

JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS
MISSISSIPPI COUNTY QUORUM COURT
November 30, 2021

The Quorum Court of Mississippi County, Arkansas, met in regular session at 7:00 p.m. in the Mississippi County Courthouse in Burdette, Arkansas. Due to the absence of County Judge John Alan Nelson, Justice Ash nominated Justice Michael White to serve as presiding judge over the meeting, Justice Burge seconded and the voice vote was unanimous.

The following members answered roll call:

Justice Ash
Justice Burge
Justice Cullom
Justice Hepler
Justice Jackson

Justice Mangat
Justice McClanahan
Justice McDonald
Justice White

Absent: Justices Fleeman. Also in attendance: County Attorney Jacob Holmes.

Justice Ash moved to dispense with the reading of the minutes as copies had been provided to the members and to accept said minutes. Justice Cullom seconded the motion and the voice vote was unanimous.

In the Treasurer's Report, County Treasurer Peggy Meatte reported the interest rate is currently .50% on \$100,000.00 for one year at 1st National Bank in Osceola and 1st Commercial. The interest rate on \$100,000.00 at 1st Commercial for 18 months is .55%. She stated the sales tax revenue was up from previous month and was one of the best for the month of October and expects this month to be way up as well. She also reported the County General Funds were in good shape.

The following committee reports were given:

Energy and Property: Justice Jackson reported the committee met on October 28, 2021. The meeting was called at the request of the county judge to discuss the farmland owned by the county. Previously they had discussed possibly making improvements to the land for financial gain but as of yet, nothing has been done. A recommendation was made to appropriate \$3,000.00 to update the cutsheet.

Personnel Committee: Justice Ash reported the committee met on October 28, 2021 and discussed two issues:

- Bryce Cook came before the committee asking for a case coordinator for Mississippi County DTF office.
- The county clerk came before the committee asking that the job of Election Coordinator be moved from under the judge's office and placed under the clerk's office. She asked

that she be allowed to offer the job to a current employee and also be allowed to hire an employee to replace the one moving to Election Coordinator.

Sanitation and Solid Waste: Justice Burge informed the committee that the committee met on November 1st. Topics of discussion were:

- Review of the Landfill's budget.
- Adjustments made to the 2022 Budget.
- \$250,000.00 transferred into a CD for cell construction.
- Currently has a balance of \$1,009,501.87
- Increasing tipping fees

Finance Committee: Justice White reported the committee met on November 1st, November 8th, and November 15th. Topics discussed were:

- Comparison of 2021 budget to 2022.
- 5% raise to county employees.
- \$25,000.00 added to jail budget
- Changes in the county clerk's office
- Received PILOT money from Nucor
- Appropriate money to update cutsheet.
- Budget completed

Fire, Police and Safety: Justice Ash reported the committee met November 15th to discuss a resolution supporting the bill which would allow a \$3,000.00 tax credit to all active law enforcement officers. Also discussed was replacing 6 of the sheriff's department cars and possibly doing more later. One other topic discussed was the DTF case coordinator.

Energy and Property: Justice Jackson reported:

- The Osceola Courthouse will be receiving an award for the completion of work done on the dome.
- A site survey currently being performed on the farmland.
- Condition of Health Departments in Osceola and Blytheville
- Estimates for two ambulances being obtained.

Planning and Development: Justice White stated the committee met on November 22nd. Topics of discussion were:

- Cliff Chitwood and GREDA came before the committee to explain a new incentive called the "Work Here, Live Here" program.
- Cliff Chitwood asked for a resolution approving a 65% tax abatement under Act 9 bonds for Crooked Lake Solar Project.

The clerk was asked to read a resolution titled: A RESOLUTION INSTRUCTING THE MISSISSIPPI COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (GREAT RIVER ECONOMIC FOUNDATION) TO HENCEFORTH APPLY THE "WORK HERE --- LIVE HERE HOUSING PROGRAM" AS PRESENTED TO THE QUORUM COURT AS THE PRIMARY INCENTIVE TO BE USED WHEN ATTRACTING JOB CREATING OPPORTUNITIES TO

MISSISSIPPI COUNTY. Following the reading, Justice Ash moved to adopt, Justice Hepler seconded and the vote was: Aye --- Ash, Burge, Cullom, Hepler, Jackson, Mangat, McClanahan, McDonald and White; Nay --- None: Absent---Fleeman. R-2021-16 was adopted by the court.

The clerk read a resolution titled: A RESOLUTION DETERMINING THAT IT IS THE INTENT OF MISSISSIPPI COUNTY, ARKANSAS TO OFFER THE CROOKED LAKE SOLAR PROJECT A PROPERTY TAX ABATEMENT OF 65% OF NORMAL PROPERTY TAX EVALUATION AS REQUIRED BY ARKANSAS LAW. Following the reading by the clerk, Justice Ash moved for adoption, Justice Mangat seconded and the vote was: Aye --- Ash, Burge, Cullom, Hepler, Jackson, Mangat, McClanahan, McDonald and White; Nay --- None: Absent---Fleeman. R-2021-17 was adopted by the court.

