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

Thursday, June 15, 2023
6:00 PM
Washington County Courthouse

Judge Patrick Deakins called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

The following members were present, Taylor, Wilson, Simons, Lyons, Ecke, Dean, Washington, Cogger, Dennis, Highers, Rios Stafford, Leming, Ricker, Pond.

Prayer and Pledge was led by JP Wilson.

JP Lyons made a motion to amend the agenda and remove the Beaver Lake Tiny Homes CUP Appeal until July Quorum Court meeting. JP Lyons made a motion to adopt the agenda as amended with a second from JP Dean and passed with voice vote.

JP Dean made a motion to read all ordinances and resolutions by title only, second was made by JP Lyons and passed with a voice vote.

Citizen's comments were heard from several and JP Cogger made a motion to extend citizen's comments to accommodate all who were in line to speak, second from JP Rios Stafford. A roll call was taken and tallied as follows:

JP Taylor-No
JP Wilson-Yes
JP Simons-Yes
JP Lyons-Yes
JP Ecke-No
JP Dean-No
JP Washington-Yes
JP Cogger-Yes
JP Dennis-No
JP Highers-Yes
JP Rios Stafford-Yes
JP Leming-Yes
JP Ricker-No
JP Pond-Yes

Motion failed to extend citizen's comment time.

Judge presented Item 6 with no corrections to the Minutes from May 18, 2023 Meetings they were approved.

Judge's Report as follows:

1. Thank you to the Washington County Master Gardeners for the snacks and refreshments for tonight's meeting
2. Disposal report is in your packet
3. I signed a proclamation declaring today, June 15th 2023, World Elder Abuse Awareness Day in Washington County. It is my honor to help call attention and better understanding of the sad realities of elder abuse and neglect. As our population continues to age, taking care and ensuring the dignity of our elders is tremendously important. The National Center on Elder Abuse and our very own Washington County Sheriff's Office recognize the importance of taking action to raise awareness, and look forward to working with local citizens to help in these efforts. A local resident is doing great work calling attention to these issues and has authored a book. I invite everyone to look this resource up to learn more.
4. Prelude to budget season – Comptroller Story has delivered the preliminary worksheets for the budget. This is the start to your process as a QC. We will get those back and start planning our walk through that over the next several

BECKY L. WALLLEN
CO. & PROBATE CLERK
WASHINGTON CO. WA

2023 JUL 24 PM 12:05

FILED

61 months. Washington County is growing and we are seeing tremendous effects
62 from the continued inflation this country is seeing. I stress that everyone exercise
63 extreme fiscal caution as we move into a new budget season. The county, like all
64 our citizens, is really struggling with inflation our county is seeing. We have
65 several large challenges that we are already seeing as a county:

- 66 a. Major adjustments remaining to salary and wages
 - 67 i. Re-grading process that we have been working on as a county is
68 coming to fruition. That will certainly have a cost to it.
 - 69 ii. Possible huge increases to law enforcement and county-wide labor
70 to remain competitive.
 - 71 iii. Huge increases to our property insurance, initially showing a 77%
72 increase
 - 73 iv. I would ask each of you to think about the spending we have taken
74 even so far this year. Those challenges are only going to grow.
 - 75 v. I think each of you will gain much more insight into these
76 challenges as we move through budget season.
- 77 5. Road Tour – Reminder of our Quorum Court road tour coming up on Wednesday
78 June 28th.
 - 79 a. Our road department is very excited to host each of you to give you a
80 glimpse into their facilities and major projects
 - 81 b. Due to how much we have to show you, we are planning this to be an all-
82 day event. Just a few suggestions: wear clothing you are not worried
83 about getting dirty, especially dusty. I would suggest pants and close toed
84 shoes for safety, and, of course, we suggest you dress for the heat and
85 humidity.
 - 86 c. The tour will start at the road department that morning at 8a. We will tour
87 the west side of the county that morning. For lunch, we will stop back by
88 the Sheriff's department as they have agreed to serve lunch. I want to
89 sincerely thank Sheriff Cantrell and his team for their hospitality, and for
90 the opportunity to fellowship with him and his team.
- 91 6. Finally I want to make additional comments about our proposed EOC project
 - 92 a. We have selected WER Architects to start the architectural and design
93 work. They have a lot of experience with public sector projects, and they
94 have specific and applicable experience in hardened facilities. Our initial
95 meetings have been great, and I think they will be a great resource for our
96 project.
 - 97 b. This EOC will be a wonderful resource for everyone in our county
 - 98 c. Emergency management team has been doing great work with one arm
99 tied behind their back
 - 100 d. We owe it to not only his team, but every citizen of Washington County to
101 be in a place to respond to the worst incidents, incidents that can only be
102 limited by your imagination
 - 103 e. I think about this in the most granular of levels. I want our first responders
104 to have a proper place to get the training they deserve, and should the
105 worst happen, I want that first responder to have a safe place to house
106 during and emergency.
 - 107 f. There is no question in my mind that the highest and best use of these
108 dollars will be to fund an EOC. Every citizen of Washington County will
109 benefit from this facility. To direct funding away from this facility to other
110 uses before we know specifics of construction would be robbing from our
111 first responders and their ability to serve our citizens. I certainly cannot
112 justify that in my mind.

