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

BECKY LEWALLEN  
CLERK & PROBATE CLERK  
WASHINGTON CO. AR

Thursday, August 17, 2023  
6:00 PM  
Washington County Courthouse

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

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

JJP Dean led the Prayer and Pledge.

Judge Deakins moved to Item 3 on the agenda (Adoption of the Agenda.) JP Lyons motioned to remove items 16, 17, and 18 from the agenda indefinitely. After some discussion between members of the court, it was discovered the applicant requested the item to only be postponed for one month. JP Lyons amended his motion to postpone until the September Quorum Court Meeting, and JP Dean seconded the motion. The motion to amend agenda was passed by voice vote. JP Lyons made a motion to adopt the amended agenda. The motion was seconded by JP Dean and the motion passed with a voice vote.

JJP Dean made a motion to read all ordinances/resolutions by title only, JP Washington seconded the motion, and the motion passed with a voice vote.

Citizen Comments were heard from Mac Mayfield, Sherry Main, unknown, Stephenie Foster, Alan Lankford, Maribeth Lynes, Lowell Grisham, and Georgia Ross.

The judge presented Item 6, (Approval of Minutes) and asked if there were any corrections needed. JP Lyons asked for a Justification letter be added to the minutes. JJP Dean made a motion to approve the minutes with amendment and it was seconded by JP Lyons. The motion passed with a voice vote. Minutes from June 15, 2023, were approved with amendment.

Judge Deakins presented a Report that included the July Disposal of County Property Report. He also notified the Quorum Court members that the 2021 Audit Report from the Legislative Auditing Committee had been sent to each of them and to tell his office if they had not received it. Judge Deakins reported a vacancy on the Equalization Board and noted that Greg Taylor had been recommended. He requested approval for Taylor's appointment, and the Quorum Court unanimously approved the appointment.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Judge Deakins moved to item 8 under unfinished business, **AN ORDINANCE REPEALING ORDINANCES 2009-33, 2009-43, AND 2009-67 TO ALLOW APPEALS OF THE DECISIONS TO BE FILED IN CIRCUIT COURT** Item 23-O-07'6 (8.1).

This ordinance was on the final reading. County Attorney Baker read the ordinance by title only. A motion to adopt the ordinance was made by JP Lyons and seconded by JP Simons. The Quorum Court members had a discussion on the ordinance. During the discussion, JJCoger called a point of order advising that JP Ecke's comments weren't germane to the question at hand. JP Ecke stopped talking and thanked the chair. Public comments were heard. A roll call vote was called and the votes tallied as follows:

JJP Taylor-Absent  
JJP Wilson-No  
JJP Simons-Yes  
JJP Lyons-Yes  
JJP Ecke-No

63 JP Dean- No  
64 JP Washington-No  
65 JP Coger-No  
66 JP Dennis-No  
67 JP Highers-No  
68 JP Rios Stafford-No  
69 JP Leming-No  
70 JP Ricker-Absent  
71 JP Pond-No  
72 **Motion failed.**

73  
74 Judge Deakins moved to item 9 under unfinished business, **AN ORDINANCE**  
75 **AMENDING THE ARPA FUND BUDGET FOR 2023.** Item 23-O-088 (9.1)  
76 This ordinance is on the final reading. County Attorney Baker read the ordinance by title  
77 only. JP Coger motioned to amend the ordinance. She motioned that the money  
78 amount in line 16 of the ordinance be changed from \$564,681.00 to \$598,117.00  
79 making the money amounts listed in both line 16 and line 29 match. JP Rios Stafford  
80 seconded the motion, and the motion to amend the ordinance was passed by voice  
81 vote.  
82 JP Coger motioned to pass the amended ordinance, and JP Highers seconded the  
83 motion. The Quorum Court members had a discussion on the resolution. During the  
84 discussion, JP Highers called a point of order on JP Lyons advising that his comments  
85 weren't germane to the question at hand. Lyons disagreed, but moved on. JP Ecke  
86 called a point of order on JP Rios Stafford's comments advising Judge Wood wasn't  
87 there to defend himself, and what she was repeating was hearsay. Judge Deakins  
88 asked JP Rios Stafford to take that under consideration. JP Rios Stafford encouraged  
89 any of the Non-profits that were interested in doing so to come give first-hand accounts  
90 of the conversations. JP Lyons called a point of order on JP Ecke's comments advising  
91 that they weren't germane to the question at hand. JP Ecke corrected her comments.  
92 JP Dennis called the question and JP Ecke seconded it.  
93 A voice vote was called. There were dissenting votes heard, so a roll call vote was  
94 taken and tallied as follows:

