

JANUARY 3, 2023

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THE FULTON COUNTY QUORUM COURT MET IN REGULAR SESSION AT THE FULTON COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS CIVIC CENTER. THE MEETING OPENED WITH PLEDGE AND PRAYER.

ROLL CALL BY CLERK BISHOP WITH 8 JUSTICES PRESENT. JUSTICE PHILLIPS WAS ABSENT.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY DENNIS KINDER AND SECONDED BY ROBERT ELLIOTT TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES AS PRESENTED. THE MOTION PASSED BY ROLL CALL 8 YEAS.

THE CLERK AND TREASURER DECEMBER REPORTS WERE NOT AVAILABLE DUE TO THE MEETING BEING SO EARLY IN THE MONTH.

OLD BUSINESS

THE 2023 BUDGET HAD BEEN PRESENTED AND PASSED AT THE DECEMBER MEETING, BUT THERE WAS NOT AN ORDINANCE TO READ FOR PASSAGE. CLERK BISHOP READ ORDINANCE 2023-01 AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGET FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2023. A MOTION WAS MADE BY ROBERT ELLIOTT AND SECONDED BY RAY MATTHEW TO ADOPT ORDINANCE 2023-01. THE MOTION PASSED BY ROLL CALL 8 YEAS. (ORDINANCE 2023-01)

NEW BUSINESS

JUDGE CROW RECOMMENDED THE QUORUM COURT MEETING TIME AND DATE REMAIN THE SAME ON THE THIRD MONDAY OF THE MONTH AT 6 P.M. JUDGE ASKED IF THERE WAS ANY DISCUSSION, AND THERE WAS NO RESPONSE.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY ALBERT ROORK AND SECONDED BY CRIS NEWBERRY FOR JUSTICE ROGERS TO BE THE FULTON COUNTY QUORUM COURT DELEGATE. THE MOTION PASSED BY ROLL CALL 8 YEAS.

CLERK BISHOP READ RESOLUTION 2023-01 RESOLUTION FOR THE SHERIFF'S LINE OF SUCCESSION. THE DESIGNATION OF THREE (3) PERSONS IN THE SUCCESSION TO FILL THE VACANCY OF THE OFFICE OF COUNTY SHERIFF ON AN INTERIM BASIS UNTIL SUCH TIME AS THE VACANCY IS FILLED BY THE QUORUM COURT AS PROVIDED BY THIS CHAPTER OR THE DISABILITY OF THE COUNTY SHERIFF IS ABATED. A MOTION WAS MADE BY ALBERT ROORK AND SECONDED BY DENNIS KINDER TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 2023-01. THE MOTION PASSED BY ROLL CALL 8 YEAS. (RESOLUTION 2023-01)

JUDGE CROW CALLED FOR THE FIRE DISTRICTS ORDINANCE. FIRST JUSTICE ROORK GAVE A BRIEF DESCRIPTION WHY HE FELT THE NEED FOR THIS ORDINANCE. HE STATED DURING HIS TIME IN LAW ENFORCEMENT THERE WAS A SUBSTANTIAL PROBLEM WITH FIRE CHIEF'S EMBEZZLING MONEY. THERE HAVE BEEN 3 FELONY CASES WHERE EACH WERE CONVICTED. FULTON COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENTS ARE FUNDED IN PART BY ONE-HALF OF ONE PER-CENT (0.5%) COUNTY WIDE SALES TAX. EACH FIRE DEPARTMENT IS RECEIVING APPROX \$50,000 YEARLY. THEY ARE NOT MONITORED OR AUDITED. JUSTICE ROORK STATED HE BELIEVED PREVENTION IS BETTER THAN THE CURE WHICH IS A FELONY CHARGE.

HE ALSO STATED, WE NEED OUR FIRE DEPARTMENTS. THEY ARE VITAL TO OUR COUNTY; HOWEVER, THEY ARE GOING TO HAVE TO BE MONITORED. SO, THIS ORDINANCE MANDATES THEY BE AUDITED BY A PRIVATE AUDITOR. STATE LEGISLATORS CONSIDER THEM A PRIVATE ENTITY EVEN THOUGH THEY RECEIVE TAX PAYORS DOLLARS. I THINK THE TAX PAYORS DESERVE TRANSPARENCY. CLERK BISHOP READ ORDINANCE 2023-02 AN ORDINANCE SETTING FORTH POLICIES AND BEST PRACTICES FOR FIRE DISTRICTS AND ANNUAL REPORTING REQUIREMENTS TO THE QUORUM COURT OF FULTON COUNTY, ARKANSAS. A MOTION WAS MADE BY CRIS NEWBERRY AND SECONDED BY ROBERT ELLIOTT TO PLACE ORDINANCE 2023-02 ON FIRST READING. THE MOTION PASSED BY ROLL CALL 8 YEAS. A MOTION WAS MADE BY JIMMY MARLER AND SECONDED BY CRIS NEWBERRY TO SUSPEND THE RULE AND PUT THE ORDINANCE ON SECOND READING BY TITLE ONLY. THE MOTION PASSED BY ROLL CALL 8 YEAS. A MOTION WAS MADE BY ROBERT ELLIOTT AND SECONDED BY CARRIE ANDREWS TO SUSPEND THE RULE AND PUT THE ORDINANCE ON THIRD READING BY TITLE ONLY. THE MOTION PASSED BY ROLL CALL 8 YEAS. A MOTION WAS MADE BY RAY MATTHEW AND SECONDED BY CARRIE ANDREWS TO ADOPT THE ORDINANCE. THE MOTION PASSED BY ROLL CALL 8 YEAS. (ORDINANCE 2023-02)

JUDGE CROW INFORMED THE JUSTICES HE HAD FORMED A ROAD COMMITTEE AND THE MEMBERS ARE JUSTICES ALBERT ROORK, CRIS NEWBERRY, DENNIS KINDER, RAY MATTHEW, AND JIMMY MARLER. ALSO, REPRESENTING THE ROAD DEPARTMENT WILL BE TOM ROMINE.

JUDGE INTRODUCED SOME OF HIS APPOINTMENTS ROAD SUPERINTENDENT JOSH SMITHEE, VETERAN SERVICE OFFICE MICHAEL CHANG, AND OEM COORDINATOR DAVID KECK.

STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 2 TREY STEIMEL ADDRESSED THE COURT. HE STATED, "THE BEST WAY I CAN SERVE YOU IS IF YOU COMMUNICATE WITH ME, AND I COMMUNICATE BACK." HE HANDED OUT CARDS WITH THIS CONTACT INFORMATION.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY DENNIS KINDER AND SECONDED BY CARRIE ANDREWS TO ADJOURN AT 6:40 P.M. THE MOTION PASSED BY VOICE VOTE 8 YEAS.

ATTEST: Vickie Bishop
VICKIE BISHOP, CLERK