

**MADISON COUNTY QUORUM COURT  
REGULAR SESSION**

August 16, 2021

6:00 PM

The Madison County Quorum Court met on August 16, 2021, in regular session with all members present.


Minutes from the previous meeting were approved as written.

The Treasurer's Report was approved as presented.

The Expenditure Report was approved as presented.

FILED

SEP 3 2021

TAMITHA BLOCKER  
COUNTY AND PROBATE CLERK  
MADISON COUNTY, ARKANSAS  
BY  D.C.

County Judge Frank Weaver presented the following board appointees for the court's confirmation: Matt Gillham to the Equalization Board, and Wilson Phillips, Marcus Bell, and Brooke Hudgins to the Youth Baseball Board. T.W. Dotson made a motion to confirm the appointees. Pattie Shinn seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

County Clerk Tamitha Blocker informed the court that the 2020 census data had finally been released. Madison County gained 804 people since the 2010 census, a gain of just over five percent. Tamitha reported that the Arkansas GIS office expects to publish the local level numbers the week of August 23. The county will begin its redistricting process as soon as that data is received. Tamitha explained that redistricting of the various legislative boundaries is required after each decennial census. The Arkansas Board of Apportionment will handle redistricting for federal and state offices. However, the Madison County Election Commission is responsible for redistricting the quorum court districts. The schools and cities are responsible for redistricting their zones and wards. Redistricting is a significant undertaking and is very time-consuming. The census numbers came in much later in the year than initially expected, primarily due to COVID. Candidate filing begins in February, which will create a time crunch to complete the redistricting process. Tamitha noted that the county's existing DataScout OneMap software would be used to redraw the quorum court districts. She also stated that the county would assist the Huntsville School District and the City of Huntsville in redrawing their zones and wards. Doing so will help avoid ballot splits, which will save everyone involved time and money on elections. District lines are to be drawn so that each elected official represents a "substantially equal" population. Several other factors must be taken into consideration as well during the process. Once a redistricting plan has been completed for the quorum court districts, the Election Commission will hold a public meeting and publish the proposed maps in the Madison County Record newspaper. After a 30-day waiting period, the redistricting plan will be certified to the state. Once that is complete, the voter registration database will need to be updated to reflect the changes. Voters will then be mailed a new voter registration card to inform them of their new districts. All of this must be completed before the candidate filing period begins in February.

In other business, Judge Weaver gave an update on the Fun Park. The playground equipment has been installed. The concrete curbing and rubber surface are scheduled to be poured the week of August 23.


Judge Weaver reported that the road grader rental agreement would be up in March of next year. He also reported that vendors no longer offer rental agreements or lease-purchase/buy-back programs, so new road graders will have to be lease-purchased or bought outright. Judge Weaver stated that the price of graders has almost doubled since he took office, so he didn't see any way to afford as many machines as we currently have. He told the court that he might be looking at restructuring the road department next year.

Justice of the Peace TW Dotson asked for an update on the solar project. Judge Weaver reported that he had received three requests for proposals and that he and Jeremiah Herman with the Arkansas Energy Office were currently reviewing the proposals. An interview of the potential solar providers will be held on August 23. After the interview, one company will be selected to submit a formal bid. T.W. Dotson asked if the bid would include generators. Judge Weaver explained that the solar array would be hooked up to the Carroll Electric grid, not generators. He also stated that we already have generators at the 911 Dispatch Center, the Road Department, and EMS. Judge Weaver felt that generators are a good idea but are very expensive to purchase and maintain.

Justice of the Peace Pattie Shinn mentioned that two air conditioners were out at the Senior Center and asked if they were the county's responsibility to maintain. Judge Weaver said he was unaware of the problem and would arrange for their repair.

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

APPROVED:   
Frank Weaver, Madison County Judge

ATTEST:   
Tamitha Blocker, Madison County Clerk

DATED: August 18, 2021