

REGULAR MEETING OF JUNE 6, 2023

CALL TO ORDER

Be it remembered that the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the City of Ocean Springs met in a Regular Meeting at City Hall in the City of Ocean Springs at 6:00 p.m. on June 6, 2023. Mayor Holloway presided, and Aldermen Burgess, Authement, Wade, Papania, Blackman, and Impey were present. Alderman Cox joined the meeting at 6:10 p.m. 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, 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

Dr. Mike Barnett from First Baptist Church gave the invocation and Alderman Wade led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

PROCLAMATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

a. Mississippi Community Transportation Awareness Day 2023

The Mayor read the proclamation, but no one was present to accept it.

b. Downtown Business Owners Meeting Report

Dr. Mike Barnett provided a summary of the Downtown Business Owners meeting. He said the recommendations include increasing the Police presence Downtown on foot and in vehicles, better lighting in parking lots, establishing a Groupme app group for better communication between businesses, and for property owners to have more strict leases for enforcement of City Ordinances. He closed by saying the primary goal would be to increase communication between businesses and the Police Department.

c. Introduction of the 2023-2024 Ocean Springs Mayor's Youth Council

The Admin & Community Relations Coordinator introduced the incoming Mayor's Youth Council. They each stood up, and introduced themselves, their upcoming grade, and the Ward they live in if applicable.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

- a. Approve amendment to the Savannah Estates Subdivision Phase I Final Plat; Parcel No.: 60123050.000, southwest corner of Riley Rd. and Old CCC Camp Rd.– Applicant: Elliott Land Developments, LLC - Planning Commission recommends approval

A motion was made by Alderman Cox, seconded by Alderman Wade, and unanimously carried to open the Public Hearing.

The Planning & Grants Administrator explained that a public hearing is required to change the plat. She said the request is a minor change of internal lot lines.

No public input was received.

A motion was made by Alderman Impey, seconded by Alderman Burgess, and unanimously carried to close the Public Hearing.

A motion was made by Alderman Impey, seconded by Alderman Blackman, and unanimously carried to approve the amendment to the Savannah Estates Subdivision Phase 1 final plat.

AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

Jim Boettigheimer, agenda item 8-z, said he is appealing the denial of a tree removal by the Building Official at 3831 Chaumont Circle. Alderman Blackman responded that his appeal was received and it will be pulled from the Consent Agenda.

LouAnn Sekul, agenda item 3-b, requested the noise issue, police presence, and safety of Downtown be addressed by the Board.

Dee Frances Homes Whitman, agenda item 8-d, spoke against spending \$3,500 for a band to play at the Friday at the Fort event. She also spoke about Cash Alley being blocked to vehicle traffic, limiting access to parking.

Ellen Hall said she met with City Departments representing the Concerned Citizens Group regarding the safety issues Downtown. The Mayor asked her to wait until general public comment since there was not an agenda item.

OLD BUSINESS

- a. Weapons Policy discussion - City Attorney
Tabled.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. Appoint the City's Voting Delegate and Alternate Voting Delegate for the 2023 MML 2nd Vice President Election

A motion was made by Alderman Cox, seconded by Impey, and unanimously carried to appoint the Mayor as the City's voting delegate and Alderman Burgess as the City's alternate voting delegate for the 2023 Mississippi Municipal League (MML) Vice President Election.

CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Alderman Impey, seconded by Alderman Wade, and unanimously carried to approve the consent agenda except items 8-u pulled by the Mayor, and 8-z pulled by Alderman Blackman.

Mayor:

- a. Approve special event application for Fun Day in the Park on June 24, 2023, 8:00 am - 5:00 pm, in MLK Park; no costs incurred to the city. Applicant to pay all costs.
- b. Approve Run Permit for the Wesson Memorial 2-mile Run on July 4, 2023, from 8:00-9:30 am, using the YMCA route. Applicant to pay all costs.
- c. Approval to waive the rental fee for use of the Ocean Springs Community Center for the Ocean Springs Library Summer Program.
- d. Authorize the mayor to sign the agreement to contract with Dr. Zarr's Amazing Funk Monster for Friday at the Fort/Fourth of July Kick-Off on June 30, 2023, at Fort Maurepas Park. The band will play from 6:00-9:00 pm. The cost will be \$3,500.
- e. Approve Mayor's Office internship to assist with generating content for the municipal website, project communications, and compiling information on the redevelopment authority for the comprehensive plan.

