

JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS  
MISSISSIPPI COUNTY QUORUM COURT  
Emergency Special Session  
March 13, 2020

The Quorum Court of Mississippi County, Arkansas, met in an emergency special session at 12:00 p.m. in the boardroom of the Mississippi Courthouse Annex in Blytheville, Arkansas with County Judge John Alan Nelson presiding. Mayor James Sanders gave the invocation.

The following members answered roll call:

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

Absent: Justices Belcher and Fleeman

Judge John Alan Nelson thanked all present for coming to the meeting at such short notice and informed them the meeting was called to implement some changes which would make county government proactive rather than reactive. He stated he had, in the past twenty-four hours, received a great deal of information from Little Rock as well as Washington. He has also been in contact with neighboring counties concerning changes they were implementing.

Several organization representatives were present and gave updates on what they and their organizations were doing to combat COVID-19. They were:

- Jennifer Adcock, Infectious Disease Coordinator with Great River Medical
- Wayne Reynolds, Mississippi County Office of Emergency Management
- Sheriff Dale Cook, Mississippi County Sheriff
- Judge Ralph Wilson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Judicial Circuit Judge
- Dr. Anes Abraham
- Mayor James Sanders, Blytheville, Arkansas
- Amanda Adams, Senior Citizens Center Director (via phone conference)
- Brandon Harper, Safety Director of Blytheville School District
- Kenneth Love, Paramedic with Pafford Ambulance Service
- Blytheville Fire Department

Judge Nelson stated he and others had been working on a plan to incentivize employees to stay at home with cold or flu-like symptoms and not be penalized. The Association of Arkansas Counties had sent an ordinance addressing this issue. He stated he had not read the entire ordinance but would like the Quorum Court to consider the ordinance. Justice Ash stated this ordinance should have been presented to the Emergency Committee first but since all present were on the committee, he moved to accept and present to the court for a vote, Justice Norvell seconded and the voice vote was unanimous. Judge Nelson then asked if the court had had time to read the ordinance and asked someone on the court to give a synopsis of the ordinance. Justice Burge gave a general outline of the ordinance's content.

The clerk was asked to read an ordinance titled: "AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE TO ADDRESS LEAVE POLICIES IN TIMES OF A PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY DECLARED BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE

STATE OF ARKANSAS". Following the reading by the clerk, Justice Ash moved to suspend the rules and proceed to the second reading by title only, Justice Burge seconded and the vote was: : Aye --- Ash, Burge, Clay, Henton, Hepler, Jackson, Nelson, Norvell and White; Nay --- None: Absent--- Belcher and Fleeman. Following the second reading by title only, Justice Ash moved to suspend the rules and proceed to the third reading by title only, Justice Hepler seconded and the vote was: : Aye --- Ash, Burge, Clay, Henton, Hepler, Jackson, Nelson, Norvell and White; Nay --- None: Absent--- Belcher and Fleeman. Following the third reading by title only, Justice Ash moved for adoption, Justice Hepler seconded and the vote was: Aye --- Ash, Burge, Clay, Henton, Hepler, Jackson, Nelson, Norvell and White; Nay --- None: Absent--- Belcher and Fleeman. O-2020-10 was adopted by the court.

The judge then stated he would like to turn this issue over to the Emergency Committee and as the status of the Coronavirus unfolded, they would assess and present recommendations to the full court to address.

There being no other business to address in this Special Session, Justice White moved to adjourn, Justice Jackson seconded and the voice vote was unanimous. The meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Janice Currie  
County Clerk/Secretary