

JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS
December 20, 2022
6:00 p.m.

The Faulkner County Quorum Court met in its regular session at 6:00 PM on December 20, 2022 in Courtroom "A" located in the Faulkner County Courthouse with Judge James Baker presiding.

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance were led by County Judge James Baker.

Attendance:

County Judge James Baker, County Administrator Tom Anderson, County Attorney Philip Murphy County Clerk Margaret Darter and the following Court members were present: Justices Allison, Boyer, Brown, Higgins, Kendrick, Knight, Moss, Pearson, Pickett, Roland, Shock and Strain.

Approval of the Journal:

Justice Higgins made a motion that the Journal of Proceedings be approved as presented and such motion was seconded by Justice Boyer. The Journal of Proceeding was unanimously approved.

County Officer's Report:

Scott Sanson, Treasurer, reported to the Court on the financial status of the County and a copy of the report was provided to all members and a copy is on file.

Standing Committees Report:

Budget & Finance – Met last week and has numerous Ordinances under New Business for the Court's consideration.

Courts & Public Safety – No Report.

Infrastructure & Roads – Met today and approved one (1) Ordinance to full court.

Personnel – Met last week and has forwarded one (1) Ordinance to Budget & Finance..

Special Reports:

None.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

The Court discussed Proposed Ordinance 22-54. This is an Ordinance appropriating and levying millage taxes on all property, real estate and person, in Faulkner County, and for other purposes. Justice Pickett made a motion to accept Proposed Ordinance 22-54 and Justice Brown seconded such motion. Counsel Murphy read Proposed Ordinance 22-54 by title only. After discussion, Judge Baker asked for a vote by roll call for Proposed Ordinance 22-54. The roll was called and Proposed Ordinance 22-54 passed with a voice vote of 12-0.

The Court discussed Proposed Ordinance 22-58. This is an appropriation Ordinance to amend and supplement Faulkner County Ordinance 21-45 (December 16, 2021) and to declare an emergency. Justice Pickett made a motion to accept Proposed Ordinance 22-58 and such motion was seconded by Justice Brown. Counsel Murphy read Proposed Ordinance 22-58 by title only. After discussion, Judge Baker asked for a vote by roll call for Proposed Ordinance 22-58. The roll was called and Proposed Ordinance 22-58 passed with a voice vote of 13-0.

The Court discussed Proposed Ordinance 22-59. This is an appropriation Ordinance to create a new position in the County Judge's Office and to declare an emergency. Justice Higgins made a motion to accept Proposed Ordinance 22-59 and such motion was seconded by Justice Shock. Counsel Murphy read Proposed Ordinance 22-59 by title only. Justice Higgins made a motion to amend Proposed Ordinance 22-59 to include a new section 5 to add a sunset clause to the position, that says the funding will terminate on December 31, 2026. Justice Allison seconded such motion. After discussion, the vote was called for the amendment. The roll was called and the amendment passed with a voice vote of 10-2, with Justices Roland and Kendrick voting no. Justice Kendrick made a motion to remove the emergency clause and Justice Brown seconded such motion. After discussion, the vote was called. The roll was called and such motion failed with a voice vote of 5 to 7, with Justices Allison, Brown, Kendrick, Roland and Strain voting yes. Justice Allison made a motion to table Proposed Ordinance 22-59 and Justice Kendrick seconded such motion. After further discussion, the vote was called and such motion failed with a voice vote of 5 to 7, with Justices Allison, Brown, Kendrick, Roland and Strain voting yes. After more discussion Judge Baker asked for a vote by roll call. The roll was called and Proposed Ordinance 22-59 failed with a voice vote of 7-5, with Justices Allison, Brown, Kendrick, Roland and Strain voting no.

The Court discussed Proposed Ordinance 22-60. This is an appropriation to amend and supplement Faulkner County Ordinance 20-02, establishing per diem compensation for Justices of the Peace attending Quorum Court meetings and standing committee meeting of the Faulkner County Quorum Court and Declaring an emergency. Justice Pearson made a motion to accept Proposed Ordinance 22-60 and such motion was seconded by Justice Higgins. Counsel Murphy read Proposed Ordinance 22-60 by title only. Justice Boyer made a motion to reduce the \$710.50 per diem to \$537.00 and such motion as seconded by Justice Allison. After discussion, the vote was called and such motion failed with a voice vote of 7-5, with Justices Allison, Boyer, Brown, Higgins, and Roland voting no. After discussion, Judge Baker asked for a vote by roll call. The roll was called and Proposed Ordinance 22-60 failed with a voice vote of 7-5, with Justices Allison, Boyer, Brown, Higgins and Shock voting no.

