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COUNTY & PROBATE COURT CLERK

QUORUM COURT MINUTES

MARCH 27, 2023

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

The invocation was led by Jonathan Freeman, College Pastor, Central Baptist Church.

Assembly and Pledge of Allegiance was led by Justice Couch.

Roll was called and all Justices were present.

The first order of business was the approval of Quorum Court minutes from March 13, 2023. A motion to accept the minutes as prepared was made by Justice Longmire and approved by Justice Pasmore. Judge Day called for a vote, and it passed unanimously.

Committee minutes were read for March 13, 2023. Justice Cline read Road Committee, Justice Rogers read Public Service with a note to make a correction for end of term date for Brent Stidman, and Justice Longmire read Finance Committee.

OLD BUSINESS

Third and final reading for an **Ordinance to adopt the District Court Record Retention Policy** was first on the agenda. Motion to suspend the rules and read by title only was made by Justice Cline and seconded by Justice Barnes. All were in favor. After reading, Judge Day asked for any comments or questions about the Ordinance. Motion to approve was made by Justice Williams and seconded by Justice Couch. Judge Day called for a vote, and it passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

2022 Annual Report of Hot Check Program was prepared by the Deputy Prosecuting Attorney's office in accordance with ACA 16-21-120 (c) and presented to the Court. Judge Day reminded the court that the former prosecutor, Keith Chrestman, did away with the Hot Check program in Craighead County. That we previously had a clerk to run the program, but it didn't process enough revenue to support the salary taking in very little money because people have stopped writing checks. Justice Pasmore asked if they were still prosecuting hot checks and Justice Forrest answered yes, that they're still prosecuting but a big factor is that some of the big companies like Wal-Mart are collecting on their own. The same thing happened in Greene County.

Next, an **Appropriation Ordinance to add Fund 3535, Accountability Court Grant, Adult Drug Court to the 2023 budget**. Motion to approve was made by Justice Rogers and seconded by Justice Williams. Judge Day asked if there were any comments or questions. Judge Day asked to take a vote and it passed unanimously.

A Resolution to appoint Jason Hilliard to Philadelphia Fire Protection Board. Justice Williams made a motion to approve and was seconded by Justice Noel. Judge Day asked for any comments or questions. All were in favor and passed unanimously.

Next item up for business, a **Resolution to appoint Tim Nugent to Southridge Fire Protection District.** Motion to appoint was made by Justice Couch and seconded by Justice Pasmore. With no questions or comments, all were in favor and the resolution passed unanimously.

Next on the agenda, a **Resolution to reappoint Brent Stidman to the Northeast Arkansas Industrial Development Commission.** Motion to approve was made by Justice Barnes and seconded by Justice Tennison. Judge Day asked if there were any questions or comments. Justice Barnes asked if the address had been updated but the update had not been given yet. Judge Day asked and all were in favor. Resolution passed unanimously.

A Resolution Recommending the Appointment of Tony Bittle to the Board of Directors of Valley View Fire Protection District. Motion to approve was made by Justice Allison and seconded by Justice Pasmore. With no questions or comments, Judge Day asked for those in favor. Resolution passed unanimously.

Next, a **Resolution designating the following persons to fill the Office of County Sheriff in the following line of succession, during times of emergency.** Motion to approve made by Justice Williams and seconded by Justice Noel. With no questions or comments, all were in favor, the resolution passed unanimously.

Appropriation Ordinance Amending the 2023 Annual Operating Budget to add line item 4004 to Fund 3529, Department 0424, AR Opioid Overdose Response Team funding. Motion to approve made by Justice Tennison and seconded by Justice Barnes. With no questions or comments, Judge Day asked for the roll to be called for vote. The Ordinance passed unanimously.

Appropriation Ordinance amending the 2023 Annual Operating Budget to add additional funds for salary increase and benefits for the Head Election Clerk in the office of County Clerk. Motion to approve was made by Justice Barnes and seconded by Justice Williams. With no questions or comments, roll was called for vote and passed unanimously.

Next, a **Resolution to adopt the Hazard Mitigation Plan for Craighead County.** Motion to approve was made by Justice Rogers and seconded by Justice Forrest. With no questions or comments, all were in favor and the resolution passed unanimously.

