the Quorum Court noting from the September Financial Summary that County General began the month at \$11.8 million and ended the month at \$9.7 million, with expenditures of \$3,240,287 of which \$800,000 was general infusion into the Employee Insurance Fund. He stated that the Road and Jail Funds spent what they brought in, so they stayed about the same through September. He stated that the beginning and ending balances stayed almost identical with \$33.7 million in the bank at the end of September.
- 441.2 B. Hill reported that the County's share of the 1% sales tax had its best showing since February with \$610,000, which is an 8% increase or \$252,731 over the same time last year. He stated that the Jail ¼ cent sales tax was also up 8% or \$345,891 over the same time last year; and Road ½ cent sales tax was up 4% or \$43,406 over the same time last year. He further noted that the Employee Insurance Fund began the month of September at \$1.5 million and after the infusion, ended the month of September at \$2.2 million.
- 441.3 COMPTROLLER'S REPORT: County Comptroller Ashley Farber addressed the Quorum Court reporting that their unappropriated reserves for September reflects the General fund unappropriated reserves at \$6,657,358 including the insurance transfer. She noted on the Summary of Revenues and Expenditures as of September 30th should reflect fund balances at approximately 75% expended showing unappropriated fund balances. She noted a correction on fund 3400 for FEMA should have an unappropriated balance of zero and budgeted expenditures are reduced as well. She stated the Summary Statement of Operations-Expenses by Fund and Department where the funds should be running at about 75% expended showing encumbrances with the same correction made to the FEMA fund.
- 441.4 A. Harbison noted that the Ambulance Service fund expenditures at 100%; to which A. Farber responded that is because of the encumbrance on the contract that they pay, which shows in the overall percentage expended.
- 441.5 In response to an inquiry about the Interfund Transfers line, A. Farber explained that this was their transfers out, which is seen for funds 3012 and 3028. It represents employees paid out of the General Fund, so they budget in the transfers out from those two funds to reimburse the General Fund for

the revenue they receive, since those two funds do not receive enough revenue to cover the expenditures in the General Fund.

- 442.1 REVIEW OF WASHINGTON COUNTY'S LEGISLATIVE AUDIT FOR THE YEAR 2014: Judge Edwards stated that Washington County's Legislative audit for the year 2014 has been completed and the Quorum Court is required to acknowledge receipt of the audit.
- 442.2 **R. Cochran made a motion to acknowledge receipt of the Legislative Audit for 2014. The motion was seconded. The motion passed unanimously by those present by voice vote. Receipt of the Legislative Audit for 2014 was acknowledged.**
- 442.3 In response to a statement by S. Madison, County Attorney Steve Zega verified that the Quorum Court was "acknowledging receipt" of the audit and not "approving" the audit as this body legally lacks authority to approve the audit.
- 442.4 **S. Madison made a motion to suspend the rules and read Ordinances #10 through #15 by title only. B. Pond seconded. The motion passed unanimously by those present by voice vote. Ordinances #10 through #15 would be read by title only.**
- 442.5 AN ORDINANCE RECOGNIZING AND APPROPRIATING ADDITIONAL REVENUES OF \$6,295; REDUCING THE DRUG COURT GRANT FUND OF \$10,689 AND APPROPRIATING \$81,738 IN VARIOUS FUNDS FOR 2016: R. Cochran introduced **An Ordinance Recognizing And Appropriating Additional Revenues Of \$6,295; Reducing The Drug Court Grant Fund Of \$10,689 And Appropriating \$81,738 In Various Funds For 2016**, and County Attorney Steve Zega read the ordinance by title only.
- 442.6 R. Cochran explained that this is a quarterly sweep of funds that represents money they have received from agencies, such as the University of Arkansas, for the Sheriff's Department's services. The agencies are repaying them for the salaries, benefits, etc., so it is a wash even though that cash is not seen coming in on this ordinance.
- 442.7 **R. Cochran made a motion to adopt the revised ordinance. A. Harbison seconded.**

