

JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS  
MISSISSIPPI COUNTY QUORUM COURT  
April 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. Greg Brown from New Mt. Pleasant Christian Center of Osceola gave the invocation, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

The following members answered roll call:

Justice Ash	Justice Mangat
Justice Brown	Justice Martin
Justice Burge	Justice McClanahan
Justice Cullom	Justice McDonald
Justice Hepler	Justice White
Justice Jackson	

Absent: None. 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 Ash 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 5.30% for one year. She reported the sales tax revenue were up a bit from the previous month. She also reported county general continues to be in great shape.

**Committee Reports:**

*Planning and Development:* Justice White reported the committee met on April 5, 2024 and April 11, 2024. The main topic of discussion was the solar panels being installed in the county.

- Assessor Brannah Bibbs handed out information regarding how the land values would probably change.
- Justice Cullom expressed concern over the abandoned agricultural land may never be farmed again.
- Justice Jackson made a request to table the donation to the Johnny Cash Museum until the next meeting.
- The committee also met with representatives from the solar panels projects and were able to get answers to many of their questions.

*Energy and Property Committee:* Justice Jackson reported the committee met on April 10, 2024. Topics of discussion were:

- Priscilla Johnson with EOC requested help with replacing the roof. She presented the committee with an estimate of \$31,000.00. The court was interested in helping but asked for more information.
- Warden Dycus, Arkansas Division of Correction, presented a proposed expansion to the facilities and requested the county deed the land over to them.
- Aaron Ruby has been hired for the renovations to the Osceola Courthouse. A preliminary plan will be forthcoming.
- Security system in Osceola didn't work properly. Osceola Fire Department asked to have new smoke and carbon monoxide detectors installed. NET' estimate was \$2,795.00 and Silent Security's estimate was \$3,776.00.

- David Fox with Entergy was hired to replace the lights in the boardroom of the Annex. The committee had received two estimates for the replacement of the roof; from the Sierra Group: \$141,000.00 and Quality Roofing: \$121,000.00.
- CNI's contract has been terminated in the Blytheville Courthouse.

*Finance Committee:* Justice White reported the committee met on April 15, 2024 and discussed:

- The hiring of a payroll employee.
- A Road Grant Fund needing to be established for the Safe Streets Project.
- Finance Director requested a new line item for Day Porter's expenses.

**New Business:**

The clerk was asked to read an ordinance titled: AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE DECLARING AND CONFIRMING THE TEMPORARY MORATORIUM ON NEWNON-RESIDENTIAL SOLAR IN THE UNINCORPORATED PARTS OF MISSISSIPPI COUNTY IS INAPPLICABLE TO CERTAIN PROJECTS AND AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF ROAD USE AGREEMENTS. Following the reading, Justice White moved for adoption, Justice Ash seconded and the vote was: Aye--- Ash, Brown, Burge, Cullom, Hepler, Jackson, Mangat, Martin, McClanahan, McDonald, and White; Nay---None; Absent--- None. O-2024-10 was passed by the court.

The clerk read an ordinance titled: AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH A SPECIAL FUND TO BE CALLED THE ROAD DEPARTMENT GRANT FUND, AND TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY. Following the reading, Justice White moved for adoption, Justice Ash seconded and the vote was: Aye--- Ash, Brown, Burge, Cullom, Hepler, Jackson, Mangat, Martin, McClanahan, McDonald, and White; Nay---None; Absent--- None. O-2024-11 was passed by the court.

