

**City of Ocean Springs - Board of Aldermen
Special Call Meeting September 10, 2025 - Minutes**

Be it remembered that the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the City of Ocean Springs met in a Special Call Meeting at City Hall at 5:30 p.m. on September 10, 2025. A public notice stating the place, date, time, and subject matter of the meeting was posted within one hour of the meeting being called, both on the City's website and at City Hall, where it was available for examination and inspection by the public.

Mayor Bobby Cox presided, and Aldermen Tillis, Stennis, Wade, Hinton, Pfeiffer, and Blackman were present. Alderman Messenger arrived at 5:41 p.m. during the Executive Session portion of the meeting.

City Attorney David Harris, Jr., City Clerk/Finance Director Christine Millard, Deputy City Clerk Vicky Hupe, Police Chief Steven Dye, Fire Chief A.J. Fitch, Building Official Darrell Stringfellow, Public Works Director Allan Ladnier, Human Resources & Risk Management Director Mindy McDowell, Planning Director Amanda Crose, Parks & Recreation Director Stephen Glorioso, Mary C. O'Keefe Cultural Center Director Sarah Qarqish, and Executive Administrator & Public Affairs Officer Laurri Garcia were also present.

The Mayor called the meeting to order.

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

The object of the meeting will be any matters pertaining to:

1. Ocean Springs School District Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Ad Valorem Request

The Mayor stated that the Ocean Springs School District submitted its Fiscal Year 2025–2026 ad valorem tax request, which was included in the resolution fixing the tax levy adopted at the September Regular Meeting. He explained that, technically, the request has already been approved; however, since the Board traditionally takes separate action on the school district's request prior to adopting the tax levy resolution, a separate motion is being made to clarify the record.

A motion was made by Alderman Hinton, seconded by Alderman Wade, and unanimously carried to approve the Ocean Springs School District Fiscal Year 2025–2026 Ad Valorem Tax Request.

2. Adopt the City of Ocean Springs Budget for Fiscal Year 2025-2026

The Finance Director/City Clerk explained that there have been no changes to the proposed budget since the Public Hearing. She noted that she received two questions, both of which have been addressed in the agenda packet. She stated that the previous

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fiscal year's budget was used as the baseline for the proposed Fiscal Year 2025–2026 Budget. She further explained that there is an element of uncertainty given that both she and the current Board are new, but emphasized that budget amendments can be made more freely during non-election years to accommodate adjustments as needed.

A motion was made by Alderman Blackman and seconded by Alderman Pfeiffer to adopt the City of Ocean Springs Budget for Fiscal Year 2025-2026. The motion carried with a roll call vote as follows:

Aye: Alderman Tillis, Alderman Stennis, Alderman Wade, Alderman Pfeiffer, Alderman Blackman, Alderman Hinton

Nay: None

Absent: Alderman Messenger (had not yet arrived at the meeting)

3. Authorize Execution of Funding Award from MS Office of Highway Safety (MOHS) – Police Traffic Services – FY26 - Resolution

Police Chief Dye reported that for Fiscal Year 2026, the City has been awarded \$10,000 in grant funding for overtime pay for traffic enforcement through the Mississippi Office of Homeland Security (MOHS). He noted that the City received \$20,000 in Fiscal Year 2025 and had requested \$23,000 for the current year, but was awarded \$10,000. Alderman Pfeiffer asked whether services would diminish as a result of the reduced funding. Chief Dye stated that activity levels are not determined by grant funding and that services will not be diminished. Alderman Pfeiffer then asked whether other funding sources had been explored. Chief Dye explained that this is a broad-spectrum grant that covers all traffic enforcement efforts, not just DUI enforcement as with other grants.

A motion was made by Alderman Pfeiffer, seconded by Alderman Stennis, and unanimously carried to authorize the execution of the Funding Award from the Mississippi Office of Homeland Security (MOHS) – Police Traffic Services – FY26, and adopt Resolution 2025-022.

4. Executive Session — Litigation Update

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

Alderman Messenger arrived at 5:41 p.m. and went directly into the Executive Session.

The City Clerk returned to the meeting and announced that a motion was made by Alderman Blackman, seconded by Alderman Hinton, and unanimously carried to remain in Executive Session to discuss litigation matters, specifically the Butler Homes plat petition to amend, an open meeting complaint against the Board of Aldermen (Cause No. M-25-010), and litigation involving Rosenberg.

A motion was made by Alderman Blackman, seconded by Alderman Pfeiffer, and unanimously carried to come out of the executive session where the following action

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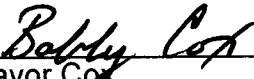
was taken:

A motion was made by Alderman Blackman, seconded by Alderman Pfeiffer, and unanimously carried to approve the Mayor to sign the joinder document for the Butler Homes plat amendment.

A motion was made by Alderman Blackman, seconded by Alderman Wade, and unanimously carried to approve Currie, Johnson, and Myers to represent the City in the Open Meetings Complaint (Cause No. M-25-010).