113
114 Judge introduced item 8 unfinished business, AN ORDINANCE RATIFYING A
115 CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL - Grand at Willow
116 Springs Item 23-O-077, on second reading. County Attorney Lester read ordinance by title
117 only. JP Leming made a motion to suspend the rules and move to a third and final reading,

118 second made my JP Lyons, motion passed with a voice vote. Attorney Lester read
119 ordinance by title only for third and final reading. JP Leming made a motion to pass
120 ordinance with a second by JP Dennis. Public comments were heard. A roll call vote was
121 taken and tallied as follows:

122 JP Taylor-Yes
123 JP Wilson-Yes
124 JP Simons-Yes
125 JP Lyons-Yes
126 JP Ecke-Yes
127 JP Dean-Yes
128 JP Washington-No
129 JP Cogger-No
130 JP Dennis-Yes
131 JP Highers-No
132 JP Rios Stafford-No
133 JP Leming-Yes
134 JP Ricker-Yes
135 JP Pond-Yes

136 Motion passed and **AN ORDINANCE RATIFYING A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT**
137 **RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL** - Grand at Willow Springs Item 23-O-077 was adopted
138 as **ORD 2023-069**
139

140 Judge Deakins introduced item 9 under unfinished business, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING
141 ORDINANCE 2018-50 TO UPDATE THE VACATION POLICY IN THE WASHINGTON
142 COUNTY EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK Item 23-O-063, on second reading, Attorney Lester
143 read ordinance by title only. JP Ecke made a motion to suspend the rules and move to the
144 third and final reading, with a second from JP Dean. A roll call vote was taken to move the
145 ordinance to the third and final reading. Roll call was taken and tallied as follows.

146 JP Taylor-Absent
147 JP Wilson-Yes
148 JP Simons-Yes
149 JP Lyons-Yes
150 JP Ecke-Yes
151 JP Dean-Yes
152 JP Washington-No
153 JP Cogger-No
154 JP Dennis-Yes
155 JP Highers-No
156 JP Rios Stafford-No
157 JP Leming-No
158 JP Ricker-Yes
159 JP Pond-Yes

160 Motion failed to carry to suspend the rules and move to third and final reading.
161 Ordinance will move to July Quorum Court for third and final reading.
162

163 Judge Deakins presented item 10 under new business, which is the Consent Agenda.
164 Attorney Lester read each ordinance by title only. JP Simons made a motion to adopt
165 consent agenda with a second from JP Ricker. There were no public comments and roll
166 call was taken and tallied as follows:

167 JP Taylor-Yes
168 JP Wilson-Yes
169 JP Simons-Yes
170 JP Lyons-Yes
171 JP Ecke-Yes
172 JP Dean-Yes
173 JP Washington-Yes
174 JP Cogger-Yes
175 JP Dennis-Yes
176 JP Highers-Yes
177 JP Rios Stafford-Yes
178 JP Leming-Abstain
179 JP Ricker-Yes

