

BAXTER COUNTY QUORUM COURT
JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS

July 2, 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 and Dirk Waldrop. Justices Chapman and Walker were not in attendance. 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 June meeting. Justice Edge moved that the minutes be approved as submitted. Justice Albright 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 4.4% in the amount of about \$11,000.00.

Jail part is up \$4,953.00 over this month last year and up \$35,000.00 YTD.

Year to Date is up \$80,000.00, but the projected is up \$53,000.00 over our anticipated revenues. Revenue is on track for the first half of the year.

There were no Committee Meeting reports.

Presentation:

Canda Reese, the County and Circuit Clerk, spoke of her trip to Kofile Preservation in Dallas, Texas where she and her Chief Deputy, Tara Rowe, took a tour of the company to observe the many stepped process of preserving and protecting historical records. She also encouraged all in attendance to look at the books that had recently been restored.

Old Business:

none

New Business:

Appropriation Ordinance #2024-29, **AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING FEES AND REIMBURSEMENTS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$10,572.99 RECEIVED IN THE MONTH OF MAY TO THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE 2024 BUDGET**, was sponsored by Justice Albright and read by title only by the Clerk. Justice Edge moved to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Justice Davis. Being no discussion, the roll was called. Voting YEA: Justices Albright, Davis, DeGroot, Edge, Frank, Osgood, Steele, Steiner and Waldrop. The motion passed and Ordinance #2024-29 was adopted with a vote of 9 YEA, 0 NAY.

Appropriation Ordinance #2024-30, **AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$18,552.00 FROM ROAD AND BRIDGE FUND (#2000) TO THE ROAD AND BRIDGE DEPARTMENT 2024 BUDGET**, was sponsored by Justice Albright and read by title only by the Clerk. Justice Edge moved to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Justice Osgood. After some discussion, the roll was called. Voting YEA: Justices Davis, DeGroot, Edge, Frank, Osgood, Steele, Steiner, Waldrop and Albright. The motion passed and Ordinance #2024-30 was adopted with a vote of 9 YEA, 0 NAY.

Appropriation Ordinance #2024-31, **AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING GRANT FUNDS RECEIVED FROM THE STATE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$14,433.08 FOR THE COTTER-GASSVILLE RURAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT TO THE COUNTY JUDGE'S 2024 BUDGET**, was sponsored by Justice Albright and read by title only by the Clerk. Justice Davis moved to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Justice Edge. Being no discussion, the roll was called. Voting YEA: Justices DeGroot, Edge, Frank, Osgood, Steele, Steiner, Waldrop, Albright and Davis. The motion passed and Ordinance #2024-31 was adopted with a vote of 9 YEA, 0 NAY.

Re-appropriation Ordinance #2024-32, **AN ORDINANCE RE-APPROPRIATING FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$8,500.00 WITHIN THE SHERIFF'S COUNTY GENERAL FUND (#1000) BUDGET, AND APPROPRIATING REVENUE FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$15,000.00 FROM THE SPECIAL JAIL FEES FUND (#3017) AND \$14,000.00 FROM THE DETENTION FACILITY FUND (#3018) INTO THE JAIL MAINTENANCE & OPERATIONS FUND (#3401) BUDGET AND APPROPRIATING REVENUE FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$12,000.00 FROM THE AVIATION RESERVE FUND (#1803) INTO THE SHERIFF'S COUNTY GENERAL FUND (#1000). NEW APPROPRIATION TOTAL \$41,000.00**, was sponsored by the Justice Albright and read by title only by the Clerk. Justice DeGroot 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, Albright, Davis and DeGroot. The motion passed and Ordinance #2024-32 was adopted with a vote of 9 YEA, 0 NAY.

Appropriation Ordinance #2024-33, **AN ORDINANCE ALLOWING BAXTER COUNTY TO CONDUCT BUSINESS WITH SHANNON WHITE, OWNER OF SHANNON'S LAWN CARE**, was sponsored by the Justice Edge and read by title only by the Clerk. Justice Steiner moved to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Justice Albright. Being no discussion, the roll was called. Voting YEA: Justices Frank, Osgood, Steele, Steiner, Waldrop, Albright, Davis, DeGroot and Edge. The motion passed and Ordinance #2024-33 was adopted with a vote of 9 YEA, 0 NAY.

Resolution #2024-12, **A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE APPLICATION FOR AN AUTOMATED RECORDS SYSTEM GRANT BY THE BAXTER COUNTY & CIRCUIT CLERK, AS THE EX-OFFICIO RECORDER**, was sponsored by Justices Albright and Frank and read in its entirety by the Clerk. Justice Edge moved to adopt the resolution, seconded by Justice Frank. Being no discussion, the roll was called. Voting YEA: Justices Osgood, Steele, Steiner, Waldrop, Albright, Davis, DeGroot, Edge and Frank. The motion passed and Resolution #2024-12 was adopted with a vote of 9 YEA, 0 NAY.

