

**CITY OF OCEAN SPRINGS - MAYOR & BOARD OF ALDERMEN
RECESS MEETING OF APRIL 15, 2025 MINUTES**

CALL TO ORDER

Be it remembered that the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the City of Ocean Springs met in a Recess Meeting at City Hall at 6:00 p.m. on April 15, 2025. Mayor Holloway presided, and Aldermen Burgess, Authement, Wade, Cox, Papania, Blackman, and Impey were present. City Attorney Will Norman, City Clerk Patty Gaston, Deputy City Clerk Vicky Hupe, Interim Police Chief Steven Dye, Interim Fire Chief Chris Hupe, Building Official Darrell Stringfellow, Public Works Director Allan Ladnier, Grants Administrator Carolyn Martin, Interim Community Development & Planning Director Wade Morgan, Parks & Recreation Director Stephen Glorioso, Project Manager Sarah Harris, and Mary C. O'Keefe Center Director Sarah Qarqish were also present.

The Mayor called the meeting to order.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Alderman Papania gave the invocation and Alderman Cox led the Pledge of Allegiance.

A motion was made by Alderman Blackman, seconded by Alderman Impey, and unanimously carried to accept the agenda.

PROCLAMATIONS

- a. Proclamation: Junior Auxiliary Week April 6-12, 2025

The Mayor read the proclamation.

- b. Proclamation: National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week April 13 - 19, 2025

The Mayor read the proclamation.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

- a. Request Plat Amendment for Harper Grove Townhomes Subdivision Groveland Road PID: 60127330.100 – 24 Hour Storage - the property is zoned CH; PC recommends approval

A motion was made by Alderman Wade, seconded by Alderman Impey, and unanimously carried to open the Public Hearing.

The Interim Community Development Director explained that the plat amendment is to change the streets within the subdivision from private to public for future

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maintenance and upkeep. He noted that the Planning Commission recommended approval.

The developer, Freddy Fountain, spoke in favor of the amendment.

A motion was made by Alderman Blackman, seconded by Alderman Authement, and unanimously carried to close the Public Hearing.

A motion was made by Alderman Blackman, seconded by Alderman Impey, and unanimously carried to approve the plat amendment for Harper Grove Townhomes Subdivision, Groveland Road, PID 60127330.100.

AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

Joe Jewell, agenda item 8-f, spoke against re-advertising for general legal services and recommended waiting for the next administration.

OLD BUSINESS

- a. Adopt Ordinance: Parking Prohibited on Desoto Street along the Curbside of Hancock Whitney Bank

A motion was made by Alderman Authement and seconded by Alderman Papania to adopt Ordinance (ORD 2025-02), amending Chapter 47, Article III, Section 14-42, to add a No Parking zone on Desoto Street along the curbside of Hancock Whitney Bank. The motion carried with a roll call vote as follows:

Aye: Alderman Burgess, Alderman Authement, Alderman Papania,
Alderman Blackman, Alderman Impey, Alderman Cox, Alderman Wade
Nay: None

- b. Award Construction: Public Works Facilities Construction to Starks Contracting Co., Inc. in the amount of \$9,315,000 – RESTORE / Gulf Coast Restoration Fund (GCRF) / State Appropriation Funds

A motion was made by Alderman Blackman, seconded by Alderman Authement, and unanimously carried to award construction of the Public Works Facilities to Starks Contracting Co. Inc. in the amount of \$9,315,000.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. Authorize advertisement for applications for the City of Ocean Springs representative on the Coast Transit Authority (CTA) Board

A motion was made by Alderman Impey, seconded by Alderman Cox, and unanimously carried to authorize the advertisement for applications for the City of

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Ocean Springs representative on the Coast Transit Authority (CTA) Board.

CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Alderman Impey, seconded by Alderman Wade, and unanimously carried to approve the consent agenda.

Mayor:

- a. Authorize the use of Fort Maurepas by the Ocean Springs School District on May 8–9, 2025, and approve the waiver of the rental fees; to advertise the resources of the City
- b. Authorize the Mayor to execute the Artisan Pyrotechnics, Inc. Pyrotechnic Contract for the July 3rd Fireworks display, the proposal was accepted at the previous meeting

Mary C. O'Keefe Cultural Center:

- c. Authorize the Mayor and the Arts & Culture Director to execute the Memorandum of Understandings (MOU) and Hold Harmless with Kylie Tuttle Williams and Take Action Design, LLC.

City Clerk:

- d. Approve Minutes: Regular Minutes April 1, 2025
- e. Approve Minutes: Special Call Meeting April 4, 2025
- f. Authorization to Re-Advertise for General Legal Services Contract
- g. Authorize the increase of the BOA Budget 001-100-916-0000 by \$4,600.00 to purchase Boardroom equipment
- h. Ratify payments for Municipal Primary election held 4/1/25

Police Department:

- i. Accept OSPD monthly report for March 2025

Fire Department:

- j. Accept OSFD monthly report for March 2025

Human Resources/Risk Management:

- k. Authorize removal of Patrolmen Matthew Geis and Matthew Warren from probationary status to full time status effective immediately
- l. Authorize employment of Michael Daehnert, Patrolman, Step 2, \$22.50 hourly rate; effective May 19, 2025; one-year probationary status, pending successful completion of all pre-employment requirements

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- m. Accept resignation of Firefighter Brandon Durbin, effective April 17, 2025; authorize to begin the process of filling the vacant position
- n. Authorize employment of Claude Adams, Parks Grounds Maintenance, Step 1, \$14.00 hourly rate; effective April 28, 2025; one-year probationary status, pending successful completion of all pre-employment requirements
- o. Authorize employment of Ervin Feltner, Parks Grounds Maintenance, Step 1, \$14.00 hourly rate; effective April 28, 2025; one-year probationary status, pending successful completion of all pre-employment requirements
- p. Accept resignation of Firefighter Steven Overstreet, effective April 24, 2025; authorize to begin the process of filling the vacant position

