

COLUMBIA COUNTY QUORUM COURT

REGULAR MEETING

January 6, 2020

5:00 P.M.

2ND FLOOR COURTROOM

COLUMBIA COUNTY COURTHOUSE

JUDGE'S AGENDA

Meeting will come to order

Clerk will please call the roll

Invocation

Clerk will please read the minutes

Committee Reports

| | |
|-------------|---------------------------------------|
| Jail | Chair – Lee Co Chair - Rick Waller |
| Building | Chair – Blair Co Chair - Williams |
| Finance | Chair - Pate Co Chair – Blair |
| Personnel | Chair – Cook Co Chair - Ray |
| Solid Waste | Chair – Thomas Co Chair – Cook |

Old Business

New Business

- A. Consider an Appropriation Ordinance for 2019 Year End Clean Up
- B. Consider an Appropriation Ordinance Supplementing Various Budgets
- C. Consider an Appropriation Ordinance Creating the Rural Community Grant Budget
- C. Consider a Resolution Declaring and Filling a Vacancy in the Office of County Judge
- D. Consider a Resolution of Appreciation for Judge Larry Atkinson

APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE 2020.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE QUORUM COURT OF COLUMBIA COUNTY, ARKANSAS

AN APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE TO BE ENTITLED: AN APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE SUPPLEMENTING AND AMENDING THE ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGET FOR THE GENERAL, ROAD AND SOLID WASTE FUNDS OF COLUMBIA COUNTY FOR THE YEAR 2019. AN APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE TRANSFERRING WITHIN VARIOUS COUNTY BUDGETS FOR YEAR END CLEAN UP AND SUPPLEMENTING THE SOLID WASTE FUND BUDGET.

WHEREAS, the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985 (COBRA) was signed into law on April 7, 1986. Federal law requires employers of 20 or more employees to offer employees who have experienced a qualifying event the right to continue group health coverage for a specified period at applicable group rates plus administrative fees when this coverage would otherwise end.

WHEREAS, we have a solid waste department employee which terminated employment in November and has elected to participate in the COBRA plan; and

WHEREAS, we are hereby increasing anticipated revenue in the amount of \$506.66 to the Solid Waste Fund Budget and the COBRA participants will make monthly payments to the administrator and they will send payments to the county. The county will be responsible for paying the vendor.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE QUORUM COURT OF COLUMBIA COUNTY, ARKANSAS:

ARTICLE 1 The Quorum Court has found and determined that some of the budgets, for Calendar Year 2019, as appropriated by Appropriation 2018.17, are hereby amended as set forth; and

ARTICLE 2 That the Quorum Court did on January 6, 2020 adopt an amended budget as documented below:

TRANSFERRING

GENERAL FUND/1000

CIRCUIT CLERK/1000.0102

\$2,715.00 from 1000.0102.3009/other professional services to 1000.0102.1009/health insurance match

ASSESSOR/1000.0105

\$1,000.25 from 1000.0105.3009/other professional services to 1000.0105.1009/health insurance match

SHERIFF/1000.0400

\$6,223.64 from 1000.0400.1009/insurance match to 1000.0400.1001/salaries/full time

DEPUTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY (DPA)/1000.0416

\$9.44 from 1000.0117.2001/general supplies/parts/labor to 1000.0416.3093/miscellaneous law enforcement

ROAD FUND/2000

\$1,073.94 from 2000.0200.1009/health insurance match to 2000.0200.1005/overtime

DRUG CONTROL FUND/3015.0400

\$915.00 from 3015.0400.3111/sheriff's buy account to 3015.0400.2001/general supplies/parts/labor

JAIL/3017.0418

\$3,259.23 from 3017.0418.1009/insurance match to 3017.0418.1001/salaries/full time

EMERGENCY 911 FUND/3020.0501

\$356.90 from 3020.0501.1009/health insurance match to 3020.0501.1005/overtime

SUPPLEMENTING

SOLID WASTE

\$506.66 to 3009.0701.1014/COBRA

ARTICLE 3 Pursuant to Arkansas Code Annotated Section 14.14.907, this Appropriation Ordinance shall be effective immediately upon passage by the Quorum Court and Approval by the County Judge.

DATE OF PASSAGE: JANUARY 6, 2020.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

LARRY ATKINSON
COLUMBIA COUNTY JUDGE

TAMMY J. WILTZ
COLUMBIA COUNTY CLERK

APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE 2020.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE QUORUM COURT OF COLUMBIA COUNTY, ARKANSAS

AN APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE TO BE ENTITLED: AN APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING THE ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGET FOR THE COUNTY GENERAL AND SPECIAL PROJECTS FUNDS FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY FOR THE YEAR 2020. **AN APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE SUPPLEMENTING THE COUNTY CLERK'S BUDGET AND THE SPECIAL PROJECTS JAIL BUDGET.**

WHEREAS, County Clerk, Tammy Wiltz, wishes to change from using the Chief Deputy Slot to using two (2) team leader slots in her office; and

WHEREAS, there will be a difference in the total personal services category of \$781.00, of which will come from available unappropriated funds; and

WHEREAS, the Quorum Court wishes to continue using Roof Connect for the maintenance and repair of the Jail roof and will need to do certain recommended repairs before they will enter into another contract with the County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE QUORUM COURT OF COLUMBIA COUNTY, ARKANSAS:

ARTICLE 1 The Quorum Court has found and determined that the County General and Special Projects Jail Budgets, for Calendar Year 2020, as appropriated by Appropriation 2019.21, is hereby amended as set forth; and

ARTICLE 2 That the Quorum Court did on January 6, 2020 adopt an amended budget supplementing the County General Fund, specifically the County Clerk's Budget and the Special Projects Fund, specifically the Jail Budget, as stated below. These appropriations will be from available unappropriated funds.