The clerk was asked to read a resolution titled: A RESOLUTION OF THE QUORUM COURT OF MISSISSIPPI COUNTY, ARKANSAS, SUPPORTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INCOME TAX CREDIT FOR FULL TIME LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS IN THE STATE OF ARKANSAS. Following the reading, Justice Burge moved for adoption, Justice Hepler seconded and the vote was: Aye --- Ash, Burge, Cullom, Hepler, Jackson, Mangat, McClanahan, McDonald and White; Nay --- None: Absent---Fleeman. R-2021-18 was adopted by the court.

The clerk read an ordinance titled: AN ORDINANCE TO INCREASE THE LANDFILL TIPPING FEES EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2022. Following the reading, Justice Ash informed the court this ordinance required three readings and made a motion to proceed to the second reading by title only. Justice Hepler seconded and the vote was: Aye --- Ash, Burge, Cullom, Hepler, Jackson, Mangat, McClanahan, McDonald, and White; Nay --- None: Absent---Fleeman. Following the second reading by title only, Justice Ash moved to dispense with the rules and proceed to the third reading by title only, Justice McClanahan seconded and the vote was: Aye -- - Ash, Burge, Cullom, Hepler, Jackson, Mangat, McClanahan, McDonald, and White; Nay --- None: Absent---Fleeman. Following the third reading by title only, Justice Burge moved for adoption, Justice McClanahan seconded and the vote was: Aye --- Ash, Burge, Cullom, Hepler, Jackson, Mangat, McClanahan, McDonald, and White; Nay --- None: Absent---Fleeman. O-2021-38 was adopted by the court.

The clerk was asked to read an ordinance titled: AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH THE ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGET FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2022; APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THE OPERATING ACCOUNTS; APPROPRIATING TRANSFERS; AND FOR OTHER COUNTY BUDGET PURPOSES. Following the reading, Justice Ash moved to adopt, Justice Hepler seconded and the vote was: Aye --- Ash, Burge, Cullom, Hepler, Jackson, Mangat, McClanahan, McDonald, and White; Nay --- None: Absent---Fleeman. O-2021-39 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 A SITE SURVEY FOR CERTAIN FARMLAND. Following the reading, Justice Hepler moved to adopt, Justice McClanahan

seconded and the vote was: Aye --- Ash, Burge, Cullom, Hepler, Jackson, Mangat, McClanahan, McDonald, and White; Nay --- None: Absent---Fleeman. O-2021-40 was adopted by the court.

The clerk read an ordinance titled: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING/MODIFYING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATION OF MISSISSIPPI COUNTY GOVERNMENT, INCLUDING THE USE OF ARP FUNDS TO PURCHASE VENTILATORS FOR THE COUNTY. Following the reading, Justice Burge moved for adoption, Justice Jackson seconded and the vote was: Aye --- Ash, Burge, Cullom, Hepler, Jackson, Mangat, McClanahan, McDonald, and White; Nay --- None: Absent---Fleeman. O-2021-41 was adopted by the court.

The clerk was asked to read an ordinance titled: AN ORDINANCE FIXING THE RATES FOR COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICTS, ARKANSAS NORTHEASTERN COLLEGE DISTRICT, SCHOOL DISTRICTS, AND MUNICIPALITIES WITHIN THE COUNTY OF MISSISSIPPI FOR THE YEAR 2021 AND LEVYING SAID TAXES FOR COLLECTION IN THE YEAR 2022, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES. Following the reading, Justice Hepler moved to adopt, Justice Cullom seconded and the vote was: Aye --- Ash, Burge, Cullom, Hepler, Jackson, Mangat, McClanahan, McDonald, and White; Nay --- None: Absent---Fleeman. O-2021-42 was adopted by the court.

There being no further business to come before, Justice Ash moved to adjourn, Justice Burge seconded and the voice vote was unanimous. The November Quorum Court Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



Janice Currie
County Clerk/Secretary

**QUORUM COURT
MISSISSIPPI COUNTY, ARKANSAS
Tuesday July 28, 2021
Burdette, Arkansas**

**7:00 p.m. REGULAR SESSION OF QUORUM COURT IN THE CIRCUIT COURTROOM OF THE
BURDETTE COURTHOUSE**

AGENDA

1. Call to Order

2. Roll Call

3. Reading/Approval of Minutes

4. Treasurer's Report

5. Committee Reports

- Fire, Police & Safety December 7, 2021 Chairman Rick Ash
- Energy & Property December 7, 2021 Chairman Molly Jackson
- Road & Bridges December 8, 2021 Chairman Rick Ash
- Insurance December 8, 2021 Justice Molly Jackson
- American Rescue Plan December 8, 2021 Chairman Justice Molly Jackson
- Personnel December 14, 2021 Chairman Justice Rick Ash
- Insurance December 14, 2021 Chairman Justice Aaron Fleeman
- Planning & Development December 15, 2021 Chairman Justice Michael White
- Finance December 20, 2021 Chairman Justice Michael White

6. New Business

- Resolution City of Joiner water line repair
- Resolution Removal Storm Debris

ORDINANCES:

- Appropriation Ordinance for Big River Steel
- Appropriation Ordinance Hiring lobbying firm
- Appropriation Ordinance Create slot for DTF case coordinator

7. New Business

8. Announcements.

9. Adjourn

**FIRE, POLICE & SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING
DEEMBER 7, 2021 1:30 ANNEX BUILDING**

ATTENDANCE: Chairman Justice Rick Ash; Justice Harbans Mangat; Justice Molly Jackson; Justice Joe Lewis; Justice Reggie Cullom; Justice Betty Hepler; Justice Cecil McDonald; Justice Michael White; Justice Tobye McClanahan; Judge John Alan Nelson; Finance Kelli Jones; Treasurer Peggy Meatte; Collector Susan McCormick; Attorney Jake Holmes; Juvenile Daryl Turner; Public Affairs Tom Henry.

