

MINUTES
SEVIER COUNTY QUORUM COURT MEETING
2:00 P.M., MONDAY NOVEMBER 21, 2022

The Sevier County Quorum Court met at 2:00 P.M., Monday, November 21, 2022, in the Sevier County Courthouse Conference Room with County Judge Dick Tallman presiding. The roll was called with the following Justices present: Marilyn Archer, Kenneth Currence, Evelyn Keels, Roxy Stephens, Angie Walker, Roger Whitmore, David Wright, and Greg Wright. Absent – Earl Battiest. Upon a motion by Roxy Stephens and second by Roger Whitmore, the Quorum Court voted to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the last meeting and to approve the minutes as emailed.

Committee and Other Reports –

1. Lori House, CEO of Sevier County Medical Center was present to report on the progress of the new hospital construction and Financial report for same. Ms. House said that everything is coming along nicely. They have received their Occupancy License so they are all working in the hospital now. The licensure survey was scheduled for last Tuesday but unfortunately the Architects and Construction Co did not turn in all required paperwork. This inspection is not scheduled for November 29. We will be on an extremely tight timeline to get everything done. This is to get all the paperwork to get open. The inside of the hospital is ready to see patients as far as equipment. We do not have medication and this is one of the things we are trying to get all the paperwork completed for. Until license and pharmacy board approval we can't get medication. They are trying to push DEA license as quickly as possible. Lori presented financial information verbally. Roxy Stephens asked if the two entities not getting required paperwork in would delay the opening of the hospital. Lori said that it could possibly cause a delay. The main thing they are going to be waiting on is the DEA number. Roxy asked how many employees the hospital would have on opening day. Lori stated approximately 115. They are still taking applications for back-up. There are six positions still to be filled. Open House will be Friday December 2 from 11:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. Lori Stated that opening day is supposed to be the 6th. Judge Tallman stated that Lori had a couple of MOA's that are time sensitive and requested that a motion be made to suspend the rule to address these issues. Greg Wright made a motion to suspend the rules seconded by David Wright. A roll call vote was taken. Yes – Marilyn Archer, Kenneth Currence, Evelyn Keels, Roxy Stephens, Angie Walker, David Wright, and Greg Wright. No- None. Absent- Earl Battiest. The motion passed. The non-agenda items were presented by Lori House, SCMC CEO. One was a MOA between the SCMC and the Board of trustees of the U of A acting on behalf of UAMS ACHI for participation in the Arkansas Emergency Naloxone Dispensing Program. The second was an Agreement between SCMC an UAMS in regarding to Stroke Education and Prevention. There is monetary benefit that goes with these programs. It is determined that these items do not have to be approved by the Quorum Court. This is informational only. No action is required.

New Business –

2. The first agenda item is a proposed Ordinance to levy taxes for 2022 to be collected in 2023. Clerk Akin read the tax levy ordinance. Judge Tallman pointed out that there are no changes from last year's levy ordinance. A motion was made by Roxy Stephens and seconded by Angie Walker to approve the ordinance. A roll call vote was taken. Yes – Marilyn Archer, Kenneth Currence, Evelyn Keels, Roxy Stephens, Angie Walker, David Wright, and Greg Wright. No- None. Absent- Earl Battiest. The motion passed
3. Agenda item 2 and 3 are combined in a proposed ordinance appropriating \$350,000.00 to the Sevier County Hospital Fund, Transfers out. \$150,000 will be appropriated from the Sales Tax Fund 5000. Lori House read the ordinance. Clerk Akin explained that \$200,000 was left in the fund unappropriated for this year. This together with \$150,000 from Sales Tax equals the \$350,000.00. A motion was made by David Wright to approve the ordinance. Angie Walker seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Yes – Marilyn Archer, Kenneth Currence, Evelyn Keels, Roxy Stephens, Angie Walker, David Wright, and Greg Wright. No- None. Absent- Earl Battiest. The motion passed
4. Fourth on the agenda was a proposed ordinance to transfer \$2,400,000.00 from Sales Tax Bond Fund to Sevier County Medical Center Fund, Transfers out. This will be for a check to be issued to the Hospital. Judge Tallman read the ordinance. This ordinance also calls for the amount taken in monthly from this point on to be transferred to the Hospital Fund. Angie Walker explained the amounts of funds that have been handed over to the hospital in previous months. This includes \$1.6 Million that was allotted in January for this year's budget; \$2.1 Million from ARPA Fund to reimburse cost of sewer; \$350,000.00 approved to transfer today; \$2.6 Million from Sales Tax Fund today. This is a total of \$4.5 million before the Sales Tax money to be transferred from now on, on a monthly basis. That is in addition to total Bond money used for the Hospital. A motion was made by David Wright and seconded by Roger Whitmore to approve the ordinance. A roll call vote was taken. Yes – Marilyn Archer, Kenneth Currence, Evelyn Keels, Roxy Stephens, Angie Walker, David Wright, and Greg Wright. No- None. Absent- Earl Battiest. The motion passed
5. The fifth agenda item is a request to amend the 2022 Solid Waste Budget. This will consist of transferring equal amounts from different line items with no total monetary change to the budget. Spreadsheet attached. A motion was made by Roxy Stephens and seconded by Angie Walker to approve the request. A roll call vote was taken. Yes – Marilyn Archer, Kenneth Currence, Evelyn Keels, Roxy Stephens, Angie Walker, David Wright, and Greg Wright. No- None. Absent- Earl Battiest. The motion passed
6. Item six is a request to amend the Sheriff 2022 budget by transferring \$3800 from 1000.0400.2002, small equipment to line 100.0400.2023, parts and repairs to cover the cost of transmission replacement. A motion was made by Roxy Stephens and seconded by Roger Whitmore to approve the request. A roll call vote was taken. Yes – Marilyn Archer, Kenneth Currence, Evelyn Keels, Roxy Stephens, Angie Walker, David Wright, and Greg Wright. No- None. Absent- Earl Battiest. The motion passed

7. The last agenda item was to discuss a plan of action for filling the upcoming vacancy in the elective office of County Judge. Angie Walker proposed a timeline and plan to meet this upcoming need. The timeline is attached. David Wright made a motion to approve the plan. Roxy Stephens seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Yes – Marilyn Archer, Kenneth Currence, Evelyn Keels, Roxy Stephens, Angie Walker, David Wright, and Greg Wright. No- None. Absent- Earl Battiest. The motion passed
8. Judge Tallman asked if someone would entertain a motion to hear non-agenda items. David Wright made a motion to suspend the rules to hear non-agenda items. Greg Wright seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Yes – Marilyn Archer, Kenneth Currence, Evelyn Keels, Roxy Stephens, Angie Walker, David Wright, and Greg Wright. No- None. Absent- Earl Battiest. The motion passed. Sheriff Gentry read a proposed ordinance to appropriate funds from ARPA in the amount of \$75,345.40 to line 1006.0418.2023 parts and repairs. This is to complete upgrade to tower system at the jail. Ordinance is to be amended to indicate that this amount is not to be exceeded. Roxy Stephens made a motion seconded by Roger Whitmore to approve the proposed ordinance with amendment. A roll call vote was taken. Yes – Marilyn Archer, Kenneth Currence, Evelyn Keels, Roxy Stephens, Angie Walker, David Wright, and Greg Wright. No- None. Absent- Earl Battiest. The motion passed.

Old Business – There is no old business

Announcements –

Adjournment –With no further business to discuss, Roger Whitmore made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Greg Wright. The motion passed with a unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,



Debbie Akin
County Clerk