Appropriation Ordinance to be entitled "Annual Clean-Up Ordinance" approving, reconciling, and finalizing the 2022 Annual Operating Budget for Craighead County by appropriating additional funds, approving transfers from fund to fund, approving line-item adjustments with-in funds and departments, approving pass through funds, and approving and paying all agencies of the county and making specific appropriation of funds established in the 2022 budget by reference. Motion by Justice

Cline and seconded by Justice Cook for approval. Judge Day asked for the roll to be called and the Ordinance passed unanimously.

An Ordinance amending the 2023 Annual Operating Budget to add funds to Fund 1892, Capital Fund for the purchase of two building by the County. Motion to approve was made by Justice Cline and seconded by Justice Weinstock. Judge Day asked if there were any comments or questions about the Ordinance. Justice Allison asked what are the two buildings we are looking to purchase? Justice Cook states the addresses are 300 Jefferson and 603 Madison. They're two adjoining lots. One is Warren Dupwe's office and the other is the office of Chris Jester. The two buildings between here and the Election Annex. Judge Day stated that we have made an offer and an acceptance of a little less than \$1.1 million, contingent upon an adequate appraisal. Justice Allison clarifies that contingent on the appraisals will be the offer. Judge Day agreed yes, that is correct. Justice Allison asks if the buildings will be used for additional office space. Judge Day states that they could be, or public parking, nothing is defined. The property came on the market but what was on his mind was that it would allow the county the ability to grow and not be boxed in for future growth. Justice Allison asked if we could rent it out for revenue purposes and Judge Day said yes, we could. Justice Cook asks if we are obligated to pay more if it appraises for more. What about the current occupants, who would be responsible for insurance. Judge Day said they are still working out the details of the lease agreement. Justice Barnes asks for the property being purchased with these types of funds and not a loan who is responsible for selecting or contacting the appraisers, and Judge Day says himself. Justice Barnes agrees it is a smart move for Craighead and a great location. The Judge stated that they did not rely on the county assessor's office for the appraisal, but they did consult with the Assessor, and she had it appraised at around \$980,000. A commercial appraiser was selected and hired. Justice Allison asks about the tenants and how that came about, and Judge Day said it was part of the negotiations, they needed time for transitions, and they are trying to work things out and we are hoping to pay less money. With no other questions or comments Judge Day asked for the roll to be called. The Ordinance passed unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Judge Day had two announcements regarding bills currently going through Legislation. One is with the publication bill and costs of ordinances with options to go from publication to online. It will be on the table again Wednesday and he plans to be there speaking on it. The other legislation is regarding FOIAs. One is about how many people can assemble to talk about county business without notifying the press. Another was filed today by the governor regarding the cost we would be able to charge if it takes more than 8 hours to comply with a FOIA request. Also, a justice reform bill was introduced today, and the exciting thing in that bill is that there is \$5 million in it to purchase more prison beds and get prisoners being held out of the county jails and into the prison system.

Justice Barnes thanked the Judge for allowing him to sit in on the elected officials meeting last week.

With no other announcements or comments Justice Weinstock made a motion to adjourn and was seconded by Justice Allison. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 6:27pm.

Early Finance Committee Minutes
March 27, 2023

Chairman Longmire called the early Finance Committee meeting to order at 5:10 pm. Present were committee members Justice Cook, Justice Pasmore, Justice Weinstock, and Justice Forrest. Also present were Judge Day, Collector Eddington, Circuit Judge Melissa Richardson, and Justice David Tennison.

Chairman Longmire presented the Appropriation Ordinance to add Fund 3535, Accountability Court Grant, Adult Drug Court to the 2023 Annual Operating budget. A motion to pass was made by Justice Weinstock and seconded by Justice Cook. A vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously and will be heard by the full court.

The Appropriation Ordinance to appropriate an additional \$1.2 million to the Capital Fund was presented. A motion to approve was made by Justice Forrest, seconded by Justice Weinstock. Justice Cook had questions about the cost of the buildings and the plans for the buildings. Judge Day said that no definite decision has been made about how the buildings will be used, but with the opportunity for growth, it is a good idea to purchase and invest in downtown. A vote was taken, and the Appropriation Ordinance passed unanimously and will be heard by the full court.

With no other business, Justice Weinstock made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Justice Cook. All were in favor and the Finance Committee adjourned at 5:22 pm.