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- 443.1 Citizen Comments: There were no citizen comments made.
- 443.2 **With no further discussion, Judge Edwards called for a vote on the motion to adopt the ordinance.**
- 443.3 VOTING FOR: T. Lundstrum, E. Madison, S. Madison, J. Maxwell, G. McHenry, J. Patterson, B. Pond, B. Ussey, D. Balls, R. Cochran, R. Dennis, L. Ecke, A. Harbison, and S. Lloyd. **The motion passed unanimously by those present. The ordinance (revised) was adopted.**
- ORDINANCE NO. 2016-69, BOOK NO. 10, PAGE NO. 519**
- 443.4 AN ORDINANCE DELETING TWO PERSONNEL POSITIONS AND CREATING THE POSITION OF RIGHT OF WAY COORDINATOR/SUPERVISOR IN THE ROAD DEPARTMENT BUDGET; AND, APPROPRIATING THE AMOUNT OF \$13,153 FROM THE ROAD FUND TO THE ROAD DEPARTMENT BUDGET FOR 2016: B. Pond introduced **An Ordinance Deleting Two Personnel Positions And Creating The Position Of Right Of Way Coordinator/Supervisor In The Road Department Budget; And, Appropriating The Amount Of \$13,153 From The Road Fund To The Road Department Budget For 2016**, and County Attorney Steve Zega read the ordinance by title only.
- 443.5 B. Pond explained they had a situation where they had a supervisory position in times past and had traded that for a couple of workers. Now, there is a need to have the supervisor position reinstated and have not been filling the bill on the workers. He stated he personally sees where they might be coming into a trend with technology where they need an employee overseeing not only county workers, but situations where they will be bidding projects out and overseeing private contractors. He stated this individual has a lot of technical capability working in conjunction with the new position they approved for the Planning Office.
- 443.6 **B. Pond made a motion to adopt the ordinance. J. Patterson seconded.**
- 443.7 E. Madison stated she is a little confused about how they are eliminating two positions to combine into one position, but it is still costing them money.

- 444.1 A. Farber responded to E. Madison stating they will actually eliminate the two positions, appropriate the money for the new position, and offset it with money at the end of the year in housekeeping.
- 444.2 E. Madison asked if it was a wash, to which A. Farber responded that it was actually a savings.
- 444.3 R. Cochran stated if you look at the two HEO Operator salaries that they budgeted in 2017, they come in at \$39,863 with all benefits. The Right of Way Coordinator/Supervisor annual salary with all benefits is \$63,789, so it is actually a gain to the budget.
- 444.4 S. Madison stated it raised some antennas for her the way B. Pond was talking about the Heavy Equipment Operator, that it sounded like someone has already been hired into and is working that position. Assistant Road Superintendent Brad Phillips responded that there is a person in that position doing right-of-ways right now, but the job has so many other responsibilities with it that it is becoming too much for one person. They are going to separate it out, put a new person into the new position that they are creating, and advertise to fill it.
- 444.5 Citizen Comments: There were no citizen comments made.
- 444.6 **With no further discussion, Judge Edwards called for a vote on the motion to adopt the ordinance.**
- 444.7 VOTING FOR: T. Lundstrum, E. Madison, S. Madison, J. Maxwell, G. McHenry, J. Patterson, B. Pond, B. Ussery, D. Balls, R. Cochran, R. Dennis, L. Ecke, A. Harbison, and S. Lloyd. **The motion passed unanimously by those present. The ordinance (revised) was adopted.**
- ORDINANCE NO. 2016-70, BOOK NO. 10, PAGE NO. 521**
- 444.8 AN ORDINANCE ANTICIPATING REVENUES OF \$10,000 IN THE HIDTA GRANT FUND; AND APPROPRIATING \$10,000 FROM THE HIDTA GRANT FUND TO THE HIDTA 2016 GRANT BUDGET FOR 2016: R. Cochran introduced **An Ordinance Anticipating Revenues Of \$10,000 In The HIDTA Grant Fund; And Appropriating \$10,000 From The HIDTA**

Grant Fund To The HIDTA 2016 Grant Budget For 2016, and County Attorney Steve Zega read the ordinance by title only.

