

VAN BUREN COUNTY QUORUM COURT
JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS
JANUARY 19, 2023

The Van Buren County Court met Thursday, January 19,2023 at the Van Buren County Courthouse Annex in Clinton, Arkansas for the regular monthly meeting, with Judge James presiding. Members of the Quorum Court attending were Justice of the Peace Holcomb, S. Brown, Philips, M. Bradford, J. Bradford, Page, Lemings, and Bass. Also in attendance was P. Bradford, County Clerk and County Attorney Carol Crews.

Next: PRAYER: Given by J.P. Holcomb

Next: PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Was recited by all

Next: ROLL CALL: J.P. N. Brown was absent

Next: APPROVE AGENDA: J.P. Philips made a motion to dispense with the audible readings of the transfers, seconded by J.P. Lemings. J.P. Lemings made a motion to read two Ordinances 3 times, by title only, seconded by J.P. S. Brown. J.P. Philips made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by J.P. Lemings. The Agenda was approved unanimously.

Next: MINUTES, TREASURE'S REPORT, & APPROPRIATION ANALYSIS: J.P. Holcomb made a motion to accept the Minutes and Financial Reports as printed; J.P. Lemings seconded the motion. Judge James asked for any discussion. There was none. The Minutes and Financial Reports were approved unanimously.

Next: COUNTY ROAD AND EQUIPMENT REPORT: [Report Attached]

Next: SHERIFF'S REPORT: [None]

Next: COUNTY JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Judge James welcomed the new Quorum Court members.

Next: QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS FOR ELECTED OFFICIALS OR DEPARTMENT HEADS: J.P. M. Philips addressed the court concerning the status of direct deposit. VBC Treasurer M. Wilson stated not all the employee information had been turned in and Apprentice did not have the system completely set up.

Next: DELEGATE FOR AAC: J.P. M. Bradford made a motion to approve J.P. M. Philips as Quorum Court Delegate to AAC, J.P. Lemings seconded the motion. The Motion was approved.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. NEXT: J.P. J. BRADFORD READ AN ORGANIZATIONAL ORDINANCE REQUIRED BY ARKANSAS CODE ANNOTATED 14-14-904.** J.P. J Bradford made a motion to adopt the first reading of the Ordinance, seconded by J.P. Philips. J.P. Philips made a motion to adopt the second reading, by title only, seconded by J.P. Lemings. J.P. Philips made a motion to adopt the third reading, by title only, seconded by S. Brown. Judge James asked for any discussion. There was none. The ordinance was approved and given **No. O-2023-01**
- B. NEXT: J.P. M. BRADFORD READ AN APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE TO TRANSFER AND APPROPRIATE \$3,826.81 INTO THE COUNTY JUDGE'S BUDGET #1000-100 FROM THE COUNTY ROAD BUDGET # 2000-200 FOR 2022.** After reading the Ordinance, J.P. M. Bradford made a motion to adopt, seconded by J.P. Lemings. Judge James asked for any discussion. There was none. The Ordinance was approved and given **No. O-2023-02**
- C. NEXT: J.P. HOLCOMB READ AN APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE ORIGINAL APPROPRIATION BUDGET FOR 2023, TO INCREASE THE PROJECTED REVENUE AND APPROPRIATE \$12,600. INTO THE DETENTION CENTER BUDGET #1000-418.** After reading the Ordinance, J.P. Holcomb made a motion to adopt, seconded by J.P. Bass. Judge James asked for any discussion. There was none. The Ordinance was approved and given **No. O-2023-03**
- D. NEXT: J.P. LEMINGS READ AN APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE ORIGINAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE #O-2021-51, THE ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGET FOR 2022, TO INCREASE THE PROJECTED REVENUE OF COUNTY GENERAL BY \$27,990.46 AND APPROPRAITE \$3,022.74 INTO THE VOTER REGISTRATION BUDGET #1000-121 AND \$24,967.72 INTO THE ELECTION COMMISION BUDGET #1000-109.** After the reading of the Ordinance, J.P. Bass made a motion to adopt, seconded by J.P. Philips. Judge James asked for any discussion. J.P. Bass made a motion to amend to 2021-51, seconded by J.P. Philips. The Ordinance passed and was given **No. O-2023-04**
- E. NEXT: J.P. PHILIPS READ AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE TITLES OF A CERTAIN EMPLOYEE AND CHANGE CERTAIN EMPLOYEES FROM SALARY TO HOURLY THAT WAS APPROVED IN THE ORIGINAL ORDINANCE # O-2022-58 FOR 2023, IN THE DETENTION CENTER AND THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE.** After the first reading the Ordinance, J.P. Philips made a motion to adopt, seconded by J.P. J. Bradford. After the second reading, by title only, J.P. Holcomb made a motion to adopt, seconded by J.P. Lemings. After the third reading, by title only, J.P. M. Bradford made a motion to adopt, seconded by J.P. Holcomb. Judge James asked for any discussion. There was none. The Ordinance passed and was given **No. O-2023-05**

