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MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
WASHINGTON COUNTY QUORUM COURT

KYLE WALLEN
CO. & PROBATE CLERK
WASHINGTON CO AR

Thursday, October 19, 2023
6:01 PM
Washington County Courthouse

Judge Patrick Deakins called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM.

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

JP Highers led the Prayer and Pledge.

Judge Deakins moved to Item 3 on the agenda (Adoption of the Agenda.) JP Lyons motioned to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by JP Dean and the motion passed with a voice vote.

JP 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 Diana Scott, Mike Landry, Bobby Huffines, Lou Reed Sharpe, Sherry Main, Johnathan Nunez, and Gladys Tiffany.

The judge presented Item 6, (Approval of Minutes) and asked if there were corrections needed. There were no needed corrections. The minutes from September 21, 2023, were approved.

Judge Deakins presented the Judge's report, which included the September Disposal of County Property Report. Judge Deakins spoke about the continued work on the Budget for 2024. Judge Deakins spoke about the CCJC meetings being paused due to members of the board being outside of their statutory terms. Judge Deakins advised he is not disbanding the group and invited Washington County citizens to stay tuned for future developments.

Judge Deakins gave a Construction update. Nabholtz was selected as Construction Manager. Spirit Architecture ended their partnership with the county on the jail project and a RFQ (Request for Qualifications) for a replacement architect has been issued.

Judge Deakins reported a vacancies on two County Boards. The Washington Water Authority Board had two vacancies and the Equalization Board had one opening. Jacci Perry Ryan was unanimously approved by the Quorum Court for appointment to the Equalization Board. Larry Walker and Michael "Butch" Bartholomew were unanimously approved by the Quorum Court for appointment to the Washington Water Authority Board.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Judge Deakins moved to item 8 under unfinished business, **AN ORDINANCE DENYING A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT RECOMMENDED FOR DENIAL- Beaver Lake Tiny Homes** Item 23-O-094 (This ordinance was on the second reading)

County Attorney Lester read the ordinance by title only. JP Lyons made a motion to suspend the rules and move to a third and final reading. JP Dean seconded the motion, and it was passed by voice vote. County Attorney Lester read the ordinance by title only for the third and final reading. JP Lyons spoke on the ordinance. A motion to pass the ordinance was made by JP Lyons and seconded by JP Dean. There was no discussion and no public comment. Judge Deakins clarified for members of the court that a yes vote denied the conditional use permit. A roll call vote was called and the votes tallied as follows:

- JP Taylor-Yes
- JP Wilson-Yes
- JP Simons-Yes

- 63 JP Lyons-Yes
- 64 JP Ecke-Yes
- 65 JP Dean- Yes
- 66 JP Washington-Yes
- 67 JP Cogger-Yes
- 68 JP Dennis-Yes
- 69 JP Highers-Yes
- 70 JP Rios Stafford-Yes
- 71 JP Leming-Yes
- 72 JP Ricker-Yes
- 73 JP Pond-Yes

74 **Motion passed. AN ORDINANCE DENYING A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT**
75 **RECOMMENDED FOR DENIAL- Beaver Lake Tiny Homes**
76 **Item 23-O-094 was adopted as **ORD 2023-118.****
77

78 Judge Deakins moved to item 9 under unfinished business, **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE**
79 **COUNTY ATTORNEY BUDGET FOR 2023.** Item 2023-O-127(This ordinance was on the
80 second reading) County Attorney Lester read the ordinance by title only. JP Pond made a
81 motion to suspend the rules and move to a third and final reading. JP Lyons seconded it and
82 it was passed by voice vote. A roll call vote was requested. A roll call was taken to suspend
83 the rules and move to the third reading and tallied as follows:
84

