

DESHA COUNTY QUORUM COURT
October 14, 2021

Desha County Quorum Court met October 14, 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	Ronnie Norris	x	
8	Dollie Wilson	x	
9	Norris Sims	X	

I. MINUTES

September minutes were approved as mailed with a motion to accept by JP 4, Gene Weser and seconded by JP 8, Dollie Wilson. All were in favor, Motion passed.

II. TREASURER'S REPORT

A motion to approve the Treasurer's report was made by JP 4, Gene Weser and seconded by JP 8, Dollie Wilson. All were in favor, Motion passed.

III. OLD BUSINESS

The Judge stated he had made contact with someone about having the old hospital in Dumas torn down.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

The Judge announced that Ms. Lindsay Holman had scheduled to meet with the Quorum Court concerning how to distribute the American Rescue Funds today, but rescheduled for November 3rd at 10:30 a.m. for those that would like to attend.

Don Wesson and Rev. Larry Alexander were in attendance representing the Desha County Rescue Committee which met earlier that day. Chair Charles Killion and Shannon Gill were present at the morning meeting as well, but were unavailable for the Quorum Court meeting.

Mr. Don Wesson spoke on behalf of the board stating that it was the board's recommendation to the Quorum Court that all Full time County Employees receive \$4.00 an hour for working during the Covid 19 Pandemic State of Emergency. Part-time Employees would receive \$2,500.00 and Poll-Workers would also receive \$4.00 an hour. The State regulations are \$2.50 to \$13.00 an hour. The officials and employees originally asked for \$2.50 however the committee felt \$4.00 was more appropriate. During the November Elections several Poll-Workers contracted the Covid 19 Virus. It was recommended that all persons working the polls and extra election help receive compensation as well. Full time employees, no longer employed, would not be eligible. Ms. Patricia Watkins made a motion to accept the recommendation submitted by the Desha County Rescue Committee to pay over the funds to the employees as per the recommendation of the Desha County Rescue Board. It was seconded by Mr. Gene Weser. The roll was called. All were in favor.

ORDINANCE 2021-13- An Ordinance authorizing "Premium Pay" from funds received from the Coronavirus fiscal recovery funds under the American Rescue Act.

The Ordinance was read by County Clerk Valerie Donaldson. A motion to suspend the rules and read by title only was made by Mr. Weser and seconded by Mr. Smith. The Roll was called, motion passed. The ordinance was read again but by title only with a motion to accept given by Mr. Weser and seconded by Ms. Watkins. All were in favor, Ordinance 2021-13 Passed.

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