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

Thursday February 17, 2022
6:00 p.m.
Washington County Courthouse

FILED
CLERK
WASHINGTON CO. AR

2022 MAR 21 AM 9:50

FILED

Judge Joseph Wood called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

JP Evelyn Rios Stafford asked Monique Jones, Minister from The Historic St James Missionary Baptist Church to lead the prayer and the pledge.

Members present were JP Lance Johnson, JP Shannon Marti, JP Sean Simons, JP Bill Ussery, JP Patrick Deakins, JP Lisa Ecke, JP Sam Duncan, JP Shawndra Washington, JP Eva Madison, JP Robert Dennis, JP Suki Highers, JP Evelyn Rios Stafford, JP Willie Leming, JP Jim Wilson, and JP Butch Pond.

In Honoring Black History there was a pre-recorded presentation given by Judge Wood commemorating the roles of African Americans in Washington County. Former Justice of the Peace were included in the presentation, Jessie Bryant, Gary McHenry, Alicia Deavens and current JP Shawndra Washington.

Judge Wood Proclaimed 2-17-2022 is declared as Jessie Bryant Day in Washington County, Arkansas.

JP Johnson raised a question of privilege and brought before the Court "A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING COUNTY JUDGE JOSEPH K. WOOD AS BOTH THE FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN COUNTY JUDGE IN THE STATE OF ARKANSAS AND THE FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN ELECTED COUNTY-WIDE IN WASHINGTON COUNTY, ARKANSAS" 2022-R-003

Chief of Staff, Brian Lester read the Resolution and a motion was made by JP Johnson and second by JP Ecke and "A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING COUNTY JUDGE JOSEPH K. WOOD AS BOTH THE FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN COUNTY JUDGE IN THE STATE OF ARKANSAS AND THE FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN ELECTED COUNTY-WIDE IN WASHINGTON COUNTY, ARKANSAS" RES 2022-01 passed unanimously and resolution was adopted.

A motion to amend the agenda was made by JP Ecke and add "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 2021-01 TO PERMIT COMMITTEE CHAIRS TO SET THE TIME FOR COMMITTEE MEETINGS" Item 22-O-028 as item 18 on the agenda. JP Pond seconded the motion to amend. Motion carried.

JP Deakins made a motion to also amend the agenda and add "AN ORDINANCE RECOGNIZING REVENUE AND APPROPRIATING REVENUE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$3,000,000 TO THE EMERGENCY RENTAL ASSISTANCE GRANT FUND (3525.0523) FOR 2022" Item 22-O-029 A second was made by JP Dennis and ordinance was approved to place as item 19 on the agenda.

A motion was made by JP Duncan to Approve Amended Agenda and second by JP Wilson. Motion passed and Agenda was adopted.

JP Duncan made a motion to suspend rules and read ordinances and resolutions by title only. Second was made by JP Leming motion unanimously approved.

Citizen's comments were taken from Richard Tiffany, Robert Dennis, Gladys Tiffany, Quinn Foster, Beth Cogger and William Terrell.

A motion to approve the January 20, 2022 minutes was made by JP Leming and seconded by JP Deakins. A voice vote was called and all members unanimously voted to approve the minutes.

Judge Joseph Wood presented the Judge's Report. Judge Wood presented to the Court a Purchasing Department Report of the Disposal of County Property for January.

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Judge Joseph Wood introduced item 9 on the Conditional Use Permit for Rock Town Layover RV Park. JP Leming made a motion to table the CUP, no second was made. JP Wilson then made a motion to approve the denial by Planning Board and a second was made. There was no discussion by court.

Public comments were accepted regarding the Rock Town Layover RV Park. Tara Browning, Cassandra Julich, Mark Faldon and Jerry Genz all residents of Bug Scuffle area and were in support of the denial of the CUP.

Judge Wood called for the County Attorney, Brian Lester to read by title only “AN ORDINANCE DENYING A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT RECOMMENDED FOR DENIAL BY THE PLANNING AND ZONING BOARD” Item 22-O-007

JP Wilson made a motion to suspend the rules and move on to the second reading and second was made by JP Ecke. A voice vote was called with all approving.

County Attorney read second time by title only. A motion was made to suspend rules and move to third and final reading by JP Wilson with a second by JP Ecke with a voice vote and all approving. The ordinance was read a third and final time.