City Clerk:

- f. Approve Minutes: Special Call Meeting May 9, 2023

- g. Approve Minutes: Recessed Meeting May 16, 2023
- h. Approve Minutes: Special Call Meeting May 30, 2023
- i. Approve the automatic renewal of AGJ's Complete Care Agreement that expires July 7, 2023, for a three-year term (with no pricing change) that will expire July 7, 2026
- j. Authorize the demolition of the damaged building at Alice Street Ballpark, per the recommendation of the Building Official and Fire Department. Authorize the construction of a replacement structure with bathrooms and storage
- k. Accept Aged Receivables Report May 2023

Police Department:

- l. Authorize Participation in U.S. Department of Defense SkillBridge Program
- m. Approve Out-of-State Travel for Employee #2394 on July 24-28, 2023 in Jacksonville, Arkansas for Less-Lethal, FSDD, Chemical Agents Instructor Certification
- n. Authorize Pay Adjustments

Human Resources/Risk Management:

- o. Authorize removal of Patrolman Andrew England from probationary status to full time status effective immediately
- p. Accept resignation of Police Officer Kameryn Walker, effective June 7, 2023; authorize to begin the process of filling the vacant position
- q. Accept resignation of Warrants Officer Kevin Egan, effective June 2, 2023; authorize to begin the process of filling the vacant position
- r. Authorize employment of Collin Jordan, Firefighter, Step 3, \$14.47 hourly rate; effective June 15, 2023; one-year probationary status, pending successful completion of all pre-employment requirements
- s. Authorize employment of Jonathan Pitts, Parks Laborer, Step 1, \$12.36 hourly rate; effective June 7, 2023; one-year probationary status, pending successful completion of all pre-employment requirements
- t. Authorize transfer of Parks Maintenance Laborer A Henry Lamb to Maintenance Foreman, Step 1, \$17.40 hourly rate; effective June 12, 2023; six months probationary status; authorize to begin the process of filling the vacant position

Grants Administration:

- u. Authorize to Execute MOA: FY23 MDAH Certified Local Government (CLG) Grant Program Award – OS Community Center Foundation Repairs

The Mayor pulled item 6-u and requested it be tabled until the next legislative session due to funds being made available that would not require a match.

- v. Authorize to Advertise Construction: MDOT Transportation Improvements Program (TIP) Federal Surface Transportation Program (STP) / STP-9065-00(004)/LPA 108084-701000 - Ocean Springs Road Reconstruction Project
- w. Authorize to Execute New Professional Services Contract with Laird Engineers, Inc. for the Finalization of Design Plans and Specifications to Facilitate Window Repair at the Mary C. O'Keefe Cultural Center – Funding: State Appropriation
- x. Authorize to Execute Subaward Agreement – Modification #1 / American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) / MS Municipality and County Water Infrastructure Grant (MCWI) – MDEQ Agreement # 108-1-CW-5.5 – EAST SIDE SEWER DIVERSION PROJECT

Project Manager:

- y. Authorize to Advertise for Special Project Engineering Consulting Services Pool

Building Department:

- z. Accept Building Official Tree Recommendations - Tree applications through June 1, 2023

Alderman Blackman pulled item 6-z so that 3831 Chaumont Circle could be addressed separately. A motion was made by Alderman Blackman, seconded by Alderman Papania, and unanimously carried to approve the removal of a Live Oak tree at 3831 Chaumont Circle.

A motion was made by Alderman Blackman, seconded by Alderman Burgess, and unanimously carried to approve item 8-z except for 3831 Chaumont Circle.

