

## March 8, 2021 Quorum Court Minutes

13 Justices of the Peace were present. Justice Weinstock participated by Zoom but had technical difficulties. Also present were Lesli Penny and Terry McNatt. Wes Eddington was present by Zoom.

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

Invocation by Dr. Greg Ota, Pastor, New Life Empowerment Ministries.

Assembly and Pledge of Allegiance.

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First order of business was approval of Quorum Court minutes from February 22, 2021. A motion to accept was made by Justice Couch and seconded by Justice Cline. Judge Day took a vote and it passed unanimously.

Old business:

Amended Ordinance Setting Forth Policies and Best Practices for Fire Districts and Annual Reporting to the Quorum Court – 2<sup>nd</sup> reading.

Motion to only read title by Justice Cline, Seconded by Justice Rogers. Title only was read.

New business:

An Amendment Ordinance was read amending 2021 budget to add Fund 3553, Y20 Accountability Court Grant Veterans Fund. A motion was made by Justice Rogers, seconded by Justice Tennison. Roll was called and the Ordinance passed.

Justice Williams made a motion to suspend the rules and have a walk-on to agenda amending the Circuit Clerk's budget and Justice Cook seconded. Roll was called and passed by all present.

Judge Day stated there is a proposed Ordinance amending the 2021 Annual Operating Budget to Reduce Funds 3006 Recorders Cost Fund, Fund 3012 Child Support Cost Fund and Fund 3039 Circuit Clerk Commission Fee Fund to present to the County Clerk's office for filing. Ordinance was read and motion to bring to the floor was made by Justice Williams, seconded by Justice Couch. Roll was called and passed by all in attendance. Judge Day asked if there was any discussion about the Ordinance. Justice Rogers asked what exactly the funds were pertaining to. Judge Day stated that it appears that 2 staff positions were being cut, Chief Deputy and Deputy Criminal Clerk, along with all travel and meals.

Justice Williams stated that he has an email coming from the office of Candace Edwards and John Smith explaining how the computer was wiped clean so that the Eastern District employee, a straw poll elected official, is unable to use the computer. Justice Williams said that Candace Edwards does something every day, since Mrs. Gurley's grievance hearing, that makes Mrs. Gurley's job harder. Williams said it is a continuation of childish nonsense. Justice Williams presented a letter from former Prosecuting Attorney Scott Ellington stating that he found wrongdoing and practices in that office need to be straightened up. Justice Williams stated that the only way the Quorum Court can get a hold of this

office is to cut budgets. He stated that if they have enough employees in their office to have enough time to do these childish games, they need to cut the purse strings and proceed forward.

Justice Longmire asked Judge Day if he stated that 2 positions are being eliminated. Judge Day said that is what he understands. Justice Longmire asked if both positions are currently being held. Justice Williams explained that only one of the positions is currently held. He also explained that they are not eliminating the position, just the funding for the position. Justice Williams stated that it is up to Mrs. Edwards on how she would like to handle the matter. He stated that Mrs. Edwards stated in the hearing that she handles things in an adult manner and was in control of her people.

Justice Longmire stated that if funding is cut for a position, the employee would lose their position. He is just trying to figure out if long term results were considered. He is looking at it from his committee's aspect. Justice Williams stated that Mrs. Edwards probably won't stop until she is reduced to no staff or her own resignation. Roll was called and passed by all present.

Justice Cook asked about credit card debt from Circuit Clerk's office in 2018. Judge Day explained that the County contracted with a company called Fidar Technologies. They store our property records, then they sell access to those records to companies or individuals, whether it is a subscription or a one-time deal. We get a portion of that revenue per our contract. Judge day asked Justice Cook if he is wanting to know if some of that revenue got diverted in to paying that bill. Judge day said he does not know the answer to that, and Candace Edwards needs to be asked that question.

#### Announcements:

Judge Day said that Roger Kidd handed him an announcement that there is a Bill of Rights meeting at Ed's Fish house @ 6:00pm on March 18<sup>th</sup>.

Judge Day stated he got a receipt today that another \$10,000 came in from IRS on the stuff concerning the previous County Clerk.

Judge Day stated a check was received for \$4,000.00 from the City of Bay. That portion was roughly 1/4 of what is owed on their bill. Judge Day said he really appreciated the City of Bay for working on getting caught up.

#### Public comments:

There was no public comment.

A motion was made to adjourn to committees by Justice Couch and seconded by Justice Rogers.

Meeting ended at 6:00 p.m.