

Amended  
FILED

2023 DEC 27 PM 1:02

BECKY LEWALLEN  
CO. & PROBATE CLERK  
WASHINGTON CO. AR

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36  
37  
38  
39  
40  
41  
42  
43  
44  
45  
46  
47  
48  
49  
50  
51  
52  
53  
54  
55  
56  
57  
58  
59  
60  
61  
62

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

Thursday, November 16, 2023  
6:00 PM  
Washington County Courthouse

Judge Patrick Deakins called the meeting to order at 6:04 PM.

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

JP Ricker led the Prayer and Pledge.

Judge Deakins moved to Item 3 on the agenda, Adoption of the agenda. Judge Deakins advised there were some proposed changes to the agenda. He advised item 11 needed to be removed at the request of the applicant, two ordinances that failed to get on the last Finance and Budget Agenda that needed to be added. JP Cogger asked to remove item 8.3 off the Consent Agenda. JP Lyons motioned to remove items 8.6, 8.7, 11 from the consent agenda and add 23-O-154 and 23-O-155 as items 13 and 14 of the agenda. JP Dennis seconded the motion, and the motion was approved by voice. JP Simons made a motion to adopt the agenda, as amended. JP Dean seconded the motion and the motion passed by voice vote. The amended agenda was adopted.

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

Citizen Comments were heard from Diana Scott, Julie Odom, John Comstock, 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 October 19, 2023, were approved.

Judge Deakins presented the Judge's report, which included the October Disposal of County Property Report. Judge Deakins spoke about the AWIN Radios, the 2024 Budget, construction update, partnership with Toys for Tots, and the Quorum Court Coordinator position. Judge Deakins spoke about Veteran Fred Strecher and the Proclamation honoring him. Judge Deakins reported two vacancies on the Washington Water Authority Board. Brad Hardin and Teri McNaughton were unanimously approved by the Quorum Court for appointment to the Washington Water Authority Board.

**New Business**

Judge Deakins moved to item 8 under new business, which was the Consent Agenda. County Attorney Lester read each ordinance by title only.

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

JP Taylor-Yes

JP Wilson-Yes

JP Simons-Yes

JP Lyons-Yes

JP Ecke-Yes

JP Dean-Yes

JP Washington-Yes

JP Cogger-Yes

JP Dennis-Yes

JP Highers-Yes

JP Rios Stafford-Yes

JP Leming-Yes

63 JP Ricker-Yes

64 JP Pond-Yes

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

66

67 1. **AN ORDINANCE RECOGNIZING ADDITIONAL REVENUE IN THE AMOUNT**  
68 **OF \$74,533.93 IN THE GENERAL FUND.** 23-O-142 (8.1) was adopted as  
69 **ORD 2023-128**

70

71 2. **AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$60,000 FROM THE UNAPPROPRIATED**  
72 **RESERVES IN THE GENERAL FUND TO THE COUNTY CORONER'S BUDGET**  
73 **FOR 2023.** Item 23-O-144 (8.2) was adopted as **ORD 2023-129.**

74

75 3. 8.3 was removed from Consent Agenda

76

77 4. **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ANIMAL SHELTER BUDGET FOR 2023, AND**  
78 **OTHER MATTERS PERTAINING THERETO.** 23-O-149 (8.4) was adopted as **ORD**  
79 **2023-131.**

80

81 5. **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ROAD DEPARTMENT BUDGET FOR 2023**  
82 **AND OTHER MATTERS PERTAINING THERETO.** 23-O-150 (8.5) was adopted as  
83 **ORD 2023-132**

84

85 6. 8.6 removed from Consent Agenda

86

87 7. 8.7 removed from Consent Agenda

88

89 Judge Deakins moved to the first item removed from the Consent Agenda- **AN**  
90 **ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$4,857,232.54 FROM THE ARPA FUND TO THE ARPA**  
91 **FUND BUDGET FOR 2023.**Item 23-O-148 (8.3)

92 County Attorney Lester read the ordinance by title only. Judge Deakins introduced the  
93 motion. JP Lyons spoke on the ordinance and made a motion to pass the ordinance. JP  
94 Dean seconded the motion. During discussion, JP Coger spoke on the ordinance and  
95 made a motion to amend the motion and reduce the appropriation ordinance by  
96 \$500,000.00 to allow for that money to be set aside for pretrial services and other justice  
97 programs to help address the jail overcrowding. JP Rios Stafford seconded the motion  
98 to amend. There was no discussion or comments on the motion to amend. A roll call was  
99 taken and tallied as follows:

