

**PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
AUGUST 13, 2021 1:30 ANNEX BUILDING**

ATTENDANCE: Justice Tobye McClanahan, Justice Reggie Cullom, Justice Michael White, Justice Cecil McDonald, Justice Harbans Mangat, Justice Molly Jackson, Justice Rick Ash, County Clerk Janice Currie, Economic Development Clif Chitwood, Treasurer Peggy Meatte, Mayor James Sanders, Public Affairs Tom Henry.

1. Meeting was called to order by Justice Michael White. Purpose of meeting was for Clif Chitwood to give a presentation for a new company locating in Mississippi County. Meeting was turned over to Clif Chitwood.

2. Mr. Chitwood thanked the Justices for their help in getting the sales tax extension passed. The project presented was still under disclosure. Company name could not be said. Site consultant was contacted when the tax was passed. The company talked with the Governor's office about a possible announcement soon. Largest project worked since Big River Steel. 227 jobs, \$65 million in capital. \$50 million dollar building, \$15 million in equipment. Average wage \$24.00 an hour. State had put on the table an incentive package of \$6.5 million dollars. Economic Development had offered \$2.7 million. \$12,000.00 per job for Mississippi County residents. \$6,000.00 per job for anyone from the bootheel. Offered 65% property tax abatement come thru the City or County. \$300,000.00 for screen hire and training program operated thru ANC. State also had training dollars in their incentive. Construction had to begin within 6 months. Extension needed to be reapplied for if not met in 5 years. Justice White asked if \$1.5 million was a large enough commitment. Mr. Chitwood suggested \$2.7 million to be reviewed at the end of third year. Initial investment \$300,000.00. Justice McClanahan asked if there would be enough funds left for other projects. Bonds would be used if needed.

3. Motion was made by Justice Neil Burge to appropriate \$2.7 million dollars with \$300,000.00 to be available immediately for the project Mr. Chitwood had proposed. Second was made by Justice Tobye McClanahan. Motion passed.

4. Projects were continued to be worked on. Mississippi County was the largest steel producing county. Labor force needed to be addressed. Southworth started a project where a faux factory was run for high school students. ANC had a similar program. Work ethics should be started in middle schools. Labor recruiter needed to be hired. Census numbers were out and the county dropped 5,800. 12.5 percent drop in the last decade.

5. Sanitation & Solid Waste meeting Monday the 16th at 1:00 followed by Finance at 1:30. Quorum Court Meeting Aug. 24th at 7:00 p.m. Burdette Courthouse.

6. Meeting adjourned.

Minutes submitted by: Cindy George