

JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS  
MISSISSIPPI COUNTY QUORUM COURT  
November 28, 2023

The Quorum Court of Mississippi County, Arkansas, met in regular session at 6:00 p.m. in the Mississippi County Courthouse in Blytheville, Arkansas with Judge John Alan Nelson presiding. Cindy George, Administrative Secretary gave the invocation, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

The following members answered roll call:

Justice Ash  
Justice Brown  
Justice Burge  
Justice Cullom  
Justice Hepler

Justice Jackson  
Justice Martin  
Justice McClanahan  
Justice McDonald  
Justice White

Justice White moved to dispense with the reading of the minutes as copies had been provided to the members. Justice Hepler seconded the motion and the voice vote was unanimous  
Absent: Justice Mangat. Also in attendance was County Attorney Jacob Holmes.

In the treasurer's report, County Treasurer Candace Nichols reported the interest rate at Farmers Bank in Blytheville on a \$100,000.00 CD was 5.35% for one year. She reported the sales tax revenue was up from the previous month and it was up from the same month in 2022. She also reported county general continues to be in great shape.

**Committee Reports:**

*Insurance Committee:* Justice Cullom reported the county has voted to offer employees long-term disability as well short-term disability.

*Finance Committee:* Justice White reported the committee met on four occasions and topics of discussion were:

- The budgeting process and requests from the elected officials and department heads.
- Largest budget passed in years.
- 5% raises across the board for all employees with the exception of the county sheriff's department, which will receive a 10% raise.
- Passed a short-term and long-term disability plan for the county.
- \$1,000.00 Christmas bonus to be paid on December 1, 2023
- Longevity bonus of \$100.00 for each year of employment for employees, with a cap at thirty years, to be given in December of 2024.
- Closing slots in the Assessor's and Collector's offices and disbursing funds to the remaining employees.

*Personnel Committee:* Justice McClanahan reported the committee met on three occasions and discussed:

- SRO slot for Gosnell School District
- Rank changes at the sheriff's department
- Closing a slot in the Collector's office and disbursing the funding amongst the remaining employees.
- Closing a slot in the public defender's office and disbursing the funds amongst remaining employees.
- County Clerk's request to increase an employee's salary
- Jeremy Thomas' request for a slot to be created and funded for a case coordinator
- Judge Nelson had two request:
  1. To hire a day porter who would be responsible for general maintenance.
  2. To change the current Public Affairs job title to Chief of Staff, with a considerable salary increase and to leave the Public Affairs slot open and funded.
- Judge Dan Ritchey's request for a Peer Recovery Specialist.
- Short-term and long-term disability offered to county employees.
- Close a slot in the Assessor's office and disburse funds amongst remaining employees.

### **New Business:**

The clerk was asked to read a resolution titled: RESOLUTION OF THE QUORUM COURT OF MISSISSIPPI COUNTY CERTIFYING LOCAL GOVERNMENT ENDORSEMENT OF LEVY ENVIROMENTAL SERVICES COMPANY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE TAX BACK PROGRAM (AS AUTHORIZED BY SECTION 15-4-2706(d) OF THE CONSOLIDATED INCENTIVE ACT OF 2003). Following the reading, Justice White moved to adopt with correction of scrivener's error, Justice Hepler seconded and the vote was: Aye---Ash, Brown, Burge, Cullom, Hepler, Jackson, Martin, McClanahan, McDonald, and White; Nay---None; Absent---Mangat. R-2023-12 was adopted by the court.

The clerk read an ordinance titled: AN APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING EMPLOYEE BONUSES FOR 2023. Following the reading, Justice White moved for adoption, Justice Hepler seconded and the vote was: Aye---Ash, Brown, Burge, Cullom, Hepler, Jackson, Martin, McClanahan, McDonald, and White; Nay---None; Absent---Mangat. O-2023-58 was adopted by the court.

The clerk was asked to read an ordinance titled: AN APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE CREATING AND FUNDING THE POSITION OF PEER RECOVERY SPECIALIST. Following the reading, Justice White moved to adopt with scrivener's errors corrections, Justice Hepler seconded and the vote was: Aye---Ash, Brown, Burge, Cullom, Hepler, Jackson, Martin, McClanahan, McDonald, and White; Nay---None; Absent---Mangat. O-2023-59 was adopted by the court.

