

MINUTES
SEVIER COUNTY QUORUM COURT MEETING
2:00 P.M., MONDAY JANUARY 4, 2021

The Sevier County Quorum Court met at 2:00 P.M., Monday, January 4, 2021, in the De Queen Community Building in Herman Dierks Park with County Judge Greg Ray presiding. The meeting was opened with prayer by Judge Ray followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. The roll was called with the following Justices present: Michael Archer, Earl Battiest, Kenneth Currence, Roxy Stephens, Angie Walker, Roger Whitmore, David Wright and Greg Wright. Absent: None. Upon a motion by Roxy Stephens and second by Greg Wright, the Quorum Court voted to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the last meeting and to approve the minutes as emailed. A roll call vote was taken. Yes – Michael Archer, Earl Battiest, Kenneth Currence, Roxy Stephens, Angie Walker, Roger Whitmore, David Wright, and Greg Wright. No – None. Absent – None. The motion passed.

Committee and Other Reports

Update from Hospital Board of Governors – Chairman, Steve Cole was unable to attend the meeting today.

Old Business – There is no Old Business

New Business

The First agenda item was removed.

The second and fourth agenda items were to discuss ordinances regarding permits and fees for establishments that sell liquor. County Attorney Kaylen Lewis was unable to be in attendance so no ordinances were made available. David Wright asked why we would want to repeal the ordinance that is now on the books. Angie Walker stated that if we did not, every restaurant that wanted to sell liquor would have to pay yearly fee of \$250. She states that she doesn't think they should have to pay anything to the City or County for liquor sales. Roxy Stephens stated that she feels this is the only way the county has any control over the number of establishments selling liquor. Angie said she was ok with having some control as in a county ABC Board. She just doesn't agree with charging fees. Earl said if the ordinance received by Kaylen Lewis was enacted it has a clause in it regarding previous ordinances. Little River County has provided a copy of their ordinance that they passed regarding liquor sales to the Judge. He said he would get that out to everyone. The judge stated that he thinks the citizens of the county just do not want a liquor store on every corner. He brought up the fact that we have several "Event Center". How would this pertain to them? After some discussion a motion was made by David Wright to table both of these agenda items until the February meeting on February 8. The motion was seconded by Mike Archer. A roll call vote was taken. Yes – Michael Archer, Earl Battiest, Kenneth Currence, Roxy Stephens, Angie Walker, Roger Whitmore, David Wright, and Greg Wright. No – None. Absent – None. The motion passed.

A request to allocate funds to the 2020 Hospital Construction Fund Budget was made to get the fund out of the red. Prior approval had been made to pay a number of bills prior to Bank OZK starting to pay bills. Allocation would include: \$4632 to line 2001, Supplies; \$265,306.23 to line 3009, Other Professional Services; \$16.10 to line 3021, Postage; \$5284.68 to line 3040, Advertising and Publications; \$8417 to line 3054, Other Sundry Insurance; \$1000 to line 3090, Dues and Memberships; and \$195,802.16 to line 4001, Land. A motion was made by Greg Wright and seconded by Earl Battiest to approve the allocation. A roll call vote was taken. Yes – Michael Archer, Earl Battiest, Kenneth Currence, Roxy Stephens, Angie Walker, Roger Whitmore, David Wright, and Greg Wright. No – None. Absent – None. The motion passed.

With no other business on the agenda, Judge Ray asked if someone would entertain a motion to suspend the rules to hear a non-agenda item. This is a proposed ordinance re-establishing the day and time for Quorum Court meetings in 2021-22. David Wright made a motion to suspend the rules. Greg Wright seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Yes – Michael Archer, Earl Battiest, Kenneth Currence, Roxy Stephens, Angie Walker, Roger Whitmore, David Wright, and Greg Wright. No – None. Absent – None. The motion passed. Judge Ray read the ordinance. Greg Wright made a motion that the time be changed to 5:30 p.m. to accommodate working citizens. David Wright seconded the motion. There was some discussion. One JP said she couldn't drive at night. It was brought up that the time had been in the evenings in the past and people still did not come. Several others said they didn't want to at meetings that could last several hours at night. A roll call vote was taken. Yes – Angie Walker, David Wright, and Greg Wright. No – Michael Archer, Earl Battiest, Kenneth Currence, Roxy Stephens, and Roger Whitmore. Absent – None. The motion failed. A motion was made by Kenneth Currence and seconded by Earl Battiest to approve the ordinance read by the Judge re-establishing the second Monday at 2:00. A roll call vote was taken. Yes – Michael Archer, Earl Battiest, Kenneth Currence, Roxy Stephens, and Roger Whitmore. No – Angie Walker, David Wright, and Greg Wright. Absent – None. The motion passed.

Announcements

Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, Roger Whitmore made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Roxy Stephens. The motion passed with a unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,



Debbie Akin
County Clerk