

BAXTER COUNTY QUORUM COURT
JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS

NOVEMBER 4, 2024
(Rescheduled from Nov. 5th due to the election)

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, Ty Chapman, 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 October meeting. Justice Edge moved that the minutes be approved as submitted. Justice Steiner seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Reports:

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

Sales tax is up 6.8% from this month last year, which equated to about \$34,000.00.

Jail tax is up about \$15,000.00, over this month last year.

Year to Date is up about \$161,000.00 for the county general and \$70,821 for the jail.

Justice Frank reported on the October 17th meeting of the Budget Committee and the budget meeting that was held immediately prior to this meeting.

Justice Waldrop gave a report on the Personnel Committee meeting which was held immediately prior to this meeting.

The minutes for the above meetings will be attached to this Journal of Proceedings.

Presentation:

Dawn Downing-Wahl, from the Baxter County Conservation District, spoke of the different programs that they offer and about the funding request that they have brought before the court.

Old Business:

Appropriation Ordinance #2024-47, **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2013-15 (AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING AN ELECTRONIC WARRANTS TRANSFER (DIRECT DEPOSIT) SYSTEM DIRECTLY INTO PAYEES' ACCOUNTS IN FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS IN PAYMENT OF ANY ACCOUNT ALLOWED AGAINST THE COUNTY, AND PROVIDING AUTHORIZATION FOR INTERNET BANKING) TO INCLUDE REQUIRING ALL BAXTER COUNTY EMPLOYEES TO BE PAID BY ELECTRONIC WARRANTS TRANSFER (DIRECT DEPOSIT) SYSTEM DIRECTLY INTO THE PAYEES' ACCOUNTS IN FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS**, was sponsored by the Personnel Committee and read by title only by the Clerk. This being the third reading a vote was taken. Justice Edge moved to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Justice Albright. Being no discussion, the roll was called. Voting YEA: Justices Albright, Chapman, Davis, DeGroot, Edge, Frank, Osgood, Steele, Steiner, Waldrop and Walker. The motion passed and Ordinance #2024-47 was adopted with a vote of 11 YEA, 0 NAY.

Appropriation Ordinance #2024-___, **AN ORDINANCE TO CHANGE THE NAME OF THE BAXTER COUNTY ANIMAL CONTROL TO BAXTER COUNTY ANIMAL CONTROL/SHELTER**, was sponsored by Justices Albright, Edge and Osgood and read by title only by the Clerk. This being the second reading of said ordinance, it is tabled for the third reading at the December meeting of the court.

Appropriation Ordinance #2024-___, **AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING REVISIONS AND ADDITIONS TO THE BAXTER COUNTY PERSONNEL POLICY AND TO THE BAXTER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE PERSONNEL POLICY**, was sponsored by the Personnel Committee and read by title only by the Clerk. This being the second reading of said ordinance, it is tabled for the third reading at the December meeting of the court.

New Business:

Appropriation Ordinance #2024-48, **AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING FEES AND REIMBURSEMENTS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$7,353.80 RECEIVED IN THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER TO THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE 2024 BUDGET**, was sponsored by Justice Albright and read by title only by the Clerk. Justice DeGroot moved to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Justice Edge. Being no discussion, the roll was called. Voting YEA: Justices Chapman, Davis, DeGroot, Edge, Frank, Osgood, Steele, Steiner, Waldrop, Walker and Albright. The motion passed and Ordinance #2024-48 was adopted with a vote of 11 YEA, 0 NAY.

Appropriation Ordinance #2024-49, **AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$18,552.00 FROM ROAD AND BRIDGE FUND (#2000) INTO THE ROAD AND BRIDGE DEPARTMENT 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 Steele. Being no discussion, the roll was called. Voting YEA: Justices Davis, DeGroote, Edge, Frank, Osgood, Steele, Steiner, Waldrop, Walker, Albright and Chapman. The motion passed and Ordinance #2024-49 was adopted with a vote of 11 YEA, 0 NAY.

Appropriation Ordinance #2024-50, **AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$50,000.00 FROM JAIL MAINTENANCE & OPERATION FUND (#3401) INTO THE JAIL MAINTENANCE & OPERATION 2024 BUDGET**, was sponsored by the Budget Committee and read by title only by the Clerk. Justice Edge moved to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Justice Frank. After a brief explanation from Sheriff Montgomery, the roll was called. Voting YEA: Justices DeGroote, Edge, Frank, Osgood, Steele, Steiner, Waldrop, Walker, Albright, Chapman and Davis. The motion passed and Ordinance #2024-50 was adopted with a vote of 11 YEA, 0 NAY.

