

JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS
MISSISSIPPI COUNTY QUORUM COURT
December 20, 2022

The Quorum Court of Mississippi County, Arkansas, met in regular session at 6:00 p.m. in the Justice Neil Burge gave the invocation, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

The following members answered roll call:

Justice Ash	Justice Jackson
Justice Burge	Justice Lewis
Justice Cullom	Justice Mangat
Justice Fleeman	Justice McClanahan
Justice Hepler	Justice White

Absent: Justice McDonald. Also in attendance was County Attorney Jacob Holmes.

Justice White moved to dispense with the reading of the minutes as copies had been provided to the members. Justice Ash seconded the motion and the voice vote was unanimous.

In the treasurer's report, County Treasurer Peggy Meatte reported the interest rate at Cadence Bank (formerly Bancorp South) was 3.70% on \$100,000.00 for eight months. Sales tax revenue was once again up from previous month; one of the best in the past ten years.

Committee Reports:

Planning and Development Committee: Justice White reported the committee met on December 08, 2022. Wayne Reynold, OEM was present to discuss the issue he was having getting notification of new constructions. He stressed the importance of having a registered 911 address. He also presented a sample ordinance with specified guidelines to the committee.

Justice White also reported, Dr. Shemwell had received information on all Arkansas Secondary Institutions. Five years after graduation the average salary received was \$61,342.00. Out of twenty-two, ANC was almost \$10,000.00 more than the second highest.

Finance Committee: Justice Burge reported the committee met on December 12, 2022 and topics of discussion were:

- November expenses were reviewed. Budgets continued to be in line. County in good financial standing.
- Landfill transferred \$1,500,000.00 this year.
- The county being eligible to receive \$50,000.00 this year and next year for shared federal money.
- Human Society building
- Vehicles for Senior Citizens Center
- Update on Health Departments improvements

The clerk was asked to read a resolution titles: A RESOLUTION HONORING JUSTICE FRED FLEEMAN FOR SERVICE AS A QUORUM COURT JUSTICE FROM DISTRICT NO. 1. Following the reading, Justice White moved to adopt, Justice Hepler seconded and the vote was: : Aye --- Ash, Burge, Cullom, Fleeman, Hepler, Jackson, Lewis, Mangat, McClanahan and White; Nay --- None; Absent --- McDonald. R-2022-18 was adopted by the court.

The clerk was asked to read a resolution titles: A RESOLUTION HONORING JUSTICE JOE LEWIS FOR SERVICE AS A QUORUM COURT JUSTICE FROM DISTRICT NO. 7. Following the reading, Justice White moved to adopt, Justice Hepler seconded and the vote was: : Aye --- Ash, Burge, Cullom, Fleeman, Hepler, Jackson, Lewis, Mangat, McClanahan and White; Nay --- None; Absent --- McDonald. R-2022-19 was adopted by the court.

The clerk was asked to read an ordinance titled: AN ORDINANCE TO BE ENTITLED: "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR TRANSACTING BUSINESS AT ALL REGULAR SESSIONS OF THE QUORUM COURT OF MISSISSIPPI COUNTY, ARKANSAS" Following the reading, Justice White moved to adopt and Justice McClanahan seconded. Before the vote, Justice White expressed the need for this ordinance to be read three times. Justice White made a motion to amend the rules and attach an emergency clause and proceed to the second reading by title only, Justice McClanahan seconded and the vote was: Aye --- Ash, Burge, Cullom, Fleeman, Hepler, Jackson, Lewis, Mangat, McClanahan and White; Nay --- None; Absent --- McDonald. Judge Nelson asked for a motion to amend the title of this ordinance to correct a scrivener's error. Justice White so moved, Justice McClanahan seconded and the vote was: Aye --- Ash, Burge, Cullom, Fleeman, Hepler, Lewis, Mangat, McClanahan and White; Nay --- None; Absent --- McDonald. The amended title now read as follows: AN ORDINANCE TO BE ENTITLED: "AN ORDINANCE FIXING THE RATES FOR COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT, ARKANSAS NORTHEASTERN COLLEGE DISTRICT, SCHOOL DISTRICTS, AND MUNICIPALITIES WITHIN THE COUNTY OF MISSISSIPPI FOR THE YEAR 2022 AND LEVYING SAID TAXES FOR COLLECTION IN THE YEAR 2023, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES". Following the second reading of the amended title by title only, Justice White to amend the rules of procedure and proceed to the third reading by title only, Justice Ash seconded and the vote was: Aye --- Ash, Burge, Cullom, Fleeman, Hepler, Jackson, Lewis, Mangat, McClanahan and White; Nay --- None; Absent --- McDonald. Following the third reading by title only, Justice White moved to adopt, Justice Ash seconded and the vote was: Aye --- Ash, Burge, Cullom, Fleeman, Hepler, Jackson, Lewis, Mangat, McClanahan and White; Nay --- None; Absent --- McDonald. Ordinance No. O-2022-66 was adopted by the court.