- 85 JP Taylor-Yes
- 86 JP Wilson-Yes
- 87 JP Simons-Yes
- 88 JP Lyons-Yes
- 89 JP Ecke-Yes
- 90 JP Dean-Yes
- 91 JP Washington-No
- 92 JP Cogger-Abstain
- 93 JP Dennis-Yes
- 94 JP Highers-No
- 95 JP Rios Stafford-No
- 96 JP Leming-Yes
- 97 JP Ricker-Yes
- 98 JP Pond-Yes

99 **Motion passed. The ordinance was moved to a third and final reading.** County Attorney
100 Lester read the ordinance by title only for the third and final time. JP Pond made a motion to
101 pass the ordinance and JP Lyons seconded the motion. There was discussion by members of
102 the court and public comments were heard. JP Lyons made a motion to pass the ordinance
103 and JP Lyons seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and tallied as follows:
104

- 105 JP Taylor-Yes
- 106 JP Wilson-Yes
- 107 JP Simons-Yes
- 108 JP Lyons-Yes
- 109 JP Ecke-Yes
- 110 JP Dean-Yes
- 111 JP Washington-No
- 112 JP Cogger-Abstain
- 113 JP Dennis-Yes
- 114 JP Highers-No
- 115 JP Rios Stafford-No
- 116 JP Leming-Yes
- 117 JP Ricker-Yes
- 118 JP Pond-Yes

119 **Motion passed. AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE COUNTY ATTORNEY BUDGET FOR**
120 **2023.** Item 2023-O-127 was adopted as **ORD 2023-119.**
121

122 Judge Deakins moved to item 10 under unfinished business, **AN ORDINANCE RATIFYING A**
123 **CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL BY THE PLANNING AND**
124 **ZONING BOARD-MEYERS BOYS GARAGE.** (On third reading) Item 2023-O-133 (10.1)

125 County Attorney Lester read the ordinance by title only. JP Taylor made a motion to pass the
126 ordinance and JP Lyons seconded it. A roll call was taken and tallied as follows:

- 127
- 128 JP Taylor-Yes
- 129 JP Wilson-Yes
- 130 JP Simons-Yes
- 131 JP Lyons-Yes
- 132 JP Ecke-Yes
- 133 JP Dean-Yes
- 134 JP Washington-Yes
- 135 JP Cogger-Yes
- 136 JP Dennis-Yes
- 137 JP Highers-Yes
- 138 JP Rios Stafford-Yes
- 139 JP Leming-Yes
- 140 JP Ricker-Yes
- 141 JP Pond-Yes

142 **Motion passed: AN ORDINANCE RATIFYING A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT**
143 **RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL BY THE PLANNING AND ZONING BOARD-MEYERS**
144 **BOYS GARAGE.** Item 2023-O-133 was adopted as **ORD 2023-120.**

145
146 Judge Deakins moved to item 11 under new business, which was the Consent Agenda.
147 County Attorney Lester read each ordinance by title only.
148 JP Lyons motioned to adopt the Consent Agenda with a second from JP Ricker. JP
149 Dennis spoke during discussion. There were no public comments. Roll call was taken
150 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-Yes
- 159 JP Cogger-Yes
- 160 JP Dennis-Yes
- 161 JP Highers-Yes
- 162 JP Rios Stafford-Yes
- 163 JP Leming-Yes
- 164 JP Ricker-Yes
- 165 JP Pond-Yes