JP Wilson made the motion to approve the denial of the CUP with a second by JP Ecke A roll call vote was called and the votes were tallied as follows:

- JP Lance Johnson -No
- JP Shannon Marti – No
- JP Sean Simons-Yes
- JP Bill Ussey – Yes
- JP Patrick Deakins – No
- JP Lisa Ecke – Yes
- JP Sam Duncan – No
- JP Shawndra Washington – Yes
- JP Eva Madison – Yes
- JP Robert Dennis – Yes
- JP Suki Highers – Yes
- JP Evelyn Rios-Stafford – Yes
- JP Willie Leming-No
- JP Jim Wilson - Yes
- JP Butch Pond – Yes

The motion passed and **“AN ORDINANCE DENYING A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT RECOMMENDED FOR DENIAL BY THE PLANNING AND ZONING BOARD” was adopted.**

Judge Joseph Wood introduced item 12.1, sponsored by JP Willie Leming and was on the second reading. County Attorney Brian Lester read by title only, “AN ORDINANCE RATIFYING A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL BY THE PLANNING AND ZONING BOARD” for the Sqwryl’s Paradise CUP Item 22-O-010 JP Leming recommended CUP move onto March for third reading.

Judge Wood moved on to item 13.1 which was also on the second reading and was read by title only by County Attorney Brian Lester, “AN ORDINANCE RATIFYING A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL BY THE PLANNING AND ZONING BOARD” Premier Storage Item 22-O-013, JP Deakins, the sponsor of the ordinance, recommended to move CUP onto March for third reading.

Judge Wood introduced agenda item 14, which was the Consent agenda and requested County Attorney Brian Lester to read all ordinances by title only. All were read and JP Duncan moved to approve consent agenda with a second by JP Deakins. Public comments were made by Quinn Foster.

A roll call vote was called and the votes were tallied as follows:
JP Lance Johnson -Yes

127 JP Shannon Marti – Yes
128 JP Sean Simons-Yes
129 JP Bill Ussery – Yes
130 JP Patrick Deakins – Yes
131 JP Lisa Ecke – Yes
132 JP Sam Duncan – Yes
133 JP Shawndra Washington – No
134 JP Eva Madison – No
135 JP Robert Dennis – No
136 JP Suki Highers – No
137 JP Evelyn Rios-Stafford – No
138 JP Willie Leming-Yes
139 JP Jim Wilson - Yes
140 JP Butch Pond – Yes
141 Motion passed to approve consent agenda and the following ordinances were adopted.
142

143 **AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$9,600 FROM THE UNAPPROPRIATED**
144 **RESERVES OF THE GENERAL FUND (1000) TO THE SPECIAL LEGAL LINE ITEM**
145 **IN THE COUNTY ATTORNEY BUDGET FOR 2022 Item 22-O-006**

146
147 **AN ORDINANCE RECOGNIZING REVENUE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$13,321.56 IN THE**
148 **JAIL FUND; AND, APPROPRIATING \$13,321.56 FROM THE UNAPPROPRIATED**
149 **RESERVES OF THE JAIL FUND TO THE UTILITIES LINE ITEM IN THE JAIL**
150 **OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE BUDGET (30170127) FOR 2022. Item 22-O-015**

151
152 **AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$11,874.72 FROM THE UNAPPROPRIATED**
153 **RESERVES OF THE GENERAL FUND TO VARIOUS LINE ITEMS IN THE TAX**
154 **COLLECTOR BUDGET (10000104) FOR 2022. Item 22-O-017**

155
156 **AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$77,039.10 FROM THE RECORDER’S COST**
157 **FUND TO VARIOUS LINE ITEMS IN THE CIRCUIT CLERK’S RECORDER’S COSTS**
158 **BUDGET (30060128) FOR 2022. Item 22-O-018**

159
160 **AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$48,617.83 FROM THE COUNTY LIBRARY**
161 **FUND TO VARIOUS LINE ITEMS IN THE COUNTY LIBRARY BUDGET (30080600)**
162 **FOR 2022. Item 22-O-019**

163
164 **AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$19,503.29 FROM THE UNAPPROPRIATED**
165 **RESERVES OF THE GENERAL FUND TO VARIOUS LINE ITEMS IN THE**
166 **BUILDINGS & GROUNDS MAINTENANCE BUDGET (10000108) FOR 2022. Item 22-**
167 **O-020**