95 JP Taylor-Absent  
96 JP Wilson-Yes  
97 JP Simons-Yes  
98 JP Lyons-Yes  
99 JP Ecke-Yes  
100 JP Dean-Yes  
101 JP Washington-No  
102 JP Coger-No  
103 JP Dennis-Yes  
104 JP Highers-No  
105 JP Rios Stafford-No  
106 JP Leming-Yes  
107 JP Ricker-Absent  
108 JP Pond-Yes  
109 **Motion to call the question passed.**

110  
111 Public comments were heard. JP Coger made a motion to pass the ordinance, as  
112 amended. JP Highers seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken on the motion  
113 and tallied as follows:  
114 JP Taylor-Absent  
115 JP Wilson-No  
116 JP Simons-Yes  
117 JP Lyons-No  
118 JP Ecke-No  
119 JP Dean-No  
120 JP Washington-Yes  
121 JP Coger-Yes  
122 JP Dennis-No  
123 JP Highers-Yes  
124 JP Rios Stafford-Yes

125 JP Leming-No  
126 JP Ricker-Absent  
127 JP Pond-No  
128 **Motion failed.**

129  
130 Judge Deakins moved to item 10 under unfinished business, **AN ORDINANCE**  
131 **RATIFYING A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL BY THE**  
132 **PLANNING BOARD Anytime Hauling.** Item 23-O-111 (10.1).

133 This ordinance is on the final reading. County Attorney Baker read the ordinance by title  
134 only. JP Lyons made a motion to approve the ordinance and JP Simons seconded the  
135 motion. Planning Director Ata introduced the ordinance and answered questions from  
136 members of the court. The applicants did a presentation and answered questions from  
137 members of the court. Judge Deakins clarified a yes vote approves the motion and a no  
138 vote denies the motion. No public comment. Roll call was taken and tallied as follows:

139 JP Taylor-Absent  
140 JP Wilson-Yes  
141 JP Simons-Yes  
142 JP Lyons-Yes  
143 JP Ecke-Yes  
144 JP Dean-Yes  
145 JP Washington-Yes  
146 JP Coger-Yes  
147 JP Dennis-Yes  
148 JP Highers-Yes  
149 JP Rios Stafford-Yes  
150 JP Leming-No  
151 JP Ricker-Absent  
152 JP Pond-Yes

153 **Motion passed. AN ORDINANCE RATIFYING A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT**  
154 **RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL BY THE PLANNING BOARD Anytime Hauling.**  
155 **Item 23-O-111 was adopted as **ORD 2023-96.****

156  
157 Judge Deakins moved to item 11 under new business, which was the Consent Agenda.  
158 County Attorney Baker read each ordinance by title only.

159 JP Lyons motioned to adopt the Consent Agenda with a second from JP Dean. There  
160 were no public comments. Roll call was taken and tallied as follows:

161 JP Taylor-Absent  
162 JP Wilson-Yes  
163 JP Simons-Absent  
164 JP Lyons-Yes  
165 JP Ecke-Yes  
166 JP Dean-Yes  
167 JP Washington-Yes  
168 JP Coger-Yes  
169 JP Dennis-Yes  
170 JP Highers-Absent  
171 JP Rios Stafford-Yes  
172 JP Leming-Yes  
173 JP Ricker-Absent  
174 JP Pond-Yes

175 **Motion passed on the Consent Agenda and ordinances were adopted as follows:**

- 176  
177 **1. AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 2022-107, THE 2022 WASHINGTON**  
178 **COUNTY BUDGET, TO APPROPRIATE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**  
179 **RECOGNITION PAYMENTS.** Item 23-O-108 (11.1) was adopted as **ORD 2023-97.**  
180  
181 **2. AN ORDINANCE RECOGNIZING AND APPROPRIATING ADDITIONAL FUNDING**  
182 **OF \$1,200 FOR 2023.** Item 23-O-112 (11.2) was adopted as **ORD 2023-98.**  
183  
184 **3. AN ORDINANCE ANTICIPATING REVENUE TOTALING \$833,001 IN THE CRISIS**  
185 **STABILIZATION UNIT (CSU) GRANT FUND.**  
186 **Item 23-O-114(11.3) was adopted as **ORD 2023-99.****

