

**MADISON COUNTY QUORUM COURT
REGULAR SESSION**

October 17, 2022

6:00 PM

The Madison County Quorum Court met on October 17, 2022, in a regular session with eight members present. Justice Jack Hudgins was absent.

The Minutes from the previous meeting were approved as written.

The Treasurer's Report was approved as written.

The Expenditure Report was approved as written.

County Judge Frank Weaver updated the court on the Solar Project. Judge Weaver said he had received a letter from Skip Woessner with Clear Energy informing the county that the utility interconnect fees came in over budget. The budget was \$35,000, but Carroll Electric had charged \$120,000. This increase was unanticipated by Clear Energy as the fees were higher than what had been customary for other comparable solar projects. The letter stated that the county would not be responsible for the extra fees and that Clear Energy would absorb the additional cost.

Judge Weaver presented the results from the core drilling at the Burkes South property, along with a letter from SouthBuild. The Quorum Court approved the purchase of the Burkes South property in August, contingent on a suitable core sample. Justice Larry Garrett stated that he did not believe the report showed a positive return on the core sample. He further said that he wondered if we wouldn't be money ahead to conduct a core drill on the Coger property to compare the two properties. Judge Weaver stated that SouthBuild had confirmed that the core drill showed the Burkes South property as a suitable site to build a jail. After much discussion, Luke Dotson made a motion to rescind the vote approving the purchase of the Burkes South property. Matt Cleaver seconded. After another lengthy discussion with public input, a roll call vote was taken on the motion. Justices TW Dotson, Luke Dotson, Larry Garrett, Devin Glenn, and Matt Cleaver voted to rescind the vote approving the purchase of the Burkes South property and Justices Sherri Cozad, Pattie Shinn, and Wendy Pettz voted against rescinding the vote. The motion carried on a 5-3 vote.

Judge Weaver introduced Ordinance No. 2022-19, an ordinance to establish a County General Sub-Fund to be called the Local Assistance Tribal Consistency Fund (LATC) and to declare an emergency. Judge Weaver explained this fund is an American Rescue Plan Program that is similar to PILT funding and is based on the amount of national forest land in the county. Two disbursements will be made for approximately \$155,000 each, the first of which has already been received. The second will need to be applied for in January of 2023. T.W. Dotson made a motion to put Ordinance No. 2022-19 on its first reading. Larry Garrett seconded. All members voted in favor. County Clerk Tamitha Blocker read Ordinance No. 2022-19. Pattie Shinn made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 2022-19. Larry Garrett seconded. All members voted in favor of adopting Ordinance No. 2022-19. T.W. Dotson made a motion to suspend the rules and place Ordinance No. 2022-19 on its second reading by title only. Pattie Shinn seconded. Clerk Blocker read Ordinance No. 2022-19 by title only. Pattie Shinn made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 2022-19. Wendy Pettz seconded. All members voted in favor of adopting Ordinance 2022-19. Larry Garrett made a motion to suspend the rules and place Ordinance No. 2022-19 on its third and final reading by title only. Pattie Shinn seconded. Clerk Blocker read Ordinance No. 2022-19 by title only. Pattie Shinn made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 2022-19. Wendy Pettz seconded. On a roll call vote, all eight members present voted to adopt Ordinance No. 2022-19.

Judge Weaver introduced Ordinance No. 2022-20, an appropriation ordinance. County Clerk Tamitha Blocker explained the ordinance would appropriate funds to the Treasurer's office and the Health Unit to accommodate the rise in utility bill costs. Larry Garrett made a motion to read Ordinance No. 2022-20. Pattie Shinn seconded. All voted in favor of reading Ordinance No.

2022-20. Clerk Blocker read Ordinance No. 2022-20. Pattie Shinn made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 2022-20. Larry Garrett seconded. All members present voted to adopt Ordinance No. 2022-20.

Judge Weaver introduced Brent Bryant, who is the Deputy Prosecutor for Madison County. Mr. Bryant informed the court that the part-time assistant in the Prosecuting Attorney's office was leaving employment with the county this week, and Mr. Bryant asked the court to consider making the position full-time going forward. Mr. Bryant made a presentation to the court regarding the staffing levels and caseload of his office compared to Washington and Carroll counties. After some discussion, Larry Garrett made a motion to read Ordinance No. 2022-21, an appropriation ordinance to amend the 2022 Budget to make the part-time position a full-time position for the remainder of the budget year. T.W. Dotson seconded. All members voted in favor of reading Ordinance No. 2022-21. County Clerk Tamitha Blocker read Ordinance No. 2022-21. Larry Garrett made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 2022-21. T.W. Dotson seconded. On a roll call vote, all members present voted to adopt Ordinance No. 2022-21. Larry Garrett then made a motion to include the additional full-time assistant position for the Prosecuting Attorney's office in the 2023 Budget. Wendy Petz seconded. All eight members voted to include the full-time position in the 2023 Budget.

Judge Weaver asked the Quorum Court to consider using American Rescue Plan (ARPA) Funds for community grants to upgrade the handicap accessibility of the community centers at Kingston and Wesley, which are used as county vote centers. The types of upgrades needed for each polling site and the importance of those upgrades were discussed. Larry Garrett made a motion to establish a grant fund for community buildings serving as vote centers and to get estimates on the cost of upgrades to the Wesley and Kingston community centers. T.W. Dotson seconded. All eight members voted to establish a grant fund and get estimates for the upgrades.

In accordance with ACA 14-16-106, Judge Weaver reported to the court on some surplus property that was slated to be junked and disposed of at the Madison County Recycling Center. County Clerk Tamitha Blocker stated that the equipment consisted of old, rusted-out solid waste containers, and an old copying machine. These items are either obsolete or no longer in working order.

Judge Weaver asked the Quorum Court if they wished to conduct core sampling on the Cogger property for the new jail. T.W. Dotson made a motion to engage SouthBuild to conduct core sampling on the Cogger property. Larry Garrett seconded. Seven members voted to have the core sampling done, and Justice Luke Dotson abstained from voting.

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

APPROVED: Frank Weaver
COUNTY JUDGE

ATTEST: Tamitha Blocker
COUNTY CLERK

DATED: October 18, 2022

FILED FOR RECORD
AT 11:10 O'CLOCK A.M.
TAMITHA BLOCKER
COUNTY CLERK
MADISON COUNTY, ARKANSAS

OCT 24 2022

I CERTIFY THAT THIS INSTRUMENT WAS FILED
FOR RECORD IN MY OFFICE AND RECORDED
IN 10 COURTBOOK 10 PAGE M-40-41
Tamitha Blocker COUNTY CLERK
Francis Casterling D.C.