

FILED

JUL 27 2021

LESLI PENNY

COUNTY & PROBATE COURT CLERK

July 12, 2021, Quorum Court Minutes

13 Justices of the Peace were present. Also present were Lesli Penny and Wes Eddington.

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

Invocation by John Lawrence, Calvary Chapel Church.

Assembly and Pledge of Allegiance.

Attendance Roll Call.

First order of business was approval of Quorum Court minutes from June 28, 2021. A motion to accept was made by Justice Weinstock and seconded by Justice Williams. Judge Day took a vote and it passed unanimously.

No Old Business.

No New Business.

Announcements:

Mark Young, Jonesboro Chamber President, introduced Steven Lamb to the Quorum Court. He stated that Mr. Lamb has been working with Jonesboro Unlimited for about 4 months. Mr. Lamb has been with Arkansas Economic Development for about 5 years. Mr. Young stated that he is excited to have Mr. Lamb back in Jonesboro.

Public Comments:

Stephanie Nichols, local attorney, and mother of young children, spoke up concerning the Public Library display that was discussed at the last Quorum Court meeting. She stated that she would like to humbly and respectfully request that the library board members are held to doing their job. Some of them are appointed by the Quorum Court and they are responsible for administering millions of dollars. The library needs to be a safe place for her children and other children of the county to go. She stated the materials discuss adult sexual content. She stated that she never had the choice, as a parent, to choose whether her daughter was old enough and mature enough to talk to her about the topics. She stated that it is a major violation of childhood innocence. Mrs. Nichols showed some examples of the literature in the library covering the topics discussed. She asked that the Court please watch the library board that has been appointed.

Darrell Cook spoke up as a parent. He stated that the library board did not know about this display. He stated that we, as citizens, need to replace the Librarian. He said that people need to make a stand because unfortunately, our government is not going to do anything about it.

Amanda Eskue, the newest member of the library board, was appointed in April and she was recognized to speak. She stated that she only had the opportunity to attend one library meeting in May. She stated that she had no idea that this overwhelming display would be put out in June. There was space to display over 100 other books and nothing else was displayed. She stated that she is an educator, a home school mom, and a speech pathologist for children with special needs and runs a homeschool cooperative here in Jonesboro. She stated she can tell you what kids are interested in, and it is not that. She stated that if the library wants to make the literature available for parents, it needs to be handled differently. If you investigate the library association and what is going on there, this is a very intentional push towards children, to bypass parents. She stated that she has asked questions and has not been given any answers. She said that she would greatly appreciate any support that the Quorum Court could give and at least make some policy.

Ms. Eskue was asked who she asked the questions to and not received answers? She stated that it was via email, addressed to David Eckert, and a group email to the entire library board. She stated that the email went out weeks ago. She stated the next library board meeting is the second week of August.

Roger Kidd spoke up and asked who hires the library employees? Judge Day stated that the board hires the Director, and the Director hires their employees.

A motion was made to adjourn to committees by Justice Cook and seconded by Justice Couch. The motion passed.

Meeting ended at 5:45 pm.