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4. **AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE COMPENSATION FOR THE WASHINGTON COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSIONERS; AND, REPEALING ORDINANCE 1995-11.** Item 23-O-115(11.4) was adopted as **ORD 2023-100.**
5. **AN ORDINANCE ANTICIPATING AND APPROPRIATING ADDITIONAL REVENUE OF \$60,000 IN THE RURAL COMMUNITY GRANT FUND FOR 2023.** Item 23-O-117(11.5) was adopted as **ORD 2023-101.**
6. **AN ORDINANCE REDUCING OBLIGATIONS IN THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (“ARPA”) FUND (3046) BY \$91,894.55.** Item 23-O-118(11.6) was adopted as **ORD 2023-102.**
7. **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CIRCUIT COURT VIII BUDGET FOR 2023.** Item 23-O-119(11.7) was adopted as **ORD 2023-103.**
8. **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE JUVENILE DETENTION CENTER BUDGET FOR 2023.** Item 23-O-120(11.8) was adopted as **ORD 2023-104.**
9. **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY BUDGET FOR 2023.** Item 23-O-121(11.9) was adopted as **ORD 2023-105.**
10. **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE COUNTY COMMUNICATIONS BUDGET FOR 2023.** Item 23-O-122(11.10) was adopted as **ORD 2023-106.**
11. **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE COUNTY COMPTROLLER BUDGET FOR 2023.** Item 23-O-123 (11.11) was adopted as **ORD 2023-107.**
12. **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2023 COUNTY BUDGET.** Item 23-O-124 (11.12) was adopted as **ORD 2023-108.**

Judge Deakins moved to item 12 on the agenda – **AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF ONE VEHICLE TO MADISON COUNTY, ARKANSAS.**

Item 23-O-113 (12.1)

County Attorney Baker read the ordinance by title only.

JP Dennis made a motion to pass and JP Lyons seconded it. JP Leming made a comment during discussion. Coroner Roger Morris spoke about the ordinance.

There were no public comments and roll call was taken and tallied as follows:

JP Taylor-Absent

JP Wilson-Yes

JP Simons-Yes

JP Lyons-Yes

JP Ecke-Yes

JP Dean-Yes

JP Washington-Yes

JP Coger-Yes

JP Dennis-Yes

JP Highers-Absent

JP Rios Stafford-Yes

JP Leming-Yes

JP Ricker-Absent

JP Pond-Yes

**Motion passed.** Ordinance moved to September meeting for 2<sup>nd</sup> reading.

Judge Deakins moved to item 13 on the agenda – **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 5 OF THE BENEFITS AND APPROVED LEAVE SECTION OF ORDINANCE 2018-50 – THE WASHINGTON COUNTY EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK.** Item 23-O-116 (13.1)

County Attorney Baker read the ordinance by title only.

JP Lyons made a motion to pass and the motion was seconded by JP Ecke. There were no public comments. Roll call was taken and tallied as follows:

JP Taylor-Absent

JP Wilson-Yes

250 JP Simons-Yes  
251 JP Lyons-Yes  
252 JP Ecke-Yes  
253 JP Dean-Yes  
254 JP Washington-Yes  
255 JP Cogger-Yes  
256 JP Dennis-Yes  
257 JP Highers-Yes  
258 JP Rios Stafford-Yes  
259 JP Leming-Yes  
260 JP Ricker-Absent  
261 JP Pond-Yes

262 **Motion passed.** Ordinance moved to September meeting for 2<sup>nd</sup> reading.

