

JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS
MISSISSIPPI COUNTY QUORUM COURT
January 23, 2024

The Quorum Court of Mississippi County, Arkansas, met in regular session at 6:00 p.m. in the Mississippi County Courthouse in Osceola, Arkansas with Judge John Alan Nelson presiding. Rev. Ryan Spurlock from 1st United Methodist Church gave the invocation, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

The following members answered roll call:

Justice Brown
Justice Burge
Justice Cullom
Justice Hepler
Justice Mangat

Justice Martin
Justice McClanahan
Justice McDonald
Justice White

Absent: Justice Ash and Jackson. Also in attendance was County Attorney Chris Brown.

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

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 5.25% for one year. She reported the sales tax revenue was down a bit from the previous month and was up from the same month in 2023. She also reported county general continues to be in great shape.

Committee Reports:

Planning and Development: Justice White reported the committee met on January 11, 2024. Topics of discussion were:

- Clif Chitwood's and Brad Harrison's request for \$50,000.00 to fund a BGRAA project for five jobs at Sonic Aviation..
- Clif Chitwood requested \$100,000.00 to fund marketing in Mississippi County.
- Tax Back Resolution for Levy Environmental Services for 111 jobs with a 21.67 hourly wage.
- Randy Scott reported 60 new home loans were in process.

American Rescue Plan Meeting: Justice McClanahan reported the committee met on January 11, 2024 and discussed:

- Infrastructure grants to municipalities
- Grant applications limited to water and sewer only. Grant process would be reopened.
- Justice White asked why the building purchased from the Humane Society was not being utilized for storage.
- Justice McDonald requested a proclamation honoring Harold Sudbury.

Personnel Committee: Justice Mangat reported the committee met on January 16, 2024.

- The main topic of discussion was possibly dissolving catastrophic leave because of the short-term and long-term disability.
- Restructuring catastrophic leave, if kept, for the employees who wouldn't qualify for short-term or long-term disability.

Finance Committee: Justice White reported the committee met on January 16, 2024. Topics of discussion were:

- Courthouse construction funds remaining
- \$50,000.00 for Sonic Aviation
- \$100,000.00 for marketing
- Tax back resolution for Levy Environmental
- Appointment of Dan Brown from US Steel to the hospital board of governors.
- Reopening grant application process to municipalities to be used for water and sewer.

New Business:

The clerk was asked to read a resolution titled: A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING MR. DAN BROWN'S APPOINTMENT TO THE MISSISSIPPI COUNTY HOSPITAL SYSTEM'S BOARD OF GOVERNORS. Following the reading, Justice White moved for adoption, Justice Hepler seconded and the vote was: Aye--- Brown, Burge, Cullom, Hepler, Mangat, Martin, McClanahan, McDonald, and White; Nay---None; Absent--- Ash and Jackson. R-2024-01 was adopted by the court.

The clerk read a resolution titled: A RESOLUTION OF THE QUORUM COURT OF MISSISSIPPI COUNTY CERTIFYING LOCAL GOVERNMENT ENDORSEMENT OF LEVY ENVIRONMENTAL 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 for adoption, Justice Hepler seconded and the vote was: Aye--- Brown, Burge, Cullom, Hepler, Mangat, Martin, McClanahan, McDonald, and White; Nay---None; Absent--- Ash and Jackson. R-2024-02 was adopted by the court.

The clerk was asked to read an ordinance titled: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION SIX OF THE EMPLOYMENT POLICY AND PROCEDURE HANDBOOK OF MISSISSIPPI COUNTY, ARKANSAS SO TO CHANGE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS. Following the reading, Justice White informed the court this ordinance required three readings and moved to suspend the rules and proceed to the second reading by title only. Justice Mangat seconded and the vote was: Aye--- Brown, Burge, Cullom, Hepler, Mangat, Martin, McClanahan, McDonald, and White; Nay---None; Absent--- Ash and Jackson. Following the second reading, by title only, Justice White once again moved to suspend the rules and proceed to the third reading by title only, Justice Burge seconded and the vote was: Aye--- Brown, Burge, Cullom, Hepler, Mangat, Martin, McClanahan, McDonald, and White; Nay---None; Absent--- Ash and Jackson. Following the third reading, by title only, Justice White moved for adoption, Justice Mangat seconded and the vote was: Aye--- Brown, Burge, Cullom, Hepler, Mangat, Martin, McClanahan, McDonald, and White; Nay---None; Absent--- Ash and Jackson. O-2024-01 was adopted by the court.

