

The Minutes of the City of Ocean Springs

Mayor & Board of Aldermen

Tuesday, May 9, 2023

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 in the City of Ocean Springs at 12:00 p.m. on May 9, 2023. Mayor Holloway presided, and Aldermen Burgess, Authement, Wade, Papania, Blackman, and Impey were present. Alderman Cox joined the meeting via teleconference according to Section 25-41-5 of the Mississippi Code. Let the minutes reflect there is a speaker in the meeting room that all those present can hear Alderman Cox. Also present were City Attorney Robert Wilkinson, City Clerk Patty Gaston, Deputy City Clerk Vicky Hupe, Police Chief Mark Dunston, Fire Chief Derek McCoy, Building Official Darrell Stringfellow, Public Works Director Allan Ladnier, and Admin & Community Relations Coordinator Ravin Nettles.

The Mayor called the meeting to order.

A motion was made by Alderman Blackman and seconded by Alderman Wade to accept the agenda. The motion carried with a vote as follows:

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

Nay: None

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

a. Statement from the Mayor

The Mayor expressed concern about the shooting that resulted in a death and multiple injuries that happened at The Scratch Kitchen, Downtown on May 5th. He said the administration will do everything in its power to ensure Downtown is a safe entertainment district. He said the City will explore options to deal with The Scratch Kitchen moving forward and there will be no public comment during the meeting. He stated there will be a task force formed with Downtown food & beverage businesses, Downtown property owners, and City and County agencies that will hold a series of meetings to develop modifications to the business climate Downtown. Dr. Mike Barnett will moderate, assisted by the Admin & Community Relations Coordinator, and they will be tasked to report back to the Board at the Regular Meeting in June.

A motion was made by Alderman Authement and seconded by Alderman Wade to go into a closed session to determine the necessity of going into an Executive Session. The motion carried with a vote as follows:

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

Nay: None

A motion was made by Alderman Blackman and seconded by Alderman Papania to remain in the Executive Session to discuss potential litigation involving violations of municipal code and endangering the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Ocean Springs. The motion carried with a vote as follows:

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

Nay: None

b. Discuss recent occurrences in Downtown

Discussed in Executive Session.

c. Potential litigation involving violations of municipal code and endangering the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Ocean Springs

A motion was made by Alderman Blackman and seconded by Alderman Authement to authorize the City Attorney to file a complaint to abate a common nuisance and an injunction with the Chancery Court as soon as possible. The motion carried with a vote as follows:

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

Nay: None

A motion was made by Alderman Wade and seconded by Alderman Papania to come out of Executive Session. The motion carried with a vote as follows:

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

Nay: None

A motion was made by Alderman Burgess and seconded by Alderman Papania to adjourn. The motion carried with a vote as follows:

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

Nay: None

The meeting ended at 12:49 p.m.

