

MISSISSIPPI COUNTY QUORUM COURT  
February 25, 2020

The Quorum Court of Mississippi County, Arkansas, met in regular session at 7:00 p.m. in the Circuit Courtroom of the Osceola Courthouse with County Judge John Alan Nelson presiding. Kaytyn Rameriz, Tyler Bell, Gabrielle England and Tyereion Mitchell from the Osceola STEM Academy led the Pledge of Allegiance and Rev. Archie Thomas from Living Word Cathedral in Osceola gave the invocation.

The following members answered roll call:

Justice Ash  
Justice Burge  
Justice Clay  
Justice Fleeman  
Justice Henton

Justice Hepler  
Justice Jackson  
Justice Nelson  
Justice Norvell  
Justice White

Absent: Justice Belcher. 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 and to approve said minutes upon the correction of the location of the January meeting. 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 and 1<sup>st</sup> Commercial is currently 1.65% on \$100,000.00 for one year and she reiterated the sales tax revenue received last month for the month of December was in fact one of the best it has been for ten years. She also reported the Jail Fund was in the negative but expected to receive funds in the next day or so.

**Committee Reports:**

*Insurance Committee:* Justice Nelson reported the committee met on February 12 to discuss the need to set a cap on the HRA, which is money the county can reimburse an employee for Medicare. The Stephens Insurance representative suggested a cap of \$375.00. Following some discussion, Justice Burge and Justice White recommended a cap of \$400. The motion was seconded and approved by the committee. Another topic of discussion was employees' unpaid medical claims by our former insurance company.

*Planning and Development Committee:* Justice Nelson reported the committee met on February 12 and discussed the approval of two Tax Back Resolutions for TMS Arkansas Industrial Services Corporation and Nucor Steel. The motion was made, seconded and approved to present to the full court. Mr. Clif Chitwood addressed the committee concerning restrictions placed on Economic Development projects because they are not meeting the NAIC code. Mr. Chitwood also informed the committee he and Dr. Shemwell planned to submit a proposal to the Great

River Board to experiment with for a year. Economic Development would put in \$25,000.00 and ANC will put in \$35,000.00 towards the experiment. The experiment would entail ANC hiring an employee of ANC, with a salary of \$42,000.00 to \$45,000.00, to help hire Mississippi County residents and report back to Dr. Shemwell and Clif Chitwood.

*Finance Committee:* Justice White reported the committee met on February 18 and again on February 24. Topics of discussion were:

- Elected officials keeping expenditures below budget. Senior Citizens operating in the red.
- Renewing the lease on a compactor for the Landfill.
- Leasing an excavator for the Road Department.
- Ordinance allowing the county to do business with Salomon Automotive, LLC.
- New software for the Treasurer, Assessor, Collector and Financial Management.
- Due to federal and state funding cuts the Senior Citizens Center being in need of assistance from the county to continue to provide needed services to county residents for the remainder of 2020.

The clerk was asked to read a resolution titled: A RESOLUTION OF THE QUORUM COURT OF MISSISSIPPI COUNTY, ARKANSAS CERTIFYING LOCAL GOVERNMENT ENDORSEMENT OF BUSINESS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE TAX BACK PROGRAM (AS AUTHORIZED BY SECTION 15-4-2706(d) OF THE CONSOLIDATED INCENTIVE ACT OF 2003). Following the reading by the clerk, Justice Nelson moved to adopt, Justice Ash seconded and the voice vote was: Aye --- Ash, Burge, Clay, Fleeman, Henton, Hepler, Jackson, Nelson, Norvell and White; Nay --- None: Absent--- Belcher. R-2020-02 was adopted by the court.

The clerk was asked to read a resolution titled: A RESOLUTION OF THE QUORUM COURT OF MISSISSIPPI COUNTY, ARKANSAS CERTIFYING LOCAL GOVERNMENT ENDORSEMENT OF BUSINESS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE TAX BACK PROGRAM (AS AUTHORIZED BY SECTION 15-4-2706(d) OF THE CONSOLIDATED INCENTIVE ACT OF 2003). Following the reading by the clerk, Justice Nelson moved to adopt, Justice Burge seconded and the voice vote was: Aye --- Ash, Burge, Clay, Fleeman, Henton, Hepler, Jackson, Nelson, Norvell and White; Nay --- None: Absent--- Belcher. R-2020-03 was adopted by the court.

The clerk was asked to read an ordinance titled: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING MISSISSIPPI COUNTY TO DO BUSINESS WITH ERIC SALOMON AND SALOMON AUTOMOTIVE, LLC, LOCATED IN MANILA, ARKANSAS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES. Following the reading by the clerk, Justice White made a motion to suspend the rules and advance to the second reading by title only, Justice Ash seconded and the voice vote was: Aye --- Ash, Burge, Clay, Fleeman, Henton, Hepler, Jackson, Nelson, Norvell and White; Nay --- None: Absent--- Belcher. Following the second reading by title only, Justice Ash moved to suspend the rules and proceed to the third reading by title only, Justice White seconded and the voice vote was: Aye --- Ash, Burge, Clay, Fleeman, Henton, Hepler, Jackson, Nelson, Norvell and White; Nay --- None: Absent--- Belcher. Following the third reading by title only, Justice White moved for adoption, Justice Ash seconded and the voice vote was: Aye --- Ash,

Burge, Clay, Fleeman, Henton, Hepler, Jackson, Nelson, Norvell and White; Nay --- None: Absent--- Belcher. O-2020-06 was adopted by the court.

The clerk was asked to read an appropriation ordinance titled: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING/MODIFYING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATION OF THE MISSISSIPPI COUNTY GOVERNMENT, INCLUDING AN APPROPRIATION TO LEASE AN EXCAVATOR FOR USE BY THE MISSISSIPPI COUNTY ROAD DEPARTMENT, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES. Following the reading by the clerk, Justice White moved to adopt, Justice Fleeman seconded and the voice vote was: Aye --- Ash, Burge, Clay, Fleeman, Henton, Hepler, Jackson, Nelson, Norvell and White; Nay --- None: Absent--- Belcher. O-2020-07 was adopted by the court.

The clerk was asked to read an appropriation ordinance titled: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING/MODIFYING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATION OF THE MISSISSIPPI COUNTY GOVERNMENT, INCLUDING AN APPROPRIATION TO LEASE A COMPACTOR FOR USE BY THE MISSISSIPPI COUNTY LANDFILL, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES. Following the reading by the clerk, Justice White moved to adopt, Justice Burge seconded and the voice vote was: Aye --- Ash, Burge, Clay, Fleeman, Henton, Hepler, Jackson, Nelson, Norvell and White; Nay --- None: Absent--- Belcher. O-2020-08 was adopted by the court.

The clerk was asked to read an appropriation ordinance titled: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING/MODIFYING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE FUNDING OF THE MISSISSIPPI COUNTY SENIOR CITIZENS CENTER, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES. Following the reading by the clerk, Justice White moved to adopt, Justice Norvell seconded and the voice vote was: Aye --- Ash, Burge, Clay, Fleeman, Henton, Hepler, Jackson, Nelson, Norvell and White; Nay --- None: Absent--- Belcher. O-2020-09 was adopted by the court.

There being no further business to come before the court, Justice White moved to adjourn, Justice Norvell seconded and the vote was unanimous. The February Quorum Court meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Janice Currie  
County Clerk/Secretary