

Journal of Proceedings
Special Meeting of the Quorum Court
October 3, 2022

Judge Ronda Griffin called a special meeting under §14-14-904 to ask for the earnest money to purchase the building located at 613 S. Main, Berryville. The meeting was announced via email (par usual) to the Press with one member of the Press present and the local radio station requesting a copy of the recording. The meeting was recorded. A quorum was present with the absence of JP Jack Deaton, JP Roger Hall, and JP Larry Swofford. The invocation and Pledge of Allegiance was led by JP Don McNeely. The meeting was called to order and roll call conducted by County Clerk Connie Doss. Others present were Treasurer Makita Williams, Collector Vicky Hopper, Assessor Jeannie Davidson, Vet Services John Contreras, Deputy prosecutor Steven Simmons, and OEM Mike McKelvey. JP John Howerton made a motion to remove item “b” for consideration. JP Duane Coatney seconded and a voice vote approved the change. There were no public comments.

A motion was made by JP Craig Hicks and seconded by JP John Howerton to approve the ordinance to appropriate funds for the earnest money of \$10,000 to purchase the property located at 613 S Main, Berryville, AR owned by Russ Meeks. During the discussion, JP Hicks said that the project should move forward and that there was a “whole lot of things to do” and that it was a good move with no tax payer funds being used to purchase the property. JP Chuck Olson said that he had been concerned about making sure there was enough money to complete the radio project but said that after speaking with the County Clerk and County Judge, he was satisfied that the radio project would not be compromised by the purchase and that the Judge should move forward with the purchase. JP Duane Coatney reiterated from the previous meeting that the County needed a plan saying that the population of the county was going to triple in three years and that he could get a metal building at \$33 sf, but didn’t know what it would cost to complete the interior. He also thought that the county should move into the hospital building. JP Harrie Farrow asked several questions about the specifics of the contract. Mr. Simmons was asked to address JP Farrow about particulars of the contract. Judge Griffin said that by paying the earnest money she then is able to have the building inspected and discuss the situation of the warranty on the roof. JP Hicks reiterated that there was no where that the County would be able to get a brick building for \$73 sf and that whatever the use was going to be up to the new judge. JP McNeely said that it could be later sold. Judge Griffin said that it would be left to the new judge, but it would be great for storage of the election equipment which was currently being stored in a building that could blow over, meeting space that would be used for all departments including County Court, OEM, etc.. JP Matt Phillips responded to Judge Griffin that her idea was a ‘good plan’. With eight of the eleven members of the Quorum Court present the vote ended up as five in favor and three against (JP Coatney, JP Kellie Matt, & JP Don McNeely). The question was brought up as to whether this was enough to pass the ordinance and JP John Howerton wasn’t sure that it was. Mr. Simmons said he would do more research the following day.

Under JP Comments, JP McNeely thought that he should have abstained instead of voting. The Judge finished with the comment that there would be a study of Robert’s Rule of Order to see about the vote situation. JP Duane Coatney made a motion to adjourn the meeting which JP John Howerton seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 5:20 pm.