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

- 167 1. **AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A FLOOD**
168 **DAMAGE PREVENTION PROGRAM FOR WASHINGTON COUNTY,**
169 **ARKANSAS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.** Item 2023-O-134a (11.1)
- 170
- 171 2. **AN ORDINANCE ANTICIPATING AND APPROPRIATING ADDITIONAL**
172 **GRANT FUNDS IN THE DRUG COURT GRANT FUND BUDGET FOR 2023.**
173 Item 23-O-137 was adopted as **ORD 2023-122.**
- 174
- 175 3. **AN ORDINANCE ALLOCATING PREVIOUSLY UN-ALLOCATED FUNDS IN**
176 **THE DRUG COURT GRANT FUND TOTALING \$129,433.57 TO THE**
177 **SAMHSA BUDGET FOR 2023.** Item 23-O-136 was adopted as **ORD 2023-123.**
- 178
- 179 4. **AN ORDINANCE RECOGNIZING REVENUE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$77,520**
180 **IN THE US DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY GRANT FUND FOR 2023 AND FOR**
181 **OTHER MATTERS.** Item 23-O-138 was adopted as **ORD 2023-124.**
- 182
- 183 5. **AN ORDINANCE ANTICIPATING ADDITIONAL REVENUE IN THE AMOUNT**
184 **OF \$550,000.00.** Item 23-O-140 was adopted as **ORD 2023-125.**
- 185

186 6. **AN ORDINANCE ANTICIPATING ADDITIONAL REVENUE IN THE AMOUNT**
187 **OF \$2,878.88 IN THE LAW ENFORCEMENT GRANT FUND.**

188 Item 23-O-141 was adopted as **ORD 2023-126.**
189

190 After discussion with County Attorney Lester, Judge Deakins made an announcement
191 that the first ordinance on the consent agenda was not an appropriation, so it required
192 three readings.

193 **AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A FLOOD DAMAGE**
194 **PREVENTION PROGRAM FOR WASHINGTON COUNTY, ARKANSAS AND FOR**
195 **OTHER PURPOSES.** Item 23-O-134a (11.1)

196 County Attorney Lester read the ordinance by title only.

197 JP Ecke made a motion to suspend the rules and move to a second reading. JP Dean
198 seconded the motion. There was no discussion and no public comment. The motion
199 was passed by voice vote. County Attorney Lester read the ordinance by title only for a
200 second time. JP Ecke made a motion to suspend the rules and move to a third reading.
201 JP Dean seconded the motion. There was no discussion and no public comment. The
202 motion was passed by voice vote. County Attorney Lester read the ordinance for a third
203 and final time. JP Ecke made a motion to pass the ordinance and JP Lyons seconded
204 the motion. There was no discussion and no public comment. A roll call was taken and
205 tallied as follows:
206

207 JP Taylor-Yes

208 JP Wilson-Yes

209 JP Simons-Yes

210 JP Lyons-Yes

211 JP Ecke-Yes

212 JP Dean-Yes

213 JP Washington-Yes

214 JP Coger-Yes

215 JP Dennis-Yes

216 JP Highers-Yes

217 JP Rios Stafford-Yes

218 JP Leming-Yes

219 JP Ricker-Yes

220 JP Pond-Yes

221 **Motion passed. AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A**
222 **FLOOD DAMAGE PREVENTION PROGRAM FOR WASHINGTON COUNTY, ARKANSAS**
223 **AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.** Item 23-O-134a was adopted as **ORD 2023-121.**
224

225 Judge Deakins moved to item 12 on the agenda – **AN ORDINANCE RECOGNIZING**
226 **ADDITIONAL REVENUE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$101,820 IN THE LAW**
227 **ENFORCEMENT GRANT FUND.** Item 2023-O-135 (12.1)

228 County Attorney Lester read the ordinance by title only. JP Ecke introduced the ordinance and
229 made a motion to pass the ordinance and JP Lyons seconded it. JP Coger spoke during
230 discussion. There was no public comment. A roll call vote was taken and tallied as follows:

231 JP Taylor-Yes

232 JP Wilson-Yes

233 JP Simons-Yes

234 JP Lyons-Yes

235 JP Ecke-Yes

236 JP Dean-Yes

237 JP Washington-No

238 JP Coger-No

239 JP Dennis-Yes

240 JP Highers-No

241 JP Rios Stafford-No

242 JP Leming-Yes

243 JP Ricker-Yes

244 JP Pond-Yes

245 **Motion passed. AN ORDINANCE RECOGNIZING ADDITIONAL REVENUE IN THE**
246 **AMOUNT OF \$101,820 IN THE LAW ENFORCEMENT GRANT FUND.** Item 2023-O-
247 **135 (12.1)** was adopted as **ORD 2023-127.**

