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

2023 AUG 21 AM 10:43  
JERRY LEWALLEN  
CO. & PROBATE CLERK  
WASHINGTON CO. AR

Thursday, July 20, 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, Rios Stafford, Leming, and Pond. Highers and Ricker were absent.

JP Lyons led the Prayer and Pledge.

JP Lyons motioned to adopt the agenda with a second from JP Dean, and the motion passed with a voice vote.

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

There were no citizen's comments.

The judge presented Item 6, Approval of Minutes, and asked if there were any corrections that needed to be made. JP Cogger advised she had two corrections. On line 24: JP Cogger said she did not make a motion to extend the time by 12 minutes and that her Motion was to extend the time for anyone standing in line to be able to speak. On Line 25, it was noted her motion passed by voice vote, but the motion did not pass. Judge Deakins advised that we would note those items, and asked if he had a motion to approve the minutes, as amended. JP Dean made a motion to approve the minutes with amendments and it was seconded by JP Lyons. The motion passed with a voice vote. Minutes from June 15, 2023, were approved with amendments.

Judge's Report is as follows:

1. Thank you to the Washington County Extension Homemakers' Club for the snacks and refreshments for tonight's meeting.
2. Disposal report is in your packet- no disposals for last month.
3. PACT Act
4. Crisis Stabilization Unit
  - a. This is a partnership between the state and the county. The state's obligation is to fund the service provider, which for Washington County is UAMS. Our obligation is to provide the facility. We have consistently performed on our side.
  - b. At the 11<sup>th</sup> hour, I was presented with a contract from the Arkansas Department of Human Services that drops the monthly reimbursement for our CSU from approximately \$90K to \$60K after the month of September. I signed the contract with the promise the state and the elected officials representing the 4 host counties would work to find ways to restore that funding gap.
  - c. The CSU is only viable if the state honors its commitment to funding the service provider. If this gap cannot be made up, the CSU will close and I feel we will lose an asset for this region.
5. Road Tour- I want to thank all the JPs who were able to make the road tour. It was an absolute honor to get to share some of our work with each of you. It also meant a lot to the men and women of our road department to see such interest. I hope it was very beneficial, and I would appreciate any feedback or

61 suggestions on how to make that event better. Initially, I am entertaining  
62 doing that event bi-annually, with specific focus on any newly elected justices.  
63

64 6. Emergency Operations Center- Project Update

- 65 a. We have been fully into the planning stages of our EOC  
66 i. Toured ADEM's SEOC  
67 ii. Toured Ozark Electric Cooperative's emergency communications  
68 center  
69 iii. I want to thank the staffs of both organizations for their hospitality  
70 iv. These tours gave us invaluable insight into what we want our EOC  
71 to include and how we want it laid out.  
72 v. Director Luther and our office have been working with WER  
73 architects on the programming stage of our EOC. We hope to have  
74 layouts and renderings very soon.  
75 vi. We received 3 very strong responses to our RFQ for a construction  
76 manager. We have conducted interviews with each, and that  
77 decision is imminent. We find it crucial to get a construction  
78 manager on the project as soon as possible, so they can  
79 collaborate with our design team to make suggestions and find  
80 efficiencies within the project.

81  
82 7. Words of Encouragement

- 83 a. Wayne Story  
84 b. Sam ATA  
85

86 8. Washington County Law Library Appointment- Catherine Baker.  
87

88  
89 UNFINISHED BUSINESS  
90

91 The Judge moved to item 8 under unfinished business, **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING**  
92 **ORDINANCE 2018-50 TO UPDATE THE VACATION POLICY IN THE WASHINGTON**  
93 **COUNTY EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK Item 2023-O-063, on the third and final reading.**  
94 County Attorney Lester read the ordinance by title only.