The clerk was asked to read an ordinance titled: AN ORDINANCE TO BE ENTITLED: "AN ORDINANCE REGULATING SERVICE OF PUBLIC UTILITIES AND ASSIGNMENT OF ADDRESSES BY OEM". Following the reading of said ordinance, Justice Ash informed the court this ordinance also required three readings and made a motion to add an emergency clause and proceed to the second reading by title only, Justice White seconded and the vote was: Aye --- Ash, Burge, Cullom, Fleeman, Hepler, Jackson, Lewis, Mangat, McClanahan and White; Nay --- None; Absent --- McDonald. Following the second reading by title only, Justice Ash made a motion to proceed to the third reading by title only, Justice Hepler seconded and the vote was: Aye --- Ash, Burge, Cullom, Fleeman, Hepler, Jackson, Lewis, Mangat, McClanahan and White; Nay --- None; Absent --- McDonald. Following the third reading by title only, Justice Ash moved to adopt, Justice Hepler seconded and the vote was: Aye --- Ash, Burge, Cullom, Fleeman, Hepler, Jackson, Lewis, Mangat, McClanahan and White; Nay --- None; Absent --- McDonald. Ordinance No. O-2022-67 was adopted by the court.

There being no further business to come before the court, Justice White moved to adjourn, Justice McClanahan seconded and the voice vote was unanimous. The meeting adjourned at 6:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Janice Currie

Janice Currie
Mississippi County Clerk/Secretary

**QUORUM COURT
MISSISSIPPI COUNTY, ARKANSAS
Tuesday, January 24, 2023
Blytheville, Arkansas**

**6:00 p.m. REGULAR SESSION OF QUORUM COURT IN THE CIRCUIT COURTROOM OF THE
BLYTHEVILLE COURTHOUSE**

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Prayer Dr. Terri Brassfield H.I.S. Ministries
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Roll Call
5. Reading/Approval of Minutes
6. Treasurer's Report
7. Committee Reports
 - American Rescue Plan (12-20) – Chairman Justice Molly Jackson
 - Meeting to Elect Chairmans of Committees (1-6) – Justice Harbans Mangat
 - Planning & Development (1-12) – Chairman Justice Michael White
 - Finance Committee (1/17) – Chairman Justice Michael White
8. Resolutions:
 - Tax Back FrigoTec LP
9. Ordinances:
 - Appropriation Ordinance Tenaris
 - Appropriation Ordinance Coroner's Office
 - Appropriation Ordinance Cranford Co.
10. New Business
11. Old Business
12. Announcements
13. Adjourn

**AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN MEETING
DECEMBER 20, 2022 1:30 ANNEX BUILDING**

ATTENDANCE: Chairman Justice Molly Jackson; Justice Harbans Mangat; Justice Tobye McClanahan; Justice Rick Ash; Justice Neil Burge; Justice Michael White; Justice Betty Hepler; Justice Joe Lewis; Finance Kelli Jones; Treasurer Peggy Meatte; Judge John Alan Nelson.