The clerk read an ordinance titled: AN APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE TO FUND AN ECONOMIC INCENTIVE TO SONIC AVIATION FOR THE CREATION OF NEW JOBS. Following the reading, Justice White moved for adoption, Justice Martin seconded and the vote was: Aye--- Brown, Burge, Cullom, Hepler, Mangat, Martin, McClanahan, McDonald, and White; Nay---None; Absent--- Ash and Jackson. O-2024-02 was adopted by the court.

The clerk was asked to an ordinance titled: AN APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE TO FUND TRAVEL AND EQUIPMENT EXPENSES FOR GREAT RIVER ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION. Following the reading, Justice White moved to adopt, Justice Hepler seconded and the vote was: Aye--- Brown, Burge, Cullom, Hepler, Mangat, Martin, McClanahan, McDonald, and White; Nay---None; Absent--- Ash and Jackson. O-2024-03 was adopted by the court.

The clerk was asked to read an ordinance titled: AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR ROUND TWO OF THE MISSISSIPPI COUNTY INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT PROGRAM. Following the reading, Justice White moved for adoption, Justice Mangat seconded and the vote was: Aye--- Brown, Burge, Cullom, Hepler, Mangat, Martin, McClanahan, McDonald, and White; Nay---None; Absent--- Ash and Jackson. O-2024-04 was adopted by the court.

Justice Cullom asked the judge and the court when the work would begin on repairs to the Osceola Courthouse. He stated he had several pages of requested repairs from each office.

There being no further business to come before the court, Justice White moved for adjournment, Justice Burge seconded and the vote was unanimous. The meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Janice Currie
County Clerk/Secretary

**QUORUM COURT
MISSISSIPPI COUNTY, ARKANSAS
Tuesday, February 27, 2024
Osceola, Arkansas**

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

AGENDA

1. Call to Order

2. Prayer

3. Pledge of Allegiance

4. Roll Call

5. Reading/Approval of Minutes

6. Treasurer's Report

7. Committee Reports

- Energy & Property Committee 1/19/2024 Chairman Justice Molly Jackson
- Sanitation & Solid Waste Committee 1/19/2024 Chairman Justice Tobye McClanahan
- Road & Bridges Committee 2/9/2024 Chairman Justice Rick Ash
- Energy & Property Committee 2/13/2024 Chairman Justice Molly Jackson
- Finance Committee 2/20/2024 Chairman Justice Michael White
- P & D Committee 2/22/2024 Chairman Justice Michael White

8. Resolutions:

- Hiring Clements & Associates and Brownlee & Mann Consulting LLC

9. Ordinances:

- Ordinance - Declaring a Temporary Moratorium on Solar Panels
- Appropriation Ordinance – Big River Steel Incentive
- Appropriation Ordinance – Site Preparation Arkansas Aeroplex
- Appropriation Ordinance- Atlas Tube Incentive

10. New Business

11. Old Business

12. Announcements

13. Adjourn

**ENERGY & PROPERTY COMMITTEE MEETING
JANUARY 19, 2024 1:30 ANNEX BUILDING**

ATTENDANCE: Chairman Justice Molly Jackson; Justice Melinda Martin; Justice Betty Hepler; Justice Rick Ash; Justice Reggie Cullom; Justice Harbans Mangat; Justice Tobbye McClanahan; Justice Neil Burge; Justice Cecil McDonald; Mayor Joe Harris, Jr.; Finance Kelli Jones; Treasurer Candace Nichols; Collector Susan Short; Assessor's Office Kim Trump; NEA Town Courier Revis Blaylock.