168
169 **AN ORDINANCE CHANGING THE GRADES VARIOUS POSITIONS IN THE CIRCUIT**
170 **COURT VIII BUDGET; AND DE-APPROPRIATING \$15,195.40 FROM VARIOUS LINE**
171 **ITEMS IN THE CIRCUIT COURT VIII BUDGET FOR 2022 AND RETURNING SAID**
172 **MONEY TO UNAPPROPRIATED RESERVES IN THE GENERAL FUND (1000). Item**
173 **22-O-022**

174
175 **AN ORDINANCE ANTICIPATING \$23,229,635.50 IN THE AMERICAN RESCUE**
176 **PLAN ACT FUND (3046); AND, APPROPRIATING \$10,000,000 FROM THE**
177 **AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT FUND (3046) TO THE ARPA REVENUE**
178 **REPLACEMENT FUND (1006) FOR 2022. Item 22-O-023**

179
180 **AN ORDINANCE ANTICIPATING ADDITIONAL REVENUE IN THE AMOUNT OF**
181 **\$11,900 IN THE LAW ENFORCEMENT GRANT FUND; AND APPROPRIATING**
182 **\$11,900 FROM THE LAW ENFORCEMENT GRANT FUND TO THE ADR GRANT**
183 **BUDGET FOR 2022. Item 22-O-024**

184
185 **AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING TWO FUNDS FOR THE COLLECTION OF FIRE**
186 **DUES RECEIVED BY THE TREASURER. Item 22-O-025**

187
188 **AN ORDINANCE CREATING THE ARPA ADMINISTRATOR POSITION IN THE**

189 **AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN BUDGET (30460568) FOR 2022. Item 22-O-027**

190

191 Judge Wood introduced item 15.1 and had County Attorney Brian Lester read resolution
192 by title only, A RESOLUTION OF THE QUORUM COURT OF WASHINGTON
193 COUNTY, ARKANSAS EXPRESSING APPRECIATION TO DR. ROBERT KARAS AND
194 KARAS CORRECTIONAL HEALTH. Item 22-R-001 JP Deakins made a motion to
195 approve the resolution with JP Simons making a second. There were many comments
196 made both by Quorum Court and during public comments, for and against resolution.

197

198 JP Washington made a motion to amend the resolution with a second from JP Highers
199 a voice vote was taken and motion to amend failed.

200

201 Original motion to approve resolution brought back to the floor for votes.

202 A roll call vote was called and the votes were tallied as follows:

203 JP Lance Johnson -Yes

204 JP Shannon Marti – Yes

205 JP Sean Simons-Yes

206 JP Bill Ussery – Yes

207 JP Patrick Deakins – Yes

208 JP Lisa Ecke – Yes

209 JP Sam Duncan – Yes

210 JP Shawndra Washington – No

211 JP Eva Madison – No

212 JP Robert Dennis – Absent

213 JP Suki Highers – No

214 JP Evelyn Rios-Stafford – No

215 JP Willie Leming-Abstain

216 JP Jim Wilson - Yes

217 JP Butch Pond – Yes

218 Motion passed and **“A RESOLUTION OF THE QUORUM COURT OF WASHINGTON
219 COUNTY, ARKANSAS EXPRESSING APPRECIATION TO DR. ROBERT KARAS
220 AND KARAS CORRECTIONAL HEALTH.”** Item 22-R-001 was adopted.

221

222 Agenda item 16.1 introduced by JP Rios Stafford was a resolution read by title only by
223 County Attorney Brian Lester, "A RESOLUTION OF THE QUORUM COURT OF
224 WASHINGTON COUNTY, ARKANSAS SUPPORTING THE PRINCIPLE OF
225 INFORMED CONSENT TO MEDICAL TREATMENTS" Item 22-R-002 (16.1) JP Rios
226 Stafford made a motion to pass resolution with a second from JP Highers. Discussions
227 were held by court with comments from JP Pond, JP Highers, JP Madison, JP Rios
228 Stafford, JP Washington and JP Leming.