1. Meeting was called to order by Justice Molly Jackson. Health Units were discussed. Copies of e-mails were handed out. The project had been bid several times. Base bid was \$1.9 million. Cleaning up the empty lot had been eliminated. \$66,000.00. Down to \$1.7 million. Olympus was approached to get ways to reduce the cost. No floor demo. Osceola would save \$9,000.00. Mr. Ruby did not recommend putting new floors over old tile. Solid surface counter tops replaced with laminate would save \$40,000.00. Mr. Cool offered a \$13,000.00 savings on HVAC. No resurfacing or resealing of parking lots was included in the bid.

2. The bid from Olympus would expire on Friday December 23rd. Justice Jackson thought another \$250,000.00 needed to be appropriated to the project. Justice Burge thought Mr. Ruby should re - design the plans to get lower bids. Mr. Ruby was asked to draw new plans and re-bid the project. Motion was made by Justice Tobye McClanahan to let the bid expire. Second was made by Harbans Mangat. Motion passed.

3. Humane Society. Property north of the Courthouse was owned by the Humane Society. The thrift store was needed to generate income. \$50,000.00 per year. Judge Nelson thought the property across from Hardy sales could be used. Building was around 3800 square foot. New building could be built for around ¼ million. Humane Society asked for \$500,000.00 and build the building they way they wanted it. The old Blytheville Police station was also discussed for storage.

4. Public needed to be educated on why they needed to move to the area. An ad agency was needed to promote Mississippi County. Cost could be \$1 million per year. Moved forward to see what could be done.

5. Meeting adjourned.

Minutes submitted by: Cindy George

**MEETING TO ELECT CHAIRMANS OF COMMITTEES
JANUARY 6, 2023 1:30 ANNEX BUILDING**

ATTENDANCE: Justice Molly Jackson; Justice Reggie Cullom; Justice Harbans Mangat; Justice Cecil McDonald; Justice Tobye McClanahan; Justice Rick Ash; Justice Neil Burge; Justice Michael White; Justice Betty Hepler; Justice Drake Brown; Justice Melinda Martin; NEA Town Courier Revis Blaylock.

- 1. Meeting was called to order by Justice Harbans Mangat. Justice Mangat called the Personnel Committee to order. Justice Betty Hepler nominated Justice Harbans Mangat and moved to close nominations. Second was made by Justice Tobye McClanahan. Motion passed.**
- 2. Finance Committee. Justice Neil Burge nominated Justice Michael White and moved nominations cease and be elected by acclamation. Motion passed.**
- 3. Fire, Police & Safety. Justice Tobye McClanahan nominated Justice Neil Burge. Second was made by Justice Betty Helper. No other nominations. Motion passed.**
- 4. Energy & Property. Justice Michael nominated Justice Molly Jackson. Second was made by Justice Rick Ash. Nominations closed by acclamation. Motion passed.**
- 5. Roads & Bridges. Justice Michael White nominated Justice Rick Ash. Second was made by Justice Betty Hepler. Motion passed.**
- 6. Social Services. Justice Rick Ash nominated Justice Tobye McClanahan and closed nominations by acclamation. Motion passed.**
- 7. Sanitation and Solid Waste. Justice Michael White nominated Justice Tobye McClanahan. Second was made by Justice White. Motion passed.**
- 8. Planning & Development. Justice Rick Ash nominated Justice Michael White. Second was made by Justice Reggie Cullom. Motion passed.**
- 9. Insurance. Justice Rick Ash nominated Justice Reggie Cullom and close nomination by acclamation. Second was made by Justice Betty Hepler. Motion passed.**
- 10. Efficiency. Justice Rick Ash nominated Justice Cecil McDonald and close nominations by acclamation. Second was made by Justice Neil Burge. Motion passed.**
- 11. American Rescue Plan. Justice Tobye McClanahan nominated Justice Molly Jackson. Second was made by Justice Reggie Cullom and closed nominations by acclamation. Motion passed.**
- 12. Justice Jackson talked with Aaron Ruby about the health departments. Mr. Ruby came up with a list that could be eliminated to bring the cost down to original figure. There was a**

contractor that would like to bid on the project if divided into two separate bids. The wall in the Blytheville health department was not load bearing. Plumbing costs could be saved if only one bathroom was done. The committee would like to use a local business for the heat and air. New plans were ready to bid.

