

**FILED**

**OCT 26 2021**

**LESLI PENNY**  
COUNTY & PROBATE COURT CLERK

# **QUORUM COURT MINUTES**

## **OCTOBER 11, 2021**

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**October 11, 2021 Quorum Court Minutes**

12 Justices of the Peace were present. Justice Josh Longmire was present on Zoom, but counted absent, due to the Governor's Emergency Order being lifted. Also present were Lesli Penny, Marty Boyd, Wes Eddington and Terry McNatt.

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

Invocation by Rich Gartman, Pastor, Brookland Baptist Church.

Assembly and Pledge of Allegiance.

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First order of business was approval of Quorum Court minutes from September 27, 2021. A motion to accept was made by Justice Weinstock and seconded by Justice Pasmore. Judge Day took a vote and it passed unanimously.

Reports from Committees.

Road and Finance Committee reports were read.

Old Business.

Not any.

New business.

An Ordinance to set rules for Addressing in rural Craighead County was to be read a second time. A motion was made by Justice Cline, seconded by Justice Cook, to read by title only.

An Appropriation Ordinance was read by title only to add \$24,500 to Assessor budget to improve GIS mapping. A motion was made by Justice Percy, seconded by Justice Cook. Roll was called and passed unanimously.

Announcements:

Judge Day stated that personal property taxes are due by October 15<sup>th</sup>. Judge encouraged everyone to get the word out and remind everyone to pay before they must pay penalties. There are many payment options available.

Public comments:

Bobby Long, 4121 Oakhill Lane, Jonesboro AR, spoke on Public Service Committee's Resolution to declare Craighead County a pro-life county. Mr. Long spoke of how the Resolution does not rewrite law; it is to reaffirm that Craighead County is a pro-life County. It is God's given right to be safe, inside or outside the womb. It is not an attempt to legislate morality. This Resolution recognizes that we, as a County, support the sanctity of human life.

Roseann Askeland, 1801 Sherwood, Jonesboro, AR, spoke on two different issues in the Public Service Committee; the Resolution to appoint Whitney Hicks to Craighead County Jonesboro Public Library

Board and the Resolution to declare Craighead County a pro-life county. First, she spoke of how it would cause a lot of division if Ms. Hicks were to be appointed to the Library Board. She said that she feels that it would be a conflict of interest if Ms. Hicks were to serve on the Board. She stated that Ms. Hicks father, Brandt Smith, threatened to take away funding from the library. She is not sure if it would be a good idea for him to have a voice on the board, that it would lead to a lot of divisiveness that we do not need. Her second issue was the pro-life Resolution, she agrees that everyone supports life. She stated that she does not want the quorum court to be a partisan vote. We should not all be lumped in to one decision. She wishes we would all spend more time on the lives that we have here in the county. She prays that we all work toward unity.

Karen Newberry, 3625 Blueridge Circle, Jonesboro, AR, spoke about the library board. She said the library staff has been under tremendous stress with all the fighting and accusing them of not doing a good job. They are combined with lots of experience and have lots of journals to use as acquisition tools. They follow strict policies to make sure finances are checked by multiple staff and they use an independent firm to do financial auditing. The library board has had to spend countless wasted hours to prepare Freedom of Information Act requests and wasted hours having to prepare for board meetings that last hours longer than they should last. She asks that Craighead County Jonesboro Public Library Board members to please be elected fairly and without their own personal agendas.

Brandt Smith, 3105 Ridgeway Circle, Jonesboro, AR, says he is not challenging anyone's faith. He stated that he has been misquoted in two meetings. He stated that he has never said that the library would be defunded, he never threatened it. What he said was that he never wanted the library to suffer. He said that if we can't all cooperate and get along, we may see defunding. He said that his colleague, Monte Hodges, came all the way over from the Blytheville area to speak the last time a member was placed on the library board. Mr. Smith said that even Mr. Hodges misquoted him. He said that sometimes we are so emotional about our position that we only hear what we want to hear. He said he would like to challenge each person to go back to the video and listen to his remarks carefully. There was no threat, there was just a desire to see everyone work together, so that no funding is lost. He said that after he was attacked several times, even on social media, that he did contact Representative Lane Gene in the House of Representatives and told him the legislature will be going into fiscal session in January. He asked if there is funding that can be pulled. He stated that we all need to leave our feelings at the door. We need to work for the betterment of our community and library.

A motion was made to adjourn to committee by Justice Percy and seconded by Justice Williams.

Meeting ended at 5:56 pm.

ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE QUORUM COURT OF CRAIGHEAD COUNTY,  
ARKANSAS: AN ORDINANCE TO BE ENTITLED:**

An Ordinance to repeal Ordinance 1995-5 to include requirements for addressing within unincorporated rural areas of Craighead County, and for other purposes.

**WHEREAS** the need has arisen for a more precise addressing system to help emergency responders find dwellings and businesses in rural Craighead County, and

**WHEREAS** 911 Addressing systems now use digital technologies creating basic GIS data standards to enhance rapid location of properties by law enforcement, fire, rescue, and emergency medical personnel, and

**WHEREAS** a need for landowners to have a proper E911 address mapped before construction or development to assist emergency responders.

Now therefore, be it Ordained by the Quorum Court of Craighead County, State of Arkansas as follows:

**Section 1.** Every person owning or occupying any residential or non-residential property with a structure within the unincorporated rural areas of Craighead County is required to obtain and display an assigned address from the Craighead County GIS/911 Addressing Coordinator before beginning construction and prior to occupying any structure. Addresses must be posted during construction of a new structure and properly maintained thereafter.

**Section 2.** Residential and non-residential buildings must have the proper numbers attached to all structures. The address numbers must be attached, stenciled, or painted on the front part of such residential or non-residential structure. When two or more structures use the same access driveway, each structure shall be so marked and have the proper number attached to, stenciled, or painted on the front part of such house or building, over, on, or by each main entrance. Minimum sizes of display of numbers are at least (3") inches in height for residential and (4") inches on non-residential. The owner of the structure is responsible for maintaining the proper display of the address number.

**Section 3.** Apartment Houses/Duplex Apartment Complexes/Shopping Centers shall be assigned one address number per building that must be displayed at the primary entrance or side of the structure. Each unit within the structure shall receive a number that is approved by the Craighead County GIS/Addressing Coordinator that must be displayed above or to the side of the doorway of each unit. A copy of Plat, Blueprint, legible free hand drawing or aerial photograph may be requested by the Craighead County GIS/ E911 Coordinator to assist in addressing.

**Section 4. Exemptions** – The following buildings and uses shall be exempt from the required addressing system, but may be addressed at the request of the property owner, however, if utilities are present, then an address is needed:

1. Accessory buildings, which have uses that are accessory to the primary use of a residential, commercial, industrial, institutional, government or building
2. Unoccupied farmland or lots containing no dwellings or businesses

**Section 4.** Structures located 75 feet from or not visible from County Road or State Highway for any other reason is required to display the address at the entry drive leading to the structure.

**Section 5.** Craighead County GIS/911 Addressing Coordinator will use the "National Emergency Number Association (NENA) standard. This standard does not allow for custom addressing.

**Section 6.** It shall be unlawful for any person to display any false or incorrect address on a structure or lot, knowingly and willfully or with the intention to deceive another person. Any violation of any provision of this Ordinance shall be punishable by a fine of not less than \$25.00 for the first offense, not less than \$50.00 nor more than \$100.00 per day for each subsequent offense.

**Section 7.** If any provision of this Ordinance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect the remaining provisions of this Ordinance which remains effective, absent the invalid provision, and to this end, the provisions of this Ordinance are declared severable.

**PASSED AND APPROVED** on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2021

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Marvin Day  
Craighead County Judge

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_

Lesli Penny  
Craighead County Clerk

"The publication was paid for by the Craighead County Clerk, cost of this publication \$ \_\_\_\_\_."

APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE QUORUM COURT OF CRAIGHEAD COUNTY, ARKANSAS; AN ORDINANCE TO BE ENTITLED:**

An Ordinance amending the 2021 Annual Operating Budget to add funds to Fund 1000, County General, Department 0105, Line 3009, Other Professional Services, County Assessor, in the amount of \$24,500 to pay for 6" aerial imagery to be added to the GIS map to benefit Craighead County.

**SECTION 1.** That in order to make the aerial imagery more clear on the GIS map, there was an agreement entered into with City Water and Light and Craighead County to split the costs of Orthoimagery to enhance the GIS mapping system.

**SECTION 2.** That the Assessor's office agreed to pay \$24,500 toward orthoimagery to enhance the GIS mapping system. This appropriation will be established in the 2021 Annual Operating Budget to allow for accurate tracking and disbursing of budgeted funds

Fund 1000	County General	<u>Old</u>	<u>Change</u>	<u>New</u>
Dept 0105	County Assessor	\$1,387,204.32	\$24,500.00	\$1,411,704.32
<u>Account #</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Old</u>	<u>Change</u>	<u>New</u>
3009	Other Professional Services	\$10.00	\$24,500.00	\$24,510.00
Total Amount Budgeted			\$24,500.00	

There is hereby appropriated \$24,500 into Fund 1000, Dept 0105, Craighead County Assessor to pay for the improvements to the GIS mapping system. These funds shall be established in the chart of accounts by the County Treasurer and entered into the accounts payable appropriations journal by the County Clerk as described, upon passage of this appropriations ordinance.

