

BAXTER COUNTY QUORUM COURT
JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS

June 4, 2024

The Baxter County Quorum Court met in regular session at 6:00 PM in the Baxter County Courtroom with County Judge Kevin Litty presiding. Members present were: Rhonda “Tink” Albright, Cameron Davis, Angela DeGroot, Maryanne Edge, Dennis Frank, Charles Osgood, Roger Steele, Rick Steiner, Dirk Waldrop and Shannon Walker. The meeting began with a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Judge Litty asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes of the May meeting. Justice Edge moved that the minutes be approved as submitted. Justice Frank seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Reports:

County Treasurer Jenay Mize provided the Court with a Treasurer’s report.

Sales tax is holding steady at 2.6% in the amount of about \$13,332.53

Jail part is up 2.6% in the amount of \$5,852.38

Year to Date is up 2.9% which equates to \$68,718.86.

Justice Davis reported on the June 4th meeting of the Economic Development Committee. They plan to meet again July 23rd at 4:30 to consider all options on the economic development program that North Central Arkansas Economic Development Council has proposed. The minutes for the June 4th meeting will be attached to this Journal of Proceedings.

Presentation:

David Stults, the OEM Director, reported on the tornado that hit the Salesville, Briarcliff and Hand Cove area. The National Weather Service said the tornado was rated as an EF3 tornado with 140 MPH winds. It was 1,000 yards wide and had a path of 36.5 miles long, starting two mile south of Yellville, came through Baxter and then hit parts of Fulton and Sharp counties. He spoke of 911 calls that came in and work on downed electric poles. He thanked the many organizations, churches, fire departments and other counties that have helped with cleanup, food, water and medical supplies.

Old Business:

none

New Business:

Appropriation Ordinance #2024-25, **AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING FEES AND REIMBURSEMENTS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$15,767.07 RECEIVED IN THE MONTH OF APRIL TO THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE 2024 BUDGET**, was sponsored by Justice Albright and read by title only by the Chief Clerk. Justice Edge moved to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Justice DeGroot. Being no discussion, the roll was called. Voting YEA: Justices Albright, Davis, DeGroot, Edge, Frank, Osgood, Steele, Steiner, Waldrop and Walker. The motion passed and Ordinance #2024-25 was adopted with a vote of 10 YEA, 0 NAY.

Appropriation Ordinance #2024-26, **AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$8,526.63 FROM ROAD AND BRIDGE FUND (#2000) TO THE ROAD AND BRIDGE DEPARTMENT 2024 BUDGET**, was sponsored by Justices Davis and Edge and read by title only by the Chief Clerk. Justice Davis moved to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Justice Albright. Being no discussion, the roll was called. Voting YEA: Justices Davis, DeGroot, Edge, Frank, Osgood, Steele, Steiner, Waldrop, Walker and Albright. The motion passed and Ordinance #2024-26 was adopted with a vote of 10 YEA, 0 NAY.

Re-appropriation Ordinance #2024-27, **AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH A SPECIAL REVENUE GRANT FUND TO BE CALLED THE ADULT DRUG COURT – OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUND; AND TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY AND APPROPRIATE FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$28,286.89**, was sponsored by Justices Frank and read by title only by the Chief Clerk. Justice Albright moved to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Justice Edge. After some discussion, the roll was called. Voting YEA: Justices DeGroot, Edge, Frank, Osgood, Steele, Steiner, Waldrop, Walker, Albright and Davis. The motion passed and Ordinance #2024-27 was adopted with a vote of 10 YEA, 0 NAY.

Re-appropriation Ordinance #2024-28, **AN ORDINANCE RE-APPROPRIATING FUNDS IN THE 2023 BUDGET, PREVIOUSLY AUTHORIZED IN ORDINANCE NO. 2022-71, FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE STATE-MANDATED BUDGET CLEAN-UP**, was sponsored by the Justice Albright and read by title only by the Chief Clerk. Justice Edge moved to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Justice Frank. Being no discussion, the roll was called. Voting YEA: Justices Edge, Frank, Osgood, Steele, Steiner, Waldrop, Walker, Albright, Davis and DeGroot. The motion passed and Ordinance #2024-28 was adopted with a vote of 10 YEA, 0 NAY.

Resolution #2024-11, **A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE RE-APPOINTMENT OF RANDY WORLOW TO THE BAXTER COUNTY EQUALIZATION BOARD**, was sponsored by the Justice Albright and read in its entirety by the Chief Clerk. Justice Davis moved to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Justice Steele. Being no discussion, the roll was called. Voting YEA: Justices Frank, Osgood, Steele, Steiner, Waldrop, Walker, Albright, Davis, DeGroot and Edge. The motion passed and Resolution #2024-11 was adopted with a vote of 10 YEA, 0 NAY.

Announcement and Public Comments:

Judge Litty announced that the Road and Bridge Department has a Computer Monitor and a Graphtech Plotter that will have to be disposed of, as they are no longer functioning properly. The list of these items will be displayed in the Clerk's office for anyone that would like to look at them. They are also attached to this Journal of Proceedings.

Public member, Mary O'Sheild, asked if the Economic Development meeting was going to be open to the public. It was also stated that the meeting would be held at 4:30.

Public member, Russ Gillis from Hand Cove, asked about how many tornado sirens there are in Baxter County and asks that the siren situation be reassessed. OEM Director, David Stults, said that there are 23 working sirens and some that are not working and cannot be fixed. A new siren cost \$30,000.00. Justice Frank asked David to prepare a quote on what it would take to repair and replace all of the defective sirens.

A public member stepped forward to talk about a petition for the proposed amendment to modify the state constitution to incorporate the Arkansas FOIA.

Gary Dickerson, OEM Director for IZARD County, stepped forward to thank Judge Litty for allowing his team and himself to come to Baxter County to help after the tornado and to offer further assistance in the future, if needed.

Adjournment:

Justice Edge moved that the Baxter County Quorum Court adjourn at 6:41 PM, until the next regularly scheduled meeting of July 2ND, at 6:00 PM in the Baxter County Courtroom, which is located at the Baxter County Courthouse, #1 East 7th Street, Mountain Home, Arkansas. Justice Albright seconded, and the motion passed, with a unanimous vote, and the meeting was adjourned.

CANDA J. REESE, BAXTER COUNTY AND CIRCUIT CLERK

SIGNED AND SEALED THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2024.

Elizabeth Denton, Scribe