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COUNTY & PROBATE COURT CLERK

**QUORUM COURT MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 27, 2023**

*JOPZ  
147-151*

## Quorum Court Minutes February 27, 2023

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

Invocation was led by John Miles, First Methodist Church, Jonesboro.

Assembly and Pledge of Allegiance was led by Justice Noel.

Roll was called and all Justices were present.

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First order of business was the approval of Quorum Court minutes from February 13, 2023. A motion to accept minutes was made by Justice Weinstock and seconded by Justice Williams. With no questions or comments, Judge Day called for a vote, and it passed unanimously.

Road Committee minutes from February 13, 2023, were read by Justice Cline. Public Service Committee minutes from February 13, 2023, were read by Justice Rogers. Finance Committee minutes from February 13, 2023, were read by Justice Longmire.

There was no OLD BUSINESS.

### NEW BUSINESS

**Resolution to support the Development of the Partnership for Active Regional Transportation and Neighborhood Equity in Craighead County and Greene County for US DOT Raise Grant Opportunity** was read. Motion to accept was made by Justice Rogers and seconded by Justice Barnes. Judge Day had a few comments before he opened the floor for questions and comments. He stated that this had come by quickly and he didn't know that we'd have to present a Resolution until 2 weeks ago at a meeting he attended at City Hall. He apologized that it didn't have time to go through committee and it was being rushed as the grant application is due tomorrow. If he had known, it would have been done differently. Judge Day then moved to a map to show the Quorum Court how the proposed grant would relate to Craighead County's bike trail (green trail on map) planned with the TAP grant we received end of last year, and tying that trail into the grant with what Greene County and City of Paragould are proposing to do along with what the City of Jonesboro is asking to do for other trails in the city. Judge Day's take on this is that we are not putting a dollar into this nor getting anything out of it directly. He asks for the court to consider this in support of the grant. Judge Day also wanted to bring out another key point, that there is a push to expand our statistical area as a federal designation, a MSA, to consider Jonesboro and Paragould together in this statistical area. A conversation has been going on with the chambers and the cities, and this grant reinforces that for future planning and further grant opportunities as we continue to grow together. Judge Day then opened the floor for any other questions or emotion.

Justice Cook commented instead of the Highway Department wasting money on this we need overpasses on Pine Log, School St, Goobertown Rd, 358 and 412? There are several deaths there. Justice Cook commented that Judge Day had just stated this is not going to cost us any money. Justice Cook responded, but yes, it is, we pay taxes every time we buy anything, so this is state money, right? Judge Day answered federal. Justice Cook asks why it's tied with the Arkansas Highway Department and Judge Day answered it is a federal grant administered through the Arkansas Highway Department and this grant we are asking for collectively is a specific pot of money in the federal government. Judge Day agreed with Justice Cook, that if the grant money could be used for overpasses on any of the intersections he mentioned, he would be all for it, but this specific grant is not applicable to any of those needs. Justice Cook asks then what is using all modes of transportation? Judge Day answers, basically other things than automobiles. Justice Cook asks mopeds, 4-wheelers, side-by-sides, or electric wheelchairs, any form of transportation? Judge Day responded any of those as far as I'm concerned.

Justice Forrest asks to clarify that the green trail is gravel, right? Judge Day responded not all of it is. There are parts going down to 141 that are paved but majority is gravel.

Justice Weinstock asks if this is going to be keeping our own identity, or is it like NWAR, Fayetteville, Springdale, Rogers, Bentonville? Do you see us losing any of our identity as Jonesboro? Judge Day responded he really didn't see that.

Justice Barnes asks if we apply for this and receive it will Craighead County incur all future maintenance? Judge Day responded yes, but it is existing corridors of gravel roads predominately unless the piece on 141. They have not said yet that we would incur maintenance on the highway system there, but we already currently maintain the gravel roads.

Justice Allison asks on this grant is it only to be used as stated or could it help with other trails being created for options in another part of the county? We didn't ask for any other money in this grant. The others are using all the money with their cumulative requests, it's a 25-million-dollar cap. This is a competitive grant, and they may not get it, but we're hopeful if we work collaboratively, we'll have a better chance. Justice Allison also brought to the court's attention a correction needed of Crowley's Ridge State Bank to Crowley's Ridge State Park, paragraph two.

Justice Pasmore asks to clarify that the green trail is already gravel roads that we have, and Judge Day responds except for the piece around 141. Justice Pasmore asks if we know how wide this trail will be? Judge Day states we are still in the design but doesn't see much change.

In summary, Justice Longmire states that the red trails on the map in Craighead County are all in the city limits of Jonesboro and that the city is responsible for them. Judge Day agrees, yes. Justice Longmire then stated the only thing we are looking to do is sign in support of this project to help both counties. Judge Day agrees, we are the piece that connects them all and the county is not on the hook for anything.