1. Meeting was called to order by Justice Molly Jackson. Osceola Health Unit had moved back into the Osceola building. Scheduled a walk thru on January 29th for Blytheville. Both projects should be completed within a year.

2. Blytheville Courthouse had \$231,670.00 in the construction fund. Judge Nelson had a meeting scheduled for January 22nd with CNI and Porter Brownlee. Storm windows had not been completed. CNI would complete installation. Total expenditure on the Blytheville Courthouse was around \$16 million dollars. Total expenditure in Osceola \$3 million. HVAC was not working properly and needed to be evaluated.

3. Osceola Courthouse project agreement was to spend \$2 million. Renaissance Roofing would be contacted for quotes to clean the Osceola and Blytheville drains twice a year. Roof access in Osceola was needed. \$214,543.00 left in the construction fund. Annual fire inspection done in November 2023. Several items needed to be addressed within 90 days. Ceiling tiles, boiler pipes needed to be sealed with fire retardant material, gas storage not in an approved cabinet or containers, extension cords used as permanent wiring, outlets needed face plate covers, extension cords not plugged into strips. Judge Nelson would like to see what caused the discoloration of the dome. Motion was made by Justice Rick Ash to have the dome inspected to see what had caused the discoloration. Motion died for lack of a second. Storage area in the Assessor's office didn't have lights. Justice Jackson would contact Aaron Ruby with the requests.

4. Solar panels. 12,600 acres in Wilson had been committed. Properties would be surrounded by solar panels. 65% abatement was needed to be able to build. The county didn't support solar panels. Cities were the ones that needed to stop them from being built.

5. Meeting adjourned.

Minutes submitted by: Cindy George

**SANITATION & SOLID WASTE MEETING
JANUARY 19, 2024 2:45 ANNEX BUILDING**

ATTENDANCE: Chairman Justice Tobbye McClanahan; Justice Melinda Martin; Justice Harbans Mangat; Justice Reggie Cullom; Justice Molly Jackson; Justice Neil Burge; Justice Betty Hepler; Justice Rick Ash; Justice Cecil McDonald; Treasurer Candace Nichols; Finance Kelli Jones; Collector Susan Short; NEA Town Courier Revis Blaylock

1. Meeting was called to order by Justice Tobbye McClanahan. Total revenue for the year \$4,259,500.23. Expenses higher from a high repair bill and purchase of equipment. Cash balance \$1,028,186.42. CD total. \$3,594,320.76. Average \$300,000.00 revenue per month. \$500,000.00 CD was purchased in August. Judge Nelson would like to move \$1 million to another CD. Justice McClanahan thought \$500,000.00.

2. Account aging report. Several vendors were 90 days past due on their account. There was an Ordinance in place stating any vendor 90 days past due not be allowed to charge. Cash could be paid to dump. Several Justices thought the Ordinance should be enforced. ACH payments were going to be required for certain vendors to pay their account. Judge Nelson would meet with the vendors that were 90 days past due.

3. Legacy landfill in Jonesboro had the plans for the scale house that was built and would send them to Justice McClanahan.

4. The scales at the landfill froze and had to close. They reopened the next day. A side by side was stolen and were replaced.

5. Meeting adjourned.

Minutes submitted by: Cindy George

**ROAD & BRIDGES COMMITTEE MEETING
FEBRUARY 9, 2024 1:30 ANNEX BUILDING**

ATTENDANCE: Chairman Justice Rick Ash; Justice Neil Burge; Justice Michael White; Justice Melinda Martin; Justice Molly Jackson; Justice Betty Hepler; Justice Reggie Cullom; Justice Tobye McClanahan; Justice Harbans Mangat; Justice Drake Brown; Finance Kelli Jones; Judge John Alan Nelson; NEA Town Courier Joseph Fondren.