180 JP Pond-Yes

181 Motion passed on the Consent Agenda and ordinances and resolutions were adopted
182 as follows:

- 183 1. **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE SHERIFF AND COUNTY JAIL BUDGETS**
184 **FOR 2023** item 23-O-081(10.1) was adopted as **ORD 2023-070**
- 185
- 186 2. **AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$259,207 TO CLEAN, CAULK, AND SEAL**
187 **THE EXTERIOR OF THE WASHINGTON COUNTY COURTHOUSE** Item 23-O-
188 082(10.2) was adopted as **ORD 2023-071**
- 189
- 190 3. **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE COLLECTOR'S AUTOMATION FUND**
191 **BUDGET FOR 2023** Item 23-O-083(10.3) was adopted as **ORD 2023-072**
- 192
- 193 4. **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE JAIL BUDGET FOR 2023 (HR Generalist)**
194 Item 23-O-085(10.4) was adopted as **ORD 2023-073**
- 195
- 196 5. **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE HUMAN RESOURCES BUDGET FOR 2023**
197 Item 23-O-086(10.5) was adopted as **ORD 2023-074**
- 198
- 199 6. **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE JAIL BUDGET FOR 2023 (Mechanic)** Item 23-
200 O-087(10.6) was adopted as **ORD 2023-075**
- 201
- 202 7. **AN ORDINANCE RECOGNIZING REVENUE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$20,000 IN**
203 **THE COURT SECURITY GRANT FUND** Item 23-O-089(10.7) was adopted as
204 **ORD 2023-076**
- 205
- 206 8. **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2023 BUDGET TO PURCHASE NEW X-RAY**
207 **INSPECTION MACHINES** Item 23-O-090 (10.8) was adopted as **ORD 2023-077**
- 208
- 209 9. **A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE QUORUM COURT TO UTILIZE FEDERAL-**
210 **AID FUNDS FOR THE Wheeler RoadClabber Creek Bridge Project** Item 23-R-
211 007(10.9) was adopted as **RES 2023-008**
- 212
- 213 10. **A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE QUORUM COURT TO UTILIZE FEDERAL-**
214 **AID FUNDS FOR THE JACKSON HIGHWAY BRIDGE PROJECT** Item 23-R-
215 008(10.10) was adopted as **RES 2023-009**
- 216

217 Since item 11-13, CUP Appeal for Beaver Lake Tine Homes was removed from the
218 agenda until next month the Judge introduced item 14, Overbey's Automotive CUP
219 Appeal. The Planning Director Ata presented findings from the Planning board. Bron
220 and James Overbey, the applicants, gave a presentation to the Court as well. Public
221 comments were then heard and among the court as well. JP Pond made a motion to
222 pass item 23-O-095 with a second from JP Ecke, County Attorney Lester read the
223 ordinance for the first time by title only. JP Pond made a motion to suspend the rules
224 and read ordinance by title only, second by JP Ecke and passed with a voice vote,
225 Attorney Lester read for second time by title only. JP Pond made a motion to suspend
226 the rules and read for third and final reading second by JP Ecke passed with a voice
227 vote. Attorney Lester read for third and final time by title only. JP Pond made a motion
228 to pass ordinance with second by JP Ecke. Public comments were heard and roll call
229 was taken and tallied as follows:

230 JP Taylor-Yes

231 JP Wilson-Yes

232 JP Simons-Yes

233 JP Lyons-Yes

234 JP Ecke-Yes

235 JP Dean-Yes

236 JP Washington-No

237 JP Coger-No

238 JP Dennis-Yes

239 JP Highers-Yes

240

241 JP Rios Stafford-Yes

242 JP Leming-Yes

243 JP Ricker-Yes
244 JP Pond-Yes
245 Motion passes and **AN ORDINANCE RATIFYING A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT**
246 **RECOMMENDED FOR DENIAL**- Overbey Automotive item 23-O-095 was adopted as
247 **ORD 2023-078**
248

