

Board of Aldermen Special Call Meeting September 30, 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 6:00 p.m. on September 30, 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 Cox presided, and Aldermen Tillis, Stennis, Wade, Hinton, Pfeiffer, Blackman, and Messenger were present. City Attorney David Harris Jr., City Clerk/Finance Director Christine Millard, Deputy City Clerk Vicky Hupe, Fire Chief Archie Fitch, Public Works Director Allan Ladnier, Human Resources & Risk Management Director Mindy McDowell, and Civil Service Commissioner Kevin Westbrook were also present.

The Mayor called the meeting to order.

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

- 1. Rescind the Board's prior approval of the Special Event Application for the Horne Family Picnic scheduled for October 11, 2025, at MLK City Park, due to the applicant's failure to comply with permitting requirements and conditions of approval**

A motion was made by Alderman Pfeiffer, seconded by Alderman Hinton, and unanimously carried to rescind the Board's prior approval of the Special Event Application for the Horne Family Picnic scheduled for October 11, 2025, at MLK City Park, due to the applicant's failure to comply with permitting requirements and conditions of approval.

- 2. Approve the retention of Currie Johnson & Myers to represent the City of Ocean Springs in Case No. R-25-050, a Public Records complaint filed by Joe Jewell before the Mississippi Ethics Commission**

Alderman Pfeiffer asked for an explanation regarding the public records complaint. The City Attorney stated that a copy of the Redevelopment Authority resignation letter had been requested through a public records request. He explained that the document had not yet been published at the time of the request but it was later made publicly available on the City's website as part of the August agenda packet.

A motion was made by Alderman Wade, seconded by Alderman Tillis, and unanimously carried to approve the retention of Currie Johnson & Myers to represent the City of Ocean Springs in Case No. R-25-050, a public records complaint filed by Joe Jewell before the Mississippi Ethics Commission.

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3. Executive Session: Conduct Deputy Fire Chief Interviews

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

A motion was made by Alderman Pfeiffer, seconded by Alderman Blackman, and unanimously carried to remain in executive session to conduct Deputy Fire Chief interviews.

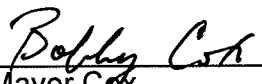
The Mayor led the interviews of two candidates for Deputy Fire Chief.

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

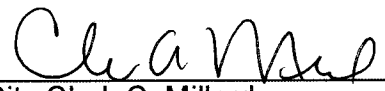
A motion was made by Alderman Stennis, seconded by Alderman Pfeiffer, and unanimously carried to offer Samuel Guin the Deputy Fire Chief position with a starting salary of \$68,000 per year.

A motion was made by Alderman Blackman, seconded by Alderman Pfeiffer, and unanimously carried to adjourn.

The meeting ended at 7:37 p.m.



Mayor Cox



City Clerk C. Millard





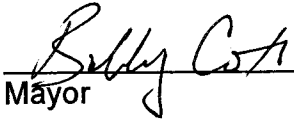
**Mayor & Board of Aldermen
SPECIAL CALL MEETING**

Tuesday, September 30, 2025 @ 6:00 PM

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

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

1. Rescind the Board's prior approval of the Special Event Application for the Horne Family Picnic scheduled for October 11, 2025, at MLK City Park, due to the applicant's failure to comply with permitting requirements and conditions of approval
2. Approve the retention of Currie Johnson & Myers to represent the City of Ocean Springs in Cause No. R 25-050, a Public Records Complaint filed by Joe Jewell before the Mississippi Ethics Commission
3. Executive Session:
Conduct Deputy Fire Chief Interviews



Mayor



City Clerk



Bobby Cox
Matthew Hinton
Steve Tillis
Karen Stennis

Mayor
Alderman at Large
Alderman Ward 1
Alderman Ward 2

Kevin Wade
Shannon Pfeiffer
Rob Blackman
Julie Messenger

Alderman Ward 3
Alderman Ward 4
Alderman Ward 5
Alderman Ward 6



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MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor & Board of Aldermen

From: Lauri Garcia, Executive Administrator & Public Affairs Officer

Re: Rescind the Board's prior approval of the Special Event Application for the Horne Family Picnic scheduled for October 11, 2025, at MLK City Park, due to the applicant's failure to comply with permitting requirements and conditions of approval

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

Meeting Date: September 30, 2025

The Horne Family Picnic, scheduled for October 11, 2025, at MLK City Park, was originally approved by the Board of Aldermen on September 16, 2025, with specific conditions, including:

- * No alcohol permitted
- * Acknowledgment of parking limitations due to Cruisin' the Coast activities
- * Park to remain open to the public during the event
- * Provision of additional trash cans
- * Use of grills only as permitted

As part of the permitting process, two written notices were sent to the applicant, Ms. Allen, outlining these requirements and advising that associated fees (\$10 for additional trash cans and \$75 for the event permit) must be submitted by Friday, September 26, 2025. Calls were also attempted to the numbers provided but were unsuccessful. Both written notices requested acknowledgment of receipt and confirmation of intent to proceed.

As of today:

- No confirmation has been received from the applicant
- No payments have been submitted
- No special event permit has been issued

Because the applicant failed to respond, confirm arrangements, or fulfill the required conditions by the deadline, the City is proceeding with cancellation of the Board's prior approval of the Horne Family Picnic. This decision is based on noncompliance with the permitting process and the absence of required approvals.

Requested Motion: Motion to rescind the Board's prior approval of the Horne Family Picnic scheduled for October 11, 2025, at MLK City Park, due to the applicant's failure to comply with permitting requirements and conditions of approval.