

## DESHA COUNTY QUORUM COURT

September 16, 2021

Desha County Quorum Court met September 16, 2021 at 1:30 p.m. at the Desha County Courthouse.

**OPENING PRAYER:** G. Lynn Weatherford

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Gene Weser

**Roll Call:** County Clerk, Valerie Donaldson.

<u>JP</u>	<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>PRESENT</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
1	Joe James	x	
2	Lynn Weatherford	x	
3	Patricia Watkins	x	
4	Gene Weser	x	
5	Hollis Mankin	x	
6	Richard Smith	x	
7			
8	Dollie Wilson		
9	Norris Sims	X	

I. **MINUTES**

The August minutes were approved as mailed with a motion to accept by Mr. Weser and seconded by Mr. Weatherford. All were in favor, Motion passed.

II. **TREASURER'S REPORT**

A motion to approve the Treasurer's report was made by Mr. Weser and seconded by Mr. Weatherford. All were in favor, Motion passed.

III. **OLD BUSINESS**

None

IV. **NEW BUSINESS**

**Ordinance 2021-10 An Ordinance to approve funds to pay County Employees to clean three and treat eight county buildings for the purpose of suppressing the transmission of Covid-19 and its variants.**

County Clerk Valerie Donaldson read the ordinance in its entirety for the first reading. A motion to suspend the rules and read by title only for a second reading was made by Gene Weser and seconded by Mr. Mankin. The roll was called, all were in favor. The Ordinance was read by title only for a second reading with a motion to accept made by Mr. Weser and seconded by Mr. James. The Roll was called. All were in favor. The Ordinance was read for a third reading. A motion to accept Ordinance 2021-10 was made by Mr. Weatherford and seconded by Mr. Sims. All were in favor. Ordinance 2021-10 passed. **8 FOR and 0 AGAINST.**

V. **Ordinance 2021-11 In the matter of amending the American Rescue Fund Grant.**

County Clerk Valerie Donaldson read the ordinance in its entirety for the first reading. A motion to suspend the rules and read by title only for a second reading was made by Mr. Weatherford and seconded by Mr. Weser. The roll was called, all were in favor. The Ordinance was read by title only for a third reading with a motion to accept made by Mr. Weser and seconded by Mr. Weatherford. The roll was called and all were in favor. A motion to accept Ordinance 2021-11 was made by Mr. Weser and seconded by Mr. Weatherford. The roll was called and all were in favor. Ordinance 2021-11 passed. **8 FOR and 0 AGAINST.**

Ms. Onie Norman was on the agenda to speak. The topic was the FOIA (Freedom of Information Act) laws. She read laws from the FOIA booklet. She informed the members present that all meetings were required to be published in the newspaper and open to the public. The law states that when two or more members are gathered at any place discussing business it is considered a meeting and is subject to a misdemeanor if this occurs. Also in case of an Emergency Meeting the Newspaper must be advised at least two hours before the meeting takes place or it is an illegal meeting as well. Ms. Norman explained this was for all meetings including board meetings for any governing bodies, not just Quorum Court. She stated the public needed to be more involved. She reminded everyone that the Officials and all Quorum Court Members work for the people because they were the ones that voted for them. Ms. Norman said there are people watching and if anyone violates the law they might be in Circuit Court.

Ms. Norman also stated the committee that was formed to decide on how the American Rescue fund should be spent had a group of good members. She stated that the citizens should be aware of the meetings so they could attend and be represented as well.

Ms. Watkins asked a question concerning Ordinance 2021-10. She questioned the wording "Goods and services" directly from county employees. She said that terminology could be anything and thought it should say supplies and services. The Judge explained that this was purchasing supplies for the county and services meant the task of the employees completing the job and it was not changed in the Ordinance.

**VI Announcements**

The County Judge stated the committee to discuss how they would like to see the America Rescue Fund spent will meet the first Wednesday of every month.

**VII ADJOURNMENT**

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Weser and seconded by Mr. Sims . All were in favor.  
Meeting adjourned.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Richard Tindall, Desha County Judge

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_

Valerie Donaldson, Desha County Clerk