13. New Courtrooms. 8 items needed to be done. The contractor thought they could be finished in three weeks. Judge Dan Ritchey sent a letter stating the courtrooms would start being used next week. Justice Ash asked if a contractor had been contacted to clean the courthouse. Complaints had been received. Judge Nelson was looking into cleaning companies.

14. Justice White asked about the repairs in Osceola. Justice Ash recommended the Energy & Property tour the annex building and Osceola Courthouse. Repairs were needed in both buildings. Energy & Property Committee meeting would be called.

15. Humane Society. \$500,000.00 was the counter offer. Land on Division was also included. The property would be used for storage and parking. The County Judge was the only one that could sign contracts. If the committee was in favor of the project it needed to be discussed with Judge Nelson. Justice Ash thought the price should be around \$350,000.00.

16. Meeting adjourned.

Minutes submitted by: Cindy George

**PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT MEETING
JANUARY 12, 2023 1:30 ANNEX BUILDING**

ATTENDANCE: Chairman Justice Michael White; Justice Neil Burge; Justice Rick Ash; Justice Cecil McDonald; Justice Drake Brown; Justice Molly Jackson; Justice Betty Hepler; Justice Tobye McClanahan; Economic Development Clif Chitwood; NEA Town Courier Marcus McClain.

1. Meeting was called to order by Justice Michael White. Meeting was turned over to Clif Chitwood. Mr. Chitwood was requesting a tax back Resolution for FrigorTec LP. Motion was made by Justice Rick Ash to move the Resolution to the full Court. Second was made by Justice Neil Burge. Motion passed.

2. Tenaris was in the process of rebuilding within their factory and Ipsco. Tenaris asked to expand by 100 jobs and \$1 million dollars. \$10,000.00 per job. Mississippi County residents. Justice Ash asked to see the contract. Motion was made by Justice Rick Ash to advance \$500,000.00 for the creation of 100 jobs over a five year period. When 50 jobs were created the committee would look at the project again. Justice Burge thought the motion would not solve the problem. Justice Ash amended his motion. Justice Ash recommended the committee move forward with the \$1 million dollar and 100 jobs for Tenaris. Second was made by Justice Neil Burge. Motion passed.

3. Mr. Chitwood reported on High Bar. High Bar asked for a \$2 million dollar incentive. Mr. Chitwood thought they could work out a verbal agreement that would precede the agreement. High Bar was interested in the work here/live here program. Chime was on hold until a building was purchased.

4. Finance Tuesday, January 17, 2023. 1:30 Annex building. Quorum Court Tuesday January 24, 2023. 6:00 p.m. Blytheville Courthouse.

5. Meeting adjourned.

Minutes submitted by: Cindy George

**FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
JANUARY 17, 2023 1:30 ANNEX BUILDING**

ATTENDANCE: Chairman Justice Michael White; Justice Molly Jackson; Justice Harbans Mangat; Justice Cecil McDonald; Justice Tobye McClanahan; Justice Rick Ash; Justice Melinda Martin; Justice Betty Hepler; Treasurer Peggy Meatte; Finance Kelli Jones; Coroner Karen Ash Crane; Collector Susan McCormick Short; Assessor Brannah Bibbs; County Clerk Janice Currie; Public Affairs Tom Henry; Judge John Alan Nelson; NEA Town Courier Revis Blaylock.

