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COUNTY & PROBATE COURT CLERK

# **QUORUM COURT MINUTES**

## **OCTOBER 23, 2023**

*JOP7*  
*208-234*

## QUORUM COURT MINUTES OCTOBER 23, 2023

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

Invocation was led by Don Martin, First Christian Church, Jonesboro.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Justice Williams.

12 Justices of the Peace were present, Justice Longmire was absent.

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The first order of business was approval of Quorum Court minutes from October 9, 2023. A motion to accept minutes as prepared was made by Justice Weinstock and seconded by Justice Forrest. Judge Day took a vote and it passed unanimously.

The Road Committee report was read by Justice Cline. Finance Committee report was read by Justice Forrest.

### OLD BUSINESS

First item on the agenda was the third reading of an **Ordinance to amend Ordinance 2021-21 and Ordinance 2022-9; updating the Craighead County Salary Administration Policy for merit increase procedures and approving authority, declaring an emergency; and for other purposes.** Motion to suspend the rules and read by title only was made by Justice Cline and seconded by Justice Barnes. Judge Day took a vote and it passed unanimously. The clerk read the title of the Ordinance. Motion to adopt was then made by Justice Barnes and seconded by Justice Williams. With no questions or comments, Judge Day asked for the roll to be called and it passed unanimously.

Next item was the third reading of an **Ordinance to amend Ordinance 2014-3, Ordinance 2021-41 and Ordinance 2022-3; updating the Craighead County Employment Policy to add Technology Resources Policy, declaring an emergency; and for other purposes.** Motion to read by title only was made by Justice Forrest and seconded by Justice Pasmore. Judge Day took a vote and it passed unanimously. The clerk read the title of the Ordinance. Motion to adopt was made by Justice Allison and seconded by Justice Tennison. With no questions or comment, Judge Day asked for the roll to be called and it passed unanimously.

### NEW BUSINESS

**Appropriation Ordinance amending the 2023 Annual Operating Budget to appropriate funds for Fund 1000, Dept 0125, Interfund Transfers for Court Order 2023-50 that transferred \$5,000,000 from County General to the Capital Fund.** Motion to approve was made by Justice Couch and seconded by Justice Rogers. Judge Day asked if there were any comments or questions about this appropriation ordinance. He also wanted to tell everyone that we had the money, we are just moving it. The money must be appropriated by the court before we can spend it. Justice Weinstock asks about the yield we are getting on the money now. Judge Day

answers 3.88-.89%, something like that, and we'll still get the interest rate even though it's moved. Roll was called and it passed unanimously.

An **Ordinance amending the 2023 Annual Operating Budget to add Fund 2997, Department 0200, FY24 State Hazard Mitigation grant program, CR 751.** Motion to approve was made by Justice Cline and seconded by Justice Pasmore. Judge Day wants to bring to the court a typo that Lisa brought to his attention and ask the court how they want to handle it. Justice Cook asked if you can initial it and line through it, and Judge Day responds yes. They agreed that's what they wanted to do. Judge Day asked for any questions or comments. Justice Allison comments that from the last meeting we had estimated the cost of replacing bridges was \$60,000 and this is \$87,000, so is there a lot more work involved in this culvert and piping as opposed to the bridges we are building. Judge Day answers that there is a little bit of difference in the process but, in his opinion, the biggest difference is we are able to make the bridge panels in house instead of purchasing them from a third-party vendor. When you look at the culvert and pipeline item at \$45,000, we don't have that kind of money put into the bridge panels. Judge Day believes the difference is what things we can do in house. From an engineering side it makes sense to put in a bridge instead of a box, but you have to be careful because if you significantly change that, you could flood somebody out downstream. In this case since we had grant money, we ran the engineering calculations, and we chose it smarter to do the box instead of the bridge. Justice Williams comments that the boxes are huge and that you can stand up inside them. Justice Allison says she wanted to make sure we hadn't underestimated the \$60,000, and Judge Day says it's the profit of vendors that's the biggest difference, but good question. Judge Day called for the roll to be called and it passed unanimously.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Judge Day wanted to recognize and welcome the young men in the back representing Jonesboro High School and the Active Citizens Club. They shared the club was made up of three chapters, the Young Republicans, the Young Democrats, and the Young Independents.

Next announcement, Judge Day states that we were disposing of surplus county property, and he is required by law to let you know. There were vehicles from the sheriff's office and some old county computers and chairs. We were able to get some money for the vehicles, around \$10,000. Justice Weinstock asked how we determine where to sell and Judge Day answered it was through a sealed bid auction advertised in the newspaper. There were maybe two bids, and we took the highest bid.

Judge Day also announced that the budget is coming together well. Health insurance prices are not going up. Judge Day says there are options for different partners to get rid of some of the problems we've had over the last year. It's definitely not a finalized deal but he believes we have a couple of reasonable options and he's hopeful that it will all come together. We are hoping the budget will be ready and presented on the November 13 agenda.