445.1 **R. Cochran made a motion to adopt the ordinance. J. Maxwell seconded.**

445.2 Citizen Comments: There were no citizen comments made.

445.3 **With no further discussion, Judge Edwards called for a vote on the motion to adopt the ordinance.**

445.4 VOTING FOR: T. Lundstrum, E. Madison, S. Madison, J. Maxwell, G. McHenry, J. Patterson, B. Pond, B. Ussery, D. Balls, R. Cochran, R. Dennis, L. Ecke, A. Harbison, and S. Lloyd. **The motion passed unanimously by those present. The ordinance was adopted.**

ORDINANCE NO. 2016-71, BOOK NO. 10, PAGE NO. 522

445.5 AN ORDINANCE ANTICIPATING REVENUE OF \$417,517 IN THE DEM GRANT FUND; AND APPROPRIATING \$417,517 FROM THE DEM GRANT FUND TO VARIOUS HOMELAND SECURITY BUDGETS FOR 2016: R. Cochran introduced **An Ordinance Anticipating Revenue Of \$417,517 In The DEM Grant Fund; And Appropriating \$417,517 From The DEM Grant Fund To Various Homeland Security Budgets For 2016**, and County Attorney Steve Zega read the ordinance by title only.

445.6 **R. Cochran made a motion to adopt the ordinance. J. Maxwell seconded.**

445.7 Citizen Comments: There were no citizen comments made.

445.8 **With no further discussion, Judge Edwards called for a vote on the motion to adopt the ordinance.**

445.9 VOTING FOR: T. Lundstrum, E. Madison, S. Madison, J. Maxwell, G. McHenry, J. Patterson, B. Pond, B. Ussery, D. Balls, R. Cochran, R. Dennis, L. Ecke, A. Harbison, and S. Lloyd. **The motion passed unanimously by those present. The ordinance was adopted.**

ORDINANCE NO. 2016-72, BOOK NO. 10, PAGE NO. 523

446.1 AN ORDINANCE RECOGNIZING REVENUE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$7,500 IN THE ANIMAL SHELTER GRANT FUND; AND APPROPRIATING THE AMOUNT OF \$7,500 FROM THE ANIMAL SHELTER GRANT FUND TO THE ANIMAL SHELTER-GIF BUDGET FOR 2016: R. Cochran introduced **An Ordinance Recognizing Revenue In The Amount Of \$7,500 In The Animal Shelter Grant Fund; And Appropriating The Amount Of \$7,500 From The Animal Shelter Grant Fund To The Animal Shelter-GIF Budget For 2016,** and County Attorney Steve Zega read the ordinance by title only.

446.2 **R. Cochran made a motion to adopt the ordinance. G. McHenry seconded.**

446.3 Citizen Comments: There were no citizen comments made.

446.4 **With no further discussion, Judge Edwards called for a vote on the motion to adopt the ordinance.**

446.5 VOTING FOR: T. Lundstrum, E. Madison, S. Madison, J. Maxwell, G. McHenry, J. Patterson, B. Pond, B. Ussery, D. Balls, R. Cochran, R. Dennis, L. Ecke, A. Harbison, and S. Lloyd. **The motion passed unanimously by those present. The ordinance was adopted.**

ORDINANCE NO. 2016-73, BOOK NO. 10, PAGE NO. 524

446.6 AN ORDINANCE RECOGNIZING ADDITIONAL REVENUES OF \$57,488 IN THE LAW ENFORCEMENT GRANT FUND; AND APPROPRIATING THE AMOUNT OF \$57,488 FROM THE LAW ENFORCEMENT GRANT FUND TO THE SCAAP 2016 BUDGET FOR 2016: R. Cochran introduced **An Ordinance Recognizing Additional Revenues Of \$57,488 In The Law Enforcement Grant Fund; And Appropriating The Amount Of 57,488 From The Law Enforcement Grant Fund to the SCAAP 2016 Budget For 2016,** and County Attorney Steve Zega read the ordinance by title only.

446.7 **R. Cochran made a motion to adopt the ordinance. J. Maxwell seconded.**

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447.1 R. Cochran noted when they add these numbers, there is over \$500,000 that their Grants Department has brought to the citizens of Washington County.

447.2 Citizen Comments: There were no citizen comments made.

447.3 **With no further discussion, Judge Edwards called for a vote on the motion to adopt the ordinance.**

447.4 VOTING FOR: T. Lundstrum, E. Madison, S. Madison, J. Maxwell, G. McHenry, J. Patterson, B. Pond, B. Ussery, D. Balls, R. Cochran, R. Dennis, L. Ecke, A. Harbison, and S. Lloyd. **The motion passed unanimously by those present. The ordinance was adopted.**

ORDINANCE NO. 2016-74, BOOK NO. 10, PAGE NO. 525

447.5 COUNTY JUDGE'S REPORT: Judge Edwards announced that Jeff Hatley with Ozark Regional Transit was there to give the annual Report.