There being no further business to come before the court, Justice White made a motion to adjourn, Justice Burge seconded and the voice vote was unanimous. The meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Janice Currie  
County Clerk/Secretary

---

**QUORUM COURT  
MISSISSIPPI COUNTY, ARKANSAS  
Tuesday, May 28, 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 – Randy Jumper 1<sup>st</sup> Christian Church
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Roll Call
5. Reading/Approval of Minutes
6. Treasurer's Report
7. Committee Reports
  - Planning & Development 5-15-2024 Justice Michael White
  - Finance 5-20-2024 Justice Michael White
8. Resolutions:
9. Ordinances:
  - Ordinance – Amending O-2024-10 and O-2024-11
  - Appropriation Ordinance – Galactic Air
10. New Business
11. Old Business
12. Announcements
13. Adjourn

**PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT MEETING  
MAY 14, 2024 1:30 ANNEX BUILDING**

**ATTENDANCE:** Chairman Justice Michael White; Justice Neil Burge; Justice Rick Ash; Justice Cecil McDonald; Justice Betty Hepler; Justice Tobye McClanahan; Treasurer Candace Nichols; Collector Susan Short; County Clerk Janice Currie; Economic Development Clif Chitwood, Mallory Darby; BGRAA Brad Harrison, Mike Jacques; Judge John Alan Nelson.

1. Meeting was called to order by Justice Michael White. Meeting was turned over to Clif Chitwood with Economic Development. GREDA and BGRAA requested \$750,000.00 for Galactic Air. \$350,000.00 for capital improvements and \$400,000.00 for rent abatement. 50 jobs. Salary range was \$108,000.00 to \$120,000.00 a year.

2. Galactic Air partnered with ST Engineering in Singapore and Boeing. They retrofitted 757's for firefighting. Rent would be \$11,111.00 per month for 3 years when renovations were complete. After 3 years the rent would be increased to \$12,500.00 per month. Fuel would be purchased at the airbase.

3. Motion was made by Justice Neil Burge to appropriate the \$750,000.00 to Galactic Air for 50 jobs. \$350,000.00 for capital improvement, \$400,000.00 for rent abatement. Second was made by Justice Rick Ash. Motion passed.

4. Clif Chitwood said trade shows were being attended and information gathered.

5. Regular Finance meeting Monday, May 20<sup>th</sup> 1:30 Annex building.

6. Meeting adjourned.

Minutes submitted by: Cindy George

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

**ATTENDANCE:** Chairman Justice Michael White; Justice Molly Jackson; Justice Neil Burge; Justice Cecil McDonald; Justice Tobye McClanahan; Justice Rick Ash; Justice Betty Hepler; Treasurer Candace Nichols; County Clerk Janice Currie; Judge John Alan Nelson; NEA Town Courier Joseph Fondren.

1. Meeting was called to order. Expenditures were reviewed. Fund balances were good. All Elected Officials were within budget on expenses.

2. Planning & Development recommended \$750,000.00 for Galactic Air. 50 jobs. \$350,000.00 for capital improvements, \$400,000.00 rent abatement. Rent \$12,500.00. Motion was made by Justice Cecil McDonald to appropriate \$750,000.00 for Galactic Air. \$350,000.00 for capital improvements \$400,000.00 for rent abatement. Second was made by Justice Neil Burge. Motion passed.

3. The Ordinances passed at the April Quorum Court needed to be amended. Wrong numbers were put on the Ordinances. Motion was made by Justice Molly Jackson to amend the Ordinances. Second was made by Justice Neil Burge. Motion passed.

4. Road Grant Fund. \$200,000.00. \$160,000.00 from the State. \$40,000.00 from the County. No money had been appropriated. The County would be reimbursed for the money spent. One bill had been received for \$320.25 that needed to be paid. No action needed now.

5. The committee discussed solar energy companies. Justice White had spoken with Pattern and NextEra. Swift Energy would be in the south end. 14,500 acres. Rivercrest along the interstate towards Wilson. Surrounds Marie and Rivercrest School would be landlocked on that side of the interstate. Swift Energy was not looking for a tax abatement at this time. Forming a Zoning Commission or Board was discussed. No decision was made.

6. Invitations to bid on the roofs for EOC in Osceola and the Annex Building were being published. Bid opening would be June 12<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m.