1. Meeting was called to order by Justice Rick Ash. Justice Ash welcomed Joe Lewis to the committee. Meeting was turned over to Judge Nelson. Discussion was held on purchasing two ambulances to have faster response. Wilson had accommodated a location for the ambulances. Price for two ambulances \$445,574.00. Purchase of ambulances moved over to the new committee American Rescue Plan Committee.
 2. Justice Ash had concerns over the legalities of the contract with Pafford. Under ARP money the new ambulances could not be leased to Pafford. Meeting was turned over to Attorney Jake Holmes. Mr. Holmes stated the agreement entered into in 2015 by Judge Carney was a federal aid trust violation. An exclusive aid service could not be had for all ambulance services. Jake Holmes thought the contract should be renegotiated. The County could designate an emergency service from original source to hospital after that what other ambulance service available. Justice Cullom stated Pafford was unprofessional. No one in the south part of the County was satisfied with the service Pafford provided. Justice Ash asked why the County was buying the ambulances. Pafford should provide the ambulance and place it in Wilson. Ambulances purchased with ARP money one would be placed in Osceola and one in Blytheville per Pafford request.
 3. Justice Cullom stated the road in Birdsong had been completed and the road in Bassett was widened. State Attorney Generals office said contract written for the county was not binding to the law. County could meet with Pafford but other options were available. Justice Ash recommended to authorize the Judge to go ahead and get Attorney Jake Holmes to renegotiate the emergency clause in the Pafford contract. Justice McDonald stated the entire County should have the same ambulance service. Motion was made by Justice Molly Jackson to allow Judge Nelson and Jacob Holmes to meet Pafford to renegotiate the contract. Second was made by Justice Betty Hepler. Motion passed. Judge Nelson would ask Pafford to come talk to the Fire, Police & Safety Committee.
 4. Old business. Vehicle was purchased for Juvenile last year. Justice Ash requested a copy of the law that stated the arresting agency was responsible for initial transport of juveniles. Mr. Turner stated the vehicle purchased last year was set up for programming, community service, at risk programs. Vehicle purchased by County in 2008 was for transport. The arresting agency was responsible for transport to location the juvenile officer wanted. CYS transport funding had been cut. \$75,000.00 for housing was budgeted for 2022.
 5. Meeting adjourned.
- Minutes submitted by: Cindy George

**ENERGY & PROPERTY COMMITTEE MEETING
DECEMBER 7, 2021 1:00 ANNEX BUILDING**

ATTENDANCE: Chairman Justice Molly Jackson; Justice Harbans Mangat; Justice Joe Lewis; Justice Reggie Cullom; Justice Betty Hepler; Justice Rick Ash; Justice Cecil McDonald; Justice Michael White; Justice Tobye McClanahan; Finance Kelli Jones; Treasurer Peggy Meatte; Collector Susan Short; Attorney Jake Holmes; Juvenile Daryl Turner; Judge John Alan Nelson; Public Affairs Tom Henry.

1. Meeting called to order by Justice Molly Jackson. Justice Jackson welcomed Joe Lewis. Mr. Aaron Ruby had looked at both health departments with a structural engineer and found both to be sound. Judge Nelson updated on ARP money. New committee was created for the ARP funds. Kitchenette in both buildings ARP money would not apply. Had to be tied to COVID. There was a room set up for vaccines that could be renovated. Needed separate heat and air. Coolers updated. Lab would qualify. Parking lot did not qualify. Covered parking might be covered.
 2. Information received on Courthouses. Last pay app for Osceola \$22,401.91. Aaron Ruby had provided a list for Osceola. Bond issue 100% complete. Blytheville Courthouse project. Pay app #22 was received. Furniture delivered and stored off site. Expense to CNI. Elevator inspection had not been done and not functioning, building not climate controlled, punch list not complete. \$30,000.00 left in contingency, \$234,699.63 undesignated funds. Judge Nelson stated all buildings would be cleaned up and left in good shape. Justice Ash asked about the work to be done in the Osceola Courthouse especially the courtroom. Intending to use the Burdette Courtroom for Osceola Court while repairs were being made in Osceola. Court cases for Blytheville had not been set.
 3. Farm land survey may be completed by Wednesday Dec. 8th.
 4. No appropriation needed for courthouse construction.
 5. Key schedule for new courthouse. Tom Henry in charge. Mr. Henry contacted each office to get the requests for keys needed. Aaron Ruby and the consultant took the requests and sent to production.
 6. Disconnect notice was received for the Blytheville Courthouse. There was miscommunication between the energy company and CNI. Contractor had taken steps to fix the problem. End date for the contract was the end of October.
 7. American Rescue Plan Committee was formed. Committee members. Justice Reggie Cullom, Justice Molly Jackson, Justice Harbans Mangat, Justice Cecil McDonald, Justice Tobye McClanahan. Manuals were printed to present to the committee. Improvements must be tied back to COVID. Consultants could be hired. Cost between 1% & 5% for total consulted. Justice White stated the County received close to \$8 million. \$1.4 million had been transferred to the RPF. Another \$1.1 million would be transferred in 2021 for a total of \$2.5 million in the RPF separate from the CARES money. RFP needed to be published.
 8. Furniture being stored insured for \$700,000.00. Premium \$3,000.00. Security was updated where furniture stored. Costs would go back to CNI.
 9. Meeting adjourned.
- Minutes submitted by: Cindy George