SUPPLEMENTING:

COUNTY GENERAL/1000

COUNTY CLERK/1000.0101

\$635.00 to 1000.0101.1001/salaries/full time

\$49.00 to 1000.0101.1006/social security matching

\$97.00 to 1000.0101.1008/noncontributory retirement

COUNTY SPECIAL PROJECTS FUND/1800

JAIL/1800.0418

\$10,917.00 to 1800.0418.2001/general repairs/parts/labor

ARTICLE 3 Pursuant to Arkansas Code Annotated Section 14.14.907, this Appropriation Ordinance shall be effective immediately upon passage by the Quorum Court and Approval by the County Judge.

DATE OF PASSAGE: January 6, 2020.

APPROVED:

LARRY ATKINSON
COLUMBIA COUNTY JUDGE

ATTEST:

TAMMY J. WILTZ
COLUMBIA COUNTY CLERK

APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE 2020.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE QUORUM COURT OF COLUMBIA COUNTY, ARKANSAS:

AN APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE TO BE ENTITLED: AN APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE ADJUSTING THE BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD FOR THE ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGET FOR THE RURAL COMMUNITY GRANTS FUND FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY FOR THE YEAR 2020. **AN APPROPRIATION FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM.**

WHEREAS, the Legislature passed Act 302 during the 1991 session which established the Arkansas Rural Development Commission and the Office of Rural Advocacy which provides for the Arkansas Rural Community Grant Programs and creates the Rural Grant Fund on the books of the County Treasurer; and

WHEREAS, Columbia County applied for and was awarded a grant through the Arkansas Department of Rural Services, Arkansas Community Assistance Grant; and

WHEREAS, the County was awarded \$50,000.00 which has been received and is in the Treasury;

WHEREAS, the County was also awarded \$32,570.00 from the Arkansas Development and Enhancement Fund to complete the Sheriff's grant. This check is also in the Treasury.

WHEREAS, no budget was prepared for the Rural Community Grant Fund in the 2020 Budget, therefore we are hereby creating and appropriating \$82,570.00 as documented below.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED BY THE QUORUM COURT OF THE COUNTY OF COLUMBIA, STATE OF ARKANSAS:

ARTICLE 1 The Quorum Court has found and determined the Columbia County Rural Community Grant Fund Budget, for the Calendar Year 2020, is hereby created as set forth.

ARTICLE 2 That the Quorum Court of Columbia County did on January 6, 2020, adopt the creation of the Rural Community Grant Fund Budget, as documented below, in the sum of \$82,570.00.

ARTICLE 3 Pursuant to Arkansas Code Annotated Section 14.14.907, this Appropriation Ordinance shall be effective immediately upon passage by the Quorum Court and Approval by the County Judge.

CREATING RURAL COMMUNITY GRANT FUND BUDGET/3500

SHERIFF/3500.0400

| ACCOUNT | DESCRIPTION | ORIGINAL APPROPRIATION | NEW APPROPRIATION |
|----------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 3500.0400.3102 | computer software | -0- | \$82,570.00 |

DATE OF PASSAGE: January 6, 2020.

APPROVED:

LARRY ATKINSON
COLUMBIA COUNTY JUDGE

ATTEST:

TAMMY J. WILTZ
COLUMBIA COUNTY CLERK

RESOLUTION NO. 2020.

**A RESOLUTION DECLARING AND FILLING A VACANCY IN THE
OFFICE OF COUNTY JUDGE IN THE COUNTY OF COLUMBIA, STATE OF ARKANSAS**

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE QUORUM COURT OF THE COUNTY OF COLUMBIA, STATE
OF ARKANSAS THAT:**

WHEREAS, Larry Atkinson, who presently holds the office of the County Judge of Columbia County, State of Arkansas, and has served in that capacity since 2007, will be taking early retirement due to health reasons effective January 31, 2020.

WHEREAS, it is the obligation of the Quorum Court of the County of Columbia, State of Arkansas, to declare that a vacancy will occur in the office of the County Judge in the County of Columbia, State of Arkansas, as authorized by Amendment 55 of the Constitution of the State of Arkansas and Arkansas Code Annotated § 14-14-1309.