Dated this \_\_\_\_\_ day of September 2021.

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Marvin Day  
 Craighead County Judge

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Lesli Penny  
 Craighead County Clerk

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Road Committee Minutes  
October 11, 2021

Chairman Steve Cline called the meeting to order at 5:51 pm. Those present were Justices Terry Couch, David Tennison and Carolyn Lewis. County Judge Marvin Day and Road Superintendent Eugene Neff were also present.

Eugene Neff gave an update on road work in progress, along with an update on mitigation projects. Judge Day gave an update on bridge inspections.

With no other business, Justice Couch made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Justice Tennison. The committee adjourned at 5:55 pm.

## Public Service Committee

10/11/2021

The Public Service committee was called to order at 5:57 pm by Chairman Richard Rogers. Those in attendance were Justices Williams, Noel, and Price. The following items were on the agenda:

1. An Ordinance adopting written policies and directives for the Craighead County Sherriff's Department. Motion to approve was made by Justice Price and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Justice Noel. Ordinance was passed to move to full court for approval.
2. Resolution to appoint Michael Watkins to the Craighead County Jonesboro Public Library Board to fill the position that was created by the resignation of Amanda Escue. Motion to approve was made by Justice Williams and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Justice Noel. Motion was passed to move the resolution to the full court for approval.
3. Resolution to appoint Whitney Hicks to the Craighead County Jonesboro Public Library Board to fill the open position created by the resignation of Curt Hawkins. Motion was made to approve by Justice Williams but did not receive a 2<sup>nd</sup>. A motion to table was made by Justice Price and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Justice Noel. Motion did not pass on vote. The resolution did not move out of committee.
4. Resolution declaring Craighead County a Pro-Life County. Motion to approve was made by Justice Price but there was not a 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion did not pass committee to move to full court.
5. Resolution Supporting Healthcare Freedoms and Choices Regarding Vaccine Mandates. There was not a motion to approve on this resolution, so it does not move out of committee.

A motion to adjourn was made by Justice Williams and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Justice Noel. Meeting adjourned at 6:15 pm.



**Public Service Committee**

**10/21/21**

The Public service committee was called to order @5:00 pm by Chairman Richard Rogers. Those in attendance were Justice Williams, Justice Noel, Justice Price and Judge Marvin Day.

A Resolution to appoint Kailey Holt Luster to the Craighead County Jonesboro Public Library Board was submitted to the committee. A motion to approve was made by Justice Williams and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Justice Price. Motion passed to move to full court for approval. With no other business, a motion to adjourn was made by Justice Price and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Justice Williams. Meeting adjourned at 5:05 PM.

Finance Committee Minutes  
October 11, 2021

Chairman Josh Longmire called the Finance Committee meeting to order at 6:15 pm by Zoom. Present were Justices Pasmore, Percy, Cook and Weinstock.

Tax Collector Wes Eddington shared that \$12.4 million in total taxes was collected in September 2021, roughly a million dollars more than the \$11.5 million collected in September 2020. Current tax collection is up 9.9%, compared to last year.

Treasurer McNatt reported on September's financial reports. There is 40% of the budget left unspent in month 9. There is \$5.3 million in the General Fund on September 30, 2021. The Capital Fund had \$2.2 million, and the Road Fund ended September with \$6.5 million. Sales tax increased 12.97% in September 2021, compared to last year.

Treasurer McNatt shared the YTD comparison through September 2021. The overall budget review showed Craighead County \$10.9 million stronger than the prior year.

The Appropriation Ordinance to add a DTF Commander position and salary to the Sheriff's budget was discussed. A motion to accept was made by Justice Cook and seconded by Justice Pasmore. The motion passed and the Ordinance will be heard by the full court.

The Appropriation Ordinance to add line 1007 to Fund 3031, Juvenile Probation Fee Fund was presented. Justice Weinstock made the motion to approve, and Justice Pasmore seconded the motion, the motion passed, and the item will be heard by the full court.

With no other business, Justice Cook made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Justice Percy. All were in favor and the Finance Committee adjourned at 6:28 pm.