

**FIRE, POLICE & SAFETY MEETING
JULY 20, 2023 1:30 ANNEX BUILDING**

ATTENDANCE: Chairman Justice Neil Burge; Justice Tobye McClanahan; Justice Betty Hepler; Justice Melinda Martin; Justice Rick Ash; Justice Drake Brown; Justice Reggie Cullom; Finance Kelli Jones; Sheriff Dale Cook; Captain David Gladden; Major Rob Rounsavall; Chris Smith; Collector Susan McCormick; NEA Town Courier Revis Blaylock.

1. Meeting was called to order by Justice Neil Burge. Cleaning service bid was awarded to SG360. Meeting was turned over to Christine Smith to discuss the invoices from the hospital for the Health Department. Two invoices were presented. \$14,168.40, \$15,699.54. \$1.5 million grant was received to renovate the Osceola and Blytheville Health Units. Ms. Smith didn't have information for the rent charged. Ritter was hired by the hospital to install 15 phones. Health Department phones were not compatible with the hospital phones. The committee suggested the hospital administrator or John Logan come to the Finance Committee and explain the invoices.

2. Sheriff Cook requested another officer for security in the Blytheville Courthouse. Sheriff Cook would like to have one person from the jail roster assigned to the Blytheville Courthouse to work the scanner and electronic equipment. The other two officers would work the court. Same pay scale as a courthouse transport security officer. Sheriff Cook had extra positions that were not filled. There was one deputy the Sheriff would like to raise to Sergeant. Motion was made by Justice Tobye McClanahan to move the request for another security officer to Personnel. Second was made by Justice Betty Hepler. Motion was made by Justice Betty Hepler to fund a slot to move a deputy to Sergeant to Finance. Second was made by Melinda Martin. Motions passed.

3. Data mining discussion. Ordinance O-2023-35 passed the first reading in the June Quorum Court Meeting. Two more readings were needed. Information had been flowing on data mining. Bill was presented to Legislature and passed. Bill was going in effect August 1, 2023. State statute prohibiting any Municipality or Quorum Court putting any rules in place that would hinder a bit coin operation. Crypto mining. Concerns by local populations about the facilities. The Ordinance gave some control by the counties to regulate new facilities. Largest problem addressed was the amount of noise is produced by the coolers. Large amounts of electricity were needed. Took about 10 mega watts to run one. Warnings had been issued about shortages. The Committee recommended the Ordinance be approved at the Quorum Court Meeting July 25 because of the time frame.

4. Meeting adjourned.

Minutes submitted by: Cindy George