

REGULAR MEETING OF NOVEMBER 7, 2023 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 November 7, 2023. Mayor Holloway presided, and Aldermen Burgess, Authement, Wade, Cox, Papania, and Impey were present. Alderman Blackman was absent. Also present were City Attorney Robert Wilkinson, City Clerk Patty Gaston, Deputy City Clerk Vicky Hupe, Interim Police Chief Ryan Lemaire, Fire Chief Derek McCoy, Building Official Darrell Stringfellow, Public Works Director Allan Ladnier, Human Resources & Risk Management Director Mindy McDowell, Planning & Grants Administrator Carolyn Martin, Parks & Recreation Director Stephen Glorioso, Project Manager Sarah Harris, and Admin & Community Relations Coordinator Ravin Nettles.

The Mayor called the meeting to order.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Parks & Recreation Director gave the invocation and Alderman Authement led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

PRESENTATION

- a. Miss Capital City's Teen 2024 Mary Beth Geiser - Organ Donation Presentation

Rescheduled until after the new year.

AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

Ester Payton, Robert Zellner, Sam Washington, Sara Godsey, James Lewis, Richard Jackson, and Lottie Gipson, item 5-c, addressed the Board concerning Urban Renewal

Dee Francis Wichman, item 7-c, asked about the City's Christmas celebration being at the Mary C. O'Keefe Cultural Arts Center and not at Marshall Park. The Christmas Tree Lighting celebration has been at the Mary C since 2018.

OLD BUSINESS

- a. Appoint Kevin Westbrook to the Civil Service Commission, six-year term, ending June 30, 2029

A motion was made by Alderman Cox, seconded by Alderman Papania, and unanimously carried to appoint Kevin Westbrook to the Civil Service Commission, for a six-year term that ends July 31, 2029.

- b. Historic Preservation Commission Appointments

A motion was made by Alderman Impey, seconded by Alderman Cox, and unanimously carried to appoint Mike Doster and Charles Fowler to the Historic Preservation Commission to complete the terms of resigned members, terms will expire July 31, 2025.

- c. Discussion of Urban Renewal Map - Area 4

The Mayor discussed that the City will start over with a new urban renewal map. He said a map with properties removed will be on display at City Hall. He said at the next Board meeting, the old map will be voided. After that, a new area and plan can be presented. He said when the old map is voided, all previous designations will be voided. NEW BUSINESS

- a. 911 Commission appointment

A motion was made by Alderman Cox, seconded by Alderman Wade, and unanimously carried to appoint interim Police Chief Ryan Lemaire as the city's representative to the 911 Commission.

- b. Discuss scheduling quarterly meetings for the Finance and HR Committees

Alderman Burgess requested the HR and Finance Committees meet at least quarterly to be proactive rather than reactive. The Board agreed to begin the quarterly meetings at the end of January 2024.

- c. Discuss the approval of Academic Technologies Inc. to improve the functionality of the audio system in City Hall's boardroom, equipment, and software cost \$22,402.09

The Human Resources Administrative Assistant explained the needed upgrades to the audio and video equipment in the boardroom. A motion was made by Alderman Papania and seconded by Alderman Burgess to approve the Academic Technologies Inc. quote for audio and video equipment and software at a total cost of \$22,402.09, the cost is not budgeted and the funds will be removed from the ending cash balance. The motion carried with a vote as follows:

Aye: Alderman Burgess, Alderman Authement, Alderman Wade, Alderman Papania, Alderman Impey

Nay: Alderman Cox

CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Alderman Impey, seconded by Alderman Wade, and unanimously carried to approve the consent agenda except for items 7-b and 7-d.

Mayor:

- a. Authorize the 14th annual John R. Blossman Humanitarian Award & Charity Banquet sponsorship of \$1,000 at the Beau Rivage Resort and Casino on Friday, November 10, 2023
- b. Approve the Special Event Permit Application for the Walter Anderson Museum of Art (WAMA) Silent Light Event on December 2, 2023, from 5:30 p.m. until midnight, Washington Avenue street closure from WAMA to Joseph Street, city sponsorship, at no cost to the City, the applicant pays associated event cost

A motion was made by Alderman Authement, seconded by Alderman Cox, and unanimously carried to approve the Special Event Permit Application for the Walter Anderson Museum of Art (WAMA) Silent Light Event on December 2, 2023, from 5:30 p.m. until midnight, with Washington Avenue street closure from WAMA to Joseph Street from 1:30 p.m. until 1:00 a.m., city sponsorship, at no cost to the City, the applicant pays associated event cost.

