

MISSISSIPPI COUNTY QUORUM COURT

March 26, 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. Ben Braswell, Braylen Williams, Lilly Jackson, Lynley Gillian from Armored Elementary School led the Pledge of Allegiance and Rev. Doug Echols from New Mt.Olive Baptist Church in Blytheville gave the invocation.

The following members answered roll call:

Justice Ash	Justice Nelson
Justice Clay	Justice Norvell
Justice Henton	Justice White
Justice Jackson	

Absent: Justices Belcher, Burge, Fleeman and Hepler.

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 current interest rate at Farmers Bank is 2.56 % for one year on \$100,000.00 and the sales tax revenue received for last month was up a little. She expected it to be down this month but it is still higher than it has been for several years for the month of March.

Committee Reports:

Personnel Committee: Justice Ash reported the committee met on March 6, 2019 and the main topic of discussion pertained to changes in the Employee Handbook. Changes made were:

- Reimbursement for meals and lodging policy
- Employees may not be rehired for 180 days
- Family Medical Leave for employees

Energy & Property Committee: Justice Ash reported the committee met on March 6, 2019 at County Judge John Nelson's request. Topics discussed were:

- Loss of parking due to renovation. The possibility of relocating the Emergency Squad so that space may be utilized for parking.
- Tearing down the communications tower and possibly the Cooperative Extension office if they move to Keiser.
- The Collector's and Assessor's request to remain in Blytheville during renovation. The decision was made to keep remaining (excluding Circuit Clerk's) offices in the same location.
- 911 Coordinator David Lendennie asked to be allowed to move his office to the Annex. The committee elected to wait on making a decision.

Planning & Development Committee: Justice Nelson reported the committee met with Clif Chitwood on March 14, 2019. Mr. Chitwood brought 3 projects before the committee to discuss:

1. Asking for \$400,000.00 for the apprenticeship program and \$25,000.00 for the ANC work program.
2. Incentivize employees at Bronco for a total of \$525,000.00.

3. A \$514,000.00 incentive for employees at Arkansas Mechanical.

Finance Committee: Justice White reported the committee met on March 18, 2019. Topics of discussion were:

- The budget is currently at 17%.
- The County has acquired the Juno building from ANC
- Three Economic Development Projects for ANC W.O.R.K. program, Bronco and Arkansas Mechanical
- The sheriff asked for \$300,000.00 for the purchase of security cameras in the jail. Money has been appropriated and the sheriff is moving forward with the purchase.
- The passage of the bond issue by 72%.
- 2017 Legislative Audit was a very clean audit.

The clerk was asked to read a resolution titled: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAINTENANCE AND OPERATION OF THE BLYTHEVILLE, ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH OFFICE BUILDING; AND PRESCRIBING OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO. Following the reading, Justice White moved for adoption, Justice Nelson seconded and the vote was: Aye --- Ash, Clay, Henton, Jackson, Nelson, Norvell and White; Nay --- None: Absent--- Belcher, Burge, Fleeman, and Hepler. R-2019-05 was adopted by the court.

The clerk was asked to read a resolution titled: A RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK FOR MISSISSIPPI COUNTY, ARKANSAS; AND PRESCRIBING OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO. Following the reading, Justice White moved for adoption, Justice Nelson seconded and the vote was: Aye --- Ash, Clay, Henton, Jackson, Nelson, Norvell and White; Nay --- None: Absent--- Belcher, Burge, Fleeman, and Hepler. R-2019-06 was adopted by the court.

Justice White informed the court the passage of ordinances requires a 2/3 (8 justices) vote of the court and there were only seven members present. He then made a motion to table the two ordinances until the next meeting, which would be the Special Call meeting on April 9, 2019. Justice Ash seconded and the voice vote was unanimous.

Justice White made a motion to acknowledge the receipt of the 2017 Legislative Audit, Justice Ash seconded and the voice acknowledgement was unanimous.

With no further business to come before the court, Justice White moved to adjourn, Justice Ash seconded and the voice vote was unanimous. The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Janice Currie
County Clerk/Secretary