1. Meeting was called to order by Justice Rick Ash. Meeting was turned over to Judge Nelson. Red clay gravel was being stockpiled. Three trucking firms had been contracted to haul the gravel. Total 14 trucks. Mississippi County trucks were hauling slag. The county had a total of 11 graders. Six were 1997-2002 and one spare. Two new graders were purchased this year. \$230,000.00 a piece. Cleaning and replacing culverts were being done. Two pallets of salt had been spread. Three new pickup trucks were coming. Justice Cullom said the GPS needed to be changed to stop sending trucks to 449 also a wash out that needed repaired. 175 going north toward Dyess had a wash out that needed to be repaired. Judge Nelson could tag the road local traffic only. \$100 million was being lobbying for the area. Attempting to get a temporary traffic light on 98 and 161.

2. Update on farm land. Rent was received for \$72,000.00, cash override \$29,658,70. Total \$101,658.70. \$57,000.00 than previous rent.

3. Letter of Intent was received for the property across from Love's Truck Stop. The Assessor had appraised the property. HVAC in Blytheville was on the roof. D & L prepared a proposal for maintenance of the system. The committee decided to only service once per year. Bray Sheet Metal had prepared a quote for cleaning gutters and downspouts for both the Osceola and Blytheville Courthouse twice a year. \$109,000.0 grant was received for repairing the cornice work in Osceola. Dan Brown was sworn in for the Hospital Board. Rural Hospital program. \$3.4 million for Osceola and \$3.8 million for Blytheville every year.

4. Solar farms. 27,000 acres in Mississippi County and at least that more coming. County did not approve the solar farms. Solar farm in Wilson was contracted with Entergy and did not ask for the 65% abatement. Justice Jackson asked if the County could mandate that trees be planted in front of the farms. One county in Nevada was mandating a \$1,000.00 per panel permit fee. The Court would look into options. Justice Burge thought the farms would be over built and some would go bankrupt. Life of the panels were 20 years and some components could not be disposed of in the landfill.

5. Meeting adjourned.

Minutes submitted by: Cindy George

**ENERGY & PROPERTY MEETING
SANITATION & SOLID WASTE MEETING
FEBRUARY 13, 2024 1:30 ANNEX BUILDING**

ATTENDANCE: Chairmans Justice Molly Jackson & Tobye McClanahan; Justice Michael White; Justice Melinda Martin; Justice Harbans Mangat; Justice Molly Jackson; Justice Neil Burge; Justice Betty Hepler; Justice Rick Ash; Justice Cecil McDonald; Alan Beach; Porter Brownlee; Gary Clements; Osceola Fire Department Chief Peter Hill, Ray Williams; J.T. Harris; Finance Kelli Jones; Public Affairs Tom Henry; Judge John Alan Nelson; NEA Town Courier Revis Blaylock.

1. Meeting was called to order by Justice Molly Jackson. Meeting was turned over to Judge John Alan Nelson. Chairman of the Election Commission asked for the rain damage to be repaired and handicap parking beside their building. Judge Nelson introduced Gary Clements, Porter Brownlee and J.T. Harris. Meeting was turned over to Gary Clements with Clements & Associates located in Little Rock, AR. The scale house was located on the far side away from the class 1 cell and needed to be where they would be working for the next 75 years. Porter Brownlee gave an update on construction laws. Contractors would be interviewed to provide pre- construction services. Incentives were for the contractor to save money. Motion was made by Justice Michael White to move forward with Clements & Associates, Porter Brownlee to start the process. Second was made by Justice Melinda Martin. Motion passed.

2. Justice Betty Hepler was in favor of the new scale house. Justice Hepler delivered a message from Justice Reggie Cullom. Justice Cullom would not vote for another dollar to be spent on anything until the Court started on the Osceola Courthouse. Justice Hepler took a stand and would be right behind him. Justice Harbans Mangat agreed.

3. Fire Chief Peter Hill and Ray Williams were present from the Osceola Fire Department. The inspection of the Osceola Courthouse was at 90 days. Immediate safety issues were electrical, room where gasoline was stored, electrical wires hanging from the ceiling, exposed outlets. Justice Ash said these were maintenance issues and should not go to Aaron Ruby. Explosion proof box could be purchased to store the gas. J.T. Harris would move the gas and find an explosive storage unit, ceiling tiles would be purchased and installed. Justice Ash would contact an electrician. Tom Henry would prepare an ad for the Osceola and Blytheville paper for a Day Porter. Moving forward. Keep the Courthouse open, Aaron Ruby was working on estimates for repairs.

