

**JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS
CARROLL COUNTY QUORUM COURT
OCTOBER 19, 2020**

The Quorum Court held their regular meeting at Southern Heights Baptist Church located at 279 Hwy 221S, Berryville. The Press was notified on two occasions of the meeting time and place. The meeting was audio recorded and sent to Carroll County News and KTHS Radio by request. The church facility had a mic system set up and one member of the press was present. Social distancing and mask wearing was observed. No one attended via Zoom. The Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance was led by JP John Howerton. The meeting was called to order at 5:05pm with JP Larry Swofford presiding. Judge Sam Barr was not present due to being scheduled for heart surgery and he was being quarantined prior to the surgical date. Roll call was taken by County Clerk Connie Doss. All Justices with the exception of JP Marty Johnson was present. Treasurer Makita Williams and Attorney Thomas Allgood were also present. JP Swofford asked for a motion to approve the Journal of Proceedings from the previous month. JP Jack Deaton made the motion and JP Matt Phillips seconded with all in favor. JP Swofford reminded the group to please speak loudly so everyone could be heard.

Under Public Comments, Mr. Robert Anderson asked to speak concerning his continued troubles with the Sheriff's Department and the usual rotation schedule of wrecker service calls. He reminded the JPs that Sheriff Ross had removed him from the rotation for an alleged infraction of the rules, but that the time period has long since elapsed but he had not been readmitted to the rotation. He is not on the rotation for the county or the cities. JP Swofford asked if he had contacted the cities and the response was that since county dispatch was controlled by the Sheriff even if he did, dispatch would continue to do as before. JP McNeely asked if he was getting any calls and he does get State calls. JP Harrie Farrow wondered if the Quorum Court could do anything and JP Deaton responded that the Judge controls the equipment and the Sheriff has personnel. JP Craig Hicks said that unless the Prosecuting Attorney's office said the Quorum Court could do anything then he didn't think they could. JP McNeely offered that the Quorum Court could not tell another elected official how to conduct their office. JP Kelley Matt said that she had contacted the Towing Board and it was a 15 day penalty for a first offense and that time has long passed. Mr. Anderson says that there are gray areas and he wants to abide by the rules. The Quorum Court expressed their concern and Thomas Allgood said he would look over the issue and get back to the group.

There was no Old Business. In New Business, a Resolution supporting Issue 1 on the November 3rd ballot concerning the road tax was read by Title only after JP Chuck Olson made the request as the resolution was lengthy. JP Deaton moved to have the resolution read by title only with JP Matt Phillips seconding the motion. A voice vote was called by JP Swofford with all in favor and none in opposition. A motion to accept the resolution was made by JP Olson and seconded by JP Deaton. JP Olson voiced the need to support Issue 1 as funds come back to our local cities and the county to help with road work. JP Deaton said that there was working being done on Hwy 62, 23, and 21 and that everyone was already paying the tax. JP Swofford agreed and said that this was a tax already being paid and that it had a Sunset Clause. JP Farrow voiced mixed feelings concerning the Issue and said that it did expire in 2023, but was concerned that it would amend the AR Constitution and she was not in favor of that. She voiced that there may be other options available. JP Swofford said that the State plans road work many months/years in advance and the 2022 election would be too late to see if the Issue would pass which would slow

down road work. JP Roger Hall also pointed out that other states contribute to the fund as well. All present approved the Resolution.

The Health Department has a need for a canopy to use for Flu Shot Clinics and Covid 19 testing. JP Matt Phillips said that the Health Department has gone through several cheap tents and canopies and they wanted a more permanent structure to keep their staff out of the elements. JP Farrow asked if there was plenty of space and JP Phillips confirmed that he had gone over to measure and had to adjust the wall heights because of the slope of the parking lot. JP Swofford said that this would be a good addition for them because it would have the sides and this was a reasonable request considering the amount of work they do in the elements. JP Chuck Olson agreed with the assessment. A motion was made by JP Phillips and seconded by JP Deaton. The measure passed with no one dissenting.

JP Swofford reminded the Justices that JP Comments were for comments only and not discussion. JP Chuck Olson thanked Southern Heights for the use of their church and the other JPs nodded in agreement. JP Swofford asked that JP Craig Hicks pass along their sentiments. JP Deaton said the Covid Leave Hours were still looking stable with the exception of the same three departments that had rotated employees early in the year. He mentioned that the Road Department had the lowest hours. He also thanked the Budget Committee for their work and felt that the group had been fair when approving budgets. The November meeting, he said, should give JPs a first look at the Budget Ordinance for 2021. JP McNeely said that he had gotten instructions from Curtis at the AAC about how to proceed when Circuit Clerk Ramona Wilson was expected to retire at the end of the year. He said he would get an email out with the information. JP Swofford did say that the Quorum Court would fill this vacancy and would have to advertise for the position. He also added that he would like to have Committee Reports added to the Agenda. JP Farrow felt that everyone needed to be more spaced out as it was a good space and requested a second time during the meeting that everyone follow the rules and keep their masks over their noses. JP Swofford also asked that everyone keep Judge Sam Barr in their prayers as his surgery was scheduled for Wednesday and that Ronda Griffin, through Executive Order, was acting in the capacity of being able to sign documents in Judge Barr's stead while he was recovering. It was pointed out that the OEM and Joe Fancher were also on that list if Mrs. Ronda was unable to do the duties. (Executive Order 2020-5) (12-75-107 or 12-75-108) JP Farrow asked if the rules of masks and spacing could not be followed then she would not be attending and would attend via Zoom. JP Howerton said that everyone was six-foot apart. JP Deaton liked that the building was climate controlled vs. having it at the Road Dept. shop building.

JP Swofford entertained a motion to adjourn which was given by JP Phillips and seconded by JP Hall. The meeting adjourned at 5:35pm.