249 Judge Deakins introduced item 17 and Attorney Lester read by title only, AN
250 ORDINANCE RATIFYING A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT RECOMMENDED FOR
251 APPROVAL BY THE PLANNING BOARD - Cedar Bell Wedding Item 23-O-092
252 JP Dennis requested a 5 minute recess at 8:04pm with JP Rios Stafford seconding it and
253 passed with a voice vote. Quorum Court resumed at 8:10pm. Item 17 had been read and JP
254 Lyons made a motion to suspend rules and pass to second reading with a second by JP
255 Dean, passed with a voice vote. Attorney Lester read item for second reading by title only.
256 JP Lyons made a motion to suspend the rules and move to third and final reading with a
257 second by JP Dean, motion passed with voice vote, Attorney Lester read ordinance for third
258 and final reading. JP Lyons made a motion to pass ordinance with a second from JP Dean
259 there were no public comments and roll call was taken and tallied as follows:

260 JP Taylor-Yes
261 JP Wilson-Yes
262 JP Simons-Yes
263 JP Lyons-Yes
264 JP Ecke-Yes
265 JP Dean-Yes
266 JP Washington-No
267 JP Cogger-No
268 JP Dennis-Yes
269 JP Highers-Yes
270 JP Rios Stafford-Yes
271 JP Leming-Yes
272 JP Ricker-Yes
273 JP Pond-Yes

274 Motion passed and **AN ORDINANCE RATIFYING A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT**
275 **RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL BY THE PLANNING BOARD** - Cedar Bell Wedding
276 Item 23-O-092 was adopted as **ORD 2023-079**
277

278 Judge Deakins introduced item 18 and Attorney Lester read by title only, AN
279 ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR ONLINE POSTING OF ALL WASHINGTON COUNTY
280 RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES Item 23-O-008. JP Taylor made a motion to amend
281 the ordinance and add an article 2 It shall be the responsibility of the County Clerk to
282 ensure that ordinances and resolutions are posted online. JP Leming made a second.
283 JP Washington called a Point of Order to direct JP Wilson's comments to remain on the
284 amendment. The Judge sided with JP Wilson that his comments were pertaining to the
285 amendment. JP Lyons Called the Question second by JP Taylor passed with a voice
286 vote. A roll call vote was taken on the amendment to the ordinance and tallied as
287 follows:

288 JP Taylor-Yes
289 JP Wilson-Yes
290 JP Simons-Yes
291 JP Lyons-Yes
292 JP Ecke-Yes
293 JP Dean-Yes
294 JP Washington-No
295 JP Cogger-No
296 JP Dennis-Yes
297 JP Highers-Yes
298 JP Rios Stafford-Yes
299 JP Leming-Yes
300 JP Ricker-Yes
301 JP Pond-Yes

302 Motion passed to amend the ordinance.
303 JP Cogger introduced the ordinance as amended and made a motion to suspend the
304 rules and move to the second reading with second by JP Washington passed with a

305 voice vote and Attorney Lester read ordinance by title only for second reading. JP
306 Cogger made a motion to suspend the rules and move to the third reading, second made
307 by JP Washington and passed with a voice vote. Attorney Lester read by title only for
308 the third and final reading. JP Cogger made a motion to pass ordinance with a second
309 from JP Washington. Discussion was heard by the court. JP Dennis called the Question
310 with a second by JP Ricker. Public comments were heard and a roll call vote was taken
311 and tallied as follows:

312 JP Taylor-Yes
313 JP Wilson-No
314 JP Simons-No
315 JP Lyons-No
316 JP Ecke-No
317 JP Dean-No
318 JP Washington-Yes
319 JP Cogger-Yes
320 JP Dennis-No
321 JP Highers-Yes
322 JP Rios Stafford-Yes
323 JP Leming-Yes
324 JP Ricker-No
325 JP Pond-No

326 Motion did not get ten votes and fails.

327

328 Judge Deakins introduced item 19 and Attorney Lester read by title only, AN
329 ORDINANCE REPEALING ORDINANCES 2009-33, 2009-43, AND 2009-67 TO ALLOW
330 APPEALS OF THE DECISIONS OF THE COUNTY PLANNING BOARD AND THE
331 COUNTY BOARD OF ZONING ADJUSTMENTS TO BE FILED IN CIRCUIT COURT Item
332 23-O-076 and JP Lyons presented to the court and did not make a motion so ordinance will
333 move to July meeting for the second reading.

