

MISSISSIPPI COUNTY QUORUM COURT

April 02, 2020

The Quorum Court of Mississippi County, Arkansas, met in special session at 1:30 p.m. in the Circuit Courtroom of the Blytheville Courthouse in Burdette, Arkansas with County Judge John Alan Nelson presiding. Justice Howard Norvell led the Pledge of Allegiance and Justice Neal Burge 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. 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.

No treasurer's report for this meeting.

The following committee reports were given:

Finance Committee: Justice White reported the committee met on March 16, 2020. Topics of discussion were:

- All elected officials were currently below budget in their spending
- The landfill had paid its first installment of over \$500,000.000 for the new cell project.
- Economic Development had a request regarding the funding for Mr. Davis' Pickles. Funds needed to be moved from one-line item to another.
- Sheriff department's purchase of a drone in the amount of \$5,089.09.
- Unpaid insurance claims by Performance Health and Gerber totaling hundreds of thousands. County will be joining nine other counties in a federal class action suit against Gerber.
- New software program and server for the Finance Department, Treasurer's Assessor's, Landfill's and Collector's offices. Susan McCormick, County Collector, volunteered to pay the \$44,000.00 cost of the new server out of her Automation Fund.
- Motion made and accepted to appropriate funds to hire CAS to take care of COBRA and FMLA.
- Payroll clarification for mileage regarding the Circuit Clerk's office.
- Mississippi County placed 20th in the state for transparency. County will be researching possibly investing in a new website.

Planning and Development Committee: Justice Nelson stated the committee met on March 18, 2020 and discussed:

- Revising the incentive consideration that ADEC could incentivize to companies that were manufacturing related.
- A \$600,000.00 incentive to EPMS
- A \$660,000.00 incentive to Glencore International Company
- Asked to consider adding \$200,000.00 to fund work-force training.
- A shared hire with ANC. ANC would pay \$35,000.00 and Mississippi County would pay \$25,000.00 of the Internship Coordinator's salary.

Insurance Committee Meeting: Justice Nelson reported the committee had an emergency meeting on March 31 to discuss many of the employees' unpaid insurance claims. A decision was made to join other counties in a lawsuit against Gerber upon the approval of County Attorney Jeremy Thomas.

Fire, Police & Safety Committee: Justice Ash reported the committee had met earlier that day and discussed:

- Settlement of the lawsuit filed by some of the jailers and deputies against the county concerning unpaid overtime. County Attorney Jeremy Thomas told the committee they would need to appropriate \$30,000.00 to make the settlement payment.
- The committee also discussed a better means of tracking employees actual working time at the sheriff's department and jail.

Personnel Committee: Justice Ash reported this committee had also met earlier that day to discuss:

- Changing payday from Tuesday to Friday beginning on June 1st because the employees were turning in timesheets on Wednesday and being paid on the following Tuesday which meant they were being paid for days they hadn't worked.

The clerk was asked to read a resolution titled: A RESOLUTION DEFINING THE SCOPE OF WORK TO BE UNDERTAKEN BY GREAT RIVER ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION, INC. IN ITS CAPACITY AS ECONOMIC DEVELOPER FOR MISSISSIPPI COUNTY, ARKANSAS. Following the reading by the clerk, Justice Nelson moved to adopt and Justice Ash seconded. Discussion ensued before taking a vote. The vote was: Aye --- Ash, Burge, Clay, Henton, Hepler, Jackson, Nelson, Norvell and White; Nay --- None: Absent--- Belcher and Fleeman. R-2020-04 was adopted by the court.

The clerk was asked to read an ordinance titled: AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATION OF MISSISSIPPI COUNTY GOVERNMENT INCLUDING INCREASES AND/OR 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 Nelson seconded and the vote was: Aye --- Ash, Burge, Clay, Henton, Hepler, Jackson, Nelson, Norvell and White; Nay --- None: Absent--- Belcher and Fleeman. O-2020-11 was adopted by the court.

The clerk was asked to read an ordinance titled: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING/MODIFYING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE FUNDING OF A CERTAIN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECT, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES. Following the reading by the clerk, Justice Nelson moved to adopt, Justice White seconded and the vote was: Aye --- Ash, Burge, Clay, Henton, Hepler, Jackson, Nelson, Norvell and White; Nay --- None: Absent--- Belcher and Fleeman. O-2020-12 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, 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-2020-13 was adopted by the court.

The clerk was asked to read an ordinance titled: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING/MODIFYING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE FUNDING OF A CERTAIN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECT, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES. Following the reading by the clerk, Justice Nelson 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-2020-14 was adopted by the court.

The clerk was asked to read an ordinance titled: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING/MODIFYING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE FUNDING OF A CERTAIN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMNT PROJECT, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES. Following the reading by the clerk, Justice Nelson moved to adopt, Justice Burge seconded and the vote was: Aye --- Ash, Burge, Clay, Henton, Hepler, Jackson, Nelson, Norvell and White; Nay --- None: Absent--- Belcher and Fleeman. O-2020-15 was adopted by the court

The clerk was asked to read an ordinance titled: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING/MODIFYING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE FUNDING OF A CERTAIN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMNT PROJECT, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES. Following the reading by the clerk, Justice Nelson moved to adopt, 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-2020-16 was adopted by the court

The clerk was asked to read an ordinance titled: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING/MODIFYING APPROPRIATIONS FOR GREAT RIVER ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION, INC. EMPLOYEE EXPENSES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES. Following the reading by the clerk, Justice Nelson moved to adopt, Justice Hepler seconded and the vote was: Aye --- None; Nay --- Ash, Burge, Clay, Henton, Hepler, Jackson, Nelson, Norvell and White: Absent--- Belcher and Fleeman. O-2020-17 failed on the floor.

Judge John Alan Nelson gave the court an update on the multi-party lawsuit filed against the county. Attorney fee issue will have to go before a magistrate. Justice Burge made a motion to allow the county judge and the county attorney to accept the claimant settlement of \$30,000.00 for the class-action lawsuit agreement, Justice Jackson seconded and the vote was: Aye --- Ash, Burge, Clay, Henton, Hepler, Jackson, Nelson, Norvell and White; Nay --- None: Absent--- Belcher and Fleeman.

Judge Nelson gave an update on COVID-19 and the county offices. Mississippi County has one confirmed case.

County Attorney Jeremy Thomas spoke to the court concerning a bond issue with Atlas Tube. Atlas Tube was in a thirty-year bond agreement with the county and the bond is currently in its fifteenth year but all payments had been paid to the county and Atlas Tube would now like to go into an agreement with Blytheville. Mr. Thomas asked the court to vote to allow the county judge to sign mortgage releases and he would hold on to the releases until it could be verified all payments had been made. The court decided it needs more information before voting on this issue. The issue was tabled until a later date.

There being no further business to come before the court, Justice White moved to adjourn, Justice Ash seconded and the meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Janice Currie
County Clerk/Secretary