

FILED

OCT 10 2023

COUNTY & PROBATE COURT CLERK

QUORUM COURT MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 25, 2023

QUORUM COURT MINUTES SEPTEMBER 25, 2023

FILED

OCT 10 2023

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

Invocation was led by Don Blackmore, Central Baptist Church.

Assembly and Pledge of Allegiance was led by Justice Cook.

11 Justices of the Peace were present, Justice Weinstock and Justice Cline were absent.

The first order of business was approval of Quorum Court minutes from September 11, 2023. A motion to accept minutes as prepared was made by Justice Forrest and seconded by Justice Pasmore. Judge Day took a vote and it passed unanimously.

Road Committee minutes were read by Justice Barnes. Public Service Committee minutes were read by Justice Rogers, and Finance Committee minutes were read by Justice Longmire.

OLD BUSINESS

The first item on the agenda was the third and final reading of an **Ordinance to amend Ordinance 2022-17 and 2014-3 for Policies and Procedures for full-time Sheriff's deputies for military leave**. A motion to suspend the rules and read by title only was made by Justice Forrest and seconded by Justice Allison. Judge Day took a vote and it passed unanimously. With no questions or comments, Justice Barnes called for a vote and Justice Longmire seconded. Judge Day asked for the roll to be called and the Ordinance passed.

NEW BUSINESS

Justice Forrest made a motion for the 6 Resolutions to be read by title only and was seconded by Justice Cook. With no comments or questions Judge Day took a vote and it passed unanimously.

Resolution Recommending the Reappointment of Jimmy Cooper to Metropolitan Area Planning Commission (MAPC) Board was read. A motion to approve was made by Justice Couch and seconded by Justice Williams. With no questions or comments, Judge Day called for a vote, and it passed unanimously.

Resolution Recommending the Appointment of April Tate to the Bono Fire Protection District Board was read. A motion to approve was made by Justice Rogers and seconded by Justice Williams. With no question or comments, Judge Day called for a vote, and it passed unanimously.

Resolution Approving Prior Merit Increases given to Craighead County Employees, and for other purposes was read. Judge Day says he has a few comments before they move on this one. Judge Day states that nobody is perfect, and we aren't either. The court passed the JESAP Committee Employee Evaluation Policy in 2021 and in there it had some details about how much you could give an employee a raise and when you can do it and who must approve it. To be frank, we messed that up. We interpreted the policy wrong with every department in the county. What we are asking now is for anybody that had a merit increase from the passage of that policy to now, and in a bit, you will see we are going to ask for others specifically, is just to ratify it all. In general terms, an employee gets hired at 80-90% of the

COUNTY & PROBATE COURT CLERK

median pay depending on experience, most of them are 90. They are eligible for up to a 5% merit increase per year. After an employee has been here a year, we would allow them to have the 5% increase, and within another 12-month* period we would allow them that other 5%, which would be the budgeted amount, which is the amount the court authorized. So, we are just going back and clarifying the merit increases that have previously been made and that people have been getting paid the increase for some period of time. Basically, by acknowledging this we're admitting that we've messed up and that the Court is okay with this. Judge Day then opened the floor for questions or comments. Justice Rogers wanted to clarify that the amount is within the budgeted amount and the Judge agreed, yes. Motion to approve was then made by Justice Rogers and seconded by Justice Tennison. Judge Day called for a vote, and it passed unanimously.

Resolution to approve merit increase for Phillip Graves was read. Motion to approve was made by Justice Forrest and seconded by Justice Pasmore. With no questions or comments, Judge Day called for a vote, and it passed unanimously.

Resolution to approve merit increase for Derek Copeland was read. Motion to approve was made by Justice Allison and seconded by Justice Barnes. With no questions or comments, Judge Day called for a vote, and it passed unanimously.

Resolution to approve merit increase for Pamela Lewis was read. Motion to approve was made by Justice Noel and seconded by Justice Barnes. With no questions or comments, Judge Day called for a vote, and it passed unanimously.

1st reading of **Ordinance to amend Ordinance 2021-21 and Ordinance 2022-9 updating the Craighead County Salary Administration Policy for merit increase procedures and approving authority, declaring an emergency and for other purposes.**

1st reading of **Ordinance to amend Ordinance 2014-3, Ordinance 2021-41 and Ordinance 2022-3; Updating the Craighead County Employment Policy to add a Technology Resources Policy, declaring and emergency and for other purposes.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Judge Day has several announcements.

Judge Day wants to keep the court up to date on contracts, and there is an amendment with the CSU (Crisis Stabilization Unit) contract taking it back up to the \$90,000.00 per month. So, we are getting our grants from two different pockets of money within the state. One is State general revenue and the other seems like a CDBG grant. The good news, it is fully funded like we thought it would be and things are going fine.

Also, the Airport Commission reached out to the Judge, asking for some assistance. There are some tall trees along the perimeter of their property that were affecting their flight rating, the flight path coming in. They asked us to help clear some trees and clean it up a little bit, so the road crew has been out with a couple of excavators knocking out some trees. We will burn them, so if you want a little firewood, we might have a place for you to go.

(* Judge Day actually said 5-year period, but this was corrected to 12-month period)

Next, HVAC-ARP funding, if you remember we have about 11 million left in our ARP funds. Earlier we talked about upgrading some heat and air systems on county buildings, as that was an eligible expense. We have several that need to be upgraded to improve air quality for county employees. Judge Day has a contract on his desk with the architect and we would put out our first round of bidding for the courthouse, the annex, the health department, and Lake City. We are moving forward with that, as we must have those projects identified by the end of 2024.

Budget is coming along well. We have had some requests for additional personnel in some of our departments. Some of those requests would go to the JESAP Committee first. Next JESAP meeting is October 16 at 4pm and we will review those requests to see if we want to push those on up through the committees.

Many of you asked about Ms. Barbara. Today is Yom Kippur, the most holy day of the Jewish religion, also called the Day of Atonement and she is home celebrating that holiday.

Judge Day wants to pay respect to the passing of Kevin McMaster's mother, Dale McMasters.

Shane is present tonight, and he is our agent with our health insurance provider. Please get with him after the meeting if you have questions, concerns, problems, or things to discuss about our insurance.

Justice Allison asked about any updates being shared with construction at annex. Judge Day says he spoke with the construction superintendent today and thinks it's too early to know if things are on schedule or not but was told the foundation may be ready to be poured sometime in November. Justice Allison next asked about the other two buildings the county recently purchased to tear down, and Judge Day states he has no immediate plans to tear those down as we still have tenants in those buildings contracted through the end of the year, and some want to stay longer than that.

Justice Couch reminded Road Committee members of the called special meeting to follow.

No PUBLIC COMMENT

Motion to adjourn was made by Justice Rogers and seconded by Justice Couch. Judge Day called for a vote and the motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 5:59pm.

FILED

OCT 10 2023

Special Road Committee Meeting

COUNTY & PROBATE COURT CLERK

September 25, 2023

The Road Committee met after the Quorum Court adjourned on September 25, 2023 at approximately 5:58 PM. Justice David Tennison, Justice Terry Couch, and Justice Garrett Barnes were present with Justice Steve Cline (Chair) absent. The committee reviewed a plat for Owen and Kelsie McDole at CR 353. Justice Couch motioned to table the plat until the Road Committee's next regular meeting on October 9, 2023 - seconded by Justice Barnes. Motion carried 3-0. Justice Tennison motioned to adjourn, seconded by Justice Barnes. Motion carried 3-0.