

DESHA COUNTY QUORUM COURT MINUTES

August 21, 2025

Desha County Quorum Court met August 21, 2025, at 1:30PM at the Desha County Courthouse.

OPENING PRAYER: JP 3, Patricia Watkins

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: All

ROLL CALL: Desha County Clerk, Valerie Donaldson

Introduction of the newly appointed Desha County Judge, Wayne Smith by JP 2, G. Lynn Weatherford.

JP	MEMBER	PRESENT	ABSENT
1	Troy Jackson Jr	X	
2	G. Lynn Weatherford	X	
3	Patricia Watkins	X	
4	Ricky Helton	X	
5	Hollis Mankin	X	
6	Kenneth Holt Jr	X	
7	Rita Kolb	X	
8	Dollie Wilson	X	
9	Norris Sims	X	

I. MINUTES

The July minutes were approved as mailed. A motion to accept was given by JP 4, Rick Helton and seconded by JP 2, G. Lynn Weatherford. All were in favor, Motion passed.

II. TREASURER'S REPORT

A motion to accept the Treasurer's report was made by JP 2, G. Lynn Weatherford and seconded by JP 8, Dollie Wilson. All were in favor, Motion passed.

III. SHERIFF'S REPORT

The Sheriff gave his report. It was accepted by all.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Lydia Davis spoke concerning her non-profit organization "Widows Empowering Widows and Reaching Others." Ms. Davis originally requested 12,000.00 dollars at a previous meeting. She was advised the county needed more information and was asked to come back. She has since lowered her request to 10,000.00 dollars. She gave a presentation emphasizing the importance of the organization. She stated the money would be used for murals depicting those in the community, past and present, of outstanding leadership and service to others. JP 8 Dollie Wilson applauded the positive work that had been completed by Ms. Davis. She stated this would be positive for the growth in Dumas as well as Desha County. JP 2 G. Lynn Weatherford asked who the property belonged to? Ms. Davis stated she purchased the property years ago, but said it was a non-profit ran by a board. She stated it was her property, but it was owned by Widows Empowering Widows.

Desha County Judge, Wayne Smith commented he didn't want to be in the same position as some of the other counties were in and we need to watch the budget closely. He stated he sympathized with Ms. Davis, but needed to take care of the county first. Projected tax revenues are down due to many farms and other businesses closing. JP 3, Patricia Watkins made a motion to not fund the organization until we look at the 2026 budget. It was seconded by JP 8, Dollie Wilson. The roll was called, 9 to 0. All were in favor.

V. NEW BUSINESS

ORDINANCE 2025-11. An Ordinance amending the Desha County Sheriff's Contribution Fund. The Ordinance was read in its entirety by County Clerk, Valerie

Flora Simon submitted a letter of request on the procedures that were followed by the Quorum Court appointing the new County Judge. The letter was read by County Clerk, Valerie Donaldson. JP 2, G. Lynn Weatherford stated that JP 3, Patricia Watkins took the minutes during the executive session. JP 2 G. Lynn Weatherford asked if she could get the minutes to Ms. Simon. JP 3, Patricia Watkins advised she would forward the minutes to the county, and the county would release the information to Ms. Simon at that time.

VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

JP 8, Dollie Wilson attended the Arkansas Association of Counties Meeting in Rogers, Arkansas the past week. She brought information to distribute to the other members. JP 2, G. Lynn Weatherford thanked her for representing the County at the meeting. She received a round of applause.

VII. ADJOURN A motion to adjourn was made by JP 5, Hollis Mankin, and seconded by JP 8, Dollie Wilson. All in favor, meeting adjourned.

Date:

9-22-25

Approve:

Wayne Smith

Desha County Judge, Wayne Smith

Date:

9-22-25

Attest:

Valerie Donaldson

Desha County Clerk, Valerie Donaldson