

MINUTES
SEVIER COUNTY QUORUM COURT MEETING
2:00 P.M., MONDAY DECEMBER 12, 2022

The Sevier County Quorum Court met at 2:00 P.M., Monday, December 12, 2022, in the Sevier County Courthouse Courtroom with County Judge Dick Tallman presiding. The roll was called with the following Justices present: Marilyn Archer, Earl Battiest, Kenneth Currence, Evelyn Keels, Angie Walker, Roger Whitmore, David Wright, and Greg Wright. Absent – Roxy Stephens. Upon a motion by Angie Walker 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 basically complete. At the licensure inspection there was a found a problem with the call light system. Components have been replaced and now they believe the problem is with the Stryker beds. A representative is scheduled to come from Stryker to address this issue. Judge Tallman stated that he had heard the hospital had another roof leak. She said there was an area that had a condensation issue and another are where a vent was not seated properly. They are now fixed. She also stated that the humidity had to be adjusted in one of the buildings due to the condensation. Earl asked how the original five leaks had been repaired. He asked if large sections had been replaced. Lori stated that this was how they were repaired. Lori presented financial information for August, September, October, and November. There were no questions. Lori stated that they still hope to open the hospital before the end of the year.

New Business –

2. The first agenda item is a request to approve the first two meetings dates and times for 2023. Proposed are January 3 at 9:00 A.M. and January 9 at 2:00 P.M. The meeting for Jan 3 is to swear in newly elects and to set meeting time and date for 2023. Jann. 9 meeting is set to declare vacancy in County Judge office and to fill the vacancy. Angie Walker made the motion to approve these dates and times. David Wright seconded the motion. A Roll Call Vote was taken: Yes – Marilyn Archer, Earl Battiest, Kenneth Currence, Evelyn Keels, Angie Walker, Roger Whitmore, David Wright, and Greg Wright. No – None. Absent – Roxy Stephens. The motion passed
3. Agenda item 2 is a request to confirm the appointment of Jamie Godwin to the Sevier County Library Board. A motion was made by Angie Walker and seconded by Earl Battiest to approve the appointment. A Roll Call Vote was taken: Yes – Marilyn Archer, Earl Battiest, Kenneth Currence, Evelyn Keels, Angie Walker, Roger Whitmore, David Wright, and Greg Wright. No – None. Absent – Roxy Stephens. The motion passed
4. Third on the agenda was a request for approval to pay County Employees a Covid Pay Bonus. The criteria would be the same as with past bonuses. The bonus will be reimbursed to the various payroll funds from The Covid Relief Fund. The highest amount of the bonuses will be \$600.00 David Wright made a motion to approve with Greg Wright seconding the motion. A Roll Call Vote was taken: Yes – Marilyn Archer, Earl Battiest, Kenneth Currence, Evelyn Keels, Angie Walker, Roger Whitmore, David Wright, and Greg Wright. No – None. Absent – Roxy Stephens. The motion passed
5. Fourth on the agenda was a proposed ordinance to amend the Sevier County Operating Budget for 2022. This ordinance includes the Covid Pay Bonus that was passed earlier in today's meeting. Clerk Akin read the ordinance. She explained that the attached spreadsheet reflects changes approved earlier in the year as well as the Law Enforcement Stipend pay and today's approved bonuses. Greg Wright made a motion to approve the proposed ordinance. David Wright seconded the motion. A Roll Call Vote was taken: Yes – Marilyn Archer, Earl Battiest, Kenneth Currence, Evelyn Keels, Angie Walker, Roger Whitmore, David Wright, and Greg Wright. No – None. Absent – Roxy Stephens. The motion passed
6. The fifth agenda item is a proposed ordinance establishing the Sevier County 2023 Operating Budget. Clerk Akin read the ordinance. Earl Battiest of the Budget Committee explained that the committee approved an 8.5% raise for county employees. request to amend the 2022 Solid Waste Budget. A motion was made by Roger Whitmore and seconded by Angie Walker to approve the ordinance. A Roll Call Vote was taken: Yes – Marilyn Archer, Earl Battiest, Kenneth Currence, Evelyn Keels, Angie Walker, Roger Whitmore, David Wright, and Greg Wright. No – None. Absent – Roxy Stephens. The motion passed
7. Item six is a request to amend the Sheriff budget by appropriating \$50,000 from the Jail Construction Reserve Fund – 1800. To install insulation in the ceiling of the jail. The sheriff explained that the intent with this appropriation is to decrease the utility bills. Earl Battiest explained that this was put in the budget for 2023 so no action is needed on this item. 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
8. The last agenda item was to a proposed ordinance to change the allocation of a 1% sales tax. The new allocation would be 65% to the County General Fund, 25% to the County General Reserve Fund, and 10% to the Road Fund. Earl Battiest explained that the Road Fund is healthy at the present time and County General is needing the revenue. Treasurer Heather Barnes read the ordinance. David Wright made a motion seconded by Angie Walker to approve the change in allocation. A Roll Call Vote was taken: Yes – Marilyn Archer, Earl Battiest, Kenneth Currence, Evelyn Keels, Angie Walker, Roger Whitmore, David Wright, and Greg Wright. No – None. Absent – Roxy Stephens. The motion passed

Old Business – There is no old business

Announcements – The Judge informed the court that the repairs to the handicap sidewalk and railing had been completed. Judge Tallman made a gift presentation to out-going Justices; Earl Battiest, David Wright, Evelyn Keels, and Marilyn Archer. He thanked Evelyn and Marilyn for stepping up to fill the positions left vacant at the passing of their respective husband. He also thanked Earl and David for their many years of service to the citizens of the County. Earl and David both made parting comments. Judge Tallman then announced that this would be the last meeting for out-going County Clerk, Debbie Akin. Debbie stated that this would be her last Quorum Court meeting however, she will remain in the County Clerk's office as a deputy until the end of January. She also made parting comments.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Debbie Akin
County Clerk