95 JP Ecke made a motion to pass 8.1, it was seconded by JP Lyons. Discussion by JP Lyons  
96 and JP Leming. There were no public comments. A roll call vote was taken and tallied as  
97 follows:  
98

99 JP Taylor-Yes  
100 JP Wilson-Yes  
101 JP Simons-Yes  
102 JP Lyons-Yes  
103 JP Ecke-Yes  
104 JP Dean-Yes  
105 JP Washington-No  
106 JP Coger-No  
107 JP Dennis-Yes  
108 JP Highers-Absent  
109 JP Rios Stafford-No  
110 JP Leming-No  
111 JP Ricker-Absent  
112 JP Pond-Yes  
113

114 Motion passed and **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 2018-50 TO UPDATE**  
115 **THE VACATION POLICY IN THE WASHINGTON COUNTY EMPLOYEE**  
116 **HANDBOOK.** Item 23-O-063 was adopted as **ORD 2023-081.**  
117

118 Judge Deakins moved to item 9 under unfinished business, **AN ORDINANCE REPEALING**  
119 **ORDINANCES 2009-33, 2009-43, AND 2009-67 TO ALLOW APPEALS OF THE**  
120 **DECISIONS TO BE FILED IN CIRCUIT COURT. Item 23-O-076, on the second reading.**

121 Attorney Lester read the ordinance by title only.  
122 JP Lyons made a motion to suspend the rules and move to the third and final reading, with  
123 a second from JP Dean. A roll call vote was taken to move the ordinance to the third and  
124 final reading. Roll call was taken and tallied as follows:

125  
126 JP Taylor-Yes  
127 JP Wilson-Yes  
128 JP Simons-No  
129 JP Lyons-Yes  
130 JP Ecke-Yes  
131 JP Dean-Yes  
132 JP Washington-No  
133 JP Cogger-No  
134 JP Dennis-No  
135 JP Highers-Absent  
136 JP Rios Stafford-No  
137 JP Leming-No  
138 JP Ricker-Absent  
139 JP Pond-No

140  
141 Motion failed to carry to suspend the rules and move to the third and final reading. The  
142 ordinance will move to the **August** Quorum Court meeting for the third and final  
143 reading.

144  
145 Judge Deakins moved to item 10 under unfinished business, **AN ORDINANCE**  
146 **AMENDING THE ARPA FUND BUDGET FOR 2023. Item 23-O-088, on the second**  
147 **reading.** Attorney Lester read the ordinance by title only.

148 JP Lyons made a motion to suspend the rules and move to the third and final reading,  
149 with a second from JP Dean. A roll call vote was taken to move the ordinance to the  
150 third and final reading. Roll call was taken and tallied as follows:

151  
152 JP Taylor-Yes  
153 JP Wilson-Yes  
154 JP Simons-Yes  
155 JP Lyons-Yes  
156 JP Ecke-Yes  
157 JP Dean-Yes  
158 JP Washington-No  
159 JP Cogger-No  
160 JP Dennis-No  
161 JP Highers-Absent  
162 JP Rios Stafford-No  
163 JP Leming-No  
164 JP Ricker-Absent  
165 JP Pond-No

166  
167 Motion failed to carry to suspend the rules and move to the third and final reading. The  
168 ordinance will move to the **August** Quorum Court meeting for the third and final  
169 reading.

170  
171 Judge Deakins moved to item 11 under new business, which was the Consent Agenda.  
172 Attorney Lester read each ordinance by title only.

173 JP Simons motioned to adopt the consent agenda with a second from JP Lyons. There  
174 were no public comments. Roll call was taken and tallied as follows:

175  
176 JP Taylor-Yes  
177 JP Wilson-Yes  
178 JP Simons-Yes  
179 JP Lyons-Yes  
180 JP Ecke-Yes  
181 JP Dean-Yes  
182 JP Washington-Yes

183 JP Coger-Yes  
184 JP Dennis-Yes  
185 JP Highers-Absent  
186 JP Rios Stafford-Yes  
187 JP Leming-Yes  
188 JP Ricker-Absent  
189 JP Pond-Yes

190  
191 Motion passed on the Consent Agenda and ordinances and resolutions were adopted  
192 as follows:

- 193  
194 1. **AN ORDINANCE RECOGNIZING ADDITIONAL REVENUE IN THE AMOUNT OF**  
195 **\$75,000 IN THE RURAL COMMUNITY GRANT FUND FOR 2023.**  
196 Item 23-O-091 (11.1) was adopted as **ORD 2023-82.**  
197
- 198 2. **AN ORDINANCE ANTICIPATING AND APPROPRIATING ADDITIONAL GRANT**  
199 **FUNDS AND REPEALING ORDINANCE 2023-080.**  
200 Item 23-O-098(11.2) was adopted as **ORD 2023-83.**  
201
- 202 3. **AN ORDINANCE ANTICIPATING ADDITIONAL REVENUE OF \$399,996 IN THE**  
203 **DRUG COURT GRANT FUND.**  
204 Item 23-O-099(11.3) was adopted as **ORD 2023-84.**  
205
- 206 4. **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE AMBULANCE FUND BUDGET FOR 2023.**  
207 Item 23-O-100(11.4) was adopted as **ORD 2023-85.**  
208
- 209 5. **AN ORDINANCE RECOGNIZING AND APPROPRIATING ADDITIONAL**  
210 **REVENUE OF \$9,138 IN THE RURAL COMMUNITY GRANT FUND FOR 2023.**  
211 Item 23-O-101(11.5) was adopted as **ORD 2023-86.**  
212
- 213 6. **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING VARIOUS BUDGETS FOR 2023.**  
214 Item 23-O-102(11.6) was adopted as **ORD 2023-87.**  
215
- 216 7. **AN ORDINANCE RECOGNIZING AND APPROPRIATING ADDITIONAL**  
217 **REVENUE OF \$10,000 IN THE AOC JUVENILE COURT GRANT FUND FOR**  
218 **2023.** Item 23-O-103(11.7) was adopted as **ORD 2023-88.**  
219
- 220 8. **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY'S BUDGET FOR**  
221 **2023.** Item 23-O-105 (11.8) was adopted as **ORD 2023-89.**  
222
- 223 9. **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ASSESSOR'S BUDGET FOR 2023.**  
224 Item 23-O-106 (11.9) was adopted as **ORD 2023-90.**  
225
- 226 10. **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CIRCUIT COURT VIII'S BUDGET FOR 2023.**  
227 Item 23-O-107(11.10) was adopted as **ORD 2023-91.**  
228

229 Judge Deakins moved to item 12 on the agenda – **AN ORDINANCE RATIFYING A**  
230 **CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL BY THE**  
231 **PLANNING BOARD, Langham Shop Addition. Item 23-O-109.** Attorney Lester read  
232 the ordinance by title only.

233 JP Taylor made a motion to suspend rules and pass to second reading with a second by JP  
234 Lyons, passed with a voice vote. Attorney Lester read the item for the second reading by  
235 title only. JP Taylor made a motion to suspend the rules and move to the third and final  
236 reading with a second from JP Lyons, the motion passed with a voice vote, and Attorney  
237 Lester read the ordinance for the third and final reading. JP Taylor motioned to pass the  
238 ordinance with a second from JP Lyons. There were no public comments and roll call was  
239 taken and tallied as follows:

240  
241 JP Taylor-Yes  
242 JP Wilson-Yes  
243 JP Simons-Yes  
244 JP Lyons-Yes  
245 JP Ecke-Yes

246 JP Dean-Yes  
247 JP Washington-Yes  
248 JP Cogger-Yes  
249 JP Dennis-Yes  
250 JP Highers-Absent  
251 JP Rios Stafford-Yes  
252 JP Leming-Yes  
253 JP Ricker-Absent  
254 JP Pond-Yes

255  
256 **Motion passed – AN ORDINANCE RATIFYING A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT**  
257 **RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL BY THE PLANNING BOARD Langham Shop**  
258 **Addition.** Item 23-O-109 was adopted as **ORD 2023-92**

259  
260 Judge Deakins moved to item 13 on the agenda – **AN ORDINANCE RATIFYING A**  
261 **CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL BY THE**  
262 **PLANNING BOARD, Wrapology. Item 23-O-110.** Attorney Lester read the ordinance  
263 by title only.

