

JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS  
MISSISSIPPI COUNTY QUORUM COURT  
March 23, 2021

The Quorum Court of Mississippi County, Arkansas, met in regular session at 7:00 p.m. in the Circuit Courtroom of the Mississippi County Courthouse in Burdette, Arkansas with County Judge John Alan Nelson presiding.

The following members answered roll call:

Justice Ash  
Justice Cullom  
Justice Henton  
Justice Hepler

Justice Mangat  
Justice McClanahan  
Justice McDonald  
Justice White

Absent: Burge, Fleeman, and Jackson. Also in attendance: County Attorney Jacob Holmes.

Cliff Chitwood introduced Mr. Shep Russell, a senior partner with Friday Law Firm in Little Rock, who gave a presentation on the 0.5% Economic Development Sales Tax. Mr. Hill gave an overview on what the sales tax could and could not be used for.

Justice White moved to dispense with the reading of the minutes as copies had been provided to the members. Justice Mangat seconded the motion and the voice vote was unanimous.

In the Treasurer's Report, County Treasurer Peggy Meatte reported the interest rate is currently .55% on \$100,000.00 for one year at 1<sup>st</sup> National Bank of Eastern Arkansas in Osceola. She stated the sales tax revenue was up last month and the highest it had been in 10 years for this month.

The following committee reports were given:

*Personnel Committee:* Justice Ash reported the committee met on March 5, 2021 to get clarification of the Road Department's inclement weather pay. Another topic of discussion was creating a stipend for a deputy OEM position, as the state has mandated someone must be designated when the OEM is unavailable.

*Fire, Police and Safety:* Justice Ash reported the committee met on March 11, 2021. Topics of discussion were:

- 911 Co-Ordinator position and OEM combined due to David Lendennie's retirement. Mr. Lendennie had held the position of deputy OEM. State mandates an OEM deputy to fill in when the OEM is unavailable. The motion was made to hire Steve Crosskno as Deputy OEM with an annual salary of \$2,500.00, seconded and approved. Sent on to Personnel Committee to create a slot and for a vote.

*Energy and Property Committee:* Justice Ash stated the committee met on March 15, 2021. Topics discussed were:

- Budget on courthouse projects tacking well.
- Over budget on the Osceola Courthouse project but had some interest money to help offset the cost.
- Osceola Courthouse project needs a projected cost of \$260,000.00 for terra cotta repair and glazing.

- Pigeon problem in Osceola would cost approximately \$30,000.00 to eliminate.
- Metal detectors and x-ray installed at main entrance of Blytheville courthouse.
- Judge John Alan Nelson reported he is expecting the county offices to be moving back into the Blytheville courthouse in September.

*Finance Committee:* Justice White reported the committee met on March 15, 2021 and topics of discussion were:

- Monthly expenses under budget.
- Completed clean-up budget passing on to full court.
- Mental Health Grant ending this year. Kelli Jones and Bo McCollum were being paid to take care of the grant. Part of the grant was dedicated to pay their salary for doing so.
- 911 Co-Ordinator/OEM overtime pay. Wayne Reynolds has asked for overtime pay.
- Sheriff Cook asked to have a conversation with the vendors of the metal detectors and x-ray machines being installed at the new courthouse.
- Steven Savage, Public Affairs Director, addressed the committee concerning county transparency and how we ranked statewide. He also asked the committee to consider purchasing the Municode software which would allow more information be made available on the county website for increased transparency.
- Work on getting employee salaries up to JSEP recommendations.
- Pay medical bills for an employee, injured on the job, whose workers compensation has expired and has developed medical problems.

New Business:

The clerk was asked to read a resolution titled: A RESOLUTION TO EXTEND THE 0.5 % SALES AND USE TAX WITHIN MISSISSIPPI COUNTY, ARKANSAS LEVIED THEREBY FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PURPOSES; AND PRESCRIBING OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO. Following the reading, Justice White moved for adoption, Justice Hepler seconded and the vote was: Aye --- Ash, Cullom, Henton, Hepler, Mangat, McClanahan, McDonald and White; Nay --- None: Absent--- Burge, Fleeman and Jackson. R-2021-02 was adopted by the court.

The clerk was asked to read a resolution titled: A RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE NEW SAFETY PLAN AS RECOMMENDED BY THE OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT. The clerk was asked to read a resolution titled: A RESOLUTION TO EXTEND THE 0.5 % SALES AND USE TAX WITHIN MISSISSIPPI COUNTY, ARKANSAS LEVIED THEREBY FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PURPOSES; AND PRESCRIBING OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO. Following the reading, Justice Ask moved for adoption, Justice Mangat seconded and the vote was: Aye --- Ash, Cullom, Henton, Hepler, Mangat, McClanahan, McDonald and White; Nay --- None: Absent--- Burge, Fleeman and Jackson. R-2021-03 was adopted by the court.

Judge Nelson asked the clerk to read an appropriation 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 2020, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES. Following the reading, Justice White moved for adoption, Justice Hepler seconded and the vote was: Aye --- Ash, Cullom, Henton, Hepler, Mangat, McClanahan, McDonald and White; Nay --- None: Absent--- Burge, Fleeman and Jackson. O-2021-07 was adopted by the court.

The clerk was asked to read an ordinance (O-2021-08) titled: AN ORDINANCE ENSURING AN OPEN AND TRANSPARENT BIDDING AND CONTRACTING PROCESS. Following the reading, Justice White stated this ordinance required three readings and moved to wait until next month's meeting to proceed to the second reading. Justice Ash seconded and the vote was: Aye --- Ash, Cullom, Henton, Hepler, Mangat, McClanahan, McDonald and White; Nay --- None: Absent--- Burge, Fleeman and Jackson.

The clerk was asked to read an ordinance (O-2021-09) titled: COUNTY BOARD TRANSPARENCY REPORT ORDINANCE. Following the reading, Justice White stated this ordinance also required three readings and moved to wait until next month's meeting to proceed to the second reading. Justice Ash seconded and the vote was: Aye --- Ash, Cullom, Henton, Hepler, Mangat, McClanahan, McDonald and White; Nay --- None: Absent-- Burge, Fleeman and Jackson.

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 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Janice Currie  
County Clerk/Secretary