Planning Department:

- q. Accept 1515 Government Street PID:61265011.000 / Mixed Use Development as a Condominium Development – Applicant: John Oropesa, OHOS Development, LLC

Planning Commission (PC):

- r. Approve a request for a lot split and reconfiguration - 0 Rayburn Ave/PIDN:60137006.000 & 60137008.100-East side of Rayburn Ave, south of Desoto St. and north of Porter Ave. (no address); PC recommends approval

Zoning Adjustment Board (ZAB):

- s. 2828 Lawnwood Dr – PIDN: 61250015.000 – Kenneth Pfanders & Laura Dollinger – A variance request for a reduction of the rear setbacks from 25 feet to 20 feet; the property is zoned R-2: Low-Medium Density Residential; ZAB recommends approval

Grants Administration:

- t. Authorize Execution of Amendment #2 for Contract with Fenstermaker for Engineering Services – American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) / MS Municipality and County Water Infrastructure Grant (MCWI) – MDEQ Agreement #470: Storm Drain Ditches – No Cost Modification

Project Manager:

- u. Authorize Re-Advertisement for Term Bid Contracts for Striping Services
- v. Authorize Award of Term Bid Contract for Milling / Paving Services to Warren Paving

Building Department:

- w. Accept Code Enforcement Report through April 8, 2025

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- x. Approve the Building Official's recommendations for the tree applications received through April 9, 2025
- y. Accept the Building Department Permit Report for March 2025

Parks & Recreation Department:

- z. Approve waiver of fees for Ocean Springs Chamber of Commerce's use of the Civic Center on May 16, 2025; to advertise the resources of the City
- aa. Authorize the waiver of the Civic Center rental fee for the Ocean Springs High School Soccer teams banquet on April 16, 2025; to advertise the resources of the City

Public Works:

- bb. Adopt Resolution for the sale of scrap metal from the Public Works Department

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

- a. City Clerk: Approve payment: Docket of Claims, all expenditures are appropriate and authorized by law, and spread the summary on the Minutes

A motion was made by Alderman Authement, seconded by Alderman Impey, and unanimously carried to approve the Docket of Claims finding that all expenditures are appropriate and authorized by law, and spread the summary on the minutes.

- b. City Clerk: Authorize the adjustment of water/sewer accounts due to a finding that the customers did not receive the benefit of the utility and the excess usage was due to unforeseen circumstances

A motion was made by Alderman Papania, seconded by Alderman Cox, and unanimously carried to adjust the water/sewer accounts listed, with the finding that the customers did not receive the benefit of the utility and excess usage was due to unforeseen circumstances.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Talat Abdul Akbar (speaking for Ya Ya Muhammad), James Lewis, and Aaron Ringo addressed the Mayor and the Board.

MAYOR AND ALDERMEN'S FORUM

The Mayor reported that a request was received from OSEF to waive additional fees associated with their event, including \$5 per trash can and \$55 each for two lighting trees. They also requested the closure of Ward Avenue from Government Street to

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the south end of the Mary C parking lot during the event. The Mayor reminded the Board that when a street is closed, a police officer must be present on-site, resulting in overtime costs. A motion was made by Alderman Papania, seconded by Alderman Wade, and unanimously carried to waive the additional fees associated with the OSEF Crawfish & Cornhole for Classrooms event and to authorize the closure of Ward Avenue from Government Street to the south end of the Mary C parking lot, with the City covering the overtime expenses.

Alderman Burgess discussed Ward 1 concerns with the Public Works Director, Parks & Recreation Director, and Project Manager.

Alderman Authement thanked the Parks & Recreation Director for assisting with converting the Inner Harbor Park tennis court to pickleball courts.

Alderman Wade addressed a Ward 3 issue with the Public Works Director.

Alderman Blackman addressed Ward 5 concerns with the Public Works Director.

Alderman Impey reminded everyone of the Earth Day Celebration on April 20th at the Mary C and the National Day of Prayer on May 1st at Greyhound Stadium. The Project Manager reported that the Deana Road Project is progressing with an MOU or agreement being developed with MDOT.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Alderman Impey, seconded by Alderman Burgess, and unanimously carried to go into a closed session to determine the necessity of going into an executive session.

The City Clerk returned to the meeting and announced that a motion was made by Alderman Blackman, seconded by Alderman Authement, and unanimously carried to remain in executive session to discuss potential sale of land, potential purchase of land, litigation on Ward Avenue, and potential litigation.

A motion was made by Alderman Blackman, seconded by Alderman Cox, and unanimously carried to come out of the executive session where the following actions were taken:

A motion was made by Alderman Impey, seconded by Alderman Papania, and unanimously carried to adopt a resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute closing documents for the purchase of property on Halstead Road.

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A motion was made by Alderman Impey, seconded by Alderman Burgess, and unanimously carried to authorize the City Attorney to file a motion with the court in litigation on Ward Avenue.

A motion was made by Alderman Impey, seconded by Alderman Authement, and unanimously carried to authorize the City Attorney to attempt to negotiate an alleged copyright claim up to a capped amount.

A motion was made by Alderman Impey, seconded by Alderman Papania, and unanimously carried to adjourn.

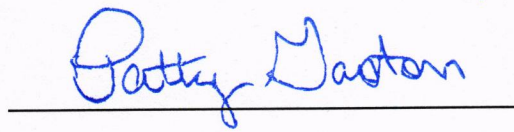
The meeting ended at 7:20 p.m.

ADJOURN UNTIL 6:00 P.M. on MAY 6, 2025



Mayor

Date



Clerk

Date

