

BAXTER COUNTY QUORUM COURT  
JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS

January 15, 2025

The Baxter County Quorum Court met in special session at 5:30 PM in the Baxter County Courtroom with County Judge Kevin Litty presiding. Members present were: Cameron Davis, Maryanne Edge, Dennis Frank, Eddie Griffin, Lisa House, Mike McDonald, Bob Nault, Eric Payne, 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 January 13 meeting. Justice Edge moved that the minutes be approved as submitted. Justice Frank seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Old Business:

Third Reading: Ordinance #2025-6, **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 1978-48 (AN ORDINANCE REORGANIZING AND ESTABLISHING COUNTY BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH ACT 742 OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS); TO REPEAL THE OBLIGATIONS, DUTIES AND POWERS OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COUNTY AIRPORT COMMISSION FOR BAXTER COUNTY; AND TO ESTABLISH AN AIRPORT ADVISORY BOARD; AND CREATE AIRPORT FUNDS; AND TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY**, was sponsored by Justice Frank and read by title only by the Clerk. Justice Edge moved to adopt the proposed ordinance, seconded by Justice Griffin. Prior to any discussion, Justice Nault made a motion to table the ordinance for 30 days, and Justice Steiner seconded the motion. The roll was called on the motion to table the ordinance. Voting YEA: Justices Nault, Payne, and Steiner. Voting NAY: Justices Davis, Edge, Frank, Griffin, House, McDonald, Waldrop, and Walker. The motion failed.

Judge Litty stated that the members of the Commission remained unwilling to agree to the terms of the lease agreement that had been put in place regarding the Hasselwander hangar, and the issue needs to be resolved. He said it has become apparent that the only way to resolve it is to proceed with this ordinance. He opened the floor for questions and comments from the Court. Being none, he opened the floor for brief questions and comments from the public. Hap Meyers spoke briefly regarding the ordinance. Airport Commission Chairman Stephen Vester thanked the Justices for attending the Commission's public meeting which was held the prior evening. He thanked the members of the Commission for their service, and also thanked the members of the community who have supported the Commission. Gerald Gaige, an airport user and tenant, spoke against the proposed ordinance, and expressed concern that the decision is being made hastily, not providing time for constituents to let the Justices know their wishes. Laura Fresco also spoke against the ordinance, saying she sees this as government overreach, and said the members of the Court should be ashamed if they supported this.

Justice Davis then asked County Attorney, David Ethredge if his prior service on the Airport Commission necessitated him abstaining from the vote on the ordinance. He last served on the Commission in 2017. He was told that there was no known reason why he should not be able to vote, since he isn't currently on the Commission, and hasn't been for several years.

After some discussion, the roll was called for adoption of the proposed ordinance. Voting YEA: Justices Edge, Frank, Griffin, House, McDonald, Waldrop, Walker, and Davis. Voting NAY: Justices Nault, Payne, and Steiner. The motion passed with a vote of 8 YEA, 3 NAY.

Adjournment:

Judge Litty asked if there were any announcements to be made. Being none, Justice Waldrop made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Justice Edge. The meeting was adjourned until the next regularly scheduled meeting to be held on February 4, 2025 at 5:30 p.m. in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor courtroom of the Baxter County Courthouse.

SIGNED AND SEALED THIS \_\_\_\_\_ DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_, 2025.

CANDA J. REESE, BAXTER COUNTY AND CIRCUIT CLERK