

**CITY OF OCEAN SPRINGS - BOARD OF ALDERMEN**  
**Special Work Session June 15, 2026 - Minutes**

Be it remembered that the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the City of Ocean Springs met in a Special Work Session in the Boardroom at City Hall at 5:30 p.m. on June 15, 2026. A public notice stating the place, date, time, and subject matter of the work session 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. Aldermen Tillis, Stennis, Wade, Hinton, Pfeiffer, and Messenger were present. Alderman Blackman was absent. City Attorney David Harris, Jr., City Clerk/Finance Director Christine Millard, Deputy City Clerk Vicky Hupe, Police Captain Brian Kestner, Fire Chief A. J. Fitch, Building Official Darrell Stringfellow, Public Works Director Allan Ladnier, Public Works Assistant Director Stephen Farnsworth, and Project Manager Sarah Harris were also present.

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

1. Aldermen Messenger — Flooding Concerns Ward 6

The Mayor called the work session to order and noted that no official action would be taken. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss flooding and drainage concerns in Ward 6.

Alderman Messenger explained that the work session was requested due to increasing complaints from residents regarding flooding, standing water, and impassable roadways throughout Ward 6. She stated that recent rainfall events highlighted ongoing drainage deficiencies and emphasized the need for long-term planning rather than relying solely on ditch cleaning and routine maintenance. Areas specifically identified as concerns included Helmsdale Road, Southwark Drive, Berwick Court, Old CCC Camp Road and surrounding side streets, Richmond Street, Plymouth Road, Riley Road, Savannah Estates, Madison Place, Trentwood Subdivision, and Lakeview Subdivision.

Discussion centered on the need to balance immediate maintenance needs with long-term infrastructure planning. Alderman Messenger expressed concern that drainage issues have existed for years and that residents in the annexed areas expect the City to address infrastructure needs now that they are paying City taxes. She advocated for establishing timelines, milestones, and a comprehensive drainage strategy, including consideration of engineering assistance and future funding opportunities.

Public Works representatives reviewed ongoing efforts in the annexed areas, including ditch cleaning, regrading, installation of culverts and catch basins, replacement of damaged drainage structures, and implementation of portions of the existing county drainage study. They reported that recent work had improved drainage performance in several locations and explained that some recommendations in the county study

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were being modified based on field conditions and operational experience.

The Project Manager noted that recent rainfall events were unusually intense and may not accurately reflect normal drainage conditions. It was explained that factors such as downstream restrictions, high water levels, tides, and natural obstructions can affect drainage performance. Staff emphasized the importance of continuing maintenance efforts while evaluating longer-term improvements.

Board members discussed the challenges of funding drainage projects, particularly large-scale improvements that could require significant capital investment. Several members expressed support for seeking state and federal grant opportunities and utilizing existing studies before commissioning additional studies. Concerns were also raised regarding the cost of studies that are never implemented and the importance of developing actionable plans.

The discussion expanded to include future development standards, stormwater management requirements, wetlands mitigation, open space requirements, detention and retention facilities, and the potential need to revisit City regulations to better address long-term drainage impacts. Members discussed whether additional requirements should be considered for future developments to reduce impacts on existing neighborhoods.

Engineering representatives from BMA Engineering and Overstreet & Associates addressed the Board regarding drainage planning and stormwater management. They noted that many older drainage systems were constructed before modern design standards were adopted and that some existing infrastructure may not adequately handle current runoff volumes. It was suggested that the City develop a comprehensive drainage plan, prioritize projects, pursue available funding sources, and consider future ordinance or policy updates related to stormwater management.

Throughout the discussion, Board members emphasized the importance of maintaining ongoing communication regarding drainage projects. Suggestions included providing periodic progress reports to the Board, identifying priority projects, tracking completed work, and establishing a framework for future planning efforts.

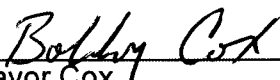
Board members generally agreed that flooding and drainage concerns in Ward 6, as well as throughout the City, warrant continued attention and a combination of short-term and long-term solutions. There was consensus that Public Works should continue ongoing maintenance efforts, including ditch cleaning, culvert improvements, and drainage repairs, while utilizing existing county drainage studies where practical. Members discussed the need to pursue grant funding and other available funding opportunities to support larger drainage improvement projects and acknowledged that long-term planning will be necessary to address aging infrastructure, conditions in the annexed areas, and future growth. Additional discussion focused on the potential need to review development standards and stormwater management requirements to help reduce future drainage impacts. Board members also emphasized the importance of

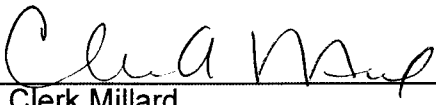
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maintaining communication regarding drainage improvement efforts and expressed support for periodic updates to the Board regarding project priorities, completed work, and future planning initiatives. The Board further discussed evaluating staffing levels within the Public Works Department and including the potential addition of Public Works operators and laborers in upcoming budget discussions to assist with ongoing maintenance and infrastructure needs throughout the City.

No action was taken during the work session.

The work session concluded at 6:29 p.m.

  
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Mayor Cox

  
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City Clerk Millard





**Mayor & Board of Aldermen**  
**SPECIAL CALL WORK SESSION**  
**Monday, June 15, 2026 @ 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. Aldermen Messenger — Flooding Concerns Ward 6

  
Mayor Pro Tempore Hinton

  
City Clerk Millard