A motion was made by Alderman Hinton, seconded by Alderman Stennis, and unanimously carried to adjourn.

The meeting ended at 6:19 p.m.



Mayor Cox



City Clerk Christine Millard





**Mayor & Board of Aldermen
SPECIAL CALL MEETING**

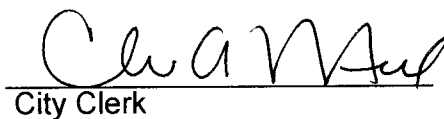
Wednesday, September 10, 2025 @ 5:30 PM

Location: City Hall Boardroom - 1018 Porter Avenue - Ocean Springs, MS 39564

The object of the meeting will be any matters pertaining to:

1. Ocean Springs School District Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Ad Valorem Request
2. Adopt the City of Ocean Springs Budget for Fiscal Year 2025-2026
3. Authorize Execution of Funding Award from MS Office of Homeland Security (MOHS) – Police Traffic Services – FY26 - Resolution
4. Executive Session — Litigation Update


Mayor


City Clerk



Bobby Cox	Mayor
Matthew Hinton	Alderman at Large
Steve Tillis	Alderman Ward 1
Karen Stennis	Alderman Ward 2

Kevin Wade	Alderman Ward 3
Shannon Pfeiffer	Alderman Ward 4
Rob Blackman	Alderman Ward 5
Julie Messenger	Alderman Ward 6



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MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor & Board of Aldermen

From: Christine Millard, City Clerk

Re: Adopt the City of Ocean Springs Budget for Fiscal Year 2025-2026

Section: The Object Of The Meeting Will Be Any Matters Pertaining To:

Meeting Date: September 10, 2025

At the FY 2025–2026 Budget Public Hearing held on September 2, 2025, members of the public raised questions for clarification. Staff responses are provided below for the record.

1. Public Question (Ward 6): Concern was expressed that since there is a line item for Festival expenditures on the expense side of the 2% fund, why are transfers not entered directly there? The transfer, as currently shown, could be misleading, as an average citizen might assume the funds are going into the General Fund.

Response: The line item was reviewed and found to have been in existence since at least 2016; however, the current title format is misleading as to the purpose of the transfer. The line item will be revised to accurately reflect that the transfer is specifically for festival expenditures, which aligns with the purpose of the 2% fund.

2. Public Question (Ward 1): Since there is already a line item for Overtime, and it is being used routinely, why not consolidate all Overtime into one executive-level account, so the Mayor can review and authorize each request?

Response: Due to limited staff in most of our departments and workload management, overtime is sometimes necessary for activities such as festival support, after-hours special calls, and emergency maintenance or repair work. These situations are often cyclical (festivals) or occur outside of normal business hours (special calls, emergency response), making it more cost-effective to pay overtime when needed rather than hiring additional full-time staff. In certain departments, such as Police and Fire, open positions and call-ins also increase reliance on overtime to maintain essential services. Department Heads are required to justify overtime usage and plan for it within their budgets when possible, ensuring that after-hours work is necessary and that funding is available. To responsibly manage costs, the City will continue to monitor overtime use closely and encourage alternative solutions whenever feasible.

City of Ocean Springs

FY 2025-2026

Budget

GENERAL FUND

REVENUE

	Budget FYE 9/30/25	Budget FYE 9/30/26
Ad Valorem Taxes	\$ 5,112,697.95	\$ 6,187,055.00
Prior Year Taxes	\$ 27,600.00	\$ 27,600.00
Land Redemption	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 30,000.00
Homestead Exemptions	\$ 325,000.00	\$ 325,000.00
ABC License	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 100,000.00
Gasoline Tax	\$ 14,000.00	\$ 14,000.00
Utility Franchise	\$ 825,200.00	\$ 825,050.00
Licenses and Permits	\$ 373,000.00	\$ 385,000.00
Intergovernmental Revenues	\$ 36,900.00	\$ 40,140.50
Sales Tax	\$ 6,600,000.00	\$ 6,700,000.00
Government Services	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 12,000.00
County Road Tax	\$ 875,000.00	\$ 875,000.00
Jackson Co BOS	\$ 368,000.00	\$ 260,000.00
Fines and Forfeits	\$ 242,200.00	\$ 242,200.00
Rentals and Leases	\$ 263,905.00	\$ 215,855.00
City Participation Fees	\$ 330,000.00	\$ 350,000.00
Flow-thru funds-other agencies	\$ 66,626.00	\$ 66,626.00
Transfer from other funds	\$ 470,085.00	\$ 107,570.55
Mary C Income	\$ 51,500.00	\$ 52,500.00
Other Income	\$ 398,500.00	\$ 498,500.00
Total Revenue	\$ 16,522,213.95	\$ 17,314,097.05
Cash carry over	\$ 2,130,000.00	\$ 1,700,000.00
<u>Total income</u>	<u>\$ 18,652,213.95</u>	<u>\$ 19,014,097.05</u>