447.6 Jeff Hatley, Public Information Officer with Ozark Regional Transit, addressed the Quorum Court stating that they continue to grow at a steady pace. He reported that the overall fixed route system year-to-date has grown 4% over year-to-date last year; and the para-transit has grown 5% year-to-date over last year. He pointed out that they have not added any new routes since last year, so they are seeing more people riding the system that has been in place. He reported that they just celebrated their 2-year milestone for route 620 which connects Lincoln, through Prairie Grove, Farmington, Fayetteville, Greenland and West Fork. He noted that this route was approved by the Quorum Court in 2013, and this route has also steadily grown with 2,317 pickups in 2015 to 2,665 pickups year-to-date this year for a 15% increase.

447.7 A. Harbison asked about the turnaround time on the route 620 for Greenland; to which J. Hatley responded the full circuit for that route is 3 hours, but they are connecting five new communities that had no public transportation system. He stated this connects in with two other routes of theirs as well as a lot of Razorback Transit's routes at Lot 56 transfer point. He noted this is one route they are hoping to grow with more frequency in some of those longer routes, especially the express routes.

- 448.1 In response to a question from Judge Edwards, J. Hatley stated he believes they are using one of their smaller buses for route 620 that carries 18 people.
- 448.2 R. Dennis stated that many of his constituents push back a little bit on this transit system believing that it is not used enough to justify it and asked for J. Hatley to sum that up for him to report back to his constituents.
- 448.3 J. Hatley responded that he gets this a lot with people asking if they have a route to XNA or Crystal Bridges, which they do not. They are working on it, but need to get more services, frequency, buses and routes. He stated he uses the metaphor of a tree with low and higher hanging fruit where in this area they are blessed to have a thriving economy and growing area that people want to move to. He stated the higher hanging fruit is whether in 20 years they want to have a lot of \$60 million parking decks around Bentonville and Fayetteville Squares or would a better vision 20 years from now be a trolley system that allows people to park at the Mall or Arvest Ball Park, for example, and ride a trolley into some of the locations that people want to go. However, there is just no parking available. He stated the lower hanging fruit is obvious with people who do not have the same things in life that they take for granted, such as two cars in every garage and a chicken in every pot. They may also just have one car that mom or dad take to work with the other parent and kids left with no transportation to get to the parks, etc.
- 448.4 J. Hatley further stated ORT is part of the emergency management system and when there is a major flood, they are called in to evacuate people. He noted a major flood three years ago in Johnson where a senior citizens home flooded and they needed to move a lot of people in a short amount of time. He reported that ORT arrived at 2 a.m. and evacuated those folks out of harm's way. He further referenced Safe Place, an organization run by Youth Bridge that takes in run-away teenagers and victims of abuse using ORT as a traveling safe place. They have a protocol in place to get those kids to the proper people. He further encouraged people to ride their bus down I40 and notice the number of people driving and texting.
- 448.5 In further response to a question about empty buses driving around; J. Hatley stated the ORT Director always asks for the bus number as well as date and time, as a lot of people confuse ORT with church buses. As most ORT's buses are royal blue, they have leased some white ones. He noted

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that Open Avenues also has similar buses as ORT. He further stated it could be a bus doing time trials to explore new routes or a bus where there was just a shift change or for fuel reasons with compressed natural gas. J. Hatley stated he is sure route 620 sometimes is empty, but there is quite a bit of ridership with NWACC students, compared to when they first started with only about 12 riders.

- 449.1 S. Madison stated she does notice people waiting or unloading at several of ORT bus stops around town such as Mountain Man on South School, the Health Department, near Goodwill and Washington Plaza Apartments, a low-income apartment complex. She stated these are people being served with the only choice for transportation that they have; for example, parents getting their children to the Health Department or paying electric bills that have been cut off. She noted that ORT is a selling point for Washington Plaza Apartments, a non-profit for which she serves on the Board. She stated it is better for all of us if these citizens are able to get around town, getting to work or that these kids are getting taken care of. S. Madison asked that ORT study a route that would serve Willow Heights Apartments.
- 449.2 J. Hatley noted that they do a booth fair at Seven Hills Day Center organized by the University of Arkansas nursing students. While some folks will probably be homeless no matter what, there have been several that they were able to reach and do work force routes with George's chicken plants in Springdale. He stated one of the biggest concerns for not showing up for work was transportation issues. He stated that George's offers the benefit as a recruiting tool that all of their employees can ride ORT buses for free. Other chicken plants have taken notice and are approaching ORT to do the same for them.
- 449.3 A. Harbison inquired about ORT doing a route for Superior; to which J. Hatley responded that they talked with them during a program put on by the Chamber of Commerce. He stated they have a route that goes out to the Industrial Park, but not specifically for Superior. He noted that unfortunately right after they talked with them, the Superior plant in Rogers closed.
- 449.4 R. Cochran asked whether ORT is going in the direction of CNG Units as they replace equipment; to which J. Hatley responded that is probably the direction they are going to go. He stated they had to wait for a CNG pump

