

FILED
JAN 06 2025
COUNTY & PROBATE COURT CLERK

QUORUM COURT MINUTES

December 16, 2024

QUORUM COURT MINUTES DECEMBER 16, 2024

Judge Day called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm

The Invocation was led by Don Blackmore with Central Baptist Church

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Justice Couch

Roll was called and all were present except Justice's Longmire and Pasmore

First order of business was the approval of the minutes from the December 9, 2024 meeting. Justice Weinstock made the motion to approve and Justice Noel seconded the motion. Judge Day took a vote and it passed unanimously.

Road Committee minutes from the 12/9/2024 meeting were read by Justice Cline.

Public Service Committee minutes from the 12/9/24 meeting were read by Justice Rogers.

Finance Committee minutes from the 12/9/24 meeting were read by Justice Forrest.

NEW BUSINESS

An Appropriation Ordinance to Establish the 2025 rates of Taxation was read. A motion to approve was made by Justice Couch and seconded by Justice Rogers. Judge Day asked if there were any questions or comments and there were none. Roll was called and all present were in favor.

A Resolution to approve the Solid Waste Disposal Authority 2025 Budget was read. A motion to approve was made by Justice Weinstock and seconded by Justice Cline. Judge Day asked if there were any questions or comments. Justice Tennison asked what is the personal burden. Angela with the Solid Waste Authority stated that it is a personnel burden that includes the insurance, payroll taxes etc. Justice Allison congratulated Angela on becoming CEO this year. All present were in favor, none opposed.

A Resolution recommending the Reappointment of a Board Member, Kailey Luster, to the Craighead County Jonesboro Public Library Board was read. A motion to approve was made by Justice Tennison and seconded by Justice Couch. All present were in favor except for Justice Barnes.

A Resolution recommending the Reappointment of a Board Member, Sydney Ford, to the Craighead County Jonesboro Public Library Board was read. A motion to approve was made by Justice Barnes and seconded by Justice Noel. All present were in favor.

Judge Day mentions discussion of the ARPA Sub-Awards Grant. Judge states that there is some money leftover and have been approached by a couple of people about awarding that money to them.

First would be Arkansas State University who recently received 7.5 million dollars from the Arkansas Department of Economic Development for a Hired Grant. It is a Workforce Training Center for adults. They will be getting a Center for Excellence in three areas. One is in Food Manufacturing, second is Advanced Manufacturing, and third is Steel Manufacturing. They are doing this to take people in our community that have interest in working in those fields and to train them to be better at their jobs. The State is using this same pot of money that we have leftover so we know it is an eligible project and the numbers to develop this is between 30 and 40 million dollars. Judge states that it makes sense to want to train the people in our community to be more effective and have better jobs.

Justice Weinstock asks how much we have to spend on something like this. Judge Day states that we have about 4.5 million dollars and we would like to ask both projects and ask them how much they need, but generally thinking about splitting it between the two projects.

Justice Cook asks what the other project is. Judge Day says second project is Jonesboro Unlimited developing their property for a new industrial recruit. There is nobody specific on the hook yet but they are trying to make a shovel ready site. Judge Day states that Craighead County has a long history of supporting industrial development. This project will take around 48 million dollars to develop between water, sewer, electric, railroad, and drainage improvement.

Judge Day opens the floor to comments on these two projects. He first states that both of these projects have accepted responsibility that if they don't do this right, if the paperwork isn't correct that we as Craighead County are not on the hook to repay the Federal Government.

Justice Cook stated that of the 155 pages of the Covid money had sewer extension and water allowed in it and two years ago Brookland had to raise sales tax to raise \$5,000. He states that he would personally see that money go to small towns like Caraway, Egypt, Bono because money to those towns means a lot and those two organizations mentioned are wonderful but they have the money. Justice Cook then states that these little towns in his opinion would benefit from access to this money.

Judge Day asks if there are any other comments or questions. Justice Barnes stated that he would like to see more detailed information. He feels that it would be appropriate for each

of the two organizations Judge Day mentioned got equal amounts if they would come to us, the Quorum Court, with what they have in mind to do with the money.

Judge Day states that the contracts for both have to be signed by 12/31/2024.

Justice Barnes asked if we didn't go forward with these two projects getting the money how would we appropriate the 4.5 million dollars?

Judge Day states that in that case the money would be returned to the IRS.

Judge Day asked if there were any comments from the public and there were none.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Judge Day gives the floor to Justice Weinstock to give any advice as this will be her last Quorum Court meeting as a Justice.

Judge Day thanked Justice Weinstock for her service.

Justice Williams mentions the idea of a potluck at the January 1st Quorum Court meeting after the swearing in ceremony.

County Clerk Marshall stated that the meat is covered and would have a sign up list for anyone else that would like to bring something.

Motion was made by Justice Cook to adjourn to committees and Justice Rogers seconded the motion.

All were in favor and meeting adjourned at 6:07pm