

MINUTES OF BENTON COUNTY QUORUM COURT

January 28, 2016

A regular meeting of the Benton County Quorum Court was held on Thursday, January 28, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. at the Benton County Administration Building, 215 East Central Avenue, Bentonville, Arkansas, pursuant to proper call and notice.

County Judge Bob Clinard called the meeting to order.

Quorum Court Coordinator Stefanie Laputz called roll as follows:

15 JPs Present: Easley, Shadlow, J. Harrison, Allen, K. Harrison, Adams, Jones, Sandlin, Anglin, Chiocco, Slinkard, Leadabrand, Moore, Meyers, Moehring

A legal quorum was present.

The presiding officer led the pledge of allegiance to the flag. Pastor Bill Rogers from Word of Life Church led the prayer.

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA:

None.

MINUTES:

JP J. Harrison made motion to approve the minutes of the December 17, 2015 Quorum Court meeting as distributed, seconded by JP Adams.

There being no discussion, a roll call vote was recorded as follows:

15 Yeas: Easley, Shadlow, J. Harrison, Allen, K. Harrison, Adams, Jones, Sandlin, Anglin, Chiocco, Slinkard, Leadabrand, Moore, Meyers, Moehring

Minutes approved as distributed.

ELECTED OFFICIALS REPORTS:

None.

COUNTY JUDGE'S REPORT/COUNTY PROPERTY DISPOSAL REPORT:

County Judge Bob Clinard presented the County Judge's report as follows:

- The Great River Engineering proposal on the rehabilitation for the War Eagle Bridge project was presented at the Transportation Committee meeting and it has been forwarded to the next Finance Committee meeting.

- The Benton County Historic Courthouse exterior and interior renovations per the Walton Foundation Grant are in progress and going well.
- Treanor Architects' plans are complete on the Benton County jail expansion. Nabolz Construction is the construction manager for the project and will take construction bids on February 23, 2016. He met with them today and they are going to do some value engineering on the plans to be sure that they get the lowest and most reasonable price on the expansion; the preliminary estimate looks good. Total cost estimates will be presented at the March Finance Committee meeting.
- The Rogers Benton County Offices parking lot expansion is in progress and about 95% complete. They are on the final stages of finishing the retention pond and, as soon as that is finished, they will be able to open the parking lot.
- The design team selected for the new County Justice Facility is the Perkowski & Ruth/Cromwell/Dewberry team. Their proposal will be presented at the February Finance Committee meeting.
- The Hickory Creek ambulance service (Mercy Team) was transferred on January 01, 2016 without any issues.
- The road department has purchased the equipment needed under budget and functioning on all cylinders.
- As of today, there has not been a Presidential disaster declaration for Arkansas for the recent flooding. They expect that to be declared any day.

The January Property Disposal Report was presented to the JPs from the dashboard.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

JP Adams reported that the Transportation Committee met on January 21, 2016. They discussed the War Eagle Bridge project with Great River Engineering and had a unanimous vote to send the funds to do the engineering and design work on it to get it ready for bid to the next Finance Committee meeting; that number was around \$90,000. He reported that they also heard the 2016 and 2017 proposed road plans and that the 2016 plan was forwarded on to the Committee of the Whole in February for approval.

JP K. Harrison reported that the Legislative Committee met on January 25, 2016 to lay out the agenda of things they would like to work on for 2016.

JP Allen reported that the Finance Committee met on January 07, 2016. He asked Comptroller Brenda Guenther to provide a recap of that meeting.

Comptroller Brenda Guenther reported that the sales tax revenue for the 2015 year ended at \$8.1 million dollars, which is 8.72% ahead of the prior year. The January 2016 sales tax came in a little lower than January of last year but overall they are still looking good and she is not concerned.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Jerry Sheridan of Garfield announced that he has written to the governor to be considered for the vacant justice of the peace position in District No. 1. He stated that he was previously a three-term justice of the peace.

Sharon Welchel of Garfield, a candidate for justice of the peace for District No. 1, gave a follow-up on her presentation at the January 25, 2016 Legislative Committee meeting on creating transitional housing for homeless veterans. She informed the Quorum Court that she is moving forward with this project.

Jason Winchester of Bella Vista spoke about the need for transitional space for veterans.

Clifford Ferguson, a Benton County resident, spoke out against the Sheriff and requested assistance in filing a removal from office to the circuit judge as a complaint of malfeasance in office.

Several members of the public spoke out in defense of Sheriff Craddock and emphasized the good things that he has done for Benton County.