Appropriation Ordinance #2024-51, **AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$75,000.00 INTO THE BAXTER COUNTY CORONER'S 2025 BUDGET**, was sponsored by the Budget Committee and read by title only by the Clerk. Justice Albright moved to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Justice Davis. Being no discussion, the roll was called. Voting YEA: Justices Edge, Frank, Osgood, Steele, Steiner, Waldrop, Walker, Albright, Chapman, Davis and DeGroote. The motion passed and Ordinance #2024-51 was adopted with a vote of 11 YEA, 0 NAY.

Appropriation Ordinance #2024-52, **AN ORDINANCE TO SET ASIDE FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$100,000.00 FOR THE BAXTER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY FOR RENOVATIONS TO THE CASEY HOUSE**, was sponsored by the Budget Committee 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 Frank, Osgood, Steele, Steiner, Walker, Albright, Davis, DeGroote and Edge. Voting NAY: Justices Waldrop and Chapman. The motion passed and Ordinance #2024-52 was adopted with a vote of 9 YEA, 2 NAY. Following the vote, public member Hap Myers questioned if the Baxter County Historical Society is a not-for-profit organization.

Appropriation Ordinance #2024-53, **AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR AND ADOPTING A BUDGET FOR BAXTER COUNTY, ARKANSAS FOR THE PERIOD BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2025 AND ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2025**, was sponsored by the Budget Committee and read by title only by the Clerk. Justice Edge moved to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Justice Albright.

After some discussion, the roll was called. Voting YEA: Justices Osgood, Steele, Steiner, Waldrop, Walker, Albright, Chapman, Davis, DeGroote, Edge and Frank. The motion passed and Ordinance #2024-53 was adopted with a vote of 11 YEA, 0 NAY.

Appropriation Ordinance #2024-54, **AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH COMPENSATION FOR THE BAXTER COUNTY PLANNING BOARD**, was sponsored by the Personnel & Budget Committee and read by title only by the Clerk. Justice Steele moved to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Justice Albright. Being no discussion, the roll was called. Voting YEA: Justices Steele, Steiner, Waldrop, Walker, Albright, Davis, DeGroote, Edge, Frank and Osgood. Voting NAY: Justice Chapman. The motion passed and Ordinance #2024-54 was adopted with a vote of 10 YEA, 1 NAY.

Appropriation Ordinance #2024-, **AN ORDINANCE TO INCREASE COMPENSATION FOR THE BAXTER COUNTY QUOROM COURT**, was sponsored by the Budget Committee and read by title only by the Clerk. Justice Frank moved to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Justice DeGroote. After brief statements from a couple of members of the audience, the roll was called. Voting YEA: Justices Steiner, DeGroote, Edge, Frank. Voting NAY: Justices Waldrop, Walker, Albright, Chapman, Davis, Osgood and Steele. The motion failed with a vote of 4 YEA, 7 NAY.

Appropriation Ordinance #2024-55, **AN ORDINANCE LEVYING MILLAGE TAXES ON POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS OF BAXTER COUNTY FOR THE YEAR 2024 AS AUTHORIZED BY PUBLIC ELECTION** was sponsored by Justice Edge and read by title only by the Clerk. Justice Albright moved to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Justice Edge. Being no discussion, the roll was called. Voting YEA: Justices Waldrop, Walker, Albright, Chapman, Davis, DeGroote, Edge, Frank, Osgood, Steele and Steiner. The motion passed and Ordinance #2024-55 was adopted with a vote of 11 YEA, 0 NAY.

Resolution #2024-, **A RESOLUTION TO VOTE TO CONFIRM COUNTY JUDGE ACTION ON HANGAR LEASE FOR THE BAXTER COUNTY AIRPORT**, was tabled until further notice.

Resolution #2024-28, **A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT OF STEVEN COUCH BY THE COUNTY JUDGE TO THE BUFORD VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**, was sponsored by Justice Chapman and read in its entirety by the Clerk. Justice Albright moved to adopt the resolution, seconded by Justice Chapman. Being no discussion, the roll was called. Voting YEA: Justices Walker, Albright, Chapman, Davis, DeGroote, Edge, Frank, Osgood, Steele, Steiner and Waldrop. The motion passed and Resolution #2024-28 was adopted with a vote of 11 YEA, 0 NAY.

Announcement and Public Comments:

Clarification was provided by Kevin Bodenhamer on the Casey House and it's needed restoration. He also announced the grand opening of the Historical Society November 7th.

Adjournment:

Justice Edge moved that the Baxter County Quorum Court adjourn at 6:50 PM, until the next regularly scheduled meeting of December 3rd, 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 Steele seconded, and the motion passed, with a unanimous vote, and the meeting was adjourned.

SIGNED AND SEALED THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2024.

CANDA J. REESE, BAXTER COUNTY AND CIRCUIT CLERK

Elizabeth Denton, Scribe