

SEBASTIAN COUNTY QUORUM COURT MEETING  
DECEMBER 02, 2014 @ 6:30 P.M.  
FORT SMITH COURTHOUSE, ROOM 204  
FORT SMITH, ARKANSAS

CALL TO ORDER

Sebastian County Judge David Hudson called the meeting to order at 6:33 P.M. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Tony Crockett led the Invocation.

Sharon Brooks, Sebastian County Clerk, called the roll, with 12 members present (Linda Murry came in at 6:35 PM).

|                |                  |               |               |
|----------------|------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Danny Aldridge | Dickie Robertson | Johnny Hobbs  | John Spradlin |
| Jim Medley     | Linda Murry      | Phil Hicks    |               |
| Donald Carter  | Bob Schwartz     | Shawn Looper  |               |
| Rhonda Royal   | Ray Stewart      | Tony Crockett |               |

First Item:

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Several members of the community addressed the Quorum Court speaking in favor of the Ben Geren Golf Course.

Dr. Mike Thames, a member of the Park Corps, and a former business owner, stated that a helpful point of view would be to look at it as an enriching activity rather than a business.

Dr. Charlie Hartsfield, a Fort Smith resident brought an exhibit before the Quorum Court comprised of more than one hundred golf cards that his son has been collecting over the years, ever since he was very young. He was in favor of helping the Golf Course.

David Lovvorn, a Sebastian County resident, also a member of the Parks and Recreation Board spoke in favor of keeping the Golf Course open.

Howard Norman, a resident of Fort Smith, retired for the past 4 years, stated that he is looking at this from the perspective of someone who is on a fixed income. He stated that the Golf Course is a very good place to spend time together with family. He has been taking his grandchildren there, and it is a great place to socialize.

Elton Richardson, a local business owner stated that from his travel experiences he knows that Ben Geren Golf Course is very affordable compared to other golf courses, local and out of the area. He asked the Quorum Court to consider the medical school being built here that would bring customers not just for the Golf Course, but for the entire local economy.

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Rick Gabbard stated that golfing is one of the activities people have available to them, and there is quality of life, even though there is money lost. If there is no golf around here, people will be going other places to play, spending that money somewhere else.

Kim Burton Norman, a realtor in Fort Smith stated that having the Golf Course helps sales. She stated that her husband is an avid golfer, and she took a few classes a few years ago. Golfing is now something that she and her husband can do together.

Raquel Harvey, Court Administrator, stated that she wanted to make sure all the Quorum Court members have received the invitation to attend the Drug Court graduation this Friday, Dec 5<sup>th</sup>, at 9 AM, at Cavanaugh Freewill Baptist Church (2825 Grinnell Ave. Fort Smith, AR.)

Next Item:

OLD BUSINESS

Review Estimated Revenue for 2015

Judge David Hudson stated that the estimated revenue for 2015 is close to last year's budget.

Next Item:

Review pay policy for 2% COL, Pay Adjustments and Reclassification

Linda Murry made a motion to apply increase in pay approved by the Quorum Court, then add the 2% COL.

Jim Medley seconded the motion.

Sharon Brooks called the roll.

Motion passed unanimously 13 to 0.

Next Item:

Personnel Policy Concerning Adult Detention Deputy Compensation

A proposal on the pay adjustment for all Adult Detention Deputies is found on Page 4 of tonight's packet.

Next Item:

Budget Policy Concerning Rural Fire Department Budgets and Revenues

Memo on the Budget Policy Concerning Rural Fire Department Budgets and Revenues is found on Page 5 of tonight's packet.

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Next Item:

Review and Approve Plan to Balance 2015 Budget

Bob Schwartz stated that recently he received a call from one of his constituents, asking if the Quorum Court would consider a pay increase for the bailiffs in the Sheriff's Department. He stated that the Sheriff's Department may lose some of the 22 bailiffs if they do not get a raise.

Danny Aldridge made a motion to increase bailiff pay from \$12/hour to \$13/hour.

Ray Stewart seconded the motion.

Sharon Brooks called the roll

Motion failed 5 to 7 to 1. (NO votes were Dickie Robertson, Linda Murry, Phil Hicks, Shawn Looper, Tony Crockett, Jim Medley, and Rhonda Royal. John Spradlin abstained)

Linda Murry made a comment that she cannot support an increase for a part time employee when full time employees only get paid \$11.10/hour.

Next Item:

Shawn Looper made a motion to remove the Common Carrier Line of \$30,000 - \$40,000 for elected officials.

He stated that there is also another Line Item in the budget showing another \$40,000 for meals and lodging for elected officials, which does not include training. He also said that this amount bothers him just as much as the \$90,000 spent on cell phone services.

Tony Crockett seconded the motion.

Shawn Looper stated that he would like to amend his motion by adding that the money should be put in a separate account for future appropriation.

Jim Medley seconded the motion.

Sharon Brooks called the roll.

Motion passed 7 to 6. (NO votes were Bob Schwartz, Ray Stewart, Danny Aldridge, Donald Carter, Rhonda Royal, Dickie Robertson).

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Next Item:

Lee Webb addressed the Quorum Court asking to reconsider the \$3,000 pay increase for Ms. Suzanne Morgan, the Election Coordinator. He stated that the original amount requested was \$33,000/year. Due to the many hours worked between July 1<sup>st</sup> and November 15, 2014, the pay increase is very reasonable. He explained that 53.4% of her salary is being reimbursed by the state, the schools, and the lottery.

Shawn Looper made a motion to add the Election Coordinator's pay adjustment to the agenda.

Tony Crockett seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously by Voice Vote.

Shawn Looper made a motion to approve the \$3,000 adjustment to a salary of \$30,000/year.

Bob Schwartz seconded the motion.

Sharon Brooks called the roll.

Motion passed by 11 to 1 to 1. (NO vote was Danny Aldridge. Linda Murry abstained).

Next Item:

Phil Hicks made a motion to begin the budget meeting on the first Tuesday in October every year starting next year.

John Spradlin seconded the motion.

Sharon Brooks called the roll.

Motion passed 13 to 0.

Next Item:

Johhny Hobbs made a motion to approve 2015 Budget as amended.

Bob Schwartz seconded the motion.

Sharon Brooks called the roll.

Motion passed 9 to 3 to 1. (NO votes were Shawn Looper, Tony Crockett, Danny Aldridge .(Jim Medley abstained).

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Next Item:

Shawn Looper asked Scott Stubblefield if he has anything to report on the status of the cell phones discussed in the last meeting. Scott stated that he is working on a report that will have 5 questions to show the justification for having a need for a cell phone. The form will be given to each office to fill out. Becky Yandell returned 5 phones today. Some of the monthly fees exceed \$52/month, and are up to \$130/month.

Next Item:

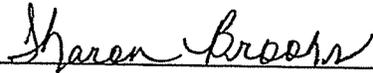
John Spradlin made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Rhonda Royal seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously by Voice Vote.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:16 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
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Sharon Brooks, County Clerk

  
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Marcela White, Deputy Clerk