- c. Approve the Special Event Permit Application for the Annual Christmas Tree Lighting on Thursday, December 7, 2023, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.; at The Mary C.
- d. Authorize waiving the rental fee of the Ryan Youth Center for the Duchess Club of Ocean Springs starting Friday, December 8 through Tuesday, December 19, 2023, for their annual doll and toy campaign; to advertise the resources of the City

A motion was made by Alderman Impey and seconded by Alderman Authement to authorize waiving the rental fee of the Ryan Youth Center voting room for the Duchess Club of Ocean Springs starting Friday, December 8 through Tuesday, December 19, 2023, for their annual doll and toy campaign; to advertise the resources of the City. The motion carried with a vote as follows:

Aye: Alderman Authement, Alderman Wade, Alderman Papania, Alderman Impey

Nay: None

Abstain: Alderman Burgess and Alderman Cox

- e. Approve the Run/Walk/Bike Permit Application for the Mississippi Gulf Coast 5K on December 9, 2023, beginning at 8:00 - 9:00 a.m.; Ocean Springs Harbor Pier, Front Beach, OS Bridge; the applicant will pay any cost for the event
- f. Authorize the Mayor to sign the agreement to contract with Unfazed Show & Band for the New Year's Event on December 31, 2023, in Downtown Ocean Springs. This 10-person band will play 10:00-1:00 a.m.
- g. Authorize the 2024 Gulf Coast Legislative Reception sponsorship of \$1,000 at

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the Mississippi Trade Mart Center in Jackson, MS on January 3, 2024

- h. Approve the Run/Walk/Bike Permit Application for the YMCA Winter Classic 10K Run on Saturday, January 13, 2024, from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.; YMCA 10K route, the applicant will pay all costs for the event
- i. Authorize waiving the rental fee of the Senior Center for the Jackson County Distinguished Young Women Program from 1:30-4:30 p.m. on the following dates: Sunday, January 14, January 21, January 28, February 4, February 11, February 25, 2024; to advertise the resources of the City
- j. Approve the Run/Walk/Bike Permit Application for the 8th annual Casino Bridge Run on January 20, 2024, beginning at 8:00 am at the MS Coast Coliseum and over and back on the Biloxi/OS Bridge, the applicant will pay any cost for the event
- k. Approve the Special Event Permit Application for the OS Elks Mardi Gras Parade on Saturday, January 27, 2024, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.; Regular Parade Route; there will be overtime costs to the City, and the applicant will pay other associated event cost
- l. Approve the Special Event Permit Application for the Krewe Unique Mardi Gras Parade on Saturday, January 27, 2024, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Directly following the Elks Parade; Regular Parade Route; there will be overtime costs to the City, and the applicant pays other associated event cost
- m. Approve Special Event permit application for the OS Mardi Gras Carnival Association Night Parade on Friday, February 9, 2023, from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.; Regular Parade Route; there will be overtime cost to the City, the applicant pays other associated event cost
- n. Approve the Run/Walk/Bike Permit Application for the Heart & Sole: Walking Together For Healthier Tomorrow 5K on Saturday, February 17, 2024, from 7:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.; Front Beach/Bridge route, the applicant will pay all costs for the event
- o. Approve the Special Event Permit Application for the 2024 Zebra Run for Rare Disease Event on March 2, 2024, from 7:30 a.m. until 12:00 p.m., Fort Maurepas Park and Front Beach/Bridge Route, at no cost to the City, the applicant pays associated event cost
- p. Authorize the donation of a surplus vehicle, the 2001 Ford F-150 VIN F67119 to the Ocean Springs School District for the High School's CTE Automotive Program
- q. Approve a light to be installed at 3415 Princess Anne Drive (corner of Princess Anne and King Henry Drive) and add the cost of \$3,075 to the Singing River Electric Light bill - Singing River Electric will upgrade two additional lights at King Henry and Ocean Springs Road at no charge

City Clerk:

- r. Ratify check #127647 for \$950 to CivicPlus for online code hosting 10/1/23

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- 9/30/24

- s. Ratify check #127744 for \$800 to Mississippi Tactical Officers Association for Firearms classes
- t. Authorize the Mayor to execute the Amended Interlocal Governmental Agreement with Jackson County for the Collection of City Taxes
- u. Accept October 2023 Aged Receivables Report
- v. Approve Minutes: Recess Meeting October 17, 2023

Police Department:

- w. Ratify the authorization of out-of-state travel for Professional Training Employees 1634, 1725, and 2630 on November 6-9, 2023 in Gulf Shores, AL
- x. Approve and Allow Execution of Agreement with Operation Underground Railroad (OUR)
- y. Authorize the contract with Axon Enterprise, Inc. for 60 months for a total cost of \$182,236.00 for TASER 7 Certification Bundle

Human Resources/Risk Management:

- z. Accept the resignation of Art & Culture Assistant Katherine Dickerson, effective October 18, 2023; authorize to begin the process of filling the vacant position
- aa. Accept the resignation of Part-Time Police Officer Mellanie Hammond, effective immediately; authorize to begin the process of filling the vacant position
- bb. Authorize employment of Jonathan Ipock, Patrolman, Step 3, \$22.50 hourly rate; effective November 9, 2023; one-year probationary status, pending successful completion of all pre-employment requirements
- cc. Authorize employment of Kristopher Saccurato, Patrolman, Step 2, \$21.00 hourly rate; effective November 21, 2023; one-year probationary status, pending successful completion of all pre-employment requirements
- dd. Authorize promotion of Drainage Laborer Ethan Ewing to Equipment Operator, Step 3, hourly rate \$15.59; effective November 13, 2023; six months probationary status