7. Quorum Court May 28<sup>th</sup>. 6:00 p.m. Osceola Courthouse

8. Meeting adjourned.

Minutes submitted by: Cindy George

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  
41  
42  
43  
44  
45  
46  
47  
48  
49  
50  
51  
52  
53  
54  
55  
56  
57  
58  
59  
60  
61  
62  
63  
64  
65  
66  
67  
68  
69  
70  
71  
72  
73  
74  
75  
76  
77  
78  
79  
80  
81  
82  
83  
84  
85  
86  
87  
88  
89  
90  
91  
92  
93  
94  
95  
96  
97  
98  
99  
100

**MISSISSIPPI COUNTY QUORUM COURT**

**ORDINANCE NO. O-2024-\_\_\_\_\_**

AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. O-2024-10 TO BE ORDINANCE NO. O-2024-19 AND TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. O-2024-11 TO BE ORDINANCE NO. O-2024-20 AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

**WHEREAS**, On April 23, 2024 the Mississippi County Quorum Court passed Ordinance No. O-2024-10 and Ordinance No. O-2024-11; and

**WHEREAS**, It is has since been determined that those Ordinance numbers had already been used and were used in error; and

**WHEREAS**, Ordinance No. O-2024-10 should be Ordinance No. O-2024-19 and Ordinance No. O-2024-11 should be Ordinance No. O-2024-20; and

**WHEREAS**, all other parts of both ordinances are correct and shall remain unchanged and are in full force and effect;

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

I.

Ordinance No. O-2024-10 is hereby amended to be Ordinance No. O-2024-19. The County Judge and County Clerk are hereby authorized to implement this amendment and correct said number.

II.

Ordinance No. O-2024-11 is hereby amended to be Ordinance No. O-2024-20. The County Judge and County Clerk are hereby authorized to implement this amendment and correct said number.

III.

All other parts of said Ordinances not in conflict herewith are unchanged and remain in full force and effect.

IV.

It is found by this Court that an emergency is declared to exist and this ordinance shall be in full force and effect from the date of passage and approval.

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

APPROVED:

\_\_\_\_\_  
JOHN ALAN NELSON, COUNTY JUDGE

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
JANICE CURRIE, COUNTY CLERK  
& 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  
41  
42  
43  
44  
45

**MISSISSIPPI COUNTY QUORUM COURT**

**ORDINANCE NO. O-2024- 10**

*AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE DECLARING AND CONFIRMING THE TEMPORARY  
MORATORIUM ON NEW NON-RESIDENTIAL SOLAR FARMS IN THE UNINCORPORATED  
PARTS OF MISSISSIPPI COUNTY IS INAPPLICABLE TO CERTAIN PROJECTS AND  
AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF ROAD USE AGREEMENTS*

**WHEREAS**, on February 27, 2024, the Quorum Court of Mississippi County, Arkansas enacted Ordinance No. O-2024-08 declaring a 180-day moratorium on the construction of non-residential solar farm facilities in the unincorporated parts of Mississippi County; and

**WHEREAS**, the Quorum Court did not intend for the moratorium to apply to non-residential solar farm facilities on which development had commenced prior to the moratorium ordinance being enacted; and

**WHEREAS**, NextEra Energy Resources (“NextEra”) made a presentation to and answered questions asked by the Planning and Development Committee of the Mississippi County, Arkansas Quorum Court, other members of the Quorum Court, other elected officials, and members of the public at a meeting of the Committee on April 11, 2024 at the Mississippi County Annex Building in Blytheville, Arkansas (the “Presentation”); and

**WHEREAS**, the Presentation covered a variety of general topics, including, how projects are sited, statistical information relating to solar development in Mississippi County, health and safety considerations relating to solar facilities, the decommissioning of solar facilities and the disposal and recycling of solar panels, the tax impact of NextEra projects in Mississippi County, and the interconnection process, and specifically addressed and provided information regarding three NextEra projects under development in Mississippi County, the Forgeview Solar Project, the Manila Solar Project, and the Green Mallard Solar Project (each as specifically defined herein); and