264 JP Pond made a motion to suspend rules and pass to second reading with a second by  
265 JP Lyons, The motion passed with a voice vote. Attorney Lester read the ordinance by  
266 title only for the second reading. JP Pond made a motion to suspend the rules and  
267 move to the third and final reading with a second by JP Lyons, the motion passed with a  
268 voice vote, and Attorney Lester read the ordinance for the third and final reading. JP  
269 Pond motioned to pass the ordinance with a second from JP Lyons. There were no  
270 public comments Roll call was taken and tallied as follows:

271  
272 JP Taylor-Yes  
273 JP Wilson-Yes  
274 JP Simons-Yes  
275 JP Lyons-Yes  
276 JP Ecke-Yes  
277 JP Dean-Yes  
278 JP Washington-Yes  
279 JP Cogger-Yes  
280 JP Dennis-Yes  
281 JP Highers-Absent  
282 JP Rios Stafford-Yes  
283 JP Leming-Yes  
284 JP Ricker-Absent  
285 JP Pond-Yes

286  
287 **Motion passes AN ORDINANCE RATIFYING A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT**  
288 **RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL BY THE PLANNING BOARD Wrapology.**  
289 **Item 23-O-110 was adopted as ORD 2023-93.**

290  
291 Judge Deakins moved to item 14 on the agenda – **AN ORDINANCE RATIFYING A**  
292 **CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL BY THE**  
293 **PLANNING BOARD, Anytime Hauling. Item 23-O-111.** Attorney Lester read the  
294 ordinance by title only.

295 JP Leming introduced the ordinance and made a motion to deny it. There was no  
296 second. Judge Deakins advised that the ordinance needed to move through the three  
297 readings. JP Leming motioned to suspend the rules and move it to a second reading. It  
298 was seconded by JP Lyon—the motion passed by a voice vote. Attorney Lester read  
299 the ordinance by title only for a second reading. JP Leming motioned to suspend the  
300 rules and move it to a third and final reading. JP Lyons seconded it—the motion passed  
301 by voice vote. Attorney Lester read the ordinance by title only for the third and final  
302 reading. JP Leming made a motion to deny the ordinance. Judge Deakins clarified that  
303 as the ordinance is written, a Yes vote will pass the ordinance into law, and a no vote  
304 will be to deny the ordinance. There was a discussion among the Quorum Court  
305 members, and Planning Director Ata answered questions. JP Pond motioned to table  
306 the ordinance until the August Quorum Court meeting, and JP Dennis seconded it.  
307 Judge Deakins asked if there was more discussion on the motion to table. During the

308 discussion of the motion, JP Pond raised a point of order regarding JP Taylor's  
309 comments being germane to the motion at hand. JP Taylor withdrew his comment. A  
310 roll call vote was taken on the motion to table until the August Quorum Court meeting,  
311 and the results were as follows:

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

327 Motion passed. Item 16 was tabled until the August Quorum Court meeting for third and  
328 final reading.

329

330 Judge Deakins moved to item 15 on the agenda – **AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING A**  
331 **SHORT-TERM FINANCING PURCHASE PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF ACT**  
332 **1808 OF 2001 AND AMENDMENT 78 TO THE ARKANSAS CONSTITUTION** Item  
333 **2023-O-97**. Attorney Lester read the ordinance by title only.

334 JP Lyons introduced the ordinance. JP Lyons made a motion to pass, it was seconded  
335 by JP Ecke. The Quorum Court members had a discussion on the ordinance. There  
336 were no public comments and roll call was taken and tallied as follows:

337

338 JP Taylor-Yes  
339 JP Wilson-Yes  
340 JP Simons-Yes  
341 JP Lyons-Yes  
342 JP Ecke-Yes  
343 JP Dean-Yes  
344 JP Washington-Yes  
345 JP Coger-Yes  
346 JP Dennis-Yes  
347 JP Highers-Absent  
348 JP Rios Stafford-Yes  
349 JP Leming-No  
350 JP Ricker-Absent  
351 JP Pond-Yes

352

353 Motion passes; **AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING A SHORT-TERM FINANCING**  
354 **PURCHASE PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF ACT 1808 OF 2001 AND**  
355 **AMENDMENT 78 TO THE ARKANSAS CONSTITUTION** Item 2023-O-97 was adopted  
356 as **ORD 2023-94**.

357

358 Judge Deakins moved to item 16 on the agenda – **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE**  
359 **COUNTY ATTORNEY'S BUDGET FOR 2023**—item 23-O-104. Attorney Lester read  
360 the ordinance by title only.