Planning Commission:

- ee. Approve a Residential Short-Term Rental Permit – 613 Clark Avenue – Robbie Chandler – Planning Commission Recommends Approval
- ff. Approve a Residential Short-Term Rental Permit – 706 Russell – Eleanor Rice Henken (Victor Henken) – Planning Commission Recommends Approval
- gg. Approve a Residential Bed & Breakfast Permit – 219 Washington Avenue – Joanna & Greg Worch – Planning Commission Recommends Approval

Grants Administration:

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- hh. Authorize Advertisement of the Public Access Portion of the Front Beach Public Event Center & Marina – GOMESA – MSDMR
- ii. Authorize Amendment #1 – Professional Services Agreement with Cypress Environment & Infrastructure – GOMESA/MSDMR: Front Beach Public Access
- jj. Authorize the Mayor to execute Grant Agreement for FY24 Tidelands – MS Department of Marine Resource (MDMR) - East Beach Multiuse Pathway in the amount of \$400,000

Building Department:

- kk. Accept Code Report through November 1, 2023
- ll. Approve the Building Official recommendations for tree applications received through October 31, 2023

Parks & Recreation Department:

- mm. Approve the Facility Use Agreement for Ocean Springs High School for the use of Halstead Tennis Courts January 4 - May 20, 2024, and waive all of the associated fees
- nn. Authorize the execution of the Facility Use Agreement for Martial Arts Academy at 400 Alice Street

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

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

A motion was made by Alderman Authement, seconded by Alderman Burgess, 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: Accept the Monthly Budget Report

A motion was made by Alderman Impey, seconded by Alderman Papania, and unanimously carried to accept the monthly budget report.

- c. City Clerk: 2022 Fort Bayou Area Drainage & Water Improvements Project

The City Clerk and the Planning & Grants Administrator explained the 2022 Fort Bayou Area Drainage & Water Improvements Project was underfunded by CBDG. An adjustment to both the General Fund for the drainage part and the Enterprise Fund for the water lines part is needed. A motion was made by Impey, seconded by Authement, and unanimously carried to authorize the transfer of \$110,000.00 from the General Fund ending cash balance and \$17,253.24 from the Enterprise Fund ending cash balance for overages from the Fort Bayou Area Drainage Project.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Dee Francis Wichman requested the Parks & Recreation Department offer Tai Chi at Freedom Field for the elderly to help prevent falls.

Richard Jackson asked if the blighted designation would be removed from the properties no longer in the Urban Renewal Map area. The Mayor responded, yes it would be voided.

James Lewis thanked the City for the signs and crosswalk at MLK by Macedonia Baptist Church. He suggested inquiring with Northwood Church regarding the audio issues in the Boardroom. He said we all need to work together.

Bill Moore thanked the Board for supporting the Duchess Club Christmas, the YMCA's Humanitarian Banquet, and the Peter Anderson Festival (PAF). He said the PAF was successful with the help of the Police, Fire, Public Works, the Chamber, the Mayor's Youth Council, and the Board.

Amy Carter spoke about the history of urban renewal.

Dee Francis Wichman requested more benches for walkers and for Dr. Furr's plaque and bench to be moved to Freedom Field.

Sarah Godsey spoke against the increase in short-term rentals in the City. She also requested that when the Boardroom audio video is being upgraded to allow the screens to be seen online as well.

MAYOR AND ALDERMEN'S FORUM

Alderman Burgess announced that the JROTC will be hosting a Veterans breakfast tomorrow at 9:00 a.m. at the High School cafeteria.

Alderman Papania requested Ward 4 funds be used for the Water's Edge Subdivision entrance maintenance. A motion was made by Alderman Papania, seconded by Alderman Cox, and unanimously carried to approve the use of \$400.00 of Ward 4 funds for the Water's Edge Subdivision entrance maintenance.

Alderman Cox thanked all the volunteers who made the Peter Anderson Festival a success.

The Mayor said the Peter Anderson Festival had a record number of attendants and Chic Cody was also a huge help. He said the lighting of trees will begin this week.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Alderman Cox, seconded by Alderman Wade, 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 Cox, seconded by Alderman Wade, and unanimously carried to remain in executive session to discuss the potential economic development of purchase, sale, or leasing of lands.

A motion was made by Alderman Impey, seconded by Alderman Wade, and unanimously carried to come out of the executive session where no action was taken.

A motion was made by Alderman Impey, seconded by Alderman Papania, and unanimously carried to advertise the Police Chief position opening.

A motion was made by Alderman Impey, seconded by Alderman Burgess, and unanimously carried to recess the meeting until 6:00 p.m. on November 21, 2023.

The meeting ended at 7:20 p.m.

RECESS UNTIL 6:00 P.M. on November 21, 2023

Mayor Date 11/21/23 Clerk Betty Maston Date

