

BAXTER COUNTY QUORUM COURT
JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS

January 7, 2025

The Baxter County Quorum Court met in regular session at 6:00 PM in the Baxter County Courtroom with County Judge Kevin Litty presiding. Members present were: Cameron Davis, Maryanne Edge, Dennis Frank, Eddie Griffin, Lisa House, Mike McDonald, Bob Nault, Eric Payne, Rick Steiner and Shannon Walker. Justice Dirk Waldrop was not in attendance. The meeting began with all of the Justices being sworn in for the new term by Circuit Judge Suzie Layton, followed by a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Judge Litty asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes of the December meeting. Justice Edge moved that the minutes be approved as submitted. Justice Walker seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Reports:

County Treasurer Jenay Mize provided the Court with a Treasurer's report, stating that the County's portion of the 1% sales tax was \$6.1 million and the Jail's portion was \$2.6 million for the year 2024.

There were no committee meetings to report.

Presentation:

Old Business:

New Business:

Ordinance #2025-1, **AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING PROCEDURES FOR THE BAXTER COUNTY QUORUM COURT FOR FISCAL YEARS 2025 AND 2026**, was sponsored by Justice Edge and read by title only by the Clerk. Justice Edge moved to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Justice Frank. After some discussion concerning the beginning time for monthly meetings, a motion was made by Justice Steiner and seconded by Justice Frank to change the time from the proposed 5:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. The roll was called. Voting YEA: Justices Davis, Edge, Frank, Griffin, House, McDonald, Nault, Payne, Steiner and Walker. With a vote of 10 YEA 0 NAY, the

motion passed to amend the time to 5:30 p.m. After more discussion from public members, Tony Chamberlain and Russ Gillis, concerning the beginning time of monthly meetings, the roll was called for the Ordinance. Voting YEA: Justices Edge, Frank, Griffin, House and McDonald. Voting Nay: Justices Davis, Nault, Payne, Steiner and Walker. Being a tie vote of 5 YEA and 5 NAY, Judge Litty voted YEA as the tie breaking vote. The motion passed and Ordinance #2025-1 was adopted with a vote of 6 YEA, 5 NAY.

Ordinance #2025-, **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 1978-48 (AN ORDINANCE REORGANIZING AND ESTABLISHING COUNTY BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH ACT 742 OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS); TO REPEAL THE OBLIGATIONS, DUTIES AND POWERS OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COUNTY AIRPORT COMMISSION FOR BAXTER COUNTY; AND TO ESTABLISH AN AIRPORT ADVISORY BOARD; AND CREATE AIRPORT FUNDS; AND TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY**, was sponsored by Justice Frank and read by title only by the Clerk. Justice Edge moved to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Justice Frank. Discussion began with clarification from Baxter County Attorney, David Ethredge. The judge then allowed two public members to speak in favor of the ordinance and two members to speak against the ordinance. Speaking in favor were public members Albert Beers and Trey Resler. Speaking against the ordinance was Chairman of the Airport Commission, Stephen Vester and Mary O'Shields. Justice Griffin asked the county attorney to shed more light on the issue.

Justice Nault moved to table the ordinance until the next meeting. Justice Payne seconded the motion and the roll was called. Voting YEA: Justices Nault, Payne and Steiner. Voting NAY: Justices Frank, Griffin, House, McDonald, Walker, Davis and Edge. The motion failed with a 3 YEA, 7 NAY vote.

Justice Payne asked if the court could remove commissioners rather than removing the commission as a whole. County Attorney David Ethredge said the law allows for the removal of commissioners for just cause. Secretary of the Commission, Sally Hall, addressed the court and spoke at length.

Judge Litty spoke regarding the terms of the Hasselwander lease and the background of this issue. After much more discussion, the roll was called for the adoption of the Ordinance. Voting YEA: Justices Griffin, House, McDonald, Davis, Edge and Frank. Voting NAY: Justices Nault, Payne and Steiner. Justice Walker chose to ABSTAIN from voting. Needing a super-majority vote to pass with the Emergency Clause, the ordinance was not adopted at this time. This constitutes the first reading of the proposed ordinance.