Resolution #2024-13, **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE BAXTER COUNTY JUDGE TO APPLY FOR A GRANT ON BEHALF OF THE CLARKRIDGE VOLUNTEER FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**, was sponsored by Justice DeGroot and read in its entirety by the Clerk. Justice DeGroot moved to adopt the resolution, seconded by Justice Steele. Being no discussion, the roll was called. Voting YEA: Justices Steele, Steiner, Waldrop, Albright, Davis, DeGroot, Edge, Frank and Osgood. The motion passed and Resolution #2024-13 was adopted with a vote of 9 YEA, 0 NAY.

Discussion: Justice Albright challenged court to do their due diligence when a commissioner is being appointed, to vet the individuals prior to supporting a resolution.

Resolution #2024-___, **A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENTS OF SANDRA NELSON AND CINDY BLANKENSHIP BY THE COUNTY JUDGE TO THE GAMALIEL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**, was sponsored by Justice Steiner and read in its entirety by the Clerk. Justice Steiner moved to adopt the resolution, seconded by Justice Edge. After much discussion, the roll was called. Voting YEA: Justices Steiner and Waldrop. Voting NAY: Albright, Davis, DeGroot, Edge, Frank, Osgood and Steele. The motion failed and Resolution #2024-___ was not adopted with a vote of 2 YEA, 7 NAY.

Discussion: Public member, Cindy Blakenship, spoke regarding this resolution being voted down. Public member, Christina Campbell, spoke about the importance of our local fire departments.

Resolution #2024-14, **A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENTS OF RUDY DEDMAN AND MIKE REES BY THE COUNTY JUDGE TO THE GROVER TOWNSHIP FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**, was sponsored by Justice Frank and read in its entirety by the Clerk. Justice Albright moved to adopt the resolution, seconded by Justice Frank. After much discussion, the roll was called. Voting YEA: Justices Waldrop, Albright, Davis, DeGroot, Edge, Frank, Osgood, Steele and Steiner. The motion passed and Resolution #2024-14 was adopted with a vote of 9 YEA, 0 NAY.

Resolution #2024-15, **A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE RE-APPOINTMENTS OF DAN ALDERMAN, BILLY SETTLES AND RONALD WAGENBLAST BY THE COUNTY JUDGE TO THE HAND COVE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**, was sponsored by Justice Steiner and read in its entirety by the Clerk. Justice Steiner moved to adopt the resolution, seconded by Justice Frank. With no discussion, the roll was called. Voting YEA: Justices Albright, Davis, DeGroot, Edge, Frank, Osgood, Steele, Steiner and Waldrop. The motion passed and Resolution #2024-15 was adopted with a vote of 9 YEA, 0 NAY.

MOTION: A motion to bring item #8 (A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENTS OF SANDRA NELSON AND CINDY BLANKENSHIP BY THE COUNTY JUDGE TO THE GAMALIEL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS) back before the court was made by Justice Waldrop, and seconded by Justice Edge. After some discussion, the roll was called on that motion. Voting YEA: Justices Davis, DeGroot, Edge, Frank, Osgood, Steele, Steiner, Waldrop and Albright. The motion passed with a vote of 9 YEA, 0 NAY. The proposed resolution, **A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENTS OF SANDRA NELSON AND CINDY BLANKENSHIP BY THE COUNTY JUDGE TO THE GAMALIEL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS** was read again in its entirety by the Clerk. Justice Waldrop then made a motion to adopt, seconded by Justice Frank. With that motion still on the floor, Justice DeGroot moved to table the proposed resolution to the next regularly scheduled meeting. Justice Osgood seconded the motion. Voting YEA on the motion to table: Justices DeGroot and Albright. Voting NAY on the motion to table: Justices Edge, Frank, Osgood, Steele, Steiner, Waldrop, and Davis. The motion to table failed. In returning to the motion to adopt the proposed resolution, after some more discussion, the roll was called on the motion to adopt Resolution #2024-16, **A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENTS OF SANDRA NELSON AND CINDY BLANKENSHIP BY THE COUNTY JUDGE TO THE GAMALIEL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**. Voting YEA: Justices Edge, Frank, Osgood, Steele, Steiner, Waldrop, and Davis. Voting NAY: Justices Albright and DeGroot. The motion passed and Resolution #2024-16 was adopted with a vote of 7 YEA, 2 NAY.

Announcement and Public Comments:

Sheriff Montgomery spoke of the upcoming firework show at Norfolk Lake.

A public member, the lieutenant of the Gamaliel Fire Department, asked about what could be done about the fireboat.

Public member, Russ Gill, spoke on behalf of the fire departments.

Adjournment:

Justice Waldrop moved that the Baxter County Quorum Court adjourn at 7:12 PM, until the next regularly scheduled meeting of August 6th, 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 Edge 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