The clerk was asked to read an ordinance titled: AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH THE ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGET FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2024; APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THE OPERATING ACCOUNTS; APPROPRIATING TRANSFERS; AND FOR OTHER COUNTY BUDGET PURPOSES. Following the reading, Justice White moved to adopt, Justice Burge seconded and the vote was: Aye---Ash, Brown, Burge, Cullom, Hepler, Jackson, Martin, McClanahan, McDonald, and White; Nay---None; Absent---Mangat. O-2023-60 was adopted by the court.

The clerk read an ordinance titled: 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 2023 AND LEVYING SAID TAXES FOR COLLECTION IN THE YEAR 2024, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES. Following the reading, Justice White moved to adopt, Justice Hepler seconded and the vote was: Aye---Ash, Brown, Burge, Cullom, Hepler, Jackson, Martin, McClanahan, McDonald, and White; Nay---None; Absent---Mangat. O-2023-61 was adopted by the court.

There being no further business to come before the court, Justice White moved to adjourn, Justice Ash seconded and the vote was unanimous. The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



Janice Currie  
County Clerk/Secretary



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**QUORUM COURT  
MISSISSIPPI COUNTY, ARKANSAS  
Tuesday December 19, 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 – Danny Rigney Pathway Ministries**
- 3. Pledge of Allegiance**
- 4. Roll Call**
- 5. Reading/Approval of Minutes**
- 6. Treasurer's Report**
- 7. Committee Reports**
  - Planning & Development Meeting 12/7/2023 Justice Michael White**
  - Finance Committee Meeting 12/11/2023 Justice Michael White**
- 8. Resolutions:**
- 9. Ordinances:**
- 10. New Business**
- 11. Old Business**
- 12. Announcements**
- 13. Adjourn**

**PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT MEETING  
DECEMBER 7, 2023 1:30 ANNEX BUILDING**

**ATTENDANCE:** Chairman Justice Michael White; Justice Neil Burge; Justice Rick Ash; Justice Reggie Cullom; Justice Cecil McDonald; Justice Melinda Martin; Justice Harbans Mangat; Justice Molly Jackson; Economic Development Mallory Darby; NEA Town Courier Joseph Fondren.

- 1. Meeting was called to order by Justice Michael White.**
  - 2. Big River Steel was in the process of building and adding new employees. GREDF requested \$1 million dollars for 100 jobs @ \$10,000.00 per job for Mississippi County residents. Motion was made by Justice Reggie Cullom to appropriate \$1 million dollars to Big River Steel for 100 jobs @ \$10,000.00. Second was made by Justice Neil Burge. Motion passed.**
  - 3. There was no other discussion.**
  - 4. Meeting adjourned.**
- Minutes submitted by: Cindy George**

**FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING  
MONDAY DECEMBER 11, 2023 1:30 ANNEX BUILDING**

**ATTENDANCE:** Chairman Justice Michael White; Justice Harbans Mangat; Justice Neil Burge; Justice Tobye McClanahan; Justice Rick Ash; Justice Betty Hepler; County Clerk Janice Currie; Finance Kelli Jones; NEA Town Courier Revis Blaylock.

1. Meeting was called to order by Justice Michael White. Elected Officials were within budget. County Roads 90%, Landfill 127% because of CD's, County Jail 90%. Justice White asked about the Circuit Clerk storage facilities. Building was purchased and not being used. Trust Fund payment for the landfill had been made. The hospital received over \$5 million this year from the hospital tax. OEM/911 would be spending \$1.2 million for updating equipment. Tax settlement was done in December.

2. The Planning & Development committee recommended to appropriate \$1 million to Big River Steel for 100 jobs @ \$10,000.00 for Mississippi County residents. Motion was made by Harbans Mangat to appropriate \$1 million to Big River Steel for 100 jobs @ \$10,000.00. Second was made by Justice Neil Burge. Motion passed.

3. Debbie Cross was the tax settlement auditor. The county received some of the reappraisal cost. Transfer needed to be made to County General from the Assessor's office expense line. 80% of expenditure cost.

4. Janice Currie requested to extend her time for training a new hire that was replacing Tammy Clowers. Additional funds would be appropriated in 2024. Justice Mangat announced a Personnel Meeting for Thursday December 14<sup>th</sup> at 1:30.

5. Meeting adjourned.

Minutes submitted by: Cindy George