**ROAD & BRIDGES COMMITTEE MEETING
DECEMBER 8, 2021 1:00 ANNEX BUILDING**

ATTENDANCE: Chairman Justice Rick Ash; Justice Michael White; Justice Joe Lewis; Justice Cecil McDonald; Justice Betty Hepler; Justice Reggie Cullom; Justice Tobye McClanahan; Finance Kelli Jones; Treasurer Peggy Meatte; Collector Susan Short; Judge John Alan Nelson; Public Affairs Tom Henry; NEA Town Courier Marcus McClain.

1. Meeting was called to order by Justice Rick Ash. Meeting turned over to Judge Nelson. Concerns from Justice Cullom. Resolution for Jimmy Hart Highway was mailed to ARDOT. District engineer had been contacted twice and could not confirm the paperwork had been received. Request was made to send the information to him. Traditionally it took months to a year to get a highway approved for a name change. Time taken to do requests reflected on the Judge and the Quorum Court.

2. County Road 1064 widened November 10th. Road off Hwy. 61 was private in spots and County Road in others. Road was 16 foot further down. Justice Cullom stated a farmer and dirt hauler told him they could make the turn.

3. Road in Birdsong received gravel on November 21st. 25 loads of slag were taken.

4. Road department had applied 1,120 loads of red clay gravel, 150 loads short of the goal. 1,890 loads of slag had been applied. 12.4 miles of ditches had been cleaned. Replaced 27 culverts. 100 truck loads of dirt transported to the landfill which was donated. 100 truck loads of dirt would be delivered also donated. Demolished 2 county bridges. Replaced one with two 11 foot diameter rail cars. Two more to be demolished.

5. Road department built two pieces of de-icing equipment that would put salt into water to keep in suspension and another that would apply the solution. Two more would be made. Cities were contacted if they would like to have the equipment.

6. Justice Ash asked about bike trail paths and signage. Most are along State Highways. State would be responsible for putting up the signs. Judge Nelsons office had been working on getting the bike trail along the Mississippi River. Infrastructure needed to be put in place. \$400,000.00. Office of Outdoor Recreation may help with costs.

7. Bridge Status. County was working on 23 bridges. 5 owners surround a bridge where an easement was needed. Two had not signed. COVID stopped visits from ARDOT. State was doing the work. \$1 million dollar project. Some from State Aid and some County General. County was responsible for relocating utilities. ARDOT scheduled to look at project and might not have to relocate utilities. Bridge on west side of Dell would not be replaced. Overpass in Bassett in bad shape. State Highway 181. Monte Hodges and ARDOT were contacted.

8. Meeting adjourned.

Minutes submitted by: Cindy George

**INSURANCE COMMITTEE MEEETING
DECEMBER 8, 2021 1:30 ANNEX BUILDING**

ATTENDANCE: Justice Molly Jackson; Justice Cecil McDonald; Justice Reggie Cullom; Justice Betty Hepler; Justice Michael White; Justice Joe Lewis; Justice Tobby McClanahan; Justice Rick Ash; Justice Harbans Mangat; Judge John Alan Nelson; Collector Susan Short; Treasurer Peggy Meatte; Finance Kelli Jones; Public Affairs Tom Henry; NEA Town Courier Marcus McClain.

- 1. Meeting was called to order by Justice Cecil McDonald. Judge Nelson called the meeting today for updates on insurance payments.**

 - 2. The meeting was to exchange information. Medical insurance payments had been frustrating for all and had not gone quickly. Payments to Mississippi County Hospital system, St. Bernards had been issued from the County Finance Department. Additional checks had and continue to be issued to employees for payments they had made. Plan was developed to issue all payments thru the Finance Department with the assistance of Performance Health. Gerber settled after the plan was put into place. Performance Health received money from the settlement and issued checks for some claims. Performance Health informed the County on November 23, 2021 that two checks had been issued from the fund. \$600,000.00 was appropriated for a line item. Another fund outside the county set up for arbitration settlement. Dollar amount was divided into percentages on the amount of claims. County had issued a number of checks from money held in Finance. Performance Health had issued checks from arbitration money. Performance Health was notified what the County needed to reconcile the information on both parties. First check from Performance had some information. Second check did not have any information on claims paid.**

 - 3. Justice McDonald suggested the committee meet with Performance again to get the information needed. Justice Reggie Cullom made a motion to meet with Performance Health to get the information needed. Second was made by Justice Betty Hepler. Motion passed. Meeting would be scheduled. Attorneys would be contacted. Tom Henry and Peggy Meatte would be included in the meeting. Employees that had paid on claims were not included in settlement claims. Justice Jackson asked if the bankruptcies were being included in payments.**

 - 4. Meeting adjourned.**
- Minutes submitted by: Cindy George**

**AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN COMMITTEE
DECEMBER 8, 2021 2:00 ANNEX BUILDING**

ATTENDANCE: Justice Molly Jackson; Justice Harbans Mangat; Justice Cecil McDonald; Justice Tobye McClanahan; Justice Rick Ash; Justice Michael White; Justice Betty Hepler; Justice Joe Lewis; Judge John Alan Nelson; Collector Susan Short; Treasurer Peggy Meatte; Finance Kelli Jones; Public Affairs Tom Henry NEA Town Courier Marcus McClain.