Ordinance #2025-2, **AN ORDINANCE DESIGNATING THE BAXTER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE AS THE COLLECTOR OF ALL FINES ASSESSED IN CIRCUIT COURT AND ALL COUNTY FINES ASSESSED IN DISTRICT COURT**, was sponsored by Justice Edge and read by title only by the Clerk. Justice Edge moved to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Justice Griffin. Being no discussion, the roll was called. Voting YEA: Justices House, McDonald, Nault, Payne, Steiner, Walker, Davis, Edge,

Frank and Griffin. The motion passed and Ordinance #2025-2 was adopted with a vote of 10 YEA, 0 NAY.

Appropriation Ordinance #2025-3, **AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING FEES AND REIMBURSEMENTS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$7,878.75 RECEIVED IN THE MONTH NOVEMBER TO THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE 2024 BUDGET**, was sponsored by the Justice House and read by title only by the Clerk. Justice Edge moved to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Justice House. Being no discussion, the roll was called. Voting YEA: Justices McDonald, Nault, Payne, Steiner, Walker, Davis, Edge, Frank, Griffin and House. The motion passed and Ordinance #2025-3 was adopted with a vote of 10 YEA, 0 NAY.

Appropriation Ordinance #2025-4, **AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$22,541.59 FROM BAXTER COUNTY LIBRARY FUND (3008) INTO THE BAXTER COUNTY LIBRARY 2024 BUDGET**, was sponsored by Justice House and read by title only by the Clerk. Justice Nault moved to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Justice Edge. Being no discussion, the roll was called. Voting YEA: Justices Nault, Payne, Steiner, Walker, Davis, Edge, Frank, Griffin, House and McDonald. The motion passed and Ordinance #2025-4 was adopted with a vote of 10 YEA, 0 NAY.

Appropriation Ordinance #2025-5, **AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$15,000.00 INTO CLARKRIDGE FIRE DEPARTMENT ARKANSAS RURAL COMMUNITY GRANT 2025 BUDGET**, was sponsored by Justice McDonald and read by title only by the Clerk. Justice Nault moved to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Justice Edge. Being no discussion, the roll was called. Voting YEA: Justices Payne, Steiner, Walker, Davis, Edge, Frank, Griffin, House, McDonald and Nault. The motion passed and Ordinance #2025-5 was adopted with a vote of 10 YEA, 0 NAY.

Ordinance #2025-, **AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH A 911 ADVISORY BOARD**, was sponsored by Justice Griffin and read by title only by the Clerk. This being the first reading of said ordinance, it is tabled for the second reading at next month's meeting.

Resolution #2025-1, **A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE RE-APPOINTMENT OF ROD BRACKETT BY THE COUNTY JUDGE TO THE BAXTER COUNTY PLANNING BOARD**, was sponsored by Justice Edge and read in its entirety by the Clerk. Justice Davis moved to adopt the resolution, seconded by Justice Edge. Being no discussion, the roll was called. Voting YEA: Justices Steiner, Walker, Davis, Edge, Frank, Griffin, House, McDonald, Nault and Payne. The motion passed and Resolution #2025-1 was adopted with a vote of 10 YEA, 0 NAY.

Resolution #2025-2, **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE BAXTER COUNTY JUDGE TO APPLY FOR A GRANT ON BEHALF OF THE LONE ROCK VOLUNTEER FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**, was sponsored by Justice Payne and read in its entirety by the Clerk. Justice Nault moved to adopt the resolution, seconded by Justice Frank. Being no discussion, the roll was called. Voting YEA: Justices Walker, Davis, Edge, Frank, Griffin, House, McDonald, Nault, Payne and Steiner. The motion passed and Resolution #2025-2 was adopted with a vote of 10 YEA, 0 NAY.

Announcement and Public Comments:

The Clerk reminded the governing body that the elected officials are required to file a statement of financial interest with her office for the previous calendar year no later than January 31st.

A motion was made by Justice Davis and seconded by Justice Edge to elect Justice Dennis Frank as Delegate to Quorum Court Association. All voted in favor. The motion passed.

Adjournment:

Justice Edge moved that the Baxter County Quorum Court adjourn at 7:40 PM, until the next regularly scheduled meeting of February 4th, at 5:30 PM in the Baxter County Courtroom, which is located at the Baxter County Courthouse, #1 East 7th Street, Mountain Home, Arkansas. Justice Davis seconded, and the motion passed, with a unanimous vote, and the meeting was adjourned.

SIGNED AND SEALED THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2024.

CANDA J. REESE, BAXTER COUNTY AND CIRCUIT CLERK

Elizabeth Denton, Scribe