229

230 Citizen's Comments were made by Sarah Moore, Gladys Tiffany, Nikki Beaver, Kyle
231 Lyons and Avery Redfern.

232

233 The motion on the floor from JP Rios Stafford and second by JP Highers with a roll call
234 vote taken and votes were tallied as follows:

235 JP Lance Johnson -No

236 JP Shannon Marti – No

237 JP Sean Simons-No

238 JP Bill Ussery – No

239 JP Patrick Deakins – No

240 JP Lisa Ecke – No

241 JP Sam Duncan – No

242 JP Shawndra Washington – Yes

243 JP Eva Madison – Yes

244 JP Robert Dennis – Abstain

245 JP Suki Highers – Yes

246 JP Evelyn Rios-Stafford – Yes

247 JP Willie Leming-No

248 JP Jim Wilson - No

249 JP Butch Pond – No

250 Motion to adopt resolution fails.

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County Attorney Brian Lester read by title only, "AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING GUIDELINES FOR THE EXPENDITURE OF AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT FUNDS." Item 22-O-014 (17.1) JP Duncan made a motion to pass ordinance with second by JP Pond. JP Rios Stafford made a motion to amend ordinance item 22-O-014 second by JP Highers voice vote was called and failed to amend ordinance. Court went back to original ordinance with a motion from JP Duncan and second from JP Pond.

Public comments were entertained from Sarah Moore.

JP Duncan made a motion to suspend rules and go to second reading of ordinance with a second by JP Pond.

A roll call vote was taken and votes were tallied as follows:

- JP Lance Johnson -Yes
- JP Shannon Marti – Yes
- JP Sean Simons-Yes
- JP Bill Ussery – Yes
- JP Patrick Deakins – Yes
- JP Lisa Ecke – Yes
- JP Sam Duncan – Yes
- JP Shawndra Washington – No
- JP Eva Madison – No
- JP Robert Dennis – Yes
- JP Suki Highers – No
- JP Evelyn Rios-Stafford – No
- JP Willie Leming-Yes
- JP Jim Wilson - Yes
- JP Butch Pond – Yes

Motion passes to move to second reading.

County Attorney Brian Lester read ordinance by title only for second reading.

JP Duncan made a motion to suspend rules and read for third and final reading a second was made by JP Pond. A voice vote was called and passed to final reading. The ordinance was read for third and final time by County Attorney Brian Lester. JP Duncan made a motion to pass ordinance with second by JP Pond.

Public comments were made by Aaron Howerton, Beth Coger, April, Anne Britton, Jaqueline Albertson and Sophia Dugwyler.

A roll call vote was taken and tallied as follows:

- JP Lance Johnson -Yes
- JP Shannon Marti – Yes
- JP Sean Simons-Yes
- JP Bill Ussery – Yes
- JP Patrick Deakins – Yes
- JP Lisa Ecke – Yes
- JP Sam Duncan – Yes
- JP Shawndra Washington – No
- JP Eva Madison – No
- JP Robert Dennis – Yes
- JP Suki Highers – No
- JP Evelyn Rios-Stafford – No
- JP Willie Leming-Yes
- JP Jim Wilson - Yes
- JP Butch Pond – Yes

Motion passes and "AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING GUIDELINES FOR THE EXPENDITURE OF AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT FUNDS." Item 22-O-014 was adopted.

313

314 Item 18 that was added to agenda was introduced by JP Ecke, "AN ORDINANCE
315 AMENDING ORDINANCE 2021-01 TO PERMIT COMMITTEE CHAIRS TO SET THE
316 TIME FOR COMMITTEE MEETINGS" Item 22-O-028

317 JP Ecke made a motion to suspend the rules and move to second reading, with a
318 second from JP Pond a voice vote was taken and passed. County Attorney Brian Lester
319 read ordinance a by title only. JP Ecke made a motion to suspend rules and second by
320 JP Pond to move to the third and final reading, a voice vote was taken and passed. The
321 ordinance was read for a third and final time by Brian Lester, County Attorney.