- 1. Judge Nelson formed the American Rescue Plan Committee. The committee would oversee the money from the ARP funds. A notebook was handed out for the committee on the rules and regulations.**
 - 2. Committee members: Justice Harbans Mangat, Justice Molly Jackson, Justice Reggie Cullom, Justice Tobye McClanahan, Justice Cecil McDonald. Justice Mangat served as a temporary chairman. Justice Reggie Cullom made a motion to nominate Justice Molly Jackson as chairman of the committee. Second was made Justice Harbans Mangat. Justice Mangat asked for further nominations. There were none. Justice Molly Jackson was elected chairman of the committee.**
 - 3. Justice Jackson gave information on a consultant. Peggy Meatte gave several names to explore. Would be beneficial to the committee. Consultant was recommended and needed to be bonded. RFP would be published. Motion was made by Justice Harbans Mangat to gather the information for the RFP. Second was made by Justice Cecil McDonald. RFP would be run in State wide newspapers. Motion passed.**
 - 4. Next meeting would be set end of January 2022.**
 - 5. Craighead County may have hired a consultant and would be contacted.**
 - 6. Manual handed out included current updates. Judge's Office and Peggy Meatte would be a resource and are on the Treasury portal. Revenue loss was done by the Treasurer. There were two funds and under the Treasurer. County General. \$1.4 million was transferred to the Revenue loss fund. Restrictions were not as strict.**
 - 7. Meeting adjourned.**
- Minutes submitted by: Cindy George**

**PERSONNEL COMMITTEE MEETING
DECEMBER 14, 2021 1:30 ANNEX BUILDING**

ATTENDANCE: Chairman Justice Rick Ash; Justice Cecil McDonald; Justice Betty Hepler; Justice Aaron Fleeman; Justice Neil Burge; Justice Molly Jackson; Justice Joe Lewis Sr.; Justice Michael White; Justice Tobye McClanahan; Major Rob Rounsavall; Captain David Gladden; Sheriff Dale Cook; Prosecuting Attorney Keith Crestman; Blytheville Chief of Police Ross Thompson; Osceola Police Chief Hamilton; Attorney Jacob Holmes; Bryce Cook; Brittney Fitzgerald; Judge John Alan Nelson; Treasurer Peggy Meatte; Finance Kelly Jones; County Clerk Janice Currie; Mayor James Sanders; Public Affairs Tom Henry; NEA Town Courier Revis Blaylock.

1. Meeting was called to order by Justice Rick Ash. Drug Task Force Case Coordinator Position Proposal was handed out. E-mails were sent last week on how many cases were generated in 2019, 2020, 2021. 765 cases total. \$32,000.00 salary was asked for when first requested. New proposal \$40,000.00 was asked for. Mayor Sanders and Osceola were asked to assist with one third of the salaries. County would take the benefits.

2. Cases were adjudicated in Circuit Court. Keith Crestman introduced himself. Governor appointed him Prosecuting Attorney. State money was used in the past to pay four case coordinators. Brittany Fitzgerald was the current case coordinator. Technically a Craighead County employee. DTF was reorganized. Mississippi County Prosecuting Attorney was Bryce Cook.

3. There were three functioning DTF's in Mississippi County. Civil forfeitures benefited the DTF. Each DTF agency used these seizures for their benefit to purchase equipment and further investigation. 255 cases were averaged per year. There were six counties with nine courthouses. Justice Burge asked if the other Counties shared in the expense of the case coordinator. Mr. Cook stated every county helped finance staff. New case coordinator would be a Mississippi County employee paid by Mississippi County but housed in Craighead County.

4. Salary \$40,000.00. Social Security \$3,060.00. Retirement \$6,128.00. Insurance \$10,570.00. Total \$59,758.00.

5. Motion was made by Justice Betty Hepler to create a slot for the DTF case coordinator salary \$40,000.00 and go to Finance. Second was made by Justice Aaron Fleeman. Effective January 1, 2022. Motion passed.

6. Meeting adjourned
Minutes submitted by: Cindy George

**INSURANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
DECEMBER 14, 2021 2:00 ANNEX BUILDING**

ATTENDANCE: Chairman Justice Aaron Fleeman; Justice Molly Jackson; Justice Cecil McDonald; Justice Betty Hepler; Justice Neil Burge; Justice Michael White; Justice Joe Lewis Sr.; Justice Tobye McClanahan; Justice Rick Ash; Attorney Jake Holmes; County Clerk Janice Currie; Treasurer Peggy Meatte; Finance Kelli Jones; Attorney Jeremy Thomas; Judge John Alan Nelson; Attorney Dave Nichols; Public Affairs Tom Henry; NEA Town Courier Revis Blaylock.