**WHEREAS**, NextEra has requested, and the Planning and Development Committee has recommended, that the Quorum Court confirm that the Forgeview Solar Project, the Manila Solar Project, and the Green Mallard Solar Project (each as specifically defined herein) do not fall within the scope of the moratorium set forth by Ordinance No. O-2024-08; and

**WHEREAS**, the Quorum Court verifies that development of the Forgeview Solar Project, the Manila Solar Project, and the Green Mallard Solar Project (each as specifically defined herein) commenced prior to Ordinance No. O-2024-08 being enacted and that those projects are not “new non-residential solar farm facilities” to which the moratorium is intended to apply; and

**WHEREAS**, the Quorum Court confirms that it has knowledge of the Forgeview Solar Project, the Manila Solar Project, and the Green Mallard Solar Project and/or has been provided

1 with information that it deems sufficient, in its sole and absolute discretion, to confirm that the  
2 moratorium is not applicable to such projects.

3  
4 **NOW, THEREFORE,** be it ordained by the Quorum Court of Mississippi County,  
5 Arkansas, that:

6  
7 **SECTION 1:** The moratorium imposed by Ordinance No. O-2024-08 is not intended to  
8 apply and shall not apply to the following non-residential solar farm facilities:

- 9  
10 1. Forgeview Solar Project developed by Forgeview Solar, LLC, an affiliate of NextEra,  
11 and generally described as construction of infrastructure and improvements, and  
12 acquisition and installation of equipment, including solar panels and/or batteries,  
13 utilized in environmentally sustainable generation and/or storage of electricity and  
14 related to a photovoltaic solar energy facility on approximately 2,000 acres of land  
15 that is north and east of the City of Blytheville, is currently used primarily as  
16 farmland, is located within all or portions of Sections 1, 2 and 12, Township 15  
17 North, Range 11 East, Sections 25, 35, and 36, Township 16 North, Range 11 East,  
18 Section 6, Township 15 North, Range 12 East and Section 31, Township 16 North,  
19 Range 12 East, and is bisected by Interstate 55 (the “Forgeview Solar Project”).  
20  
21 2. Manila Solar Project developed by Manila Solar, LLC, an affiliate of NextEra, and  
22 generally described as construction of infrastructure and improvements, and  
23 acquisition and installation of equipment, including solar panels and/or batteries,  
24 utilized in environmentally sustainable generation and/or storage of electricity and  
25 related to a photovoltaic solar energy facility on approximately 2,700 acres of land  
26 that is south and west of the City of Blytheville, is currently used primarily as  
27 farmland, is located within all or portions of Sections 23, 24, 25, 26, 31 and 36,  
28 Township 15, Range 10; Sections 5 and 7, Township 14, Range 10; and Section 19  
29 and 30, Township 15, Range 11 in Mississippi County, Arkansas, and is bisected by  
30 Arkansas Highway 18 (the “Manila Solar Project”).  
31  
32 3. Green Mallard Solar Project developed by Green Mallard Solar, LLC, an affiliate of  
33 NextEra, and generally described as construction of infrastructure and improvements,  
34 and acquisition and installation of equipment, including solar panels, utilized in  
35 environmentally sustainable generation of electricity and related to a photovoltaic  
36 solar energy facility on approximately 2,000 acres of land that is generally northwest  
37 and southwest of the Town of Dell, is currently used primarily as farmland, is located  
38 within all or portions of Sections 23, 24, 26, 31, and 32, Township 15, Range 10;  
39 Sections 5, 7 and 8, Township 14, Range 10; and Sections 19 and 30, Township 15,  
40 Range 11 in Mississippi County, Arkansas, and is bisected by Arkansas Highway 18  
41 (the “Green Mallard Solar Project”).  
42

43 **SECTION 2:** Except as to the projects set out in Section 1 of this Ordinance above, this  
44 Ordinance does not otherwise amend, supplement, or modify Ordinance No. O-2024-08.  
45



- 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

**SECTION 3:** The County Judge and the County Clerk are authorized and directed, for and on behalf of Mississippi County, in connection with the on-going development of, the Forgeview Solar Project, the Manila Solar Project, and the Green Mallard Solar Project to execute and deliver all papers, documents, certificates, and other instruments that may be in the interest of or beneficial to Mississippi County, including, but not limited to, Road Use Agreements.

