

**PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT MEETING
JUNE 23, 2022 1:00 P.M. ANNEXD BUILDING**

ATTENDANCE: Chairman Justice Michael White; Justice Tobye McClanahan; Justice Cecil McDonald; Justice Molly Jackson; Justice Rick Ash; Gene Bennett; Clif Chitwood; Willis D. Williams Jr.; Blanche Hunt; Dominique Euell; Councilman Mayberry; Margaret Mayberry; Howard Smith; Douglas Echols Sr.; Michael Jacques; Jacob Holmes; Mayor Sally Wilson; Lisa Cross; Anes Abraham; County Clerk Janice Currie; Mayor James Sanders; Fred Wright; Chamber of Commerce Liz Smith; Finance Kelli Jones; Treasurer Peggy Meatte; Sandy Gillespie; Mallory Darby; Brad Harrison; Marty Orr; Seth Hollifield; Collector Susan Short; Juvenile Daryl Turner; Barrett Harrison; Pastor Nick Smith; Rev. Jones; Judge John Alan Nelson; Angie Nelson; Public Affairs Tom Henry; NEA Town Courier Revis Blaylock.

1. Meeting was called to order by Justice Michael White. Justice White turned the meeting over to Clif Chitwood.

2. Mr. Chitwood presented a recommendation for Chime Solutions an Atlanta based company owned by Mark Wilson who was an African American business man. Dunn and Bradstreet gave Mr. Wilson a \$25,000.00 contract. Built into a multi million dollar call center. Seven years ago he started Chime Solutions. Located in Dallas, Atlanta and Charleston. Mr. Wilson would like to bring to Blytheville a service center dedicated to Cigna Insurance. Training would last eight weeks, 40 hours a week. Company was not asking for incentive money but were asking to train our people and pay them while being trained. Request for \$1,991,531.00 to train 150 people over the eight week period. To be hired by Chime you had to pass an aptitude test, drug screening, Cigna would begin the eight weeks of training. State was interested in helping and Mr. Chitwood was expecting between \$500,000.00 and \$800,000.00 and would come off the \$1,991,531.00. Training would be thru ANC. Payroll started after pre- employment training. Gene Bennett addressed the committee. \$360,000.00 for Cigna training, \$81,250.00 for pre- employment training, \$82,031.00 for new hire training, management and support staff training \$9,875.00. Child care would be available. Medical, 401, retirement provided. Justice McDonald thought everyone should be employed over minimum wage. Mississippi County should not be in the bottom 10 in the nation. Justice McDonald was in support of Chime Solutions. Mayor Sanders and Mayor Wilson were also in support of Chime Solutions. Motion was made by Justice Cecil McDonald to move the recommendation to the full court to appropriate \$1,991,531.00 for Chime Solutions for training for 150 people. Second was made by Justice Tobye McClanahan. Motion passed.

3. Sierra Group. Request. 30 jobs//500K loan. Recommendation \$250,000.00 on loan payment. Sierra Group was expanding 30 jobs. Financing had been secured with a loan for \$500,000.00 from Southern Bancorp. The Executive Board recommended a \$250,000.00 offset payment on the \$500,000.00 loan. Loan secured would have second lien on equipment. Motion was made by Justice Tobye McClanahan to approve the request. Second was made by Justice Cecil McDonald. Motion passed.

4. Wheatland Tube- ATLAS Company. \$50 million investment. 60 jobs. \$25 to \$32 per hour. Recommended package of \$550K capital offset with recommendation that \$250K be contributed to Grow Mississippi County for Wheatley and Atlas employees under the WH-LH program. 200 people working when staffed. Motion was made by Justice Tobbye McClanahan to support the recommendation. Second was made by Justice Cecil McDonald. Motion passed.

5. USS. BRS. Mr. Chitwood recommended a new Economic Development contract with BRS and USS for \$1 million in capital offsets in exchange for 100 new jobs. Motion was made by Justice Tobbye McClanahan for the recommendation. Second was made by Justice Cecil McDonald. Motion passed.

6. Mr. Chitwood introduced Mallory Darby the new Vice President of Great River Economic Foundation.

7. Tachyon a German company. Made electric batteries for charging stations. Snyder building was shown. Getting figures on some repairs to the building. Checked to see if the wet fire system was adequate for batteries or a dry system needed to be put in. Over 400 workers were expected.

8. S-K a Korean Company. Chemical manufacturer. They were looking at a qualified site in Osceola near BRS. Job figures about 150.

9. Frigortec. County helped expand from 4 jobs to 10 jobs. Frigortec was looking at adding another 30 jobs and bringing a large part of their manufacturing from Germany to Blytheville. Also interested in the Snyder Building.

10. Judge Nelson would be hosting representatives from Senator Boozman and Senator Cotton's office next week.

11. Quorum Court Tuesday June 28th at 6:00 p.m. Osceola Courthouse

12. Meeting adjourned.

Minutes submitted by: Cindy George