248 Judge Deakins moved to item 13 on the agenda – **A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE**
249 **ARKANSAS FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT.** Item 23-O-133 (13.1)

250 County Attorney Lester read the resolution by title only.

251 JP Rios Stafford introduced the resolution. JP Rios Stafford made a motion to pass the
252 resolution. JP Ecke made a motion to suspend the rules and move it on to a second
253 reading. JP Taylor seconded the motion. There was discussion by members of the
254 court. During discussion, JP Dean made a motion to make an amendment to the
255 resolution adding the words at the end of line 20, as amended from time to time by the
256 legislature. JP Dennis seconded the motion for the amendment to the resolution. There
257 was discussion about the motion. A voice vote was called and the motion to amend the
258 resolution failed. The court moved back to the resolution as written. There was
259 discussion among Quorum Court members. JP Leming made a motion to call the
260 question and JP Ricker seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken. Judge Deakins
261 asked for a roll call vote to call the question. A call vote was taken and tallied as follows:

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

277 **Motion passed to call the question.**

278
279 Judge Deakins moved to public comment. Public comments were heard. Judge Deakins
280 asked for a roll call vote. A roll call vote was taken and tallied as follows:

281
282 JP Taylor-Yes
283 JP Wilson-No
284 JP Simons-Yes
285 JP Lyons-No
286 JP Ecke-No
287 JP Dean-Yes
288 JP Washington-Yes
289 JP Cogger-Yes
290 JP Dennis-Yes
291 JP Highers-Yes
292 JP Rios Stafford-Yes
293 JP Leming-Absent
294 JP Ricker-Yes
295 JP Pond-Yes

296 **Motion passed. A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE ARKANSAS FREEDOM OF**
297 **INFORMATION ACT.** Item 23-O-133 (13.1) was adopted as RES 2023-12.

298
299 Judge Deakins moved to item 14: Committee reports.

300
301 Committee Reports as follows:

302
303 The County Services Committee met Monday, October 2, 2023, at 6:00PM. Members
304 present were David Wilson, Kyle Lyons, Charles Dean, Shawndra Washington, Beth
305 Cogger, Robert Dennis, Evelyn Rios Stafford, Willie Leming, Gary Ricker, and Butch
306 Pond. Coleman Taylor, Sean Simons, and Lisa Ecke were absent.
307 Judge Deakins opened with pledge and prayer.
308 The Committee heard reports from JDC Director Tinsley and Sheriff Cantrell.
309 The Committee moved one resolution and two ordinances on to the Quorum Court. The

310 two ordinances were placed on the consent agenda. The Committee voted to table one
311 ordinance until the next Court Services Meeting.

312 Public comments were heard and meeting was adjourned at 7:02PM.

313

314 The Finance & Budget Committee met Tuesday, October 10, 2023 at 6:00PM. JP
315 Wilson, JP Simons, JP Ecke, JP Dean, JP Washington, JP Coger, JP Dennis, JP Rios
316 Stafford, JP Leming, JP Ricker, and JP Pond were present. JP Taylor, JP Lyons, and
317 JP Highers were absent.

318 Dr. Bridgett Russell led the prayer and pledge.

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

321 The Committee passed five ordinances onto Quorum Court with four of those being
322 placed on the consent agenda.

323 Budget Overview and Finalization-Quorum Court members discussed the 2024 Budget
324 at length, and plan to work on it again at November's Finance and Budget Committee
325 Meeting.

326 There were no public comments and meeting was adjourned at 8:12PM.

327

328 The Quorum Court meeting was adjourned at 7:18 PM.

329

330 *Sabrina Mason*

331 Sabrina Mason

332 Quorum Court Coordinator

333 Approved 11/16/2023 SM