

**MADISON COUNTY QUORUM COURT
REGULAR SESSION**

March 15, 2021

6:00 PM

The Madison County Quorum Court met via teleconference on March 15, 2021, in regular session with eight members present. Justice Sherri Cozad was absent from the meeting.

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 Clerk Tamitha Blocker updated the court on the progress being made on the new county website. Jon Howerton with Speedy Computer Service has been working on revamping the current website. The new site will have more information and be more user-friendly. Tamitha stated that the launch date for the website is currently scheduled for April 1. The website will still be located at www.madisoncogov.com.

County Judge Frank Weaver gave an update on the Fun Park Grant. The county has been awarded a \$75,000 grant and is currently in the process of getting quotes for the playground structure.

Judge Weaver asked Brandi Holt to give an update on the Solar Task Force. Brandi reported that the Task Force had been meeting over the past three months. They have determined the best way forward is through the Arkansas Energy Office who will negotiate a contract with a third-party supplier. The City of Huntsville, Madison County, and the Huntsville Water Treatment Facility have all agreed to move forward with the plan. The Huntsville School District has declined to participate at this time. There will be no up-front cost to the county, as all costs will be assumed by the third-party supplier. Energy rate costs will be reduced. The only fee is a \$4000 fee is to the Energy Office for consulting if a contract is signed. Seven to ten acres of land will be needed for the placement of the solar panels. Pattie Shinn made a motion to move forward and gather more information. Larry Garrett seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

Judge Weaver gave an update on the Rural Volunteer Fire Department map, reporting that the map has been redrawn and presented to the fire departments. The state 911 Board is also interested in the map due to the implementation of Next Generation 9-1-1, and they will also be involved in the map update and approval process. Certification needs to be completed by May 3.

Judge Weaver presented the plat for Phase 1 of the Mountain View Reserve Subdivision for approval. He reported that the subdivision review committee had approved and signed off on the plat. A letter from the Mt. Olive Water Association concerning the water was also presented. Pattie Shinn made a motion to approve the Mountain View Reserve subdivision plat as presented. The motion died for lack of a second. Judge Weaver asked for public comment, and several members of the public commented both for and against the subdivision. Michael Harris, the subdivision developer, asked what his recourse would be since the Quorum Court did not approve the plat. Judge Weaver stated that it would be a civil court matter. After a lengthy discussion, a motion was once again made by Pattie Shinn to approve the plat. Larry Garrett seconded the motion. Judge Weaver took further public comment ahead of the vote. On a roll call vote, Jack Hudgins, Pattie Shinn, and Matt Cleaver voted in favor of the motion. TW Dotson, Wendy Pettz, and Luke Dotson voted against the motion. Larry Garrett abstained. Devin Glenn's phone connection was lost before the vote was taken. Judge Weaver explained that he did not believe he had a tie-breaking vote, only the power of veto. County Attorney Bill Allred agreed. Judge Weaver then announced that the motion had failed due to a tie vote.

Judge Weaver asked T.W. Dotson to present the proposed ordinance that Mr. Dotson wished to discuss with the court. Mr. Dotson said that he hoped to make Madison County a sanctuary county to protect citizens' second amendment rights and to approve an ordinance like one proposed in Sebastian County. After some discussion regarding the legality of a county government approving such an ordinance, County Attorney Bill Allred advised the court to consider a resolution supporting second amendment rights rather than an ordinance. T.W. Dotson then made a motion to have Mr. Allred draw up a resolution in support of second amendment rights for the next meeting. Luke Dotson seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-1, with Justice Pattie Shinn voting against the motion.

Judge Weaver presented Ordinance 2021-1, an appropriation ordinance. Pattie Shinn made a motion to place Ordinance 2021-1 on its first reading. Jack Hudgins seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all members voted in favor of the motion. County Clerk Tamitha Blocker read Ordinance 2021-1. Pattie Shinn made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2021-1. Jack Hudgins seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all members voted in favor of the motion. Judge Weaver said that since this is an appropriation ordinance, it only requires one reading.

Judge Weaver presented Ordinance 2021-2, an ordinance to create a fund to receive anticipated federal funds from the American Rescue Plan Act. The ordinance contained an emergency clause. Judge Weaver announced that we do not yet know how much we will receive but that any funds received will have restrictions. Larry Garrett made a motion to place Ordinance 2021-2 on its first reading. Pattie Shinn seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all members voted in favor of the motion. County Clerk Tamitha Blocker read Ordinance 2021-2. Larry Garrett made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2021-2. Pattie Shinn seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all members voted in favor of the motion. Larry Garrett made a motion to put Ordinance 2021-2 on its second reading by title only. T.W. Dotson seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all members voted in favor of the motion. County Clerk Tamitha Blocker read Ordinance 2021-2 by title only. Pattie Shinn made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2021-2. Larry Garrett seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all members voted in favor of the motion. Larry Garrett made a motion to place Ordinance 2021-2 on its third reading by title only. T.W. Dotson seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all members voted in favor of the motion. County Clerk Tamitha Blocker read Ordinance 2021-2 by title only. Larry Garrett made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2021-2. Wendy Pettz seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all members voted in favor of the motion. Judge Weaver announced that Ordinance 2021-2 had been adopted.

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

APPROVED: *Frank Weaver*
COUNTY JUDGE

ATTEST: *Tamitha Blocker*
COUNTY CLERK

DATED: March 29, 2021

FILED

MAR 29 2021

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