Benton County Sheriff Kelley Craddock reported to the Quorum Court that he was told personally by the Arkansas State Police that an audit was done concerning his concealed handgun classes, based off of a complaint from JP K. Harrison. He wanted the court and JP K. Harrison to hear it directly from him that the Arkansas State Police said that his classes are fine, there were no complaints and he passed with flying colors.

Dale King of Garfield announced that he has also written to the governor to be considered to fill the justice of the peace vacancy in District No. 1. He stated that he also has previous experience serving on the Quorum Court.

JP J. Harrison made motion to suspend the rules and read all ordinances and resolutions by title only, seconded by JP Shadlow.

A roll call vote recorded as follows:

15 Yeas: Easley, Shadlow, J. Harrison, Allen, K. Harrison, Adams, Jones, Sandlin, Anglin, Chiocco, Slinkard, Leadabrand, Moore, Meyers, Moehring

Motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

- (A) Proposed Resolution Declaring a Vacancy in the Office of Justice of the Peace, District No. 1 for Benton County; Sponsor: JP J. Harrison

County Attorney George Spence read the proposed resolution by title only.

JP J. Harrison made motion to adopt, seconded by JP Shadlow.

There being no discussion, a roll call vote was recorded as follows:

15 Yeas: Easley, Shadlow, J. Harrison, Allen, K. Harrison, Adams, Jones, Sandlin, Anglin, Chiocco, Slinkard, Leadabrand, Moore, Meyers, Moehring

Resolution duly adopted and assigned **No. R-2016-01.**

(B) Proposed Resolution Confirming the County Judge's Appointment of Dr. Brad D. Johnson to the Northwest Arkansas HIV Clinic Board; Sponsor: JP Shirley Sandlin

County Attorney George Spence read the proposed resolution by title only.

JP Sandlin made motion to adopt, seconded by JP J. Harrison.

There being no discussion, a roll call vote was recorded as follows:

15 Yeas: Easley, Shadlow, J. Harrison, Allen, K. Harrison, Adams, Jones, Sandlin, Anglin, Chiocco, Slinkard, Leadabrand, Moore, Meyers, Moehring

Resolution duly adopted and assigned **No. R-2016-02.**

(C) Proposed Appropriation Ordinance Amending Appropriation Ordinance No. O-2014-84 (2015 Benton County Budget) Authorizing a Transfer of Funds Between Categories and Line Items; Appropriating Additional Monies and Authorizing Additional Expenditures in Various Funds and Departments to Balance Out the Year 2015; Sponsor: JP Mary L. Slinkard

County Attorney George Spence read the proposed appropriation ordinance by title only.

JP Slinkard made motion to adopt, seconded by JP Jones.

There being no discussion, a roll call vote was recorded as follows:

15 Yeas: Easley, Shadlow, J. Harrison, Allen, K. Harrison, Adams, Jones, Sandlin, Anglin, Chiocco, Slinkard, Leadabrand, Moore, Meyers, Moehring

Appropriation ordinance duly adopted and assigned **No. O-2016-01.**

(D) Proposed Appropriation Ordinance Amending Appropriation Ordinance No. O-2015-69 (2016 Benton County Budget) to Create New Funds in Department 0414, Adult Drug Court, Fund 3753, to be Entitled "Arkansas Community Correction – Veteran's Court," and Fund 3754, to be Entitled "Arkansas Community Correction – Adult Drug Court," and in Department 0480, Juvenile Probation, Fund 3755, to be Entitled "Arkansas Community Correction – Juvenile Drug Court," and to Amend *Schedule I – Revenues by*

Fund to Reflect an Increase in Revenues And Expenditures Therein; Sponsor: JP Tom Allen

County Attorney George Spence read the proposed appropriation ordinance by title only.

JP Allen made motion to adopt, seconded by JP Chiocco.

There being no discussion, a roll call vote was recorded as follows:

15 Yeas: Easley, Shadlow, J. Harrison, Allen, K. Harrison, Adams, Jones, Sandlin, Anglin, Chiocco, Slinkard, Leadabrand, Moore, Meyers, Moehring

Appropriation ordinance duly adopted and assigned **No. O-2016-02**.

OTHER BUSINESS:

County Attorney George Spence stated that he is going to miss JP Easley but that at least he went out on a high note tonight.

Judge Clinard reminded the court that JP Easley will continue to serve until a replacement is chosen.

JP J. Harrison thanked JP Easley for his service on the court.

JP Slinkard reminded the court that all elected officials have to file their financial report by January 31, 2016.

County Attorney George Spence said that they have until February 01, 2016 this year since January 31, 2016 falls on a Sunday.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

None.

ADJOURNMENT:

JP Slinkard made motion to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned at 6:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tena O'Brien
County Clerk

Prepared by: Stefanie Laputz