

**PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT MEETING  
AUGUST 16, 2022 1:30 ANNEX BUILDING**

**ATTENDANCE:** Chairman Justice Michael White; Justice Neil Burge; Justice Tobye McClanahan; Justice Cecil McDonald; Justice Joe Lewis; Justice Harbans Mangat; Justice Molly Jackson; Justice Rick Ash; Economic Development Clif Chitwood, Mallory Darby; ANC Dr. James Shemwell; Gene Bennett; Finance Kelli Jones; Angie Nelson; Judge John Alan Nelson; Public Affairs Tom Henry; NEA Town Courier Revis Blaylock.

1. Meeting was called to order by Justice Michal White. Meeting turned over to Clif Chitwood. Gene Bennett gave an update on Chime Solutions. 294 recruited, 215 took the Chime assessment, 157 passed the assessment were interviewed, 102 had done the drug screen, 93 went thru the background check, 24 had completed 100% of the background check, Chime Solutions had selected 17 to work on a separate project with a company called Elite and would start training. Pre employment training had started. 50 plus 43 would go into Cigna training. A recruiter had been hired and two trainers. Background check process. Sterling was the company that did the background check. First part names were sent to Chime, Chime forwarded the names to Sterling, Sterling sent an email notification to the individual, resume had to be uploaded, high school transcript, diploma. When uploaded names were submitted. ANC provided training for 13 to 20 industries.
2. Frigortec contract was organized. The building was going to be sold for \$500,000.00. Money earned for every job and kept for two years earned a credit for 12,500.00. 30 jobs would be \$375,000.00.00 and left Frigortec owing \$125,000.00. \$125,000.00 would be earned by giving invoices and checks that proved the \$125,000.00 had been reinvested back into the building. Building would then be transferred to Frigortec. \$375,000.00 appropriated in Finance did not need to be done. Ordinance needed to be done to approve the contract. Motion was made by Justice McClanahan to approve the contract as written and presented by GREDA to the full Court. Second was made by Justice Neil Burge. Motion passed.
3. Remuriate. Cleaned the acid that cleaned the steel at BRS. Asked for a Sales and Tax Back Resolution. Motion was made by Justice McClanahan to approve the Sales and Tax Back Resolution. Second was made by Justice Burge. Motion passed.
4. Discussion. No action at this time. Tamika wrote the grants Economic Development. Was a time consuming effort. Work Here/ Live Here Program had started and Mr. Chitwood thought Mallory would not have time to respond to the requests. EAPD would be used but sometimes dropped the grant. Cody worked for the City of Osceola as a grant writer and had offered to work up to 1,000 hours per year for \$20.00 an hour. Maximum \$20,000.00. Most grants had an administrative fee and would be kept. GREDA may ask for \$20,000.00 at budget time.
5. Mallory spoke about Retail Solutions. Was presented at last meeting. During the meeting an e-mail was received that proposal was just for Blytheville and not the entire County. Numbers for the entire County. Originally \$45,000.00 for the first year, \$40,000.00 for years 2 and 3. New numbers \$65,000.00 first year, \$50,000.00 years 2 and 3. Would discount year

1 to \$55,000.00, year 2 and 3 to \$50,000.00. Could exit at any time. Took 18 months to get established. Board would revisit. Recruit retail to the County. Focused mainly on Osceola, Blytheville and Manila. Headquarters were in Birmingham. Justice McClanahan stated the voters wanted the Court to find ways to help the County with retail.

6. Mr. Chitwood said Economic Development were working other projects. Grow Mississippi County Foundation contributed \$230,000.00. Two projects were held by owners who expressed an interest to help advance Mississippi County. Primarily in educational. Took 2 ½% to 5% in the abatement and donated to a private foundation dedicated to raising test scores in Mississippi County. Justice White thought this could impact the County. Mr. Chitwood stated BRS and US Steel had participated in the Work Here/Live Here program.

7. Meeting adjourned.

Minutes submitted by: Cindy George