- 1. Meeting was called to order by Justice Michael White. Expense report. Some bills carried over from December. Budget in good shape.**
 - 2. Coroner's Office. Coroner Karen Ash Crane requested an office, new computer, printer, fax machine and internet access. Quotes were given. Printer, mouse, docking station, laptop. \$2,700.00. H & H Business Machine could do a printer for \$350.00. (black & white). Justice Burge asked if a back up system was included. Motion was made by Justice Neil Burge to appropriate \$4,000.00 for equipment and supplies for the Coroner's office. Second was made by Justice Molly Jackson. Motion passed.**
 - 3. Cranford Co. Judge Nelson spoke about the company. Three applicants were reviewed. Judge Nelson recommended Cranford. A public relations firm. Objective was working with industrial growth to bring skilled labor to Mississippi County, tourism, present Mississippi County as a future home. Appropriation to get project started \$1 million. Motion was made by Justice Molly Jackson to appropriate \$1 million from Economic Development funds to Cranford Co. Second was made by Justice Cecil McDonald. Motion passed.**
 - 4. Judge Nelson gave an update on upcoming infrastructure projects in 2024. Justice White asked about the Osceola Courthouse repairs. ARP money may be used. Energy & Property meeting would be called to address the repairs. Mr. Ruby was asked to rewrite the plans for the Health Units. Cancer Center would be closed.**
 - 5. Two appropriations came from the P & D meeting would be added to the agenda.**
 - 6. Meeting adjourned.**
- Minutes submitted by: Cindy George**

Tax Back

RESOLUTION No. _____

RESOLUTION OF THE QUORUM COURT OF MISSISSIPPI COUNTY CERTIFYING LOCAL GOVERNMENT ENDORSEMENT OF FRIGORTEC LP TO PARTICIPATE IN THE TAX BACK PROGRAM (AS AUTHORIZED BY SECTION 15- 4-2706(d) OF THE CONSOLIDATED INCENTIVE ACT OF 2003).

WHEREAS, in order to be considered for participation in the Tax Back Program, the local government must endorse a business to participate in the Tax Back Program; and

WHEREAS, the local government must authorize the refund of local sales and use taxes as provided in the Consolidated Incentive Act of 2003; and

WHEREAS, said endorsement must be made on specific form available from the Arkansas Economic Development Commission; and

WHEREAS, FrigorTec LP located at 209 Terra Road, Blytheville, AR 72315 has sought to participate in the program and more specifically has requested benefits accruing from construction of the specific facility; and

WHEREAS, FrigorTec LP has agreed to furnish the local government all necessary information for compliance.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE QUORUM COURT OF MISSISSIPPI COUNTY, ARKANSAS, THAT:

1. FrigorTec LP be endorsed by the Quorum Court of Mississippi County for benefits from the sales & use tax refunds as provided by Section 15-4-2706(d) of the Consolidated Incentive Act of 2003.
2. The Department of Finance and Administration is authorized to refund local sales and use taxes to FrigorTec LP.
3. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

Title of head of governing body

Date Passed: _____

Attest: _____

Clerk

1 MISSISSIPPI COUNTY QUORUM COURT

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3 APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE NO. O-2023-_____

4
5 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING APPROPRIATIONS FOR
6 ECONOMIC INCENTIVES OFFERED TO TENARIS
7

8 WHEREAS, certain functions of the government of Mississippi County, Arkansas are in
9 need of funding including an appropriation that will cover expenses associated with the
10 incentives offered to Tenaris and their plans to expand and create jobs within the County;
11

12 WHEREAS, Tenaris plans to create 100 additional jobs in Mississippi County, Arkansas;
13

14 WHEREAS, the County Government of Mississippi County, Arkansas intends to offer
15 incentives to those industries who invest within the county and create job opportunities;
16

17 WHEREAS, the County has committed to offering Tenaris economic incentives totaling
18 one million dollars; and
19

20 WHEREAS, this appropriation has been reviewed by the Finance Committee who
21 approved this action and has sent it to the full court.
22

23 NOW, THEREFORE, be it enacted by the Quorum Court of Mississippi County,
24 Arkansas, that:
25

26 I.

27
28 The following appropriations/modifications are hereby made for the FY 2023 budget:
29

