

MISSISSIPPI COUNTY QUORUM COURT

June 23, 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. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Justice Neal Burge gave the invocation.

The following members answered roll call:

Justice Ash	Justice Hepler
Justice Burge	Justice Nelson
Justice Fleeman	Justice Norvell
Justice Henton	Justice White

Absent: Justices Belcher, Clay and Jackson. 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 Burge seconded the motion and the voice vote was unanimous.

In the treasurer's report, County Treasurer Peggy Meatte reported the interest rate at 1<sup>st</sup> Commercial Bank was .50% on \$100,000.00 for one year. She also reported the sale tax revenue was down but not as low as expected.

**Committee Reports:**

***Energy and Property Committee:*** Justice Ash reported the committee met with Mr. Aaron Ruby and Mr. Porter Brownlee on May 28, 2020. Topics of discussion were:

- An update on the renovation progress.
- The cost of a period chandelier and the restoration of lobby lights.
- The cost of security cameras and system.

The Committee also met on June 11, 2020 and topics of discussion were:

- The Emergency Squad building
- Increasing insurance for the Osceola Courthouse
- Moving the Law Library out of the Blytheville Courthouse
- The removal of the tower.

***Personnel Committee:*** Justice Ash reported the committee met on June 2, 2020 to discuss adopting a social media policy. The decision was made to send the policy to County Attorney Jeremy Thomas to review. Once he has approved, then send to the full court.

***Police, Fire & Safety:*** Justice Ash reported the committee met on June 2, 2020. Topics of discussion were:

- Purchasing riot gear which will be stored at the sheriff's department.
- Establishing investigative fund for equipment and other investigative purposes.

***Finance Committee:*** Justice White stated the committee met on June 15, 2020 and topics of discussion were:

- Budget: Expenditures were currently at 42% of the budget.
- A resolution concerning excessive force.
- Energy and Property Committee approving anticipated expenditures for the courthouse renovations prior to spending.
- Setting up an \$2,500.00 account for CID to use for investigative purposes.
- Software updates in the assessor's office.

**Planning and Development Committee:** Justice Nelson reported the committee met with Clif Chitwood on June 18, 2020. Two main issues discussed were:

- \$1,800,000.00 incentive for 100 jobs to Big River Steel (\$18,000.00 per job for Mississippi County residents; \$9,000.00 per job for Pemiscot and Dunklin County residents).
- An option to sign with the Ohlendorf family for 100 acres.

The clerk was asked to read a resolution titled: A RESOLUTION AMENDING THE MISSISSIPPI COUNTY EMPLOYMENT POLICIES AND PROCEDURES HANDBOOK TO INCLUDE A PROVISION REGARDING EMPLOYEE USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES. Following the reading by the clerk, Justice Norvell moved for adoption, Justice Ash seconded and the vote was: Aye --- Ash, Burge, Fleeman, Henton, Hepler, Nelson, Norvell and White; Nay --- None: Absent--- Belcher, Clay and Jackson. R-2020-09 was adopted by the court.

The clerk was asked to read a resolution titled: A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A POLICY PROHIBITING THE USE OF EXCESSIVE FORCE AGAINST INDIVIDUALS ENGAGED IN NON-VIOLENT CIVIL RIGHTS DEMONSTRATIONS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES. Following the reading by the clerk, Justice Ash moved for adoption, Justice White seconded and the vote was: Aye --- Ash, Burge, Fleeman, Henton, Hepler, Nelson, Norvell and White; Nay --- None: Absent--- Belcher, Clay and Jackson. R-2020-10 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 THE APPROPRIATION OF CERTAIN FUNDS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION AND RENOVATION OF THE MISSISSIPPI COUNTY COURTHOUSES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES. Following the reading, Justice White moved for adoption, Justice Burge seconded and the vote was: Aye --- Ash, Burge, Fleeman, Henton, Hepler, Nelson, Norvell and White; Nay --- None: Absent--- Belcher, Clay and Jackson. O-2020-27 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 AN APPROPRIATION TO PROVIDE SUPPLIES FOR USE AT THE MISSISSIPPI COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES. Following the reading, Justice White moved for adoption, Justice Norville seconded and the vote was: Aye --- Ash, Burge, Fleeman, Henton, Hepler, Nelson, Norvell and White; Nay --- None: Absent--- Belcher, Clay and Jackson. O-2020-28 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 AN APPROPRIATION FOR A BIG RIVER STEEL COMMITMENT, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES. Following the reading, Justice Nelson moved for adoption, Justice Fleeman seconded and the vote was: Aye --- Ash, Burge, Fleeman, Henton, Hepler, Nelson, Norvell and White; Nay --- None: Absent--- Belcher, Clay and Jackson. O-2020-29 was adopted by the court.

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

Respectfully submitted:

Janice Currie  
County Clerk/Secretary