station to come into Northwest Arkansas and they have put one in at the Kum and Go Station about a mile from their offices and yard. He stated he understands that Fayetteville wants to go butane. He stated that CNG is also one of those alternates and there was an opportunity with some grant money. He noted that they burn efficiently and are so clean. He reported being able to drive a CNG unit into the Springdale Convention Center and use it for a display, running the engine the entire time, right next to a massage booth and there were no complaints.

450.1 J. Maxwell reported when Judge Zimmerman came before them recently working on a new development in Springdale with the Jones Center, one of the concerns was being able to get kids to show up to her court and therapies. He requested ORT speak to her about some of these transportation needs that would be a good use of county dollars and help these kids who are struggling to make their appointments.

450.2 J. Hatley stated he knows they are doing something similar in Benton County with the JDAI because there are no GED testing centers in western Benton County and the only one is at NWACC. He stated they are working with them to assist in transporting juveniles over to NWACC to get their GEDs.

450.3 COMMITTEE REPORTS: Judge Edwards announced that due to lack of agendas, the only committee that met this month was County Services.

450.4 E. Madison, Chair of the County Services Committee, stated that the Committee met on October 3. She stated they had a report from the County Planning Office that did report an increase in activity and development. She stated they spent the majority of the meeting discussing the IT Policy that needs to be updated, because of concerns from the Legislative audit. She is working with County Attorney Steve Zega to get that ready by the meeting. She stated that they cancelled a scheduled meeting for October 31.

450.5 L. Ecke asked D. Balls if he would consider her a co-sponsor of Ordinance #18 and he agreed.

450.6 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING WASHINGTON COUNTY CODE SECTION 2-47 TO INCLUDE A PARENTAL LEAVE POLICY IN THE EMPLOYEES HANDBOOK: D. Balls introduced **An Ordinance Amending**

Washington County Code Section 2-47 To Include A Parental Leave Policy In The Employees Handbook, and County Attorney Steve Zega read the ordinance that is on second reading.

- 451.1 D. Balls reiterated the reason he brought this ordinance to the court is that it is a great recruiting tool for their Elected Officials and Department Heads. This is a where the world is going with more and more companies moving to this. He stated that they are competing with companies such as Walmart, Tyson, and J.B. Hunt. With the 3.5% unemployment rate in this area, there is a need to be able to recruit good employees. It is important to bring good people to work for County government. He stated Washington County has always been as a county, a leader in Arkansas, and this would be another great example for them. He urged the court to reconsider this ordinance.
- 451.2 **D. Balls made a motion to suspend the rules and place the ordinance on third and final reading by title only. B. Pond seconded.**
- 451.3 S. Lloyd stated she wants to speak out against this ordinance as she believes a parental leave policy is an entitlement. She reported checking with numerous employers in the area, small businesses, and school districts and found no one with this policy. She noted they have 570 employees in Washington County and this policy would represent only 3% of their employees. She does not feel as a county, they should take on this cost for 3% of their employees. She stated she believes this is a cost to the county that they cannot afford.
- 451.4 T. Lundstrum stated he wished to speak in opposition to this ordinance. He stated the County already has a very good plan for their employees with sick leave, paid vacation, APERS retirement, and a very good healthcare program. He believes it does not matter how many benefits they give, they will still have a 5% turnover every year. He stated he also checked with several companies in the area and found no company giving this benefit. He reported almost all of Harps employees and many Walmart employees are part-time employees, being paid \$8.50 to \$12.00 an hour. With the dollar being worth only 17 to 18 cents on the dollar purchasing power, they cannot do much with that kind of a paycheck. He stated these people are not getting all of these benefits, but they are paying the taxes to pay for the County's benefits.