30 SLOT/ACCOUNT #	31 DESCRIPTION	32 AMOUNT
31 3414.0181.3999	32 Tenaris Commitment	33 \$1,000,000.00

34 II.

35 All appropriations previously authorized, approved, and made as to all other offices,
36 departments, and agencies of county government, and all other funds not hereinabove changed,
37 are to remain as previously appropriated. Detailed provisions of said appropriations are reflected
38 in the schedule of specific items listed by account numbers within the category for each office
39 and filed in the Office of the County Court Clerk.
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5 III.
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7 This Ordinance, being an appropriation ordinance, shall be in full force and effect
8 immediately from and after its passage and approval by the County Judge.
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13 DATE: _____
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APPROVED:

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18 JOHN ALAN NELSON, COUNTY JUDGE
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21 ATTEST:
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26 JANICE CURRIE, COUNTY CLERK
27 & SECRETARY

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MISSISSIPPI COUNTY QUORUM COURT

APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE NO. O-2023-_____

**AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING APPROPRIATIONS
FOR THE PURCHASE OF SMALL EQUIPMENT
BY THE CORONER'S OFFICE**

WHEREAS, certain functions of the government of Mississippi County, Arkansas are in need of funding, including the need of the purchase of small office equipment by the Coroner's office;

WHEREAS, the Coroner's office is needing to update its office equipment such as its laptop, its all-in-one printer, and its mouse;

WHEREAS, the total amount needed is four-thousand dollars; and

WHEREAS, the Finance Committee has reviewed and approved these appropriations.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it enacted by the Quorum Court of Mississippi County, Arkansas, that:

I.

The following appropriations/modifications are hereby made for the FY 2023 budget:

SLOT/ACCOUNT #	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
1000.0419.2002	Small Equipment	\$4,000.00

II.

All appropriations previously authorized, approved, and made as to all other offices, departments, and agencies of county government, and all other funds not hereinabove changed, are to remain as previously appropriated. Detailed provisions of said appropriations are reflected in the schedule of specific items listed by account numbers within the category for each office and filed in the Office of the County Court Clerk.

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5 III.

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7 This Ordinance, being an appropriation ordinance, shall be in full force and effect
8 immediately from and after its passage and approval by the County Judge.
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18 JOHN ALAN NELSON, COUNTY JUDGE
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MISSISSIPPI COUNTY QUORUM COURT

APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE NO. O-2023-_____

AN APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY
TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH CRANFORD CO.

WHEREAS, the government of Mississippi County, Arkansas wishes to enter into an agreement with Cranford Co., an advertising company in Little Rock that will work to promote Mississippi County;

WHEREAS, the promotional services offered by Cranford Co. shall include job recruitment of skilled labors along with bringing new residents to live within the County;

WHEREAS, the funds shall come out of Economic Development;

WHEREAS, the County shall allow for this project to begin and it shall monitor this project's progress – it is from this progress that the duration of this agreement shall be determined; and

WHEREAS, the Finance Committee has reviewed and approved these appropriations.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it enacted by the Quorum Court of Mississippi County, Arkansas, that:

I.

The following appropriations/modifications are hereby made for the FY 2023 budget:

SLOT/ACCOUNT #	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
3414.0129.3040	Advertising & Publications	\$1,000,000.00

II.

All appropriations previously authorized, approved, and made as to all other offices, departments, and agencies of county government, and all other funds not hereinabove changed, are to remain as previously appropriated. Detailed provisions of said appropriations are reflected in the schedule of specific items listed by account numbers within the category for each office and filed in the Office of the County Court Clerk.

5 III.
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7 This Ordinance, being an appropriation ordinance, shall be in full force and effect
8 immediately from and after its passage and approval by the County Judge.
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13 DATE: _____
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APPROVED:

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18 JOHN ALAN NELSON, COUNTY JUDGE
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21 ATTEST:
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26 JANICE CURRIE, COUNTY CLERK
27 & SECRETARY