**SECTION 4:** This Ordinance, being necessary for the health, safety, welfare, and property for the citizens of Mississippi County, Arkansas shall be in full force and effect immediately from and after its passage and approval by the Mississippi County Quorum Court, and an emergency is hereby declared to exist.

APPROVED:

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
JOHN ALAN NELSON, COUNTY JUDGE

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
JANICE CURRIE,  
COUNTY CLERK AND SECRETARY

MISSISSIPPI COUNTY QUORUM COURT

ORDINANCE NO. O-2024- 11

AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH A SPECIAL FUND TO BE CALLED THE ROAD DEPARTMENT GRANT FUND; AND TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY

**Article 1. Affirmation.** It comes before this Court that there is a need to establish a Road Department Grant Fund- Fund 2900 on the books of the county to track revenues and expenditures surrounding the Safe Streets For All matching grant. This Court recognizes and affirms the need for such a fund to properly account for and control all such revenues allowed and expenditures made.

**Article 2. Establishment of Fund.** There is hereby created on the books of the Mississippi County Treasurer and the books of the Mississippi County Clerk or Comptroller a special revenue grant fund to be known as the Road Department Grant Fund. The fund number is 2900. Any transfer codes; office/department codes; and expenditure codes are to be assigned locally using the County Financial Management System per the direction of Arkansas Legislative Audit.

**Article 3. Operation of Fund.** The Road Department Grant Fund is subject to all the normal county budgeting, appropriation, and expenditure regulations of Title 14 of Arkansas Code Annotated and the County Financial Management System. The grant will be used to hire a firm to complete a traffic study and for other related purposes.

**Article 4. Emergency Clause.** It is found by this Court that the receipt of Road Department Grant Fund for the Safe Streets For All grant is imminent or already received making it necessary to establish the Road Department Grant Fund in order to properly track the revenue and appropriated expenditures. Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist and this ordinance shall be in full force and effect from the date of passage and approval.

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

APPROVED:

\_\_\_\_\_  
JOHN ALAN NELSON, COUNTY JUDGE

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
JANICE CURRIE, COUNTY CLERK  
& SECRETARY

1 MISSISSIPPI COUNTY QUORUM COURT

2  
3 APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE NO. O-2024-\_\_\_\_\_

4  
5 AN APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING  
6 COMMITMENT TO GALACTIC AIR  
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 Galactic Air who has agreed to create fifty jobs;  
13 and

14  
15 WHEREAS, in exchange for these jobs, the County Government of Mississippi County,  
16 Arkansas desires to commit seven hundred and fifty thousand dollars (\$750,000.00) total in  
17 financial incentives to Galactic Air with four hundred thousand dollars (\$400,000.00) to go  
18 towards rent abatement and with three hundred and fifty thousand dollars (\$350,000.00) to go to  
19 capital improvements to BGRAA property; and

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

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

26  
27 I.

28 The following appropriations/modifications are hereby made for the 2024 budget:

SLOT/ACCOUNT #	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
3414.0186.3070	Rent	\$400,000.00
3414.0186.3999	Galactic Air Commitment	\$350,000.00
		Total: \$750,000.00

34  
35 II.

36  
37 All appropriations previously authorized, approved, and made as to all other offices,  
38 departments, and agencies of county government, and all other funds not hereinabove changed,  
39 are to remain as previously appropriated. Detailed provisions of said appropriations are reflected  
40 in the schedule of specific items listed by account numbers within the category for each office  
41 and filed in the Office of the County Court Clerk.  
42

1 Mississippi County Quorum Court  
2 Appropriation Ordinance No. O-2024 - \_\_\_\_\_  
3 Page Two  
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: \_\_\_\_\_  
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