263  
264 Judge Deakins moved to item 14 on the agenda – **A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE**  
265 **PUBLICATION OF ALL COUNTY ORDINANCES and RESOLUTIONS ON THE**  
266 **WASHINGTON COUNTY WEBSITE.** Item 23-R-009 (14.1)

267 County Attorney Baker read the resolution by title only.

268 JP Cogger made a motion to amend the resolution to include contracts. The motion was  
269 seconded by JP Rios-Stafford. A roll call vote was taken and tallied as follows:

270 JP Taylor-Absent  
271 JP Wilson-No  
272 JP Simons-No  
273 JP Lyons-No  
274 JP Ecke-No  
275 JP Dean-No  
276 JP Washington-Yes  
277 JP Cogger-Yes  
278 JP Dennis-No  
279 JP Highers-Yes  
280 JP Rios Stafford-Yes  
281 JP Leming-No  
282 JP Ricker-Absent  
283 JP Pond-No

284 **Motion to amend resolution failed.**

285  
286 JP Lyons made a motion to pass the resolution as written. JP Dean seconded the  
287 motion. There was discussion among members of the court. Public comments were  
288 heard. A roll call vote was taken and tallied as follows:

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

303 Motion passed. **A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE PUBLICATION OF ALL COUNTY**  
304 **ORDINANCES and RESOLUTIONS ON THE WASHINGTON COUNTY WEBSITE.**

305 Item 23-R-009 was adopted as **RES 2023-10.**

306  
307 Judge Deakins moved to item 15 on the agenda – **A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING**  
308 **SUSTAINED FUNDING FOR THE NORTHWEST ARKANSAS CRISIS STABILIZATION UNIT**  
309 **TO PROVIDE MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES.** Item 23-R- 010 (15.1)

310 County Attorney Baker read the resolution by title only.

311 JP Coger introduced the resolution and made a motion to pass it. JP Rios Stafford  
312 seconded the motion. The Quorum Court members had a discussion on the resolution.  
313 During the discussion, JP Ecke called a point of order advising that JP Coger's  
314 comments weren't germane to the to the question at hand. JP Deakins asked JP Coger  
315 to take it under consideration. There were no public comments and roll call was taken  
316 and tallied as follows:

317 JP Taylor-Absent  
318 JP Wilson-Yes  
319 JP Simons-Yes  
320 JP Lyons-Yes  
321 JP Ecke-Yes  
322 JP Dean-Yes  
323 JP Washington-Yes  
324 JP Coger-Yes  
325 JP Dennis-Yes  
326 JP Highers-Yes  
327 JP Rios Stafford-Yes  
328 JP Leming-Yes  
329 JP Ricker-Absent  
330 JP Pond-Yes

331 Motion passes: **A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING SUSTAINED FUNDING FOR THE**  
332 **NORTHWEST ARKANSAS CRISIS STABILIZATION UNIT TO PROVIDE MENTAL**  
333 **HEALTH SERVICES.** Item 23-R-010 was adopted as **RES 2023-11.**

334 (Items 16, 17, 18 tabled until September meeting at applicants request)

335  
336 Judge Deakins moved to item 19, Committee reports.

337  
338 Committee Reports as follows:

339  
340 The County Services Committee met, Monday, July 31, 2023, at 6:00PM.

341  
342 Members present were Coleman Taylor, David Wilson, Sean Simons, Kyle Lyons,  
343 Robert Dean, Shawndra Washington, Beth Coger, Robert Dennis, Evelyn Rios Stafford,  
344 Willie Leming, Gary Ricker, and Butch Pond.

345  
346 The meeting was chaired by Butch Pond.

347  
348 JP Dean opened with pledge and prayer.

349  
350 The Committee heard reports from JDC Director Tinsley and Sheriff Cantrell.

351  
352 The Committee moved two ordinances and two resolutions on to the Quorum Court.

353  
354 Public comments were heard and meeting was adjourned at 7:25PM.

355  
356 The Finance & Budget Committee met Tuesday, August 8, 2023 at 6:00PM.

357 All members were present.

358  
359 JP Ecke led the prayer and pledge.

360  
361 Reports were heard from Treasurer Bobby Hill, Employee's Insurance Report from  
362 Charles Angel and Comptroller's report from Director Wayne Story.

363 The Committee passed twelve ordinances onto Quorum Court, all twelve were placed  
364 on the consent agenda.

365  
366 There were no public comments.

367  
368 Directors from each division within the County Judge's budget presented their  
369 respective budgets to the committee members. Meeting was adjourned at 9:21 pm.

370  
371 The Quorum Court meeting was adjourned at 8:40PM.

372 *Sabrina Mason*

373 Sabrina Mason

374 Quorum Court Coordinator

375 Approved 09/21/2023 SM