

DESHA COUNTY QUORUM COURT

May 18, 2023

Desha County Quorum Court met May 18, 2023, at 1:30 p.m. at the Desha County Courthouse.

OPENING PRAYER: JP2, G. Lynn Weatherford

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Judge Richard Tindall

Judge Tindall informed everyone that Karen Barlow, Barlow Consultant, had an issue she needed to take care of. Resolution 2023-12 and Resolution 2023-13 needed to be discussed and voted on right after roll call before the usual order of business on the agenda.

ROLL CALL: CHIEF DEPUTY Kimberly D. Clay-Moore

JP	MEMBER	PRESENT	ABSENT
1	Troy Jackson Jr	X	
2	G. Lynn Weather	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. **NEW BUSINESS**

Karen Barlow reported that everyone from the ARPA program, who has been awarded for their projects, have been mailed a certified letter. Some of the receipts she has received back and some of them are still out. As of now we are up to date on everything.

Masonville Community Park is going to apply for a fund grant this year. It is \$100,000, no match grant. Ms. Barlow said next month have the Masonville Community Park on the quorum court agenda. One of the ladies from the park will be here to talk to the quorum court about it. She stated that was one of the requirements of the grant. It must be put on the agenda and mentioned in the minutes for the application.

**RESOLUTION 2023-12**

A Resolution of The Quorum Court of Desha County, Arkansas, authorizing the County Judge to submit an application for grant funding to the Arkansas Department of Parks, Heritage and Tourism to develop a public park. A motion to accept was made by JP2, G. Lynn Weatherford and seconded by JP5, Hollis Mankin. All were in favor. **RESOLUTION 2023-12 PASSED.**

**RESOLUTION 2023-13**

A Resolution Designating Southeast Arkansas Economic Development District, Inc. as CDBG Grant Administrator. A motion to accept was made by JP4, Rick Helton and seconded by JP1, Troy Jackson Jr. All were in favor. **RESOLUTION 2023-13 PASSED.**

II. **MINUTES**

The April minutes were approved as mailed with a motion to accept by JP5, Hollis Mankin and seconded by JP8, Dollie Wilson. All were in favor, Motion passed.

III. **TREASURER’S REPORT**

County Treasurer, Shirley Kozubski, went over bank deposit statements and explained the process. JP7, Rita Kolb stated she would like to see the check register because it’s more specific and it shows more than a bank statement. JP6, Ken Holt suggested that the treasurer could provide this information for one month and see how it works out. JP4, Rick Helton asked Ms. Kozubski has she ever had any discrepancies with her bookkeeping, and if not, he’s fine with the information that she has provided. Ms. Shirley said she is ok with providing whatever information they wanted for a month because she has nothing to hide. A motion to accept the Treasure’s report by JP3, Patricia Watkins and seconded by JP8, Dollie Wilson. All were in favor, Motion passed.

IV. **OLD BUSINESS**

Judge Tindall will meet with the Arkansas State Police on Monday, May 22, 2023. He will meet with Captain Williams in Pine Bluff. They will travel to Little Rock to discuss the SEALIC Building located in Dumas. If the finances are reasonable, he will present his findings to the Quorum Court. He will also ask C. J. Engle to be present. Mr. Engle works with the 911 State Board. AT&T is willing to move all the equipment at no charge the Judge stated. The Judge said if everything goes well, he'll probably ask for a special meeting.

