

Journal of Proceedings  
Quorum Court  
July 18, 2022

The regular meeting of the Quorum Court took place at Southern Heights Baptist Church beginning at the Call to Order by Judge Griffin at 5:00 pm on Monday, July 18, 2022. The Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance were completed, and roll call was taken by County Clerk Connie Doss. There were no members of the Quorum Court absent. Notice of the meeting had been sent with one member of the Press present. Other elected officials present were County Treasurer Makita Williams and County Assessor, Jeannie Davidson. The meeting was audio recorded and a member of the press made a request for a copy. The audio recordings, agenda, and Journal of Proceedings are made available on the County's website. The Journal of Proceedings from the June 20<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved after the motion was made by JP Larry Swofford and seconded by JP Chuck Olson. There were no Committee Reports.

Changes to the agenda included the addition of a Resolution sponsored by JP Kellie Matt that was approved with a motion by JP Larry Swofford and seconded by JP Craig Hicks and a discussion session requested by JP Deaton with a motion by JP Roger Hall and seconded by JP Duane Coatney. Under Public Comments, Corey Spain, maintenance person at the Detention Center, gave the Quorum Court an update on the roof replacement project. He reported that the roof, pending weather, should be completed in about seven to eight weeks. He also reported that the company was currently working on the areas that needed to be patched or replaced. JP Chuck Olson thanked Mr. Spain for his work and JP Harrie Farrow inquired about how the company was making accommodations for the heat of which Mr. Spain responded that they were working split shifts to take off during the heat of the day.

Ted Hostetler with the Mennonite Disaster Service spoke briefly about who they were and their role in the County. Organized in 2010, he said they do water & land searches and are called in to assist the AR Game & Fish. He said their equipment included a command trailer, jet boat, high definition fish radar, air boat, and Zodiac. They also assist when called upon by Dispatch. They do the work through donations and thank everyone for their generosity. Their mission was to help their fellow man and to build relationships. He reported they have 18 first responders and receive about 2.8 calls a day.

John Contreras, VSO, said that he had been working on successfully accreditation work that brought more reimbursements to the County from the State. He currently has about 500 veterans that he is working with and does crisis management, outreach through the VFW and American Legion. It was asked if Ozark Regional Transit was assisting with rides for doctors' visits, but it was reported that they were not.

Mr. Alan Hoos, the Airport Manager, was not able to attend and would be added to another agenda. There was no Old Business to report, so Judge Griffin moved on to New Business.

A resolution to reappoint Chryl Hoyt was passed with a motion by JP Jack Deaton and seconded by JP Roger Hall. She will serve another term of three years to expire June, 2025.

The first reading of three to update Ordinance 87-39A was passed. JP Jack Deaton made the motion, and it was seconded by JP Chuck Olson. JP Olson commented that this would update the terms of the administrative board of Lake Forest Acres Subordinate Service District from three to five members. In addition, the ordinance would correct the number of years per term to five-year terms.

An Ordinance was introduced to make the position of Office of Emergency Management a permanent full-time position. A previous 2022 Ordinance changed the position from a part-time to a temporary full-time until the end of the year. JP Deaton explained that with Drew [Wood] out of town more often, the responsibility of the radios are falling on the OEM. JP Olson agreed that the position of OEM was taking on more responsibilities. JP Larry Swofford said that this has been needed for a very long time with JP Olson interjecting that this was a health and safety issue for the County. After a few other comments, Judge Griffin called for the vote. JP Jack Deaton had moved to approve with JP Matt Phillips seconded. With the exception of JP Duane Coatney who voted against the Ordinance, everyone else voted in favor and was passed.

A necessary appropriation ordinance would move money from the American Rescue Plan funds to Central Dispatch Project Fund to continue the efforts of replacing/upgrading the infrastructure of Central Dispatch. JP Deaton made the motion to accept and JP Swofford seconded the motion. The ordinance would allow for the purchase of the 50 radios in the bid that would be assigned to the Sheriff's Department. JP Deaton commented that the purchase was necessary now because of supply issues and it was prudent to get them ordered as soon as possible. JP Coatney said that surplus equipment with the County should be sold and commented that there had not been an auction in over five years. The ordinance passed with no votes against.

Act 224 appropriated funds for a Law Enforcement Stipend Grant that was to be paid out to Counties that properly submitted paperwork. JP Craig Hicks said that the amount per officer is \$5,000. JP Hicks made the motion to accept the ordinance. JP Matt Phillips seconded. Act 224 sets rules for the payout of funds to law enforcement officers and until funds were received by DFA (Dept. of Finance and Administration) and receipted by the County, the appropriated funds would not be paid.

Higher fuel costs are to blame for the ordinance to move funds between line items and for the additional appropriation for the Road Department. JP John Howerton made a motion to accept and JP Matt Phillips seconded. The ordinance moves money from vehicles to fuel in the Sheriff & Road Departments and appropriates an additional \$90,000 for the Road Department. After brief discussion about the Sheriff's cars having computers in them that required them to run continuously, the Judge called for the vote. The measure passed.

The added item was a Resolution to appoint Terry Plumlee to the Eastern District Ambulance District Board of Commissioners. Mr. Plumlee will serve the unexpired term of David Stoppel that ends December 31, 2026. JP Kellie Matt who sponsored the Resolution for the Judge made the motion to accept with a second from JP Duane Coatney. The Resolution passed.

In approved discussion, the question of moving meetings back to the Courthouse did not bring a vote. JP Craig Hicks said that the Courthouse was a much more cramped area. JP Harrie Farrow and a couple of other Justices said that they were lucky to be able to have the meetings at Southern Heights. It was also commented that while the Circuit Court schedule was not as bad, it would still be an issue periodically. As there was no motion, the meetings will remain at Southern Heights Baptist Church.

JP Jack Deaton commented under JP Comments that the work of the Budget Committee was fair in regard to the fuel situation. He said that something had to be given up in order to get by. JP Larry Swofford commended the work of the Budget Committee. JP Don McNeely said that in speaking with the Sheriff-Elect, there would be a policy change in making paper Bibles

available to detainees. A recent news post from an organization that offered Bibles to detainees had been turned away.

Judge Ronda Griffin in her comments said that she liked the idea of moving back to the Courthouse because of being able to video record. She also read a statement concerning inventory retirements. Included was the internet sales of two vehicles (Sheriff). The 2008 Ford Explorer Eddie Bauer SUV sold through Purple Wave Auctions for \$5,700 and the 2014 Ford Explorer Interceptor sold for \$6,100. The third was awaiting payment from the buyer. It was commented that the internet sale was done in accordance with 14-16-106. It was also noted that the associated fees were charged to the Buyer. Judge Griffin also reported that Juvenile Probation removed several ankle bracelets (Court Order 2022-08), the Green Forest Library removed two computers and a leased SAVID printer (Court Order 2022-10), and the Eureka Springs Library, a laptop (Court Order 2022-11). With that Judge Griffin entertained a motion from JP Matt Phillips to adjourn the meeting. JP Harrie Farrow seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 5:50 pm.