100 JP Taylor-No

101 JP Wilson-No

102 JP Simons-No

103 JP Lyons-No

104 JP Ecke-No

105 JP Dean-No

106 JP Washington-Yes

107 JP Coger-Yes

108 JP Dennis-No

109 JP Highers-Yes

110 JP Rios Stafford-Yes

111 JP Leming-Yes

112 JP Ricker-Yes

113 **The motion to amend the ordinance failed.**

114

115 With JP Coger's motion to amend the ordinance failing, Judge Deakins returned to the  
116 original ordinance and JP Lyons' motion to pass and JP Dean's second. There was no  
117 discussion and no public comments. A roll call vote was taken and tallied as follows:

118 JP Taylor-Yes

119 JP Wilson-Yes

120 JP Simons-Yes

121 JP Lyons-Yes

122 JP Ecke-Yes

123 JP Dean-Yes

124 JP Washington-Yes

125 JP Coger-Yes

126 JP Dennis-Yes  
127 JP Highers-Yes  
128 JP Rios Stafford-Yes  
129 JP Leming-Yes  
130 JP Ricker-Yes  
131 JP Pond- Yes

132 **Motion passed. AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$4,857,232.54 FROM THE ARPA**  
133 **FUND TO THE ARPA FUND BUDGET FOR 2023.** Item 23-O-148 (8.3) was adopted as  
134 **ORD 2023-130.**

135  
136 Judge Deakins moved to the second item removed from the Consent Agenda- **AN**  
137 **ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 2018-50 TO UPDATE THE FAMILY AND MEDICAL**  
138 **LEAVE POLICY IN THE WASHINGTON COUNTY EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK.** Item 23-O-146

139 County Attorney Lester read the ordinance by title only.

140 JP Lyons spoke on the ordinance. JP Lyons made a motion to suspend the rules and move to  
141 a second reading. JP Dean seconded the motion. Judge Deakins suggested the ordinance be  
142 amended with Director Burchett's suggestion that was emailed out to members of the court  
143 earlier in the week. Note: the amendment was to remove lines 137-143 because those lines  
144 contradicted the ordinance. JP Simons made a motion to amend the ordinance by removing  
145 lines 137-143. JP Lyons seconded the motion. The amendment to the motion was passed by  
146 voice vote.

147 County Attorney Lester read the amended ordinance by title only. JP Lyons made a motion to  
148 suspend the rules and move to a second reading. JP Dean seconded the motion. The motion  
149 to suspend the rules passed by voice vote.

150 County Attorney Lester read the ordinance by title only for a second time.

151 JP Lyons made a motion to suspend the rules and move to a third and final reading. JP Dean  
152 seconded the motion. The motion to suspend the rules passed by voice vote.

153 County Attorney Lester read the ordinance by title only for a third and final reading. JP Lyons  
154 made a motion to pass the ordinance. JP Dean seconded the motion. There was no discussion  
155 and no public comments. A roll call vote was taken and tallied as follows:

156 JP Taylor-Yes  
157 JP Wilson-Yes  
158 JP Simons-Yes  
159 JP Lyons-Yes  
160 JP Ecke-Yes  
161 JP Dean-Yes  
162 JP Washington-Yes  
163 JP Cogger-Yes  
164 JP Dennis-Yes  
165 JP Highers-Yes  
166 JP Rios Stafford-Yes  
167 JP Leming-Abstain  
168 JP Ricker-Yes  
169 JP Pond- Yes

170 **Motion passed. AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 2018-50 TO UPDATE THE**  
171 **FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE POLICY IN THE WASHINGTON COUNTY EMPLOYEE**  
172 **HANDBOOK.** Item 23-O-146 (8.6) was adopted as **ORD 2023-133.**

173  
174 Judge Deakins moved to the third item removed from the Consent Agenda- **AN ORDINANCE**  
175 **AMENDING ORDINANCE 2018-50 TO UPDATE THE WORKERS' COMPENSATION POLICY**  
176 **IN THE WASHINGTON COUNTY EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK.** Item 23-O-147 (8.7)

177 County Attorney Lester read the ordinance by title only.

178 JP Lyons made a motion to suspend the rules and move to a second reading. JP Dean  
179 seconded the motion. The motion to suspend the rules passed by voice vote. County Attorney  
180 Lester read the ordinance by title only for a second time. JP Lyons made a motion to suspend  
181 the rules and move to a third reading. JP Dean seconded the motion. The motion to suspend  
182 the rules and move to a third reading passed by voice vote. County Attorney Lester read the  
183 ordinance by title only for the third and final time. JP Lyons made a motion to pass the  
184 ordinance. JP Dean seconded the motion. There was no discussion and no public comments.