WHEREAS, the Quorum Court is further authorized by Amendment 55 of the Constitution of the State of Arkansas and Arkansas Code Annotated § 14-14-1310 to fill the vacancy in the unexpired term by appointment;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE QUORUM COURT OF THE
COUNTY OF COLUMBIA, ARKANSAS:**

SECTION 1. A vacancy is hereby declared to exist in the office of County Judge of Columbia County, Arkansas, due to the early retirement of the duly elected Columbia County Judge, Larry Atkinson on February 1, 2020.

SECTION 2. That _____ is appointed hereby to fill the position of County Judge of Columbia County, Arkansas, effective 12:01 a.m. February 1, 2020, and that said person is authorized hereby to serve in said capacity until the expiration of the term on December 31, 2022.

Passed, approved, and adopted this 6 day of January 2020.

APPROVED:

Larry Atkinson, County Judge

ATTEST:

Tammy J. Wiltz, County Clerk

RESOLUTION NO. 2020 - ____

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE QUORUM COURT OF COLUMBIA COUNTY, STATE OF ARKANSAS, A RESOLUTION TO BE ENTITLED:

**RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION AND RECOGNITION OF
PUBLIC SERVICE TO THE
HONORABLE LARRY DALE ATKINSON**

WHEREAS, on June 1, 1984, Larry Atkinson, officially began his service to the citizens of Columbia County, Arkansas, by accepting the position of Manager for the Columbia County Rural Development Authority. In his service, Larry Atkinson made invaluable contributions to the development of Lake Columbia, a reservoir constructed in 1986, and thereafter fulfilled the managerial responsibilities crucial to the success of our young lake until he resigned that position in 2006 to take on a greater role as the newly elected Columbia County Judge; and

WHEREAS, on January 1, 2007, Larry Atkinson was sworn into the office of County Judge for Columbia County, Arkansas. Because of the faithful pursuit of his commitment to the duties attendant to the oath of office that he swore to uphold, his compassion, guidance, and outstanding leadership, Judge Atkinson is a proven and valuable asset to the citizens and betterment of Columbia County; and

WHEREAS, after more than twelve years of public service in the office of County Judge, Judge Atkinson, regretfully announced that effective January 31, 2020, he will retire early from the office of County Judge to attend to matters of a personal and urgent nature; and

WHEREAS, the Quorum Court of Columbia County, by the authority vested to it by Arkansas Code §14-14-913, wishes to express its sincere gratitude to Judge Atkinson for all of the hard work he has done, the person that he is, and the difference he has made to Columbia County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Quorum Court of the County of Columbia, State of Arkansas, That the Quorum Court, in recognition of more than thirty-four years of dedicated service to the citizens of Columbia County, Arkansas, hereby commends and expresses its appreciation to the *Honorable Larry Dale Atkinson*.

IT IS SO RESOLVED.

Introduced and adopted this 6th day of January, 2020.

ATTEST:

Tammy J. Wiltz, County Clerk

QUORUM COURT REGULAR MEETING
December 9, 2019
COLUMBIA COUNTY COURTHOUSE, 2ND FLOOR
5:00 P.M.

The Honorable Larry Atkinson called the regular meeting of the Columbia County Quorum Court to order. Mr. Lee gave the invocation. County Clerk Tammy Wiltz called roll; all members were present.

Motion was made by Mr. Lee and 2nd by Mr. Story to suspend the rules and accept the November 2019 minutes as mailed. All were in favor.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

BUILDING – Ms. Blair reported that the Columbia County Election Commission had concerns about the ADA compliance at the West Annex, and that Judge Atkinson was already making necessary improvements. A new contract with the existing company that maintains the jail roof will be renewed for 2020 if the county invests \$9,890 for improvements.

FINANCE - Ms. Pate referenced revenue report from Treasurer's office.

JAIL – Mr. Lee reported the freezer had been repaired. Sheriff Loe stated that the \$50,000 grant that they had lost had been reinstated, as well as an additional \$32,750 from the Governor's office for the Crimestar project.

ROAD - By handout.

PERSONNEL – Ms. Cook had no report.

SOLID WASTE – Mr. O. Thomas had no report.

OLD BUSINESS-None.

NEW BUSINESS

APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE 2019.23

An appropriation ordinance amending and supplementing various budgets for a one-time lump sum payment to county employees. Motion was made by Mr. Lee and 2nd by Ms. Cook. All in favor.

APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE 2019.24

An appropriation ordinance creating and appropriating the annual operating budget for the additional motor fuel tax fund for the year 2020 and amending and supplementing the road fund for 2020. Motion was made by Mr. Lee and 2nd by Mr. Williams. All in favor.

Motion was made to adjourn meeting by Ms. Blair and 2nd by Mr. Lee. All were in favor.
Time 5:30 p.m.

At this time Judge Larry Atkinson announced his decision to take early retirement, effective January 31, 2020, due to health issues.

COLUMBIA COUNTY CLERK

Tammy J. Wiltz

dhf

CANDIDATES FOR APPOINTMENT TO FILL THE UNEXPIRED TERM OF COUNTY JUDGE

BEVERLY THOMAS

JAMES YOUNG

DAVID CLARK

DENNY FOSTER

SHEILA NASH

JOHN DYSON

BURL CAMPBELL

TOMMY PEACE