4. Health department asked for an additional \$3,600.00 for phone drops to make project complete. \$160,000.00 was left in the line item that was appropriated. Balance would be checked. Janice Currie and Leslie Mason were getting estimates on countertops in record rooms. \$14,000.00. The Court would like to see the final estimate. Tribal Funds would be used on the Annex building. Roof, HVAC and walls from leaks.

5. Meeting adjourned.

Minutes submitted by: Cindy George

**FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
FEBRUARY 20, 2024 1:30 ANNEX BUILDING**

ATTENDANCE: Chairman, Justice Michael White; Justice Molly Jackson; Justice Neil Burge; Justice Cecil McDonald; Justice Tobby McClanahan; Justice Rick Ash; Justice Betty Hepler; Treasurer Candace Nichols; Finance Kelli Jones; Collector Susan Short; County Clerk Janice Currie; NEA Town Courier Revis Blaylock.

- 1. Meeting was called to order by Justice Michael White. Clean up budget for 2023 and adjustments to the 2024 budget would be presented in March. Legal fees were over budget for 2023. 8% of the year. All Elected Officials were below budget. Road Department overtime salaries had paid out 44% in January. 38% for the jail. Holiday pay.**
- 2. Finance Committee had recommended \$1 million to Big River Steel. Ordinance was pulled because of verbiage. Would need to be added to the agenda for Quorum Court.**
- 3. Countertops for Janice Currie and Leslie Mason. Estimates were received. \$13,800.00. Quartz with waterfall sides. The Committee asked Janice Currie to move forward with the countertops.**
- 4. Finance Director, Kelli Jones asked for discussion on outsourcing County payroll. Input from the County was still needed. A local CPA Firm was contacted. HR and Insurance were also in the position. Only payroll would be outsourced. The position now might be able to go to part time. Would be hired at the hourly rate. Start up time April 1, 2024. Motion was made by Justice Neil Burge to outsource payroll based on the bid received and Kelli Jones to hire a part time person to fill the position and could be expanded to a full time person. The motion was amended to go to the outsourcing and leave the position as is. Second was made by Justice Molly Jackson. Motion passed.**
- 5. Health Department gave notice they would vacate the Great River Medical Center on February 26, 2024. \$3,600.00 was asked for data drops to be installed.**
- 6. Discussion for the appropriation for Cranford Co. \$1 million was budgeted thru Economic Development. Cranford did not fall under GREDF but under the Judge's office. Tom Henry came asked for an additional \$200,000.00. An increase of 20% for Cranford. Total \$1.2 million. Chamber of Commerce has asked at their next luncheon if the Cranford Firm would do a presentation of what had been done, where they were going and what the direction was. Justice Burge asked had anyone seen any results from the million dollars spent. The Committee would like to see quarterly reports and involve the Chambers, Clif Chitwood and Mallory Darby. The request was moved to the Planning & Development meeting on Thursday the 22nd.**
- 7. City of Keiser. Notice of Commitment concerning their \$4.6 million sewer loan. Needed to be finalized by the end of June to secure the 1.75%. The approval documentation to commence had been with ANRC for one month, awaiting their green light. The water tank**

bid exceeded their budget and was seeking \$27,100.00 from the Quorum Court to cover the shortfall. Keiser had received \$400,000.00 grant for their water.

8. City of Leachville asked if they could amend the grant agreement to use the money for water/wastewater improvements while the land transfer is being completed. The City of Leachville didn't know if they could finish the land project by June. Final finish date would be in 2026.

9. Aaron Ruby asked if the Energy & Property Committee had decided on a budget range for the Osceola Courthouse. A budget needed to be agreed on. Includes construction, contingencies, design fee, expenses. The Committee had sent a list of things that were priority at the Courthouse. \$1.5 million had been appropriated. Justice Jackson would contact Mr. Ruby.