1. Meeting was called to order by Justice Aaron Fleeman. Mr. Nichols stated the numbers started with \$658,000.00. Reduced by negotiations to \$110,000.00. Continue to negotiate claims down from \$150,000.00 to \$100,000.00. Mississippi County had paid \$93,000.00 in claims. \$57,000.00 short of paying all claims.
 2. Justice White was concerned over the documentation of claims paid. Employee claims had been settled with some providers. Claims that were thought to be paid still had some employees being put in collections. Justice White asked Mr. Nichols for documentation on claims that had been paid and the providers. Mr. Nichols stated if he was provided with a letter from the collection agency they could contact them. Justice Fleeman stated that the County needed the paperwork on the claims paid including the settlement money.
 3. Mr. Nichols stated he would send the claims paid along with the claims list. On first check sent the numbers and information was what were needed. Some information was left out on payment from the settlement. Time frame for getting a dollar amount was not known. Finance tried the percentage that was given on St. Bernards payments and it did not work.
 4. Claims should be paid with no more negotiation by first week of January 2022. Report showing information needed received by mid January.
 5. Judge Nelson stated there was a plan before the settlement. Once the settlement was made the TPA had control of the money and started paying claims. Information on the claims was not received. Data needed to be kept in real time. Financial Management and Treasurer needed the information to keep up with the payments.
 6. Justice Ash stated if the County could get the information on claims paid on the settlement to justify the \$57,000.00 the County would send the money. TPA would pay claims and then send final information. Information should be sent to the Judge's office, Finance or Treasurer.
 7. Legal fees were not deducted from settlement. Costs included invoices, mediator bill, court reporter.
 8. Meeting adjourned.
- Minutes submitted by: Cindy George

**PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT MEETING
DECEMBER 15, 2021 1:30 ANNEX BUILDING**

ATTENDANCE: Chairman Justice Michael White; Justice Neil Burge; Justice Tobye McClanahan; Justice Cecil McDonald; Justice Joe Lewis Sr.; Justice Molly Jackson; Justice Betty Hepler; Justice Rick Ash; Economic Development Clif Chitwood; Barrett Harrison; Finance Kelli Jones; Treasurer Peggy Meatte; Judge John Alan Nelson; Mayor Sally Wilson
NEA Town Courier Revis Blaylock.

1. Meeting was called to order by Justice Michael White. Two orders of business. 1. Big River Steel and Economic Development incentive. 2. Lobbying firm. Meeting was turned over to Clif Chitwood.

2. U.S. Steel owner of Big River Steel and the site consultant engaged were dealing with Economic Development. Discussion with both for the work here live here program. Supported by both. Site consultant had asked make a payment in capital equipment. \$2.5 million in the beginning and \$2.5 million when project complete. Money used to offset their purchase of land, machinery. \$3 billion dollar investment. State of Arkansas made a \$50 million grant towards the same funds. City of Osceola making \$2 million grant. Work here live here program would still be in effect. Commitment appropriated \$1.8 million could be utilized against the \$2.5 million. Investment recovered in five years on incentive. Additional appropriation of \$700,000.00 needed. Motion was made by Justice Tobye McClanahan to appropriate \$700,000.00 for total of \$2.5 million for economic incentives. Second was made by Justice Cecil McDonald. Motion passed and will go to Finance.

3. Mr. Scott and Mr. Chitwood met with contractors and builders in the County also bankers and financial institutions.

4. Northern section of the air base housing was falling apart. Judge Randy Carney tore several houses down and the county ended up in a law suit with ADEQ. Asbestos and lead paint were found. Cost \$20 to \$30 thousand per unit to tear down. Government money was available. Over \$8 million in grants available. Brownfield Grant. County looked into hiring a lobbyist to represent the county interest. There were 400 units that needed to come down. Structures were a toxic area that needed cleaning. Tiber Creek Group contacted Judge Nelson and were interested. Cost \$10,000.00 per month. 12 months. \$120,000.00 a year. Justice McClanahan stated the \$120,000.00 could be gotten back in landfill fees. Economic Development funds would not be used. Come from county general. Westminster had title to the property. Mark Whitmore with the Association of Counties would be contacted. Motion was made by Justice Neil Burge to move the project to Finance and the full Court and allow the County Judge to start the process. Second was made by Justice Tobye McClanahan. Motion passed.

5. Meeting adjourned.

Minutes submitted by: Cindy George

**FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
DECEMBER 20, 2021 1:30 ANNEX BUILDING**

ATTENDANCE: Chairman Justice Michael White; Justice Molly Jackson; Justice Harbans Mangat; Justice Neil Burge; Justice Reggie Cullom; Justice Cecil McDonald; Justice Toby McClanahan; Justice Rick Ash; Attorney Jake Holmes; Judge John Alan Nelson; Angie Nelson; Treasurer Peggy Meatte; Finance Kelli Jones; Collector Susan Short; Public Affairs Tom Henry; NEA Town Courier Marcus McClain.