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

186 JP Taylor-Yes  
187 JP Wilson-Yes

188 JP Simons-Yes  
189 JP Lyons-Yes  
190 JP Ecke-Yes  
191 JP Dean-Yes  
192 JP Washington-Yes  
193 JP Cogger-Yes  
194 JP Dennis-Yes  
195 JP Highers-Yes  
196 JP Rios Stafford-Yes  
197 JP Leming-Yes  
198 JP Ricker-Yes  
199 JP Pond- Yes  
200 Motion passed. **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 2018-50 TO UPDATE THE**  
201 **WORKERS' COMPENSATION POLICY IN THE WASHINGTON COUNTY EMPLOYEE**  
202 **HANDBOOK.** Item 23-O-147 (8.7) was adopted as ORD 2023-134.  
203  
204 Judge Deakins moved to item 9 on the agenda, **AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE**  
205 **WASHINGTON COUNTY ANNUAL BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL AND CALENDAR YEAR 2024.**  
206 Item 23-O-144 (9.1). County Attorney Lester read the ordinance by title only.  
207 JP Lyons spoke about the ordinance. JP Lyons made a motion to pass the ordinance and JP  
208 Dean seconded the motion. There was discussion among members of the court. There were  
209 no public comments. A roll call was taken and tallied as follows:  
210 JP Taylor-Yes  
211 JP Wilson-Yes  
212 JP Simons-Yes  
213 JP Lyons-Yes  
214 JP Ecke-Yes  
215 JP Dean-Yes  
216 JP Washington-Yes  
217 JP Cogger-Yes  
218 JP Dennis-Yes  
219 JP Highers-Yes  
220 JP Rios Stafford-Yes  
221 JP Leming-No  
222 JP Ricker-Yes  
223 JP Pond-Yes  
224 **Motion passed. AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE WASHINGTON COUNTY ANNUAL**  
225 **BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL AND CALENDAR YEAR 2024.** Item 23-O-144 was adopted as  
226 **ORD 2023-135.**  
227  
228 Judge Deakins moved to item 10 on the agenda **AN ORDINANCE RATIFYING A**  
229 **CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT - Abandoned Customs.** Item 2023-O-151 (10.1)  
230 County Attorney Lester read the ordinance by title only.  
231 Planning Director Sam Ata spoke on the Conditional Use Permit ordinance. JP Lyons made a  
232 motion to suspend the rules and move to a second reading. JP Leming seconded the motion.  
233 The motion was passed by voice vote. County Attorney Lester read the ordinance by title only.  
234 JP Lyons made a motion to suspend the rules and move to a third and final reading. JP Leming  
235 seconded the motion. The motion was passed by voice vote. County Attorney Lester read the  
236 ordinance by title only for a third and final time. JP Lyons made a motion to pass the ordinance.  
237 The motion was seconded by JP Leming. There was no discussion and no public comment. A  
238 roll call vote was taken and tallied as follows:  
239 JP Taylor-Yes  
240 JP Wilson-Yes  
241 JP Simons-Yes  
242 JP Lyons-Yes  
243 JP Ecke-Yes  
244 JP Dean-Yes  
245 JP Washington-Yes  
246 JP Cogger-Yes  
247 JP Dennis-Yes  
248 JP Highers-Yes  
249 JP Rios Stafford-Yes

250 JP Leming-Yes  
251 JP Ricker-Yes  
252 JP Pond-Yes  
253 **Motion passed. AN ORDINANCE RATIFYING A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT - Abandoned**  
254 **Customs. Item 2023-O-151 (10.1) was adopted as ORD 2023-136.**

255  
256 **Item 11** on the agenda needed to be removed at the request of the applicant.

257  
258 Judge Deakins moved to item 12 on the agenda – **AN ORDINANCE RATIFYING A**  
259 **CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT - PSR Excavation Item 2023-O-153 (12.1)**

260 County Attorney Lester read the ordinance by title only.

261 Planning Director Sam Ata spoke on the Conditional Use Permit ordinance. JP Ricker  
262 made a motion to suspend the rules and move to a second reading. JP Lyons seconded  
263 the motion. The motion was passed by voice vote. County Attorney Lester read the  
264 ordinance by title only for a second time. JP Ricker made a motion to suspend the rules  
265 and move to a third and final reading. JP Dean seconded the motion. The motion was  
266 passed by voice vote. County Attorney Lester read the ordinance by title only for a third  
267 and final time. JP Ricker made a motion to pass the ordinance. The motion was  
268 seconded by JP Leming. There was no discussion and no public comments. A roll call  
269 vote was taken and tallied as follows:

270 JP Taylor-Yes

271 JP Wilson-Yes

272 JP Simons-Yes

273 JP Lyons-Yes

274 JP Ecke-Yes

275 JP Dean-Yes

276 JP Washington-Yes

277 JP Coger-Yes

278 JP Dennis-Yes

279 JP Highers-Yes

280 JP Rios Stafford-Yes

281 JP Leming-Yes

282 JP Ricker-Yes

283 JP Pond-Yes

284 **Motion passed. AN ORDINANCE RATIFYING A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT - PSR**  
285 **Excavation. Item 2023-O-153 (12.1) was adopted as ORD 2023-137.**

286

287

288 Judge Deakins moved to item 13 on the agenda- **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE**  
289 **BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS BUDGET FOR 2023 AND OTHER MATTERS THERETO.**

290 Item 2023-O-154 (13.1) Chief Johnson gave background information.

291 JP Pond made a motion to approve the ordinance and JP Ricker seconded the motion.

292 There was discussion among members of the court. There were no public comments. A roll  
293 call vote was taken and tallied as follows:

294 JP Taylor-Yes

295 JP Wilson-Yes

296 JP Simons-Yes

297 JP Lyons-No

298 JP Ecke-Yes

299 JP Dean-Yes

300 JP Washington-Yes

301 JP Coger-Yes

302 JP Dennis-Yes

303 JP Highers-Yes

304 JP Rios Stafford-Yes

305 JP Leming-Yes

306 JP Ricker-Yes

307 JP Pond-Yes

308 **Motion passed. AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS**  
309 **BUDGET FOR 2023 AND OTHER MATTERS THERETO.** Item 2023-O-154 (13.1) was  
310 adopted as **ORD 2023-138.**



311 Judge Deakins moved to item 14 on the agenda- **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE**  
312 **CIRCUIT COURT VIII BUDGET AND OTHER MATTERS PERTAINING THERETO.**

313 Item 2023-O-155 (14.1) County Attorney Lester read the ordinance by title only.

314 JP Leming made a motion to pass the ordinance. The motion was seconded by JP  
315 Highers. There was discussion among members of the court. There were no public  
316 comments. A roll call vote was taken and tallied as follows:

317 JP Taylor-No

318 JP Wilson-Yes

319 JP Simons-No

320 JP Lyons-No

321 JP Ecke-No

322 JP Dean-No

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-No

330 JP Pond-Abstain

331 Motion failed. **The Appropriation Ordinance (Item 2023-O-155) will move to**  
332 **December's Quorum Court Meeting for a second reading.**

333

334 **Committee Reports as follows:**

335 The County Services Committee met Monday, October 30, 2023, at 6:00PM. Members  
336 present were Kyle Lyons, Lisa Ecke, Charles Dean, Shawndra Washington, Beth Coger,  
337 Robert Dennis, Evelyn Rios Stafford, Willie Leming, Gary Ricker, and Butch Pond.  
338 Coleman Taylor, David Wilson and Sean Simons were absent.

339 JP Evelyn Rios-Stafford opened with pledge and prayer.

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

341 Director Kristen McCallister did a presentation and answered questions about the  
342 Northwest Arkansas Crisis Stabilization Unit for the committee members.

343 The Committee moved two ordinances on to the Quorum Court. The Committee voted to  
344 table one ordinance until the next Court Services Meeting.

345 One public comment was heard and meeting was adjourned at 6:51PM

346

347 The Finance & Budget Committee met Tuesday, November 7, 2023 at 6:00PM. All JPs  
348 were present.

349 JP Willie Leming led the prayer and pledge.

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

352 The Committee passed six ordinances onto Quorum Court with five of those being  
353 placed on the consent agenda.

354 There were no public comments and meeting was adjourned at 8:04PM.

355

356 Judge Deakins recognized JP Simons for a point of privilege. JP Simons spoke about a  
357 local municipal police officer that was in need of a new bulletproof vest, as his was  
358 expired. JP Simons advised he was going to donate his Quorum Court compensation as  
359 long as it took to cover the cost of the body armor. JP Simons invited other members of  
360 the court to do the same. The Quorum Court meeting was adjourned at 7:22 PM.

361

362 *Sabrina Mason*

363 Sabrina Mason

364 Quorum Court Coordinator

365 Approved 12/21/23 SM