Justice Weinstock calls to question. With no other questions or comments, Judge Day calls for vote. Justice Cook opposed, all other Justices voted yes.

Next item, **a Resolution recommending the appointment of a board member, Dorman Hufstedler, to the board of directors of Egypt Fire Protection District.** A motion to approve was made by Justice Couch and seconded by Justice Tennison. Judge Day asked for any question or comment, then asked for a vote. The resolution passed unanimously.

Next on the agenda, **a Resolution entitled Arkansas Rural Community Grant Program Assistance.** This authorizes the County Judge to apply for a grant on behalf of the Brookland Fire Protection District. A motion to approve was made by Justice Pasmore and seconded by Justice Williams. Judge Day asked for comments or questions. With none, he asked for a vote. The resolution passed unanimously.

Next, **an Ordinance amending the 2023 Annual Operating Budget to add Fund 3529, Department 0424, AR Opioid Overdose Response Team funding for funds that have become available to Craighead County for a total of two years, with funding through January 31, 2025.** Motion was made to accept by Justice Longmire and seconded by Justice Noel. Judge Day asks for any comments or questions. Justice Allison asks is it typically for retirement for the county to match with over a 15% contribution? Judge Day explains yes that it is dictated by the state and adjusted every few years as part of the APERS system. That number changes gradually over time and they tweak the numbers to make sure they have enough money to pay people. Justice Allison also asks what happens if we don't use these funds? Judge Day responds that in this case we received a grant that covers all our costs for the first two-year period and that's why we have line items in our budget for like \$10.00, for example travel. We don't anticipate any travel, but if we did, we must have the cost code for that and if it's approved by state to travel, we could be reimbursed by the state. We've already got the check for this amount. Justice Barnes asks who to recognize and thank for writing this grant? The AAC got us involved with this and Colin Jorgensen is his name. Judge Day asks Chad Henson to confirm that we are the first county to receive this one? He replied yes. Justice Weinstock asks who will oversee this and Judge Day states that it would fall under Chad Henson with the 2nd Judicial Drug Task Force. The overall monitoring to measure the effectiveness of the program will be the state and Kirk Lane. He's the one managing the money and the one that awarded this money. He will monitor the outcome. We anticipate everything working and for this grant to be renewed, anticipating money to last around 17 years. Without other comments Judge Day asked for the roll to be called. The vote was unanimous, and the Ordinance passed.

Next item, an **Appropriation Ordinance regarding 2022 Fund transfers** was read. Motion to accept was made by Justice Cline and seconded by Justice Pasmore. Judge Day asks for any comment or questions. With none, Judge Day asked for the roll to be called. The Ordinance passed unanimously.

Last item of business, first reading of an Ordinance to adopt District Court Record Retention policy.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Judge Day has two announcements. First announcement is regarding the county website and the transparency improvements the county has made being acknowledged by the state. Four years ago, we were ranked 14<sup>th</sup> in the State for transparency score, and we are now 3<sup>rd</sup>, with only Washington County and Benton County ahead of us. Next announcement was over the courtroom expansion. Judge Day had pictures from the architect to share with details. Judge Day says they have consulted and worked collaboratively with the bailiffs, sheriff, judges, and public defenders, even the bar Association to plan wisely. Justice Longmire asks if there will be committee rooms? Judge Day answered no, but there will be storage areas for chairs that could possibly be repurposed, this maybe something we need to do. Justice Weinstock asks the cost, Judge replied, a lot and there may have to be some changes made to stay within our budget. Justice Williams commented that he had been talking to a circuit judge and that they are raving about the Circuit Clerk's office and David Vaughn and his team are doing a good job, and Judge Day concurs with this compliment. Justice Forrest asked when demolition would start, and Judge Day replied the architects think we'll be ready to take bids middle of next month, then advertise 30 days, so maybe realistically sometime mid-summer. Judge Day also comments that if the costs are way off, they may have to reconsider some things to get things back in line with budget.

Justice Barnes had two things to announce. First, he wanted to thank and commend the county for the county website, and second as February is Black History Month, he wants to say on record that he is appreciative of contributions from the county, but especially thank the Black community.

Justice Allison asks about Legislative Audit being here and if there were any updates yet. Judge Day commented that they had been on site for about two weeks, and figured they would be here over the next 6-7 months. County offices are working with them currently to provide requested documents. Justice Allison asks if this occurs every year, and Judge Day replied yes, every year.

With no other announcements, and no PUBLIC COMMENT, motion was made to adjourn by Justice Rogers and seconded by Justice Longmire. The motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 6:32 pm.