EXPENSES

MAYOR

	Budget FYE 9/30/25	Budget FYE 9/30/26
Personnel Services	\$ 248,229.00	\$ 253,632.00
Supplies	\$ 8,900.00	\$ 11,900.00
Contractual/Other Services	\$ 337,943.00	\$ 340,512.00
Grants, Subsidies	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,000.00

BOARD OF ALDERMEN

	Budget FYE 9/30/25	Budget FYE 9/30/26
Personnel Services	\$ 155,340.00	\$ 149,379.00
Contractual/Other Services	\$ 25,900.00	\$ 15,900.00
Grants, Subsidies	\$ 22,000.00	\$ 7,000.00
Capital Improvements	\$ 42,500.00	\$ 42,000.00
Transfers	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00

City of Ocean Springs

FY 2025-2026

CLERK/FINANCE

Budget

Personnel Services	\$	258,312.00	\$	455,793.00
Supplies	\$	10,100.00	\$	10,100.00
Contractual/Other Services	\$	532,864.00	\$	455,529.22

HR/RISK

Personnel Services	\$	111,113.00	\$	113,355.00
Supplies	\$	4,050.00	\$	1,720.00
Contractual/Other Services	\$	719,800.00	\$	748,600.00

PLANNING/GRANTS

Personnel Services	\$	179,931.00	\$	190,908.00
Supplies	\$	2,100.00	\$	2,600.00
Contractual/Other Services	\$	114,803.00	\$	112,003.00

BUILDING/PERMITS

Personnel Services	\$	334,712.00	\$	331,986.00
Supplies	\$	8,320.00	\$	8,820.00
Contractual/Other Services	\$	121,704.00	\$	121,304.00
Capital Outlay	\$	33,000.00	\$	-

FACILITIES

Personnel Services	\$	202,411.00	\$	148,871.00
Supplies	\$	31,400.00	\$	29,750.00
Contractual/Other Services	\$	300,007.00	\$	309,880.00
Capital Outlay	\$	31,000.00	\$	-

POLICE

Personnel Services	\$	4,203,463.00	\$	4,456,047.00
Supplies	\$	424,000.00	\$	478,500.00
Contractual/Other Services	\$	825,983.00	\$	569,180.00
Capital Outlay	\$	17,000.00	\$	-

COURT

Personnel Services	\$	250,597.00	\$	257,392.00
Supplies	\$	6,300.00	\$	6,800.00
Contractual/Other Services	\$	62,102.00	\$	62,574.00

FIRE

Personnel Services	\$	2,798,901.00	\$	2,993,852.00
Supplies	\$	113,626.00	\$	136,350.00
Contractual/Other Services	\$	156,658.00	\$	161,450.00
Capital Outlay	\$	102,700.00	\$	-

City of Ocean Springs

FY 2025-2026

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Budget

Supplies	\$	1,000.00	\$	1,000.00
Contractual/Other Services	\$	1,000.00	\$	1,000.00

PUBLIC WORKS ADMINISTRATION

Personnel Services	\$	157,624.00	\$	157,915.00
Supplies	\$	24,000.00	\$	33,055.00
Contractual/Other Services	\$	51,234.00	\$	51,294.00

PUBLIC WORKS STREET

Personnel Services	\$	799,267.20	\$	867,439.00
Supplies	\$	363,200.00	\$	338,400.00
Contractual/Other Services	\$	728,560.00	\$	738,400.00
Capital Outlay	\$	97,000.00	\$	55,000.00

PUBLIC WORKS SHOP

Personnel Services	\$	91,692.00	\$	90,520.00
Supplies	\$	16,000.00	\$	14,500.00
Contractual/Other Services	\$	8,000.00	\$	10,500.00

PUBLIC WORKS MAINTENANCE

Personnel Services	\$	110,930.00	\$	306,562.00
Supplies	\$	9,800.00	\$	8,000.00
Contractual/Other Services	\$	600.00	\$	1,000.00

PUBLIC WORKS DRAINAGE

Personnel Services	\$	282,396.00	\$	300,039.00
Supplies	\$	30,700.00	\$	24,500.00
Contractual/Other Services	\$	41,880.00	\$	53,350.00
Drainage Projects	\$	365,000.00	\$	300,000.00

PUBLIC WORKS LANDSCAPING

Personnel Services	\$	190,383.00	\$	195,258.00
Supplies	\$	33,000.00	\$	36,200.00
Contractual/Other Services	\$	25,000.00	\$	20,000.00

PARKS AND RECREATION

Personnel Services	\$	1,526,388.00	\$	1,577,003.00
Supplies	\$	280,000.00	\$	281,500.00
Contractual/Other Services	\$	354,878.00	\$	366,260.00
Capital Outlay	\$	85,000.00	\$	-

BUILDING RENTAL

Contractual/Other Services	\$	126,160.00	\$	138,000.00
Capital Outlay	\$	18,000.00	\$	-

TOTAL EXPENDITURES

\$	18,642,461.20	\$	18,976,382.22
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Ending cash balance carryover

\$	9,752.75	\$	37,714.83
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