

MISSISSIPPI COUNTY QUORUM COURT
October 22, 2019

The Quorum Court of Mississippi County, Arkansas, met in regular session at 7:00 p.m. in the Circuit Courtroom of the Burdette Courthouse with County Judge John Alan Nelson presiding. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Bobby Ranalli, Alexandra Femera, Lilly Jackson and Ben Brasswell from Armored Elementary School. Rev. Zach Roberts from First United Methodist in Blytheville gave the invocation.

The following members answered roll call:

Justice Ash
Justice Burge
Justice Clay
Justice Henton
Justice Hepler

Justice Jackson
Justice Nelson
Justice Norvell
Justice White

Absent: Justices Belcher and Fleeman. 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 voice vote was unanimous.

In the treasurer's report, County Treasurer Peggy Meatte reported the current interest rate at Farmers Bank is currently 2.40% on \$100,000.00 for one year and the sales tax revenue received for last month was up for September. She also reported the balance in County General was just under \$1,000,000.00 and the county was in good shape.

Committee Reports:

Road & Bridges Committee: In the absence of Justice Fleeman, Justice Norvell reported the committee had met with Tony Stone and discussed:

- Replacing equipment
- Selling equipment
- The use of red clay rather than slag

Insurance Committee: Justice Nelson reported the committee met with Mr. Leslie Smith regarding our insurance. Mr. Smith informed the committee that our county was in the 160% loss ratio and we could expect a rate increase of at least 12% and could possibly go as high as 18% if the claims are ongoing.

Finance Committee: Justice White reported the committee had met every Monday and most of the discussions pertained to the budgetary process. Also discussed were:

- 12 cars for the sheriff's department
- Landfill budget-no big changes.

- Road Department budget-carried straight across.
- Two major considerations for the committee: possible raises for employees (3% or \$1,000.00 across the board) and a projected insurance rate increase of 12% or higher.
- Ordinance for a part-time billing clerk position at the landfill

Personnel Committee: Justice Ash reported the committee met on October 8, 2019 and issues discussed were:

- An ordinance allowing the county to do business with Eagle Laser Engraving and its owner (Kevin Cooper, a county employee)
- A landfill part-time billing clerk

Fire, Police and Safety Committee: Justice Ash reported the committee met on October 10, 2019 and topics of discussion were:

- Sheriff Cook asked for 12 new vehicles (6 cars and 6 trucks for \$350,000.00) and \$30,000.00 to equip the cars with cameras.
- New state ruling allowing the county to use collection agencies to collect old fines.
- OEM, Wayne Reynolds told the committee he had been updating the County's Safety Plan.

Sanitation & Solid Waste Committee: Justice Burge stated the committee met on October 14, 2019. Topics of discussion were:

- Quarterly payments due to ADEQ
- Bids for the construction of the new Class 1 and Class 4 Cell at the landfill. A motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the bid from R.L. Persons Construction Company for \$2,287,775.00.

New Business:

Justice Burge informed the court the bid of R.L. Person Construction Company in the amount of \$2,287,775.00 for cell construction had been approved by the Sanitation & Solid Waste Committee and the Finance Committee and needed to be presented to the full court. He then made a motion to amend the agenda to include the new business of accepting R.L. Persons Construction Company's bid for cell construction, Justice White seconded and the vote was: : Aye --- Ash, Burge, Clay Henton, Hepler, Jackson, Nelson, Norvell and White; Nay --- None: Absent--- Belcher and Fleeman. Justice Burge then moved to accept the bid of R.L. Persons Construction Company in the amount of \$2,287,775.00 for the construction of new Class 1 and Class 4 cells at the landfill. Justice Jackson seconded and the vote was: Aye --- Ash, Burge, Clay Henton, Hepler, Jackson, Nelson, Norvell and White; Nay --- None: Absent--- Belcher and Fleeman.

The clerk read an ordinance titled: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING MISSISSIPPI COUNTY TO DO BUSINESS WITH EAGLE LASER ENGRAVING LOCATED IN LEACHVILLE,

ARKANSAS. Following the reading by the clerk, Justice Ash moved to adopt, Justice Norvell seconded and the vote was: Aye --- Ash, Burge, Clay Henton, Hepler, Jackson, Nelson, Norvell and White; Nay --- None: Absent--- Belcher and Fleeman. O-2019-32 was adopted by the court.

The clerk was asked to read an ordinance titled: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING/MODIFYING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATION OF 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 to adopt, Justice Ash seconded and the vote was: Aye --- Ash, Burge, Clay Henton, Hepler, Jackson, Nelson, Norvell and White; Nay --- None: Absent--- Belcher and Fleeman. O-2019-38 was adopted by the court.

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

Respectfully submitted:

Janice Currie
County Clerk/Secretary