334

335 Judge introduced item 20 and Attorney Lester read by title only, AN ORDINANCE
336 AMENDING THE CIRCUIT COURT IV BUDGET FOR 2023 Item 23-O-084. JP Lyons made
337 a motion to amend the ordinance to include three positions with a second by JP Highers.
338 Judge Beaumont spoke on ordinance. The amendment passed with a voice vote. JP Ecke
339 made a motion to pass ordinance as amended with a second from JP Lyons. No public
340 comments and a roll call vote was taken and passed unanimously.

341 Motion passed and **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CIRCUIT COURT IV BUDGET**
342 **FOR 2023 Item 23-O-084** was adopted as **ORD 2023-080**

343

344 Judge Deakins introduced item 21 and Attorney Lester read by title only AN
345 ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ARPA FUND BUDGET FOR 2023 Item 23-O-088. JP
346 Cogger made a motion to pass with a second by JP Highers. JP Ricker made a motion to
347 amend the ordinance to remove Credit Counseling of Arkansas and Washington County
348 Historical Society, motion did not receive a second and motion died. Discussion was heard
349 by the court. JP Lyons Called the Question with second by JP Simons and passed with a
350 voice vote. Public comments were heard and a roll call vote was taken and tallied as
351 follows:

352 JP Taylor-No
353 JP Wilson-No
354 JP Simons-Yes
355 JP Lyons-No
356 JP Ecke-No
357 JP Dean-No
358 JP Washington-Yes
359 JP Cogger-Yes
360 JP Dennis-Abstain
361 JP Highers-Yes
362 JP Rios Stafford-Yes
363 JP Leming-No
364 JP Ricker-Yes
365 JP Pond-Abstain

366 Motion did not get 10 votes and will move to July Quorum Court for second reading.

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Committee Reports as follows:

The County Services Committee met Tuesday, May 30, 2023 at 6:00PM. Members present were Taylor, Wilson, Simons, Lyons, Ecke, Dean, Washington, Cogger, Dennis, Rios Stafford, Leming, Ricker and Pond. Members absent was Highers.

JP Ecke opened with pledge and prayer.

During the adoption of the agenda AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR RECONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA) APPLICATIONS was brought to the court to add but failed by roll call vote. The agenda was amended and Circuit Clerk Kyle Sylvester with Justification letters was added. JDC Director Tinsley and CJCC Coordinator Smith were out of town but reports for the jail were heard by Sheriff Cantrell and an update on the Jail Expansion was given. Jim Petty gave a presentation and progress report of the Patriot Park Project to the Quorum Court and answered questions and concerns.

Director Russell presented information on two bridge projects that meet criteria for federal grants. The Resolutions supporting Director Russell to apply for these grants was passed on to the Quorum Court in a consent agenda.

The committee approved Circuit Clerk Sylvester justification letters for two positions to be moved to 1st quartile.

The Committee passed two ordinances on to the Quorum Court.

Public comments were heard and meeting was adjourned at 8:12pm

The Finance & Budget Committee met Tuesday, June 6, 2023 at 6:00PM. JP Taylor led prayer and pledge. Reports were heard from Treasurer Hill, Employee's Insurance Report from Charles Angel and Comptroller's report from Director Story. The Committee reviewed ten ordinances, making amendments to two of them. All ten ordinances were passed on to the Quorum Court. There were no public comments and meeting was adjourned at 7:16pm.

Quorum Court meeting was adjourned at 9:47PM

Myra Collins

Myra Collins

Quorum Court Coordinator

SM Approved with JP Cogger's amendments

July 20, 2023