

JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS
Carroll County Quorum Court
September 20, 2021

The regular meeting of the Carroll County Quorum Court was held at Southern Heights Baptist Church, Berryville, and was called to order by Judge Sam Barr at 5:00pm. Notice to the press was given. The meeting was audio recorded with two requests by the press made to send it to them. One member of the press was present as well as three elected officials (Assessor, Treasurer, Prosecuting Attorney), and several guests. The Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance was lead by JP Matt Phillips. Roll Call was taken with JP Jack Deaton being absent. JP Larry Swofford made a motion to accept the Journal of Proceedings from the August meeting. JP Duane Coatney seconded the motion with all present accepting the Journal with no changes. In committee reports, JP Chuck Olson reported that the Facilities Committee had met and agreed to the bid that the Judge opened for the work on the front of the Eastern District Courthouse as well as interior work on a wall at the Western District Courthouse in Eureka Springs. He would have to see when the work there could start. JP Don McNeely asked to have Item I added to the agenda which was an ordinance to appoint members for the County Grievance Committee. The item was added. In Public Comments, Prosecuting Attorney Tony Rogers introduced Steven Simmons, Deputy Prosecutor who comes from the Benton County Prosecutor's office to work in Carroll County. There were no speakers nor any old business.

In New Business, read by title only was a resolution authorizing the County Judge to apply for an ARP Subgrant for the Berryville Library. The Arkansas Humanities Council and the National Endowment for the Humanities are the sponsors of the grant. The amount of \$7,058 will be used to aid the Library with general operating costs. JP Roger Hall made a motion to accept the resolution and JP Don McNeely seconded the motion. All present voted to accept.

JP John Howerton asked to read the next resolution by title only and all were in agreement. The resolution was for a grant through the FAA to seal Aprons and pavement joints on the runway. JP Duane Coatney thought that this had already been recently done and JP Howerton responded that the other was a grant for the runway itself and was several years ago. JP John Howerton made the motion to accept the resolution and JP Matt Phillips seconded. The motion carried with all approving the resolution.

JP Matt Phillips made a motion to accept an ordinance to transfer \$150,000 from County General to the Courthouse Fund. JP Howerton seconded the motion. In discussion, County Clerk Connie Doss clarified the difference between the terms "transfer" and "appropriation". The motion carried.

JP Howerton made a motion to accept the purchase of replacement windows for the Courthouse Annex who had experienced leaks in the current windows. JP Craig Hicks seconded the motion and the vote carried.

An ordinance which would allow the Judge's office, Veteran's Services, and OEM to purchase updated computers for their respective offices was passed. JP Matt Phillips made a motion to accept the cost of \$3,504.48 for the computers and JP Roger Hall seconded the motion. The Justices voted to allow the expenditure.

At a recent Budget Committee meeting, the Public Defender requested a raise for his county-paid employee. JP Craig Hicks explained to the Justices that this was an overlooked position and felt it should be considered so it was brought to the Quorum Court. JP Matt Phillips made the motion to accept the salary adjustment and JP Harrie Farrow seconded the motion. The

roll call vote accepted the Ordinance to make the change in the salary and will be reflected beginning with pay period September 26th.

An ordinance to reimburse for CobraServ insurance was approved with a motion from JP Matt Phillips and seconded by JP Craig Hicks. The vote carried for the amount of reimbursement of \$793.60.

The Budget Committee had discussed the expenditures for the Circuit Clerk's office to update and improve their electronic needs. JP Hicks also said this would include a receipting system that Clerk Doss reminded Justices was passed in an ordinance the previous month when it added funds to the Circuit Clerk's automation fund. JP Phillips said that these were all much needed improvements. Clerk Doss added clarification as to the equipment that would be purchased in response to a question posed by JP Farrow. A motion by JP Hicks and seconded by JP Hall was made with the vote approving the expenditures.

Added by JP Don McNeely was an ordinance to appoint Justices to the County Grievance Committee as instructed by Ordinance 2018-23 which is the County Employee Policy Handbook. JP John Howerton made a motion to accept and JP McNeely seconded the motion. The motion carried.

In JP Comments, JP John Howerton said that he would like to bring to the Quorum Court next month something to appoint a committee to begin looking at construction of a court facility on the property near the Detention Center. He said the county has been talking about it for 15 years. He said these offices needed the room and we won't know the costs until we begin to ask the questions. Once we have that we could come up with a plan to pay for it.

JP Chuck Olson inquired of Justices as to whether they had been receiving emails concerning mandates and he expressed his opinion that is not for any kind of mandate. JP Matt Phillips thanked the department heads for attending the meeting.

JP Larry Swofford reminded everyone that the filing period would be here again after the redistricting. He told everyone that he would not be seeking re-election and wanted everyone to know so someone in his district might consider running.

The Judge thanked everyone for attending and entertained a motion to adjourn. JP Matt Phillips and JP Roger Hall gave the motion and second. The meeting was adjourned at 5:20pm.