- aa. Accept Code Enforcement Report through June 2, 2023

Public Works:

- bb. Accept Grease Trap Variances Inspection Report April 2023
- cc. Accept the 2022 Ocean Springs Drinking Water Quality Report - perfect rating of 5.0
- dd. Adopt a Resolution to sell surplus property with a value of less than \$1,000.00

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

- a. Finance: 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 Impey, seconded by Alderman Cox, 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. Finance: Accept Monthly Budget Report

A motion was made by Alderman Cox, seconded by Alderman Authement, and unanimously carried to approve the Monthly Budget Report.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Ellen Hall with the Concerned Citizens Group said that she met with the Mayor and several Department Heads to discuss the noise issue Downtown. She requested consistency in upholding the current noise ordinance. She said inconsistency escalates the issues; citations should be issued to all in violation. She requested a formal agenda item on the next agenda to discuss in more detail.

Debra Parker, who resides in the Fountainbleau area outside of the city limits, began speaking. The City Clerk interjected and said citizens have priority in speaking and asked her to wait to speak if there is time remaining. Alderman Cox requested Ms. Parker be allowed to speak now. She spoke against the annexation of the Fountainbleau area, saying it is fiscally irresponsible to annex it now.

Julia Illane requested the Board start the conversation explaining the plan for Downtown to stop the loud music, drunk people roaming the street, and other issues causing safety problems. She said tax dollars should not have to pay for more police, extra lighting, etc. She said she does not feel safe Downtown. She requested the City review noise ordinances for Bay St. Louis, MS, Fairhope, AL, Mobile, AL, Beaufort, SC, or Savannah, GA.

Dee Frances Homes Whitman spoke about the 1515 Government Street development having the parking garage entrance on Government Street. The Mayor said that was incorrect. The entrance will not be on Government but on a side street.

MAYOR AND ALDERMEN'S FORUM

- a. Reminder: The July Regular Board Meeting will be Wednesday, July 5, 2023 due to holiday

The Mayor said Jackson County will begin paving roads in Ocean Springs in mid-July. He reminded all that the Regular July meeting will be on Wednesday, July 5th.

Alderman Burgess thanked the Public Works Director and the Project Manager for their work with her to get her work order sheet completed.

Alderman Authement discussed a street repair with Ms. Whitman and the Public Works Director.

Alderman Cox said even though he appreciates the City Clerk speaking up, he feels that citizens in the surrounding areas are important to him to hear as well as citizens of the city. The City Clerk said that there is a policy that citizens will be given priority to speak since the time has been limited. He apologized to Ms. Parker.

Alderman Blackman said Jackson County Supervisor Randy Bosarge gave him a check for the donation to the City's firework show.

Alderman Impey recognized Public Works for the accepted Water Quality Report for another year with a perfect 5.0 rating. A motion was made by Alderman Impey, seconded by Alderman Blackman, and unanimously carried to authorize the employment of Starlett Crigler, Admin/Purchasing Agent, Step 5, \$16.11 hourly rate; effective June 26, 2023; one-year probationary status, pending successful completion of all pre-employment requirements.

A motion was made by Alderman Impey, seconded by Alderman Blackman, and unanimously carried to authorize the employment of Ashley Adkins, Camp/After School Coordinator, Step 1, \$17.40 hourly rate; effective June 19, 2023; one-year probationary status, pending successful completion of all pre-employment requirements.

A motion was made by Alderman Impey, seconded by Alderman Blackman, and unanimously carried to authorize the employment of Sara Stevenson, Parks & Recreation Assistant, Step 1, \$14.31 hourly rate; effective June 12, 2023; one-year probationary status, pending successful completion of all pre-employment requirements.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Alderman Impey, seconded by Alderman Cox, 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 Impey, seconded by Alderman Burgess, and unanimously carried to remain in executive session to discuss personnel in the Police Department.

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

A motion was made by Alderman Blackman, seconded by Alderman Cox, and unanimously carried to accept the disciplinary action taken by the Police Chief.

A motion was made by Alderman Impey, seconded by Alderman Blackman, and unanimously carried to recess/adjourn the meeting until 6:00 p.m. on June 20, 2023.

The meeting ended at 6:55 p.m.

RECESS UNTIL 6:00 P.M. on June 20, 2023

Mayor Date

Clerk Date