361 JP Ecke introduced the ordinance. JP Ecke made a motion to approve and it was  
362 seconded by JP Dean. Judge Deakins asked for any discussion. During the discussion  
363 of Item 16, JP Ecke raised a point of order regarding JP Coger's comments about the  
364 amount of other legal staff salaries and the total amount paid for County legal staff. JP  
365 Ecke questioned whether JP Coger's comments were germane to the main motion. The  
366 Chair acknowledged JP Ecke's point of order and ruled that the comments were not  
367 germane. JP Coger then appealed the Chair's ruling to the entire Quorum Court body.  
368 The members of the Quorum Court discussed the Chair's ruling and voted and upheld  
369 the Chair's decision. Public comment was heard. Roll call was taken and tallied as

370 follows:

371

372 JP Taylor-Yes

373 JP Wilson-Yes

374 JP Simons-Yes

375 JP Lyons-Yes

376 JP Ecke-Yes

377 JP Dean-Yes

378 JP Washington-Yes

379 JP Coger-No

380 JP Dennis-Yes

381 JP Highers-Absent

382 JP Rios-Stafford-Yes

383 JP Ricker-Absent

384 JP Leming-Yes

385 JP Pond-Yes

386

387 Motion passes; **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE COUNTY ATTORNEY'S BUDGET**  
388 **FOR 2023.** Item 23-O-104 was adopted as **ORD 2023-95.**

389

Patrick W. Deakins  
County Judge  
(479) 879-7961



280 North College Avenue  
Fayetteville, AR 72701  
PDeakins@washingtoncountyar.gov

## WASHINGTON COUNTY ARKANSAS

June 21, 2023

To: JESAP Committee Members

### Justification Letter for New Hire Starting Pay

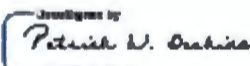
I am requesting that the position of Deputy County Attorney (PCN# 0122004), be provided a higher starting pay than what is currently budgeted for this position. Per county policy a hiring rate up to the 1<sup>st</sup> quartile can be provided given that there is ample justification. The current budgeted amount for this position is \$97,119, and a move to the 1<sup>st</sup> quartile would bring this position to \$109,258.79.

This has been a difficult position for the county to fill. I am excited to report that after a considerable and lengthy selection process, the county has offered the position to Counselor Catherine Baker. Ms. Baker has achieved advanced degrees above and beyond the stated requirements of the job, specifically the Masters of Law (LLM) designation. This is a fourth year of law school dedicated to classwork, legal research, and writing. Additionally, Ms. Baker will not only bring extensive legal experience specific to the public sector, having worked for the Northwest Arkansas Economic Development District (NWAEDD), but will also bring valuable insight and experience into the critical areas of purchasing, grants administration, human resources, and American Rescue Plan Act administration.

My office continues to analyze our job structures against bringing efficient fulfillment of our governmental responsibilities to our citizens. We believe that being innovative with our current structure can bring both improved service and fiscal savings to the taxpayer. While we are very sensitive to any increased spending, we believe the addition of Ms. Baker's skills will allow us to eliminate the fulfillment of various roles in other departments. This will bring a realized savings to the county of approximately \$162,792.

I believe that for the above reasons, this adjustment is justified by both the qualifications of the candidate and the fiscal offsets the county will experience. I appreciate the committee's consideration, and am always available to provide further information.

Sincerely,

Justified by  
  
11 APR 2023 11:21  
Patrick Deakins  
County Judge

Telephone: (479) 879-7961 • PDeakins@washingtoncountyar.gov

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Committee Reports as follows:

There was no County Services Committee meeting for July.

The Finance & Budget Committee met Tuesday, July 11, 2023, at 6:00 PM. All members were present.

JP Simons led the prayer and pledge.

Reports were heard from Treasurer Bobby Hill, Employee's Insurance Report from Charles Angel, and Comptroller's report from Director Wayne Story.

The Committee passed twelve ordinances onto Quorum Court with ten of those being placed on the consent agenda. There were no public comments and the meeting was adjourned at 6:52 pm.

The Quorum Court meeting was adjourned at 7:19PM



409 *Sabrina Mason*  
410 Sabrina Mason  
411 Quorum Court Coordinator  
412 *SM Approved*  
413 *August 17, 2023*