

MISSISSIPPI COUNTY QUORUM COURT

July 28, 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. In the absence of County Judge John Alan Nelson, Justice Bill Nelson called the meeting to order and nominated Justice Molly Jackson to preside over the meeting, Justice Ash seconded and the voice vote was unanimous. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Justice Bill Nelson gave the invocation.

The following members answered roll call:

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

Absent: Justices Belcher, Clay, Fleeman and White. Also in attendance: County Attorney Jeremy Thomas.

Justice Nelson 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 interest rate at 1<sup>st</sup> National Bank of Eastern Arkansas in Osceola was .55% on \$100,000.00 for one year. She also reported the sale tax revenue was up a bit but about average for this month in previous years.

**Committee Reports:**

*Energy and Property Committee:* Justice Ash reported the committee met on July 14, 2020. Topics of discussion were:

- Mr. Aaron Ruby and Mr. Porter Brownlee (liaison between the county, the architect and construction crew) to discuss progress of the renovation on the courthouses.
- The cost of removing asbestos from the courtroom will be \$40,000.00.
- ADEQ put a 10 (ten) day hold on the renovations because of the asbestos.
- A \$300,000.00 cost increase on the Osceola Courthouse because of charred (damaged) decking.
- \$6,830.00 for the balcony that had been excluded from the original estimate.
- By replacing the bi-fold doors with gates the county will save approximately \$160,000.00.
- Will need to appropriate \$650,000.00 to cover expected expenses.

*Sanitation & Solid Waste Committee:* Justice Burge reported the committee met on July 20, 2020 and discussed:

- Operations for the first six months.
- Started with a balance of \$1,617,451.25. Expenses for the first 6 months totaled \$994,527.33, leaving an operating budget of \$622,924.92.
- Currently has \$2,169,101.00 cash on hand but is expecting to have to pay \$1,700,00 on the new project.
- Possible increase in tipping fees.
- Construction on new project to begin on July 20, 2020 and will be completed in 120 days.

*Finance Committee:* Justice Nelson reported the committee met on July 20, 2020. Topics of discussion were:

- County General has a balance of \$530,000.00.
- The purchase of a new file server for the Circuit's Clerk's office.

- Sheriff's JAG Grant in the amount of \$57,753.93 to aid with COVID-19.
- Energy and Property Committee's recommendation to appropriate \$650,000,00 into the courthouse renovation fund.
- Increase in the amount of the lease for a track loader at the landfill.
- Tax Back Resolution for White Gold in Wilson, Arkansas.
- Rivercrest School District's request for assistance in purchasing internet for the students.

*Energy and Property Committee:* Justice Ash reported the committee had met earlier in the day with Aaron Ruby and had taken a tour of the Blytheville Courthouse.

**New Business:**

The clerk was asked to read a resolution title: 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 made a motion to adopt, Justice Ash seconded and the vote was: Aye --- Ash, Burge, Henton, Hepler, Jackson, Nelson and Norvell; Nay --- None: Absent--- Belcher, Clay, Fleeman and White. R-2020-11 was adopted by the court.

With only seven justices present, the court could not continue with the presentation of the ordinances. Therefore, Justice Ash made a motion to try to set up a special session of Quorum Court which would allow them to proceed with the ordinances expeditiously. Justice Burge seconded and the voice vote was unanimous.

There being no further business to come before the court, Justice Ash moved to adjourn, Justice Burge seconded and the voice vote was unanimous. The meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Janice Currie  
County Clerk/Secretary