

MISSISSIPPI COUNTY QUORUM COURT  
July 23, 2019

The Quorum Court of Mississippi County, Arkansas, met in regular session at 7:00 p.m. in the Circuit Courtroom of the Blytheville Courthouse with County Judge John Alan Nelson presiding. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by August Nelson, Louis Hoskins, Matthew Mabry (from Boy Scouts Troop 104 under the leadership of Craig Fosburg) and Sarah Mabry (from Boy Scouts Troop 316 under the leadership of Melissa Fosburg). Bishop Randy Crenshaw from God's Holy Temple in Blytheville, AR gave the invocation.

The following members answered roll call:

Justice Ash  
Justice Burge  
Justice Clay  
Justice Henton

Justice Hepler  
Justice Jackson  
Justice Nelson  
Justice White

Absent: Justices Belcher, Fleeman and Norvell. Also in attendance: County Attorney Jeremy Thomas.

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 vote was: Aye --- Ash, Burge, Clay, Henton, Hepler, Jackson, Nelson and White; Nay --- None: Absent--- Belcher, Fleeman and Norvell.

Justice White made an amended motion to approve the minutes with a correction in the absent justices, Justice Ash seconded. The vote was: Aye --- Ash, Burge, Clay, Henton, Hepler, Jackson, Nelson and White; Nay --- None: Absent--- Belcher, Fleeman and Norvell.

In the treasurer's report, County Treasurer Peggy Meatte reported the current interest rate at Farmers Bank is currently 2.65% on \$100,000.00 for one year and the sales tax revenue received for last month was up and was the highest it had been in ten years for the month of June.

**Committee Reports:**

*Fire, Police and Safety Committee:* Justice Ash reported the committee met on July 11, 2019 and topics of discussion were:

- The county would be looking for a contract for medical care for the inmates at the jail. The county hospital had been providing this service but is no longer capable of providing this service.
- The committee also discussed the jail fees and the contract the City of Blytheville had proposed. The committee elected to keep the jail fees at the current rate until 2020.

*Finance Committee:* Justice White reported the committee met on July 15 and again on July 17, 2019. Topics of discussion were:

- All the departments were currently under budget.
- Economic Development funds appropriated in the previous year for Workforce Training were not used and a request was made to re-appropriate. No action was taken.
- Talked about the 12 employees whose salaries fall below or in the 1<sup>st</sup> quartile range according to JESAP and how this should be corrected. Kelli Jones, Finance Director, generated revised reports of JESAP for the employees who do not work a 40 hour week for the committee. The decision was made to increase the salaries of those employees who are in the bottom of the pay scale.
- Working hours for the newly hired janitor/custodian.
- Auditors requested a change in payroll schedule and now the IRS is levying a \$10,275.00 penalty against the county. The county is currently seeking help from Senator Boozman's office with this matter.
- A new tractor and mower were purchased for the Interstate Beautification Project.

The clerk was asked to read an ordinance titled: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING/MODIFYING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATION OF THE MISSISSIPPI COUNTY GOVERNMENT, INCLUDING RAISES IN SALARY FOR CERTAIN EMPLOYEES OF MISSISSIPPI COUNTY, ARKANSAS, FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE FISCAL YEAR OF 2019, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES. Following the reading by the clerk, Justice White moved for adoption, Justice Burge seconded and the vote was: Aye --- Ash, Burge, Clay, Henton, Hepler, Jackson, Nelson and White; Nay --- None: Absent--- Belcher, Fleeman and Norvell. O-2019-20 was adopted by the court.

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

Respectfully submitted:

Janice Currie  
County Clerk/Secretary