

MISSISSIPPI COUNTY QUORUM COURT
January 22, 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. Ziare Richardson, Kennedy Wilburn, Michael Ecton, and Tania Gonzalez from KIPP School led the Pledge of Allegiance and Rev. Scott Trotter from St. Stephens gave the invocation.

Before roll call, Judge Nelson asked former County Judge Terri Brassfield and former County Collector Betty V Hepler to come before the court. Judge Nelson read and presented former Judge Brassfield with a resolution titled "*A Resolution Honoring Judge Terri Brassfield, Who Has Completed Her Term as Mississippi County Judge*". Judge Nelson then proceeded to read and present former Collector Betty Hepler with a resolution titled: "*A Resolution Honoring Betty V. Hepler, Who Has Complete Her Term As Mississippi County Collector*".

The following members answered roll call:

Justice Ash
Justice Burge
Justice Henton
Justice Hepler

Justice Jackson
Justice Nelson
Justice Norvell
Justice White

Absent: Justices Belcher, Clay and Fleeman.

Justice White moved to dispense with the reading of the minutes as copies had been provided to the members. Justice Nelson 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 2.54 % for one year on \$100,000.00 and the sales tax revenue received for last month was up a little from the previous month. She also stated the sales tax revenue received this year was the highest it had been since 2014.

Judge Nelson then introduced Jeremy Thomas as the county's newly appointed attorney.

Committee Reports:

Fire, Police & Safety: Justice Ash reported the committee met on January 8, 2019 to discuss opening a slot in the Sheriff's Department for a School Resource Officer for the Armored School District which would be completely funded by the school district. The committee approved the request and moved to send the request to the Personnel Committee to create a slot.

Personnel Committee: Justice Ash reported the committee met on January 8, 2019 to discuss creating a slot at the Sheriff's Department for the requested SRO in the Armored School District. The request was approved by the committee and sent to the Finance Committee. He stated this

would be basically a pass-through grant. The committee met again on January 14, 2019 where Judge John Alan Nelson introduced Steven Savage as the new Public Affairs Director. Justice Ash stated the purpose of this meeting was to look at making changes to the Secretary/Bookkeeper. The request from the judge was to change the title of this slot to Public Affairs Director and increase the salary from \$27,000.00 to \$43,000.00 annually. A motion was approved to present this request to the full court.

Finance Committee: Justice White reported the committee met on January 14, 2019. Topics of discussion were:

- Brief overview of the County's Expenditure Report through December 2018.
- 2 proposals from the Sheriff's Department:
 - 1) Armored School District's request for a SRO
 - 2) Sheriff Dale Cook's \$300,000.00 request for funding new camera equipment in the jail.
- Slot in the Judge's office be changed from Secretary/Bookkeeper to Public Affairs Director and salary be increased to \$43,000.00.
- Assessor Harley Bradley's request to increase the hours and salary of the business appraiser.
- Judge Nelson passed out information for a GPS system to be used on the road graders in the Road Department. He stated the system would keep track of the location of the graders, how fast the graders are moving, and how much fuel is in the tank, etc. He also stated he would like to form a Road Commission.

Fire, Police & Safety: Justice Ash reported the committee met on January 18, 2019 to meet with the owner of the Essence Event Center, Mr. Prunty and his attorney, Mr. Jim Harris regarding his wish to apply for a Private Club License. Due to changes in the law, an applicant must first get approval of the county court before completing the process with the state. The event center would be used for wedding receptions, parties, reunions and other such events. The motion was passed to grant Mr. Prunty's request to apply for a license with ABC and to send the request to the full court.

The clerk was asked to read a resolution titled: A RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS BY MISSISSIPPI COUNTY, ARKANSAS FOR THE PURPOSE OF FINANCING IMPROVEMENTS TO THE COUNTY COURTHOUSES LOCATED IN BLYTHEVILLE AND OSCEOLA; AND PRESCRIBING OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO. Following the reading, Justice White moved for adoption, Justice Nelson seconded and the vote was: Aye --- Ash, Burge, Henton, Hepler, Jackson, Nelson, Norvell and White; Nay --- None: Absent--- Belcher, Clay and Fleeman. R-2019-02 was adopted by the court.

The clerk was asked to read a resolution titled: A RESOLUTION APPROVING ARKANSAS HERITAGE PRESERVATION PLAN GRANT TO BE USED FOR ROOF REPAIRS TO BLYTHEVILLE, ARKANSAS COURTHOUSE. Following the reading, Justice Nelson moved for adoption, Justice Norvell seconded and the vote was: Aye --- Ash, Burge, Henton, Hepler, Jackson, Nelson, Norvell and White; Nay --- None: Absent--- Belcher, Clay and Fleeman. R-2019-03 was adopted by the court.

The clerk was asked to read an ordinance titled: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING/MODIFYING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATION OF THE MISSISSIPPI COUNTY GOVERNMENT, INCLUDING CHANGES IN APPROPRIATIONS FOR CERTAIN DEPARTMENTS OF COUNTY GOVERNMENT FOR THE CALENDAR AND FISCAL YEAR OF 2019, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES. Following the reading by the clerk, Justice White moved for adoption, Justice Ash seconded and the vote was: Aye --- Ash, Burge, Henton, Hepler, Jackson, Nelson, Norvell and White; Nay --- None: Absent--- Belcher, Clay and Fleeman. O-2019-01 was adopted by the court.

The clerk was asked to read an ordinance titled: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING/MODIFYING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATION OF THE MISSISSIPPI COUNTY GOVERNMENT, INCLUDING CHANGES IN APPROPRIATIONS FOR CERTAIN DEPARTMENTS OF COUNTY GOVERNMENT FOR THE CALENDAR AND FISCAL YEAR OF 2019, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES. Following the reading by the clerk, Justice White moved for adoption, Justice Ash seconded and the vote was: Aye --- Ash, Burge, Henton, Hepler, Jackson, Nelson, Norvell and White; Nay --- None: Absent--- Belcher, Clay and Fleeman. O-2019-02 was adopted by the court.

The clerk was asked to read an ordinance titled: AN ORDINANCE TO APPROVE THE APPLICATION OF THE ESSENCE EVENT CENTER, INC. TO OPERATE AS A PRIVATE CLUB IN MISSISSIPPI COUNTY, ARKANSAS, WITH AN ADDRESS OF 2044 E STATE HWY 18, BLYTHEVILLE, ARKANSAS. Following the reading by the clerk, Justice Ash informed the court this is an appropriation ordinance which would require three readings. Justice Norvell moved to suspend the rules and advance to the second reading by title only, Justice Hepler seconded and the vote was: Aye --- Burge, Henton, Hepler, Jackson, Norvell and White; Nay --- Ash and Nelson: Absent--- Belcher, Clay and Fleeman. O-2019-03 did not pass and will move on to the second reading at the February meeting.

The clerk was asked to read an ordinance titled: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING/MODIFYING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATION OF THE MISSISSIPPI COUNTY GOVERNMENT, INCLUDING CHANGES IN APPROPRIATIONS FOR CERTAIN DEPARTMENTS OF COUNTY GOVERNMENT FOR THE CALENDAR AND FISCAL YEAR OF 2019, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES. Following the reading by the clerk, Justice White moved for adoption, Justice Ash seconded and the vote was: Aye --- Ash, Burge, Henton, Hepler, Jackson, Nelson, Norvell and White; Nay --- None: Absent--- Belcher, Clay and Fleeman. O-2019-04 was adopted by the court.

There being no further business to come before the court, Justice White moved for adjournment, Justice Burge seconded and the voice vote was unanimous. The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Janice Currie
County Clerk/Secretary

