

MADISON COUNTY QUORUM COURT
SPECIAL SESSION

FEB 02 2021

I CERTIFY THAT THIS INSTRUMENT WAS FILED
FOR RECORD IN MY OFFICE AND RECORDED
IN 92 BOOK 10 PAGE 14-15
Tamara Blocker COUNTY CLERK
Robin Watson D.C.
6:00 PM

January 25, 2022

The Madison County Quorum Court met in a special session on January 25, 2022, at the Madison County Courthouse. All members were present.

County Judge Frank Weaver asked the Quorum Court to reconsider the tabled request of the Mount Olive Water Association for a pledge of funds from the American Rescue Plan Act money. Judge Weaver gave a brief history and explained that the final ARPA rules of January 6, 2022, made the use of ARPA funds more flexible. Judge Weaver introduced Sonny Varnell, a south county resident who will benefit from the proposed water project, and informed the court that Mr. Varnell has also worked for several years to help this project move forward. Mr. Varnell addressed the court and explained the importance of the water project. He said that the project already has 275 meters approved and expects additional meters once construction begins. He explained that the USDA is requesting a pledge of funds from Madison County before they consider helping to fund the project. After some discussion, Luke Dotson made a motion to pledge \$100,000 to the water project. Matt Cleaver seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, the motion passed 7-2, with Jack Hudgins and Wendy Pettz voting against the motion.

Judge Frank Weaver presented Ordinance No. 2022-2, an Ordinance to Establish a County General Sub-Fund to be called the ARPA Revenue Replacement Fund and to Declare an Emergency. Judge Weaver stated that this fund would track the revenue replacement funds taken from the ARPA fund for auditing purposes. Pattie Shinn made a motion to place Ordinance No. 2022-2 on its first reading. Larry Garrett seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all members voted in favor. Deputy County Clerk Robin Watson read Ordinance No. 2022-2. Pattie Shinn pointed out that the second sentence in Article 1 did not make sense, as it was missing an object. After some discussion, the court agreed to insert the words "will pass" between "assistance" and "through". Larry Garrett made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 2022-2 with the new wording. Pattie Shinn seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all members voted to adopt Ordinance No. 2022-2. Larry Garrett made a motion to suspend the rules and put Ordinance No. 2022-2 on its second reading by title only. Jack Hudgins seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all members voted in favor of the motion. Deputy County Clerk Robin Watson read Ordinance No. 2022-2 by title only. Wendy Pettz made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 2022-2 as amended. Pattie Shinn seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all members voted to adopt Ordinance No. 2022-2. Pattie Shinn made a motion to suspend the rules and put Ordinance No. 2022-2 on its third and final reading by title only. Larry Garrett seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all members voted in favor of the motion. Deputy County Clerk Robin Watson read Ordinance No. 2022-2 by title only. Pattie Shinn made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 22-2 as amended. Larry Garrett seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all members voted in favor of the motion. Ordinance No. 2022-2 was adopted.

Judge Weaver told the Quorum Court that if they wanted to engage South Build to do a work session on the design and construction of a new jail, the court would need to make two decisions, the first being a proposed site on which to build the jail. The second decision that needs to be made is how many beds the jail should include. He also gave a report on other Arkansas counties, similar in population to Madison County, that had built jails in recent years. He noted the size and cost of each facility. After some discussion, Larry Garrett made a motion to engage South Build in a work session. Pattie Shinn seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all members voted in favor of engaging South Build to conduct a work session. After more discussion and several questions to Sheriff Rick Evans, the consensus of the court was for Judge Weaver to ask South Build to conduct a work session for a 100-150 bed jail and to see if the EMS station site would be a feasible site upon which to build.

Judge Weaver cautioned the court that if they pledged all of the ARPA funds toward a new jail, it would limit other projects in the County that are urgently needed. Matt Cleaver asked Judge Weaver to compile a list of those projects for the next meeting.

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

APPROVED: Frank Weaver
COUNTY JUDGE

ATTEST: Janitha L Baker
COUNTY CLERK

DATED: January 31, 2022