

MINUTES
SEVIER COUNTY QUORUM COURT MEETING
2:00 P.M., MONDAY MARCH 14, 2022

The Sevier County Quorum Court met at 2:00 P.M., Monday, March 14, 2022, in the Sevier County Courthouse Courtroom 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: Marilyn Archer, Earl Battiest, Kenneth Currence, Evelyn Keels, Roxy Stephens, Angie Walker, Roger Whitmore, and Greg Wright. Absent – David Wright. 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. A roll call vote was taken. Yes –Marilyn Archer, Earl Battiest, Kenneth Currence, Evelyn Keels, Roxy Stephens, Angie Walker, Roger Whitmore, and Greg Wright. Absent – David Wright. No – None. The motion passed.

Committee and Other Reports –

Lori House, CEO of Sever County Medical Center was present to report on the progress of the new hospital construction and Financial report for same. Ms. House presented a Financial statement produced by Horne Group. She reported that the expected completion date is August 5 and opening date for the hospital is September 21. She indicated that glass is installed on outside walls of hospital; Bricks are about half-way completed. Everything is on current schedule for completion.

Old Business – There is no old business.

New Business –

1. The first agenda item is the discussion of trash along county roads. Teri Hart, a concerned citizen was on hand to lead the discussion. She stated that trash is worse in the county than she has seen in her lifetime. Teri asked if Community Service was still in place for persons to be able to work off time or fines by picking up trash. Sheriff Gentry said that it is in place but we have a problem with the workers not showing up for their community service assignments. The jail is too full to incarcerate those who violate the community service orders. Teri stated that there is a group being scheduled to do a clean-up project in May. She states that the trash situation is immediately back to the same status after a weekend clean-up. Judge Ray stated that the only thing he knew that would change this situation would be an ordinance passed and then the ordinance being enforced by the Sheriff's Department. He stated that getting into a person's pocketbook is what gets their attention. Justice Roxy Stephens mentioned that this is a pride issue and we cannot seem to instill pride in some of our citizens. There was some discussion regarding how trash is transported to the landfill. Some is simply hauled on flat-bed trailers, some in pick-up trucks with sideboards. The trash easily falls or blows out if not covered. Sheriff Gentry said that he would talk with District Judge Wood regarding the community service issue. The discussion ended with no resolution to the problem.
2. The last agenda item was a presentation by Jay Holstead of McKinstry regarding Solar Power for Sevier County. Mr. Holstead provided information regarding the County installing a solar array and generating solar power that could be exchanged in a 1/1 ratio with the power company, thus saving the county money. There would also be a phase of upgrading current equipment to be more energy efficient. The Quorum Court made no decision in regard to this proposed project.

Announcements –

OEM Coordinator Walter Smith announced his retirement as of July 31 of this year. He introduced P. J. Minor, who will be taking his place. P. J. is in training now for this position. Walter stated that he had thoroughly enjoyed his time working for the County and thanked the Quorum Court for allowing him to have this time to train P. J.

Adjournment –

With no further business to discuss, Roxy Stephens 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