

JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS  
MISSISSIPPI COUNTY QUORUM COURT  
October 27, 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 Bill Nelson gave the invocation.

The following members answered roll call:

Justice Burge  
Justice Nelson

Justice White

Absent: Justices Ash, Belcher, Clay, Fleeman, Henton, Hepler, Jackson and Norville.

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 Burge seconded the motion and the voice vote was unanimous.

In the treasurer's report, County Treasurer Peggy Meatte reported the interest rate at Farmers Bank in Blytheville was .65% 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 September in several years.

**Committee Reports:**

***Finance Committee:*** Justice White reported the committee had met on several occasions and topics of discussion were:

- Meeting every Monday to work on the 2021 budget. Most of the budgets had been turned in by the elected officials and department heads but still had a few more.
- Potential raise discussions being on hold until quotes on insurance rates had been received.
- Insurance Committee meeting with brokers. At this time the county continues to pay 100% of each employees' premiums.
- Looking to give all employees a raise but more than likely not be giving a bonus.
- Looking at 2020 JESAP and will be trying to get additional raises for the employees in the lower quartiles.
- Cares Act Grant money will probably be received in the latter part of December.
- A couple of ordinances for the Cares Act Grant and \$250,000.00 for the Courthouse Renovation Projects.

***Roads and Bridges Committee:*** Judge Nelson reported the committee met on September 29, 2020. Topics of discussion were:

- Investigating the possibility of stockpiling funds (approximately \$200,000.00) for next year.

- Being able to ensure the department has clay and gravel in the spring when it's most needed.
- Changing some line items.

***Energy and Property:*** Justice Burge reported the committee met on October 6, 2020. He stated the courthouse projects were going well and an ordinance requesting \$250,000.00 would be presented to the full court.

***Sanitation and Solid Waste:*** Justice Burge reported the committee met on October 19, 2020. Topics of discussion were:

- Reviewed operation for the first nine months.
- Has a revenue of \$2,474,000.00.
- Expenditures of \$1,500,000.00.
- Cash flow is slow but a lot of the accounts have been contacted and have assured the county payment is forthcoming shortly.
- At the end of September, they had a balance of \$1,980,000.00 of which \$1,200,000.00 is owed.
- Has submitted the 2021 budget to the Finance Committee.
- Dumpster issues will be coming to and end by the end of the year.

***Insurance Committee:*** Justice Nelson reported the committee met on October 27, 2020. The committee met with Stephens via Zoom and discussed several insurance options.

- Some of the committee wanted to stay with Qual Choice and others wanted to change to Cigna.
- The committee narrowed it down to three choices:
  1. Qual Choice with a 17% increase for same coverage
  2. Qual Choice with an increase in deductible of 8%.
  3. Cigna with an increase of 6% per employee for about the same level of coverage we have now.
- The county would be paying \$10,753.44 per employee to provide insurance.

Justice White informed the court there were not enough justices present to have a quorum and therefore they could not present the ordinances to the court. He also stated there wasn't a need to call a special meeting as none of them were in need of immediate attention.

There being no further business to come before the court, Justice moved to adjourn., Justice Burge seconded and the voice vote was unanimous. The meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Janice Currie  
County Clerk/Secretary