322

323 JP Ecke made a motion to pass the ordinance with a second by JP Pond. Court held
324 discussion among members.

325

326 There were public comments made by Sarah Moore and Beth Coger.

327

328 A roll call vote was taken and tallied as follows:

329 JP Lance Johnson -No
330 JP Shannon Marti – Yes
331 JP Sean Simons-Yes
332 JP Bill Ussery – Yes
333 JP Patrick Deakins – Yes
334 JP Lisa Ecke – Yes
335 JP Sam Duncan – Yes
336 JP Shawndra Washington – No
337 JP Eva Madison – Yes
338 JP Robert Dennis – Yes
339 JP Suki Highers – Yes
340 JP Evelyn Rios-Stafford – Yes
341 JP Willie Leming-Yes
342 JP Jim Wilson - Yes
343 JP Butch Pond – Yes

344 Motion passed and **"AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 2021-01 TO PERMIT
345 COMMITTEE CHAIRS TO SET THE TIME FOR COMMITTEE MEETINGS" Item 22-O-
346 028 was adopted**

347

348 Agenda item 19 that was added was introduced by JP Deakins with a motion and a
349 second by JP Wilson. Ordinance was read by title only by County Attorney, Brian
350 Lester, and "AN ORDINANCE RECOGNIZING REVENUE AND APPROPRIATING
351 EXPENDITURES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$3,000,000 TO THE EMERGENCY RENTAL
352 ASSISTANCE GRANT FUND (3525.0523) FOR 2022 Item 22-O-029. There was
353 discussion among court members JP Stafford, County Attorney, JP Leming and JP
354 Madison.

355

356 There were no public comments

357

358 A roll call vote was taken and tallied as follows:

359 JP Lance Johnson -Yes
360 JP Shannon Marti – Yes
361 JP Sean Simons-Yes
362 JP Bill Ussery – Yes
363 JP Patrick Deakins – Yes
364 JP Lisa Ecke – Yes
365 JP Sam Duncan – Yes
366 JP Shawndra Washington – Yes
367 JP Eva Madison – Yes
368 JP Robert Dennis – Yes
369 JP Suki Highers – Yes
370 JP Evelyn Rios-Stafford – Yes
371 JP Willie Leming-Yes
372 JP Jim Wilson - Yes
373 JP Butch Pond – Yes

374 Motion passes and **"AN ORDINANCE RECOGNIZING REVENUE AND**

375 **APPROPRIATING EXPENDITURES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$3,000,000 TO THE**
376 **EMERGENCY RENTAL ASSISTANCE GRANT FUND (3525.0523) FOR 2022 was**
377 **adopted.**

378

379 Committee Reports for February were given with County Services Committee report
380 Chair JP Duncan. The County Services Committee met on Monday, January 31, 2022.
381 The Committee members had discussion on establishing guidelines for the expenditure
382 of American Rescue Plan Act Funds. There was one ordinance passed on to Quorum
383 Court. Chief of Staff Brian Lester gave the Committee an update on the ERA,
384 Emergency Rental Assistance.

385

386 Personnel Committee Chair JP Ecke reported, The Personnel Committee met on
387 Monday, February 7, 2022. The Committee amended the agenda and added an
388 ordinance, which was included in the total of eight ordinances that were passed onto the
389 Finance and Budget committee. For the Chairman's report, Chief of Staff, Brian Lester
390 explained a proposed budget process in the future for the salary administration
391 program.

392

393 Chair JP Johnson with The Jails/Law Enforcement/Courts Committee met on Monday,
394 February 7, 2022. There were Statistic Reports given by the Juvenile Detention Center
395 Director, along with reports from the Sheriff's Enforcement, and Detention. The
396 Committee heard from Drew Smith from the Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee.
397 The Jails/Law Enforcement/Courts Committee passed a Resolution on to the Quorum
398 Court. There was discussion within the Committee regarding the Resolution and public
399 comments were entertained. Sheriff Tim Helder introduced Jim Langford to give a
400 presentation of the proposed Jail expansion.

401

402 The Finance & Budget Committee met Tuesday, February 8, 2022. There were reports
403 given on the Treasurer, Employees' Insurance and Comptroller. The Committee
404 amended the agenda and added an ordinance that was passed from Personnel. The
405 Committee revisited Unfinished Business on an ordinance, which was passed on to
406 Quorum Court. Then one ordinance was tabled until March, one ordinance amended
407 and a total of eleven ordinances were approved to move to the next Quorum Court
408 Meeting. This report was given by Chair JP Deakins.

409

410 The meeting was adjourned at 8:29PM

411

412 *Myra Collins*

413 Myra Collins

414 Quorum Court Coordinator

415 *Approved MC*

416 *March 17, 2022*