10. Justice Tobbye McClanahan wanted to go on record. Justice McClanahan was for a new building at the landfill and not anti-architect. I am 100% anti-architect for the firm that spoke with the Court the other day. Based on how we relied on the architect for the Blytheville Courthouse would the Court like to work with him when he didn't want to be here in the first place. Justice McClanahan had an engineering firm that she thought would save the county six months and six figures on building the scale house. Some members of the Committee thought he didn't want the job. Justice McClanahan would vote no if it was brought before the Court.

11. Meeting adjourned.

Minutes submitted by: Cindy George

**PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT MEETING
FEBRUARY 22, 2024 1:30 ANNEX BUILDING**

ATTENDANCE: Chairman, Justice Michael White; Justice Neil Burge; Justice Rick Ash; Justice Reggie Cullom; Justice Cecil McDonald; Justice Molly Jackson; Justice Betty Hepler; Justice Tobye McClanahan; Economic Development Clif Chitwood, Mallory Darby; Finance Kelli Jones; Treasurer Candace Nichols; Collector Susan Short; Judge John Alan Nelson; Public Affairs Tom Henry; NEA Town Courier Joseph Fondren.

1. Meeting was called to order by Justice Michael White. Green energy was discussed. 30,000 acres were now getting solar panels. There was no permits or zoning in the County. Justice White has talked to County Attorney Chris Brown to explore what the options were. Dr. Cullom shared an article from USA Today. Short term moratoriums, permits per panel, bans had been implemented by other counties. Average panels were 1500 to 2000 per acre. Meeting was turned over to Justice Reggie Cullom. Lee Wilson & Co. signed a 12,300 acre contract, Crane Company 2,400, Gambill Farms 2,000. They were surrounding the city with solar panels. This was an economic impact. Property values were decreased. Justice Cullom was also in favor of a moratorium. No action today.

2. Economic Development request for \$1 million to Big River Steel for 100 jobs needed to be added to the Quorum Court agenda. The request was recommended in December but did not have a signed contract. The contract had been signed and can go to Quorum Court.

3. Economic Development asked for \$1,100,00 million for 100 jobs for Atlas. Bring Atlas up to 310 employees. One million had been appropriated in 2023 and needed to appropriate \$100,000.00. Motion was made by Justice Neil Burge to appropriate \$100,000.00 to Atlas for 100 jobs. Second was made by Justice Rick Ash. Motion passed.

4. Site Certification Process for Arkansas Aeroplex. GREDF Board thought the Aeroplex was an asset to the County and should exploited. There was no empty hangers or warehouse space on the airbase A building for storage, manufacturing was needed. The space would be certified. \$500,000.00 was needed. GREDF Board asked for approval. The building would be removed and the land cleared. Aeroplex agreed to sign a contract with the County that stated at some point if the Aeroplex decided to do something other than a recognized project under the Ordinance they would pay the County back. Justice Burge thought other Mayor's would be coming with the same request to clean up buildings. Justice Burge didn't think it qualified as an Economic Development project. Justice Burge also asked about the \$12.5 million for the cleanup of the North end. Judge Nelson said the request was for \$12.5 million. The actual amount was below \$5 million and should receive the money in three to five years. Justice Burge appreciated the leadership the County Judge's office had done. Motion was made by Justice Rick Ash to appropriate \$500,000.00 of Economic Development money for the site certification at the Aeroplex. Second was made by Justice Cecil McDonald. Justice Neil Burge voted no. Motion passed 2 to 1.

5. Denso announced they were closing. No definite reason was giving why they were closing. Final closing 2025.

6. Great River received a letter from the Johnny Cash Museum requesting a contribution of \$2,500.00, \$5,000.00 or \$10,000.00. Clif Chitwood asked the committee if there was an interest. Regulations were changed so it qualified. They would like for Mississippi County to have a presence. Justice White asked how our donation would be recognized. Justice McDonald thought the County might be opening up for additional requests. The committee would like to do more research. Motion was made by Justice Rick Ash to table the request until the next Economic Development meeting. Second was made by Justice Neil Burge. Motion passed.