The Court discussed Proposed Ordinance 22-61. This is an appropriation Ordinance to amend and supplement Faulkner County Ordinance 13-03, and to declare an emergency. Justice Higgins made a motion to accept Proposed Ordinance 22-61 and such motion was seconded by Justice Pickett. Counsel Murphy read Proposed Ordinance 22-61 by title only. After discussion, Judge Baker asked for a vote by roll call for Proposed Ordinance 22-61. The roll was called and Proposed Ordinance 22-61 passed with a voice vote of 12-0.

The Court discussed Proposed Ordinance 22-62. This is an appropriation Ordinance to amend and supplement Faulkner County Ordinance 21-45 (December 16, 2021) and to declare an emergency. Justice Pickett made a motion to accept Proposed Ordinance 22-62 and such motion was seconded by Justice Brown. Counsel Murphy read Proposed Ordinance 22-62 by title only. After discussion, Judge Baker asked for a vote by roll call for Proposed Ordinance 22-62. The roll was called and Proposed Ordinance 22-62 passed with a voice vote of 12-0.

The Court discussed Proposed Ordinance 22-63. This an appropriation Ordinance to establish the annual operating budget for calendar year 2023, and to declare an emergency. Justice Pickett made a

motion to accept Proposed Ordinance 22-63, and such motion was seconded by Justice Higgins. Counsel Murphy read Proposed Ordinance 22-63 by title only.

Justice Kendrick made a motion to amend Proposed Ordinance 22-63 to amend to \$40,000.00 requested to \$80,000.00 Fund 3404, spay and neuter program and Justice Allison seconded the motion. After discussion Judge Baker called for a vote by roll call. The roll was called and the amendment passed with a vote of 10-1, with Justice Higgins voting no and Justice Boyer voting present.

Justice Allison made a motion to reduce the COLA to 3.5% for all employees with previously approved raises being added first. The motion was seconded by Justice Brown. After discussion, Judge Baker called for a vote by roll call. The roll was called and the amendment failed 5-7, with Justice Allison, Brown, Kendrick, Roland and Strain voting no.

Justice Knight made a motion to reduce the COLA to 5% and Justice Pearson seconded such motion. After discussion the vote was called, The roll was called and the motion failed 5-7, with Justices Allison, Brown, Knight, Moss and Pearson voting yes.

After further discussion, Justice Higgins called for the vote on Proposed Ordinance 22-63. The roll was called and Proposed Ordinance 22-63 failed with a voice vote of 7-5, Justices Allison, Brown, Kendrick, Roland and Strain voting no.

Justice Allison made a motion to reduce the COLA to 4% and Justice Brown seconded such motion. After discussion, the vote was called. The roll was called and the motion passed 7-4, with Justice Pearson voting Present and Justices Boyer, Higgins, Moss, and Pickett voting no.

After further discussion the vote was called and Judge Baker ask for a vote by roll call for Proposed Ordinance 22-63. The roll was called and Proposed Ordinance 22-63 passed with a voice vote of 9-2, with Justices Pickett and Strain voting no and Justice Boyer voting present.

Justice Kendrick made a motion to amend the agenda to add Proposed Ordinance 22-64 and such motion was seconded by Justice Brown and such motion was unanimously approved.

The Court discussed Proposed Ordinance 22-63. This is an appropriation Ordinance to amend and supplement Faulkner County Ordinance 22-63, and to declare an emergency. Counsel Murphy read Proposed Ordinance 22-64 by title only. Justice Boyer made a motion to table Proposed Ordinance 22-64 and such motion was seconded by Justice Higgins. After discussion, Judge Baker asked for a vote by roll call to table Proposed Ordinance 22-64. The roll was called and the motion to table Proposed Ordinance 22-64 passed with a voice vote of 12-0.

Appointment:

None.

Announcements:

None

Adjournment:

Adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

*******An audio tape of this meeting is kept on file*******