

CLEBURNE COUNTY QUORUM COURT JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS

July 13, 2017

The Cleburne County Quorum Court met in regular session in the County Court Building, 922 South 9th Street, Heber Springs, Arkansas. The meeting was call to order at 6:02 p.m. County Judge Jerry Holmes presided. Roll call was taken. PRESENT: Pate, Henegar, Caldwell, Stone, Malone, Evans, Foust, Choate, Roberts. ABSENT: Lange. In his absence Drew Smith, Attorney for Cleburne County, was represented by Holly Meyer, Prosecuting Attorney.

READING, CORRECTION, AND DISPOSITION OF MINUTES:

Motion was made by JP Caldwell to approve the minutes of the June 8, 2017 regular meeting, seconded by JP Roberts. Voice vote, motion carried unanimously.

REPORT OF TREASURER:

Motion was made by JP Caldwell to accept the Treasurer's report, seconded by JP Evans. Voice vote, motion carried unanimously.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES:

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

JP Caldwell presented a plaque to the Larry Goff family to honor Mr. Goff's memory and to demonstrate the court's appreciation for his many years of service to the county.

Cleburne County Assessor, Judy Land, introduced the guest speaker, Mr. Kelly Beatty, Vice-President of Arkansas CAMA Technology, Inc. Mr. Beatty presented a power point, "Understanding the 2017 Reappraisal Project". Mr. Beatty explained the five-year reappraisal cycle and gave tips on how county employees may assist the public with any questions or concerns they may have. Mr. Beatty answered questions from the Quorum Court members concerning increases in property taxes. Informative packets explaining the possible tax changes were available, as well as a toll free number for the public to use. Mr. Jamie Kirk, Cleburne County Appraisal Manager, and Mr. David Johnson, appraiser, were also in attendance.

Sterling Pennix, Jail Standards, addressed the Court concerning the findings of the May 2017 review committee. Mr. Pennix commended the county, sheriff, and previous sheriff for the efforts made since the May 2016 recommendations. Main concerns found in May 2017 were public and employee safety and meeting legal and state standards. Mr. Pennix commented on the age and structure of the jail. General concerns were plumbing, electrical, and roof leaks. Mr. Pennix recommended to the Court forming a committee with an NIC facilitator to assess the jail and give ideas. He also urged members of the court to come tour the jail. Population and staffing were also issues that were addressed. Mr. Pennix found that due to the legal responsibility to separate inmates according to gender, risk level, health care, sex offenders, felons, misdemeanors, etc., it is a challenge to manage the population of the inmates.

Cleburne County Sheriff, Chris Brown, addressed the court on the findings of the May 2017 audit. The jail was out of compliance on sufficient personnel, adequate lighting, storage, and staff functions. The jail will be reevaluated in 2019 to assess the progress of the current action plan and existing goals. Sheriff Brown also addressed the court concerning major leaks in the roof of the jail. After lengthy discussion, Judge Jerry Holmes recommended that the county take bids for repairs to the roof.

Proposed Ordinance 2017-Amend Circuit Clerk Recorder's Cost Budget

JP Malone introduced an ordinance: "BE IT ENACTED BY THE QUORUM COURT OF THE COUNTY OF CLEBURNE, STATE OF ARKANSAS: AN ORDINANCE TO BE ENTITLED: AN APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2016-30, WHICH ADOPTED THE BUDGET FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2017 AND FOR THE PURPOSE OF APPROPRIATING FUNDS TO THE RECORDER'S COST BUDGET TO UPDATE COMPUTER EQUIPMENT AND SOFTWARE."

Circuit Clerk, Heather Smith explained to the Court the need for this amendment.

JP Malone made a motion to adopt the Ordinance, seconded by JP Evans. No discussion followed. Roll Call was taken.

Aye's: Pate, Henegar, Caldwell, Stone, Malone Evans, Foust, Choate, Roberts. Nay's: None. The ordinance was adopted as ORDINANCE NO. 2017-012. JP Malone made a motion to adopt the Emergency Clause, seconded by JP Roberts. Roll Call was taken. Aye's: Pate, Henegar, Caldwell, Stone, Malone, Evans, Foust, Choate, Roberts. Nay's: None. The Emergency Clause was adopted.

Cleburne County Sheriff, Chris Brown, addressed the court concerning the purchase of a new drug dog. Sheriff Brown reported that the drug dog, Zeke, had been retired due to poor health. Therefore, the county needs a replacement. A community fundraiser raised \$11,300.00 to pay for a new drug dog. The sheriff will be looking at a new drug dog in the near future. He will bring before the court his recommendations before any commitments to purchase the dog are made. The sheriff reported that the expenses for the upkeep of a new drug dog would come from the Drug Control Fund.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

None

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

None

ADJOURNMENT:

JP Caldwell made motion to adjourn, seconded by JP Roberts. Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

ATTESTED:

Sheila Stair, Cleburne County Deputy Clerk

This _____ day of _____, 2017

Book _____ Page(s) _____