7. Justice Michael White brought up Cranford Co. The committee would like to see if they would give a presentation on what had been accomplished and what they would be doing in the future. Justice Ash would like to see quarterly reports. Judge Nelson handed out booklets that Cranford had done in 2023. Judge Nelson attended the Regional Legislative Meeting. Topics discussed were Arkansas State District Court program and how they were financed, Prosecutor's salary, Tax Back, jail fees. A plaque of Shug Banks had been purchased.

8. Meeting adjourned.

Minutes submitted by: Cindy George

1 **MISSISSIPPI COUNTY QUORUM COURT**

2
3 **RESOLUTION NO. R-2024-_____**

4
5 *A RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING THE HIRING OF*
6 *CLEMENTS & ASSOCIATES AND BROWNLEE & MANN*
7 *CONSULTING, LLC FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF*
8 *NEW SCALE HOUSE AT THE MISSISSIPPI COUNTY*
9 *LANDFILL*

10
11
12 **WHEREAS**, the Mississippi County Quorum Court desires to build a new scale
13 house at the Mississippi County Landfill; and

14
15 **WHEREAS**, the Quorum Court has decided it is in the best interests to hire an
16 architectural firm and construction consultant to aid in the process of the construction;
17 and

18
19 **WHEREAS**, Clements & Associates is an architect firm of North Little Rock; and

20
21 **WHEREAS**, Brownlee & Mann Consulting, LLC is a construction consulting
22 firm out of Little Rock; and

23
24 **WHEREAS**, the Mississippi County Quorum Court has decided it is in the
25 County's best interests to hire these two companies to aid in the construction of said scale
26 house;

27
28 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE QUORUM COURT OF**
29 **MISSISSIPPI COUNTY, ARKANSAS:**

- 30
31 1. The Mississippi County Quorum Court hereby recommends the hiring of
32 Clements & Associates as architect and Brownlee & Mann, LLC as
33 construction manager for the construction of a new scale house at the
34 Mississippi County Landfill; and
35
36 2. The County Judge and staff are hereby recommended to take the necessary
37 steps to effectuate the hiring and to carry out this resolution.

38
39 DATE: _____

APPROVED:

40
41
42 _____
JOHN ALAN NELSON, COUNTY JUDGE

43 ATTEST:

44
45 _____
46 JANICE CURRIE, COUNTY CLERK
47 & SECRETARY

1 MISSISSIPPI COUNTY QUORUM COURT

2
3 ORDINANCE NO. O-2024-_____

4
5 *AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE DECLARING A TEMPORARY MORATORIUM ON NEW*
6 *NON-RESIDENTIAL SOLAR FARMS IN THE UNINCORPORATED PARTS OF MISSISSIPPI*
7 *COUNTY*

8
9 **WHEREAS**, Mississippi County is experiencing the construction of industrial and
10 commercial solar farm systems at a rate never seen before in this area; and

11
12 **WHEREAS**, Mississippi County is aware of the desire to place additional solar farms
13 throughout the County; and

14
15 **WHEREAS**, the Mississippi County Quorum Court will require substantial time to
16 assess and evaluate the local impact that non-residential solar facilities may have on the health,
17 safety, welfare, and property of the citizens of Mississippi County and to evaluate the appropriate
18 steps, if any, the Quorum Court should take in order to properly regulate the construction,
19 operation, and decommissioning of such facilities; and

20
21 **WHEREAS**, the County has an interest in protecting the County’s infrastructure, natural
22 resources, and property rights through regulation; and

23
24 **WHEREAS**, the County has an interest in preventing and abating any resulting nuisance
25 from decommissioned solar farm systems through decommissioning requirements; and

26
27 **WHEREAS**, the Mississippi County Quorum Court wishes to place a temporary
28 moratorium for new non-residential solar energy systems in the unincorporated portions of
29 Mississippi County for 180-days from the passing of this Ordinance; and

30
31 **NOW, THEREFORE**, be it ordained by the Quorum Court of Mississippi County,
32 Arkansas, that:

33
34 **SECTION 1:** A 180-day temporary moratorium on the construction of non-residential
35 solar farm facilities in the unincorporated parts of Mississippi County is hereby imposed.

