

MADISON COUNTY QUORUM COURT  
SPECIAL SESSION

MAR 18 2022

I CERTIFY THAT THIS INSTRUMENT WAS FILED  
FOR RECORD IN MY OFFICE AND RECORDED  
IN BOOK 10 PAGE 19-3  
TAMITHA BLOCKER COUNTY CLERK  
D.C.

March 7, 2022

6:00 PM

The Madison County Quorum Court met in a special session on Monday, March 7, 2022, at the Madison County Courthouse. All members were present.

County Judge Frank Weaver called the meeting to order. Justice Pattie Shinn made a motion not to pay the Justices of the Peace for the special meeting, and Matt Cleaver seconded. All members voted in favor of the motion.

Judge Frank Weaver presented Ordinance 2022-4, an Appropriation Ordinance. T.W. Dotson made a motion to read Ordinance 2022-4, and Larry Garrett seconded. On a roll call vote, all members voted in favor of the motion. County Clerk Tamitha Blocker read Ordinance 2022-4. Pattie Shinn made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2022-4, and T.W. Dotson seconded. On a roll call vote, all members voted in favor of the motion. Ordinance 2022-4 was adopted.

Judge Weaver began a discussion on the need to replace worn-out equipment at the Madison County Solid Waste and Recycling Center. Judge Weaver read a letter in support of funding for the Recycling Center that was addressed to Justice Matt Cleaver from a constituent, Viiram McKinney. Pattie Shinn read a prepared statement in support of using APRA funds to support the current needs of the Madison County Solid Waste and Recycling Center and the Madison County EMS. Pattie said she sees a need to expand current EMS operations and reminded the court that surplus tax revenues from EMS had been used for several years to pay for prisoner housing. Judge Weaver explained the use of surplus funds which by ordinance can be moved from the County General (EMS) 1% Sales Tax Fund to the County General Fund.

Luke Dotson made a motion to use \$686,629.00 of ARPA funds to purchase the needed equipment at the Madison County Solid Waste and Recycling Center. Larry Garrett seconded the motion. T.W. Dotson questioned the use of ARPA money for anything other than the jail at this time. He stated that everything else could be addressed once the jail issue was fixed. He asked the court to consider waiting to see how much the jail was going to cost before voting on the funding for Solid Waste. Several members of the audience spoke in support of funding Solid Waste, EMS, and the Jail. Community members Kevin Shinn and Ron Giles stressed the importance of maintaining our existing county services because the ARPA funds are nowhere close to addressing the jail problem. Madison County Solid Waste and Recycling Center Director Christal Baker stated that the grapple loader is a safety hazard for both employees and the public. She also said if the equipment goes down, the Center will have to shut down. Huntsville Police Chief Todd Thomas spoke of the problems law enforcement officers encounter daily when they arrest criminals but must let them go because there is nowhere to house them. Larry Garrett said, in his opinion, \$686,000 will not keep us from getting a jail. Judge Weaver reminded the court that the jail issue had been on the ballot three times and had failed each time by roughly the same margin and that the jail issue had been growing ever since. Judge Weaver stated that the bulk of the surplus funds moved from the EMS fund to the County General Fund has gone to pay for prisoner housing for several years. After much discussion, a voice vote was taken on the motion to use ARPA funds to purchase the Solid Waste Equipment. Eight members voted in favor of the motion, with T.W. Dotson voted against the motion. The motion carried. An appropriation ordinance will be prepared for the next Quorum Court meeting.

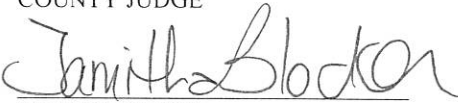
Judge Weaver introduced Jeff Davis, a spokesperson for Lew Thompson. Mr. Davis informed the court that Lew Thompson had offered to donate land close to Walmart to build a new EMS station and urgent care facility. Mr. Thompson is also currently looking for additional funding to help with the project. Dr. Travis Embry from the Boston Mountain Health Clinic reiterated Mr. Thompson's motivation to get an urgent care facility in Madison County. His vision is a clinic that would be able to stabilize patients until they can be transported, much like a rural Emergency Room. Dr. Embry spoke of times when an ambulance was unavailable to respond. This opportunity would help EMS expand its capabilities and help provide the county with

urgent medical care. The proposal would have Mr. Thompson donating the land and Madison County building the facility. Madison County could then rent the clinic portion of the building to an entity like Washington Regional Medical Center. The clinic portion could possibly expand further to offer other medical services.

Judge Weaver began a discussion on a location for the proposed County Jail. Judge Weaver stated that Southbuild needed to know the selected location prior to their work session, which was rescheduled for the week of April 4. Justice Luke Dotson said the land at EMS could be used for a jail if we could relocate the EMS to the proposed EMS/Urgent Care facility site. Larry Garrett spoke of potential water and sewer issues at the EMS property if the jail were to be located there. He went on to say that a framework was already in place to help address that, and the cost of necessary upgrades would be shared with Huntsville Water Utilities. City Planning Commissioner Jennifer Thomas addressed the court and explained that the EMS property was located in a dual-use zone with a conditional use permit and a 2-acre minimum. There would also be setbacks required, as well as parking requirements, which are based on the number of employees. After much discussion, Larry Garrett made a motion to pursue the EMS site for the location of the proposed jail. Devin Glenn seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

With no further business, a motion was made by Pattie Shinn and seconded by Larry Garrett to adjourn the meeting. All voted in favor. The meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED:   
COUNTY JUDGE

ATTEST:   
COUNTY CLERK

DATED: March 18, 2022