- F. NEXT: J.P. PAGE READ AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE TO CORRECT HOURLY/SALARY AMOUNTS OF 911 EMPLOYEES FOR 2023 IN THE 911 DEPARTMENT #3020-501.** After reading the Emergency Ordinance, J.P. Page made a motion to adopt, seconded by J.P. M. Bradford. The Judge asked for discussion. After lengthy discussion J.P. Philips made a motion to table this Ordinance, seconded by J.P. Bass. All approved.
- G. NEXT: J.P. PHILIPS READ AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE TO CORRECT HOURLY/SALARY AMOUNTS OF CERTAIN EMPLOYEES FOR 2023 IN THE DETENTION CENTER #1000-418.** After reading the Emergency Ordinance, J.P. Philips made a motion to adopt, seconded by J.P. J. Bradford. The Judge asked for discussion. There was none. The Ordinance passed and was given **No. O-2023-06**
- H. NEXT: J.P. BASS READ AND APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE TO APPROPRIATE \$98,000.00 INTO COUNTY GENERAL FUND 1000 TO REIMBURSE THE VAN BUREN COUNTY SHERIFF COMMUNICATION FUND.** After reading the Appropriation Ordinance, J.P. Bass made a motion to adopt, seconded by J.P. M. Bradford. The Judge asked for discussion. There was none. The Ordinance passed and was given **No. O-2023-07**
- 1. NEXT: J.P. PHILIPS READ A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS OF THE QUORUM COURT.** After reading the resolution, J.P. Philips made a motion to adopt, seconded by J.P. M. Bradford. Judge James asked for any discussion. The resolution was passed and was given **No. R-2023-01**

NEXT: TRANSFERS: J.P. Philips made a motion to adopt the Transfers, seconded by J.P. Lemings. All approved.

NEXT: PUBLIC COMMENT: Col. Conrad Reynolds addressed the court concerning the initiative to go back to paper ballots. He would like to speak with each Quorum Court member one on one to go over the information.
Jackie Sikes, Newly Elected Mayor of FFB addressed the court on their help and she will try to make as many Quorum Court meeting as possible

J.P. S Brown motioned to adjourn, seconded by all.

Pam Bradford, Van Buren County Clerk

County Road and Equipment Report

January 2023

Graders are running their routes. This is a tough time of year with freezing/thawing. Graders are hitting the potholed spots and washed spots to keep the roads as smooth as possible. We will resume thorough beginning to end grading as soon as possible.

The Half Moon Road project is progressing very well. We have found some soft spots (springs) to drain out. The base work is complete. Asphalt should be applied in March. This project is a \$300,000.00 federal grant with qualification based on low to moderate income in that area.

Work continues on Crowell Mountain Road. Since this project is 100% county funded, we had to make sure we hit our mandatory deadlines on the grant funded projects which slowed this one down.

We are applying for a grant to build up the area of the "Brickey Bridge" to replace a low water crossing. We hope to install boxed style crossings. The area is made to flood when water gets up, but our goal will be to completely illuminate flooding. GPS guidance often routes traffic through there to get to Rabbit Ridge Farms.

We purchased 20 small chainsaws from Grass Roots. If we have a wind event or tornado, the Road Department will check them out to VBC Sheriffs Officers and we can all work quickly to get all roads open for emergency traffic. We already had some larger chainsaws which were purchased at Kirkendoll's. The next purchase of equipment or mowers will be at Crowell's. We do our best to move the business among the local options.

We also purchased some used light towers which will come in very handy when we are called out during the dark hours.

Mowers are working their routes to clean the sides of as many roads as possible.

We received a hard rain this month with some areas of the county receiving over 6" of rain in a couple of hours. The damage to the roads was minimal. The only impassable area, to my knowledge, was the Brickey Bridge low water crossing area.