

MISSISSIPPI COUNTY QUORUM COURT

September 22, 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 Burge  
Justice Fleeman  
Justice Henton

Justice Hepler  
Justice Jackson  
Justice Norvell  
Justice White

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

Justice White moved to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the last two meetings 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 and Farmers Bank in Blytheville was .55% on \$100,000.00 for one year. She also reported the sales tax revenue was up. It was the best it had been for the month of August in several years. She also reported the county had received \$6,000.00 in a sales tax rebate of the \$8,000.00 applied for from the Department of Finance and Administration.

**Committee Reports:**

*Energy and Property:* Justice Jackson reported the committee met on September 08, 2020. Topics of discussion were:

- Asbestos removal still ongoing. Expected to be completed in 4 or 5 days.
- Separating the roofing fees for the Blytheville and Osceola Courthouses. A court order needed to separate fees and move \$73,000.00 to from the Osceola Project to the Blytheville Project.
- An AV Systems savings of about \$25,000.00 to \$30,000.00.

*Personnel Committee:* Justice Ash reported the committee met on September 14, 2020 and discussed the possibility of hiring another SRO for the Rivercrest School District. Superintendent Sally Bennett was not present at the meeting and the committee had several questions before making a decision. The discussion and vote was tabled until the committee could meet with Mrs. Bennett.

*Finance Committee:* Justice White reported the committee met on September 14, 2020. Topics of discussion were:

- A review of the budget expenditures.
- Update on the landfill.
- Courthouse being over budget on several line items. Thought this was due mostly to the move of the Blytheville Courthouse.
- County roads doing well.
- Big River Steel paid their pilot money early and the county expected to receive \$166,000.00 from Osceola and \$228,415.00 from Blytheville.

- Will be starting the 2021 budgeting process soon and asking everyone to have their requested budget turned in by October 1.
- The court appropriated \$5,000.00 to pay for legal counsel to represent the court in the pending lawsuit but the county had already received a bill for \$6,200.00.

**New Business:**

The clerk was asked to read a resolution titled: A RESOLUTION CREATING A SLOT FOR THE EMPLOYMENT OF A TEMPORARY/SEASONAL CLERK FOR THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES. Following the reading by the clerk, Justice Ash moved for adoption, Justice Norvell seconded and the vote was: Aye --- Ash, Burge, Fleeman, Henton, Hepler, Jackson, Norvell and White; Nay --- None: Absent--- Belcher, Clay, and Nelson. R-2020-14 was adopted by the court.

The clerk was asked to read a resolution titled: A RESOLUTION CREATING A SLOT FOR THE EMPLOYMENT OF A SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER FOR THE RIVERCREST SCHOOL DISTRICT, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES. Following the reading by the clerk, Justice Ash moved for adoption, Justice Norvell seconded and the vote was: Aye --- Ash, Burge, Fleeman, Henton, Hepler, Jackson, Norvell and White; Nay --- None: Absent--- Belcher, Clay, and Nelson. R-2020-15 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 Jackson seconded and the vote was: Aye --- Ash, Burge, Fleeman, Henton, Hepler, Jackson, Norvell and White; Nay --- None: Absent--- Belcher, Clay, and Nelson. O-2020-38 was adopted by the court.

Next the court asked County Attorney Jeremy Thomas to give an update on the unpaid health insurance claims. Mr. Thomas informed the court the suit was moving out of federal court and into the arbitration process. They were trying to get arbitration set to be heard in Little Rock. He stated he has no idea of a timeline. He advised the employees to pay their bills and file a claim at a later date. Employees should mail the letters he prepared to their creditors and if the employees did receive notice of their debt being turned over to a collection agency, contact him and he advised the employees to dispute the claim to buy some time.

There being no further business to come before the court, Justice White moved to adjourn, Justice Fleeman seconded and the vote was unanimous. The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Janice Currie  
Mississippi County Clerk/Secretary