- 452.1 E. Madison stated it is her recollection that this ordinance had eight votes last time and unless everyone is dramatically changing their minds, this is going to pass. They just need to get it passed so they can provide it to their employees without delay.
- 452.2 **Judge Edwards called for a vote on the motion to suspend the rules.**
- 452.3 VOTING FOR: E. Madison, S. Madison, B. Pond, D. Balls, R. Dennis, and L. Ecke. VOTING AGAINST: T. Lundstrum, G. McHenry, J. Patterson, B. Ussery, R. Cochran, A. Harbison, and S. Lloyd. ABSTENTION: J. Maxwell. **The motion failed with six members voting in favor, seven members voting against, and one abstention.**
- 452.4 County Attorney Steve Zega stated that they were done with this item on the agenda unless they wanted to extend the courtesy to continue discussion. Otherwise, discussion can continue at the third reading next month.
- 452.5 A. Harbison stated because she voted against the motion to suspend the rules does not mean she will vote against this ordinance. She wanted to know if it was in the current budget.
- 452.6 L. Ecke asked what people have against babies that need their mothers for eight weeks; if the objection eight weeks, then would they approve six weeks.
- 452.7 B. Pond stated since the vote is running close with those in favor and opposed to this ordinance, would the sponsor consider tabling this and amending the ordinance to something that those opposed might approve of.
- 452.8 E. Madison stated there has been a lot of debate during this election cycle about women's rights and this is primarily an issue about women and whether they are willing to help working women or not. She stated one of the things she has picked up on from the Presidential campaign is men willing to stand up for women when women need them to stand up. She stated that there are only five women on this court and ten men and it is easy for the men to dismiss the need for parental leave, because they are not typically the ones that have to deal with this issue. She stated trying to deal with a new baby that cannot be put in daycare is a big deal. She noted county employees have told her that they try to scrap together some vacation and sick leave and maybe cover part of the time, but then they

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have no leave left for when they need to take the baby to the doctor. E. Madison stated she is challenging the men on this court for the next time this comes up to stand up for the mothers and families of this county.

- 453.1 S. Lloyd stated she is standing up against this ordinance as a woman, because it is an entitlement that this county does not need as it only provides services for about 3% or the 570 employees of this county. She noted there are members on this court who own businesses and do not do it for their employees. It is not her responsibility to pay for everyone else's maternity leave. She stated people need to be responsible for their own stuff and do not ask everyone else to pay for it.
- 453.2 County Attorney Steve Zega stated that based on some of the comments and questions he heard after the motion to suspend the rules failed, he needed to remind the court members that if there is to be substantive work done on this ordinance to change how it reads, then they might consider bringing it back up in committee. It will be on third and final reading at the next regular Quorum Court meeting.
- 453.3 B. Pond asked if it would be possible for the sponsors to pull this ordinance for more work later on; to which County Attorney Steve Zega responded that is not covered in the rules, but has been a tradition on this court. He stated that there are now three co-sponsors to this ordinance who would need to all assent to do that now, so he stated probably not.
- 453.4 S. Madison stated this is about ensuring that families and children have a good start in life because babies are helpless and very vulnerable. She stated they need a new generation that has had a good start in life with a parent taking care of them. She stated our children deserve this and they can be a leader on this and show that they believe in their families in America.
- 453.5 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING WASHINGTON COUNTY CODE SECTION 2.7-23(B): B. Ussery introduced **An Ordinance Amending Washington County Code Section 2.7-23(b)**, and County Attorney Steve Zega read the ordinance that is on third reading.
- 453.6 B. Ussery stated that this is just cleaning up what they already have and they just need to get it passed.

454.1 **B. Ussery made a motion to adopt the ordinance. R. Cochran seconded.**

454.2 Citizen Comments: Mike Emory, Chairman of the Animal Concerns Advisory Board, addressed the Quorum Court, stating this is just to clarify and make it a little easier for the residents and their Animal Control Officers on what is expected when a vicious animal has to be contained at home.