Justice Allison asks if we are getting quotes from BCBS. Judge Day answers no. Justice Allison asks if there is a reason why we were not opening up bids from all carriers. Judge Day says he had a conversation with BCBS to see if they were interested in doing this with the county and they were not interested. For consideration, their threshold was if we had 500 employees. Judge Day reminds the court we were up 15% when we switched insurances two years ago.

Justice Allison shares she spoke with Shane Martin, and he believed all known problems had been taken care of.

Motion to adjourn to committees was made by Justice Rogers and seconded by Justice Noel. Judge Day called for a vote, and it passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 5:58 pm.

Road Committee minutes  
10/23/2023

Chairman Cline called the road committee together at 5:59 PM. Those present were Justice Couch, Justice Tennison, and Justice Barnes.

The committee reviewed a plat for Anthony Tevlin, Hwy 91 West. Lot 2 doesn't join a county road, and CWL will not supply water. Justice Tennison made a motion to put on hold, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Justice Couch. All were in favor.

The committee reviewed the following plats for Marianne Tolbert-CR 318, Shawn Cook-CR 321, Gerald Barber-CR 745, and Kevin Scrape-Sterling Springs Estates, Phase 1. Justice Barnes made a motion to approve all plats, seconded by Justice Tennison. All were in favor.

With no other business, Justice Tennison made a motion to adjourn, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Justice Couch. All were in favor and the committee adjourned at 6:02 PM.

Public Service Committee  
10/23/2023 Minutes

Those in attendance for the meeting:

Committee Members: Justice Linda Allison, Justice Brad Noel, Chairman Justice Richard Rogers, and Justice Kevin Williams. Also attending: Justice Darrel Cook, Circuit Clerk David Vaughn, Sherriff Dept Captain Justin Rolland, Administrator Lisa Lawrence, IT Administrator Austin Vance, and guest, Rick Myers.

The Public Service committee meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chairman Justice Rogers.

The first item on the agenda, Justice Rogers read a request from the JESAP committee to have two current Road Department Equipment Operators be reclassified as Service Technicians and reviewed by Johanson for the new job title. No increase in salary at this time. Justice Noel made a motion to approve, and Justice Williams seconded the motion. The motion passes 4-0 to move to the full court.

Next, the JESAP committee has recommended that the Sherriff's Dept move one deputy to a Sergeant position to supervise when the deputies move to 12-hour shifts. Justice Williams made a motion to approve, and Justice Noel seconded the motion. The motion passes 4-0.

Justice Rogers read a request from JESAP for the Sheriff's Dept Detention Center to add four positions: Jail Sergeant, to assist the Juvenile Jail Administrator, and to add three additional Detention Center Officers. Justice Rogers commented that the sixteen (16) detention center beds, that are currently not available due to inadequate staffing, would likely be filled by the surrounding counties' juveniles and the housing fees would offset the salaries. Justice Williams made a motion to approve, and Justice Noel seconded the motion. The motion passes 4-0.

Justice Rogers reviewed five different grants, which are fully funded by Federal monies for court related positions, which include: 1) STAR Court Peer Recovery Specialist, 2) Veterans Court Peer Recovery Specialist, 3) Mental Health Court Peer Recovery Specialist, 4) STAR Court Coordinator, and 5) Veterans Court Program Coordinator/Veterans Mentor Coordinator/Project Director/Probation Officer. Justice Allison asked if the county would be incurring any costs for the benefits and retirement funding. Justice Rogers stated that the grants will cover all salaries and benefits and will be budget neutral for the county.

With no other business, a motion to adjourn was made by Justice Allison, and Justice Williams seconded the motion. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 6:13 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Justice Allison.

Finance Committee Minutes  
October 23, 2023

Justice Forrest called the special Finance Committee meeting to order at 5:15 pm. Present were committee members Justice Pasmore and Justice Cook. Also present were Judge Day, Justice Williams, County Clerk Mary Dawn Marshall, Justin Rolland, and Lisa Lawrence. Chairman Longmire and Justice Weinstock were absent.

Justice Forrest presented an Appropriation Ordinance for Fund 1892, Capital Fund. Justice Cook made the motion to read by title only, seconded by Justice Pasmore. Motion passed and Justice Forrest read the Appropriation Ordinance by title only. Justice Cook made a motion to pass the Appropriation Ordinance, seconded by Justice Pasmore. The Appropriation Ordinance passed and will be heard by the full court.

Justice Forrest presented an Appropriation Ordinance for Fund 2997, FY24 Hazard Mitigation Fund, CR 751. Justice Pasmore made a motion to read by title only, seconded by Justice Cook. Motion passed and Justice Forrest read the Appropriation Ordinance by title only. Justice Cook made a motion to pass the Appropriation Ordinance, seconded by Justice Pasmore. The Appropriation Ordinance passed and will be heard by the full court.

With no other business, Justice Cook made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Justice Pasmore. All were in favor and the Finance Committee adjourned at 5:20 pm.