36
37 **SECTION 2:** This ordinance shall expire 180 days from its date of passage unless ended
38 earlier or extended by an ordinance of the Quorum Court.
39
40

5 **SECTION 3:** This Ordinance, being necessary for the health, safety, welfare, and
6 property for the citizens of Mississippi County shall be in full force and effect immediately from
7 and after its passage and approval by the County Judge and an emergency is hereby declared to
8 exist.
9

10
11
12
13 DATE: _____

APPROVED:

14
15
16
17 _____
18 JOHN ALAN NELSON, COUNTY JUDGE
19

20 ATTEST:

21
22
23 _____
24 JANICE CURRIE, COUNTY CLERK
25 & SECRETARY

1 MISSISSIPPI COUNTY QUORUM COURT

2
3 APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE NO. O-2024-_____

4
5 AN APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING
6 COMMITMENT TO BIG RIVER STEEL
7

8 WHEREAS, Mississippi County, Arkansas seeks to grow the local economy through
9 financial incentives given to industrial businesses with the understanding that said business will
10 hire county residents; and
11

12 WHEREAS, one of these businesses is Big River Steel who has agreed to hire one
13 hundred employees; and
14

15 WHEREAS, in exchange for these hires, the County Government of Mississippi County,
16 Arkansas has committed one million dollars in financial incentives to Big River Steel; and
17

18 WHEREAS, the Planning and Development Committee has recommended this
19 appropriation and the Finance Committee has reviewed and approved this appropriation;
20

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

24 I.

25 The following appropriations/modifications are hereby made for the FY 2024 budget:
26

SLOT/ACCOUNT #	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
3414.0140.3999	Big River Steel Commitment	\$1,000,000.00

29
30 II.

31
32 All appropriations previously authorized, approved, and made as to all other offices,
33 departments, and agencies of county government, and all other funds not hereinabove changed,
34 are to remain as previously appropriated. Detailed provisions of said appropriations are reflected
35 in the schedule of specific items listed by account numbers within the category for each office
36 and filed in the Office of the County Court Clerk.
37

4
5 III.

6
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.
9

10
11
12
13 DATE: _____

APPROVED:

14
15
16 _____
17
18 JOHN ALAN NELSON, COUNTY JUDGE
19

20
21 ATTEST:

22
23
24 _____
25
26 JANICE CURRIE, COUNTY CLERK
27 & SECRETARY

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40

MISSISSIPPI COUNTY QUORUM COURT

APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE NO. O-2024-_____

AN APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING
SITE PREPARATION ON THE ARKANSAS AEROPLEX

WHEREAS, Mississippi County, Arkansas seeks to grow the local economy through financial incentives given to entities with the understanding that said entities will prepare sites to appeal to companies who desire to relocate; and

WHEREAS, once cleared, the site can be marketed as “site ready”; and

WHEREAS, the Blytheville/Gosnell Regional Airport Authority (BGRAA) desires to clear off an area that is approximately 21 acres and contains old dormitories on the Blytheville Aeroplex; and

WHEREAS, in exchange for a \$500,000.00 commitment, the BGRAA will clear off the approximate 21 acre area and make it “site ready” for companies wanting to relocate; and

WHEREAS, the Planning and Development Committee has recommended this appropriation and the Finance Committee has reviewed and approved this appropriation;

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 2024 budget:

SLOT/ACCOUNT #	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
3414.0129.4009	Aeroplex Site Preparations	\$500,000.00

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.

4
5 III.
6

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.
9

10
11
12
13 DATE: _____

APPROVED:

14
15
16 _____

17 JOHN ALAN NELSON, COUNTY JUDGE
18
19

20
21 ATTEST:

22
23
24 _____

25
26 JANICE CURRIE, COUNTY CLERK
27 & SECRETARY

5 III.
6

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.
9

10
11
12
13 DATE: _____
14

APPROVED:
15

16 _____
17
18 JOHN ALAN NELSON, COUNTY JUDGE
19

20
21 ATTEST:
22

23 _____
24
25
26 JANICE CURRIE, COUNTY CLERK
27 & SECRETARY