1. Meeting was called to order by Justice Michael White. Budget was tracking well. All Elected Officials good, revenues good. County general balance \$3.5 million. County General received \$1 million in tax settlements.
2. City of Joiner requested assistance on repairing a water line. Line had risen to the base of drainage ditch and broke the line. Judge Nelson gave the Mayor permission to repair the line. \$6,021.51. ARP money was available for the repairs. Association of Counties were consulted and okayed the expense. Motion was made by Justice Neil Burge to appropriate \$6,021.51 out of ARP money to The City of Joiner. Second was made by Justice Reggie Cullom. Motion passed.
3. Big River Steel. \$3 billion expansion project. 800 to 900 new jobs. State held a special legislative session presented their Economic Development incentives. \$50 million. U.S. Steel asked for a \$5 million dollar commitment. \$2.5 million now \$2.5 million completion. Approximately three years. \$1.8 million had been appropriated to Big River Steel that was not used. Live here work here was still in effect. Motion was made by Justice Reggie Cullom to appropriate \$700,000.00 for the incentive. Second was made by Justice Harbans Mangat. Motion passed.
4. Lobbying firm. Work needed to be done on the air base. Asbestos and lead paint were issues. \$50,000.00 fine from ADEQ when the county tore down some houses. Judge Nelson pointed out there was over \$800 million dollars available in Federal Grants. A lobbyist firm needed to be hired to look for grants and apply. \$120,000.00 for 12 months. Justice Jackson commended the Justices for keeping the budget tight and the County having the money to help. Motion was made by Justice Neil Burge to appropriate \$120,000.00 to come out of the Judge's budget to hire a lobbying firm. Second was made by Justice Reggie Cullom. Motion passed.
5. DTF Coordinator. Bryce Cook and Keith Crestman asked for a DTF case coordinator. Interim Police Chief in Osceola had shown interest in working with the Sheriff's Department. Mississippi County averaged over 255 DTF cases per year. Salary and package \$59,758.00. Prosecutor was in charge of hiring. Justices were concerned about the position being a Mississippi County employee. Main office would not be in Mississippi County. Mileage would not be paid. Recommended to put the office under Curtis Walker. Motion was made to fund the case coordinator position under Curtis Walker's office. Second was made by Justice Harbans Mangat. Motion passed.

6. Goal had been with the landfill to move \$250,000.00 into a CD before the end of the year. Balance \$807,000.00 the end of November. Total \$500,000.00 set aside for a new cell. Divide the money between two CD's. Phase 1 closure \$1.5 million and new cell. Landfill trust fund balance. \$934,712.29. Statement received every month of charges from Regions Bank. \$10,000.00 would be paid to Region's for handling the trust. Balance goes up and down. Meeting would be set up to talk about the investment.

6. Quorum Court. Tuesday, December 28th at 7:00 p.m. Burdette Courthouse.

7. Meeting adjourned.

Minutes submitted by: Cindy George

1 MISSISSIPPI COUNTY QUORUM COURT

2
3 RESOLUTION NO. R-2021-_____

4
5 A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF A GRANT-IN-AID TO THE CITY OF JOINER TO
6 ENHANCE THEIR WATER SYSTEM
7

8
9 WHEREAS, the City of Joiner is in need of water system augmentation;

10
11 WHEREAS, the county has agreed to grant funds-in-aid totaling \$6,021.51; and

12
13 WHEREAS, this grant has been reviewed and recommended by the Finance Committee.
14

15 NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Quorum Court of Mississippi County,
16 Arkansas, funds totaling \$6,021.51 to come from the county's American Rescue Plan funds are
17 to be issued to the City of Joiner for a grant-in-aid to enhance their water system.
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23 DATE: _____

APPROVED:

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28 JOHN NELSON, COUNTY JUDGE
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31 ATTEST:

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36 JANICE CURRIE, COUNTY CLERK
37 & SECRETARY

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MISSISSIPPI COUNTY QUORUM COURT

RESOLUTION NO. R-2021-_____

A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING MISSISSIPPI COUNTY AS A DISASTER AREA THAT SUFFERED LOSS OF LIFE, INJURIES AND DESTRUCTION TO HOMES, BUSINESSES, AND INFRASTRUCTUE AND THE PLAN FOR THE REMOVAL OF STORM DEBRIS CAUSED BY THE TORNADO THAT HIT THE LEACHVILLE AREA ON FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2021.

WHEREAS, Mississippi County suffered much destruction from the effects of a tornado occurring in the Leachville area on the evening of Friday, December 10, 2021;

WHEREAS, Mississippi County wishes to provide relief to those in need of assistance with the removal of debris caused by the tornado, afterwards classified by the National Weather Service as an EF-4; and

WHEREAS, Mississippi County owns and operates a landfill that contains Class I and Class IV cells.

BE IT RESOLVED, MISSISSIPPI COUNTY WILL ACCEPT ALL STORM DEBRIS AT NO CHARGE, ONCE CERTIFIED BY THE MAYOR OF LEACHVILLE AS SUCH, AND THAT SAID DEBRIS IS ACCEPTABLE AS CLASS I OR CLASS IV WASTE, BEGINNING SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2021 AND CONTINUING THROUGH FEBRUARY 28, 2022.

DATE: _____

APPROVED:

JOHN NELSON, COUNTY JUDGE

ATTEST:

JANICE CURRIE, COUNTY CLERK
& SECRETARY

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MISSISSIPPI COUNTY QUORUM COURT

APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE NO. O-2021-_____

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE
OPERATION OF THE MISSISSIPPI COUNTY GOVERNMENT, INCLUDING THE
COUNTY'S COMMITMENT TO BIG RIVER STEEL

WHEREAS, certain functions of the county government are in need of funding;

WHEREAS, U.S. Steel has agreed to invest into their Mississippi County project (Big River Steel) and to expand upon this investment in exchange for economic incentive funds provided by the Mississippi County government;

WHEREAS, a previous unclaimed incentive for Big River Steel of \$1.8 million was appropriated by O-2020-29 and is still currently on the county's books;

WHEREAS, funds are now to be appropriated in the amount of an additional \$700,000.00 and coupled with the unused \$1.8 million from O-2020-29 to total \$2.5 million; and

WHEREAS, this appropriation has been reviewed and recommended by the Finance Committee.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it enacted by the Quorum Court of Mississippi County, Arkansas, that:

I.