V. **NEW BUSINESS**

**ORDINANCE 2023-8**

An Ordinance to amend the appropriation ordinance 2021-12 that established the 2022 annual operating budget. The Ordinance was read by Chief Deputy Kimberly D. Clay-Moore in its entirety. JP2, G. Lynn Weatherford made a motion to suspend the rules and read for the second time by title only and it was seconded by JP3, Patricia Watkins. Roll was called for the motion, all were in favor. The Ordinance was read by title only for a second reading. Roll was called, all were in favor. Judge Tindall requested a motion to suspend for the third reading. JP4, Rick Helton also moved to suspend for the third reading by title only. The Ordinance was read by Chief Deputy Kimberly D. Clay-Moore. Roll was called. JP2, G. Lynn Weatherford made a motion to accept Appropriation Ordinance 2023-8. It was seconded by JP5, Hollis Mankin. The Roll was called, and all were in favor. **ORDINANCE 2023-8 PASSED.**

JP4, Rick Helton asked the proper procedure for presenting information to the Quorum Court in regarding to getting a yearly subsidy from the county for the ambulance service. Judge Tindall stated he would look into it and get back with him.

VI. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

JP2, G. Lynn Weatherford announced the USDA will be at The Dumas Community Center Monday June 5<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. providing information to citizens with damages during the most recent ice storm.

VII. **SHERIFF REPORT**

Sheriff Grant reported during the Month of April, The Desha County Sheriff's Department patrolled over 23,478 miles providing services to the citizens of Desha County. Deputies responded to forty-six calls for service, twenty-five incident reports, and one hundred forty-eight property checks on businesses and farm shops throughout the county.


VIII. **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion to adjourn was made by JP3, Patricia Watkins and seconded by JP8, Dollie Wilson. All were in favor. Meeting adjourned.

Date: 6-15-23

Date: 6-15-23

Approve:   
Richard Tindall, Desha County Judge

Attest:   
Valerie Donaldson, Desha County Clerk

**Desha County Quorum Court Special Meeting**  
**May 31, 2023**  
**1:30 P.M.**

The Desha County Quorum Court met on Wednesday May 31, 2023.

All Quorum Court members were present. Mr. C. J. Engle from the Arkansas 911 Board was also in attendance.

Prayer was led by Mr. Weatherford, JP 2, and the Pledge was recited by all. County Clerk, Valerie Donaldson called the role.

The purpose of the meeting was to advise the members of the Arkansas State Police Association wanted to give the county the SEALIC Building located north of Dumas. (This is the building where the Driver's license tests are also administered) The purpose of giving the county the building is to turn it into a 911 call center for Desha County.

A document was emailed to each Quorum Court Member from the County Judge's Office with estimated costs of running the center.

Several questions regarding the figures included in the document were addressed. The Judge stated those were only estimates, and they are not accurate and final figures. Those will be determined at a later meeting. A copy of the document will be attached, and will be filed in the office of the county clerk for inspection during normal business hours. A motion to accept the building as county property was made by Mr. Mankin, JP 5, and seconded by Mr. Weatherford JP 2. All members were in favor of accepting the building as county property.

Questions were asked concerning the \$5000.00 end of year bonus for the dispatchers signing a contract to continue to work the following year.

The salary on the document was explained. The \$31,200.00 a year will be the total after the \$5000.00 bonus at the end of the year if approved by the Quorum Court during a later meeting. If the dispatchers don't sign a contract their salary will be \$26,200.00 which is \$12.60 an hour. The \$5,000.00 at the end of the year in hindsight makes the dispatcher pay \$15.00 an hour. This was confusing to several members which the explanation cleared that up. However, the final decision will be decided at a later budget meeting for the 911 center. Questions regarding cleaning for the center in the amount of \$25,000.00 a year was also asked. The Judge stated this was not up for discussion during this meeting as it will be discussed later.


There were questions regarding the City of Dumas and the City of McGehee paying \$100,000.00 to the county to help with costs of the building. The Judge

stated the City Councils will ultimately decide that. Several members requested that these be retained in the minutes to better help when the budget for the 911 center is brought up for discussion. The consensus seemed to like the idea of the 911 center provided the funds are available, and this center is sustainable in the future.

A motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Dollie Wilson, JP 8 and second by Mr. G. Lynn Weatherford, JP 2. All were in favor, meeting adjourned.

Dated: 6/15/23

Approved:   
Desha County Judge

Attest:   
Desha County Clerk