454.3 **With no further discussion, Judge Edwards called for a vote on the motion to adopt the ordinance.**

454.4 VOTING FOR: T. Lundstrum, E. Madison, S. Madison, J. Maxwell, G. McHenry, J. Patterson, B. Pond, B. Ussery, D. Balls, R. Cochran, R. Dennis, L. Ecke, A. Harbison, and S. Lloyd. **The motion passed unanimously by those present. The ordinance was adopted.**

ORDINANCE NO. 2016-75, BOOK NO. 10, PAGE NO. 526

454.5 **R. Cochran made a motion to suspend the rules and read Ordinance #21.1 by title only. S. Madison seconded. The motion passed unanimously by those present by voice vote.**

454.6 AN ORDINANCE ANTICIPATING REVENUES OF \$4,390 IN THE ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS GRANT FUND; AND APPROPRIATING \$4,390 FROM THE ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS GRANT FUND TO THE ADEQ-BMT WC16-07 BUDGET FOR 2016: R. Cochran introduced **An Ordinance Anticipating Revenues Of \$4,390 In The Environmental Affairs Grant Fund; And Appropriating \$4,390 From The Environmental Affairs Grant Fund To The ADEQ-BMT WC16-07 Budget For 2016**, and County Attorney Steve Zega read the ordinance by title only.

454.7 **R. Cochran made a motion to adopt the ordinance. G. McHenry seconded.**

454.8 Citizen Comments: There were no citizen comments made.

454.9 **With no further discussion, Judge Edwards called for a vote on the motion to adopt the ordinance.**

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455.1 VOTING FOR: T. Lundstrum, E. Madison, S. Madison, J. Maxwell, G. McHenry, J. Patterson, B. Pond, B. Ussery, D. Balls, R. Cochran, R. Dennis, L. Ecke, A. Harbison, and S. Lloyd. **The motion passed unanimously by those present. The ordinance was adopted.**

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455.2 OTHER BUSINESS: L. Ecke stated that she just received a message from a constituent who advised that Arvest Bank provides 12-week paid maternity leave. She thanked the public watching the meeting and showing support and concern for mothers and their babies.

455.3 E. Madison addressed an email sent by Executive Assistant Karen Beeks about a new video posted on the Washington County website. She stated hearing from a constituent in Fayetteville expressing concern reporting that a woman, who drove a car with Illinois license plates, showed up at their place of business, presented a letter dated November 2015 from the County Judge, and aggressively pushed the business owner to provide financial support in the form of corporate sponsorship for a video on their website. This woman indicated that Judge Edwards and George Butler wanted to get this issue taken care of immediately and started asking about the Quorum Court. She encouraged the court to look back at the email sent by K. Beeks. She does not know what kind of contract they entered into with these people, but she would not want someone coming into her business and asking for money to support something that she does not know where it is going.

455.4 J. Maxwell stated that this has nothing to do with the actual issue they just discussed, but has a lot to do with their policy and procedure. He stated that they are a formal body that formally accepted Roberts Rules of Order. It bothers him as a Quorum Court member and member of the public when they pass and adopt things then set the rules aside and have discussion and debate when they have already closed debate. He stated he thinks they are only as good as how well they adhere to their rules and policy, and for the sake of their constituents and professionalism, it would do them well to abide by procedure.

455.5 E. Madison stated she was surprised the other night when they allowed a citizen to add onto their 3 minutes of time to speak by letting someone else

gives them their time. She stated they need to be a little more mindful of the rules that they have set echoing J. Maxwell's concerns.

- 456.1 J. Patterson stated he is not for or against allowing citizens to speak for longer periods of time, but they just need to decide whether they are going to do this or not.
- 456.2 B. Pond asked County Attorney Steve Zega whether public speakers are able to yield their time to the speaker on the floor; to which he responded no, unless the court suspends the rules and they have that power. He stated the reason for this is that the comment time is put in an ordinance and because it is ordained rather than in Roberts Rules. He noted that the court has frequently allowed with their fellow members consent to relax and expand those rules, but the ordinance says there will be a 15-minute public comment time with a 3-minute limit for each speaker. He stated the general rule is that this should not be allowed unless this body takes some affirmative action, but they cannot even do that because it is ordained by law.
- 456.3 Judge Edwards stated that she does not have a problem stopping discussion, but when she does that, it goes for one and for all. Some JPs are offended, because they do not get recognized. She concurs that their rules are their rules, and she will abide by them.
- 456.4 ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Cary Sandidge
Quorum Court Coordinator/Reporter