The following appropriations/modifications are hereby made for the 2022 budget:

SLOT/ACCOUNT #	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
3414.0140.3999	Big River Steel Commitment	\$700,000.00

II.

All appropriations previously authorized, approved, and made as to all other offices, departments, and agencies of county government, and all other funds not hereinabove changed, are to remain as previously appropriated. Detailed provisions of said appropriations are reflected in the schedule of specific items listed by account numbers within the category for each office and filed in the Office of the County Court Clerk.

1 Mississippi County Quorum Court
2 Appropriation Ordinance No. O-2021-_____
3 Page Two

4
5 III.

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7 This Ordinance, being an appropriation ordinance, shall be in full force and effect
8 immediately from and after its passage and approval by the County Judge.

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13 DATE: _____

APPROVED:

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18 JOHN NELSON, COUNTY JUDGE

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21 ATTEST:

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26 JANICE CURRIE, COUNTY CLERK
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MISSISSIPPI COUNTY QUORUM COURT

APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE NO. O-2021-_____

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE
OPERATION OF THE MISSISSIPPI COUNTY GOVERNMENT, INCLUDING
THE HIRING OF A LOBBYING FIRM.

WHEREAS, certain functions of the county government are in need of funding;

WHEREAS, the government of Mississippi County, Arkansas is in need of a lobbying firm in order to assist the acquisition of certain grants and funding as it relates county goals and needs;

WHEREAS, the County has agreed to expend \$120,000.00 in order to hire such a firm;

WHEREAS, this appropriation has been reviewed and recommended by the Finance Committee.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it enacted by the Quorum Court of Mississippi County, Arkansas, that:

I.

The following appropriations/modifications are hereby made for the 2022 budget:

SLOT/ACCOUNT #	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
1000.0100.3009	Advisor	\$120,000.00

II.

All appropriations previously authorized, approved, and made as to all other offices, departments, and agencies of county government, and all other funds not hereinabove changed, are to remain as previously appropriated. Detailed provisions of said appropriations are reflected in the schedule of specific items listed by account numbers within the category for each office and filed in the Office of the County Court Clerk.

1 Mississippi County Quorum Court
2 Appropriation Ordinance No. O-2021-_____
3 Page Two

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5 III.

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7 This Ordinance, being an appropriation ordinance, shall be in full force and effect
8 immediately from and after its passage and approval by the County Judge.
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13 DATE: _____

APPROVED:

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18 JOHN NELSON, COUNTY JUDGE
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21 ATTEST:

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26 JANICE CURRIE, COUNTY CLERK
27 & SECRETARY

1 MISSISSIPPI COUNTY QUORUM COURT

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3 APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE NO. O-2021-_____
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5 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE
6 OPERATION OF THE MISSISSIPPI COUNTY GOVERNMENT, INCLUDING
7 THE HIRING OF A DRUG TASK FORCE CASE COORDINATOR.
8

9 WHEREAS, certain functions of the county government are in need of funding;
10

11 WHEREAS, the government of Mississippi County, Arkansas is in need of a Case
12 Coordinator for the Drug Task Force division of its criminal justice system;
13

14 WHEREAS, the position's slot will be under the Chickasawba District Deputy
15 Prosecutor's office;
16

17 WHEREAS, the position will be effective January 1, 2022 and will be titled "DTF Case
18 Coordinator" and the position will carry a salary of \$40,000.00 plus benefits;
19

20 WHEREAS, this appropriation ordinance anticipates an interlocal agreement to be
21 executed by the respective municipalities with Drug Task Force agencies within the county –
22 namely Blytheville and Osceola; and
23

24 WHEREAS, this appropriation has been reviewed and recommended by the Finance
25 Committee.
26

27 NOW, THEREFORE, be it enacted by the Quorum Court of Mississippi County,
28 Arkansas, that:
29

30 I.

31
32 The following appropriations/modifications are hereby made for the 2022 budget:
33

34 SLOT/ACCOUNT #	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
35 1000.0416.1001	Salary Full-Time	\$40,000.00
36 1000.0416.1006	Social Security	\$3,060.00
37 1000.0416.1007	Retirement	\$6,128.00
38 1000.0416.1009	Insurance	\$10,570.00

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40 II.

41
42 All appropriations previously authorized, approved, and made as to all other offices,
43 departments, and agencies of county government, and all other funds not hereinabove changed,
44 are to remain as previously appropriated. Detailed provisions of said appropriations are reflected
45 in the schedule of specific items listed by account numbers within the category for each office
46 and filed in the Office of the County Court Clerk.

1 Mississippi County Quorum Court
2 Appropriation Ordinance No. O-2021-_____
3 Page Two
4

5 III.
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7 This Ordinance, being an appropriation ordinance, shall be in full force and effect
8 immediately from and after its passage and approval by the County Judge.
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APPROVED:
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19 JOHN NELSON, COUNTY JUDGE
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21 ATTEST:
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26 JANICE CURRIE, COUNTY CLERK
27 & SECRETARY
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