

REGULAR MEETING OF JULY 5, 2023 MINUTES

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 July 5, 2023. Mayor Holloway presided, and Aldermen Authement, Wade, Cox, Papania, Blackman, and Impey were present. Alderman Burgess was absent. 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

Alderman Papania 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.

CERTIFICATES & PROCLAMATIONS

- a. Recognition of employment years of service: 47 Years - Street Laborer Frank Shockley, 5 Years - Custodian Amy Burney, 5 Years - Fire Captain Caleb Causey, 5 Years - Court Clerk James Martin, 5 Years - Sports Complex Supervisor Demaurio Preyear and 5 Years - Electrician William Ziz

The Mayor presented the employment certificates to Amy Burney, Caleb Causey, and Demaurio Preyear who were present at the meeting. Later in the meeting, Frank Shockley arrived and was presented with his certificate for 47 years of service.

The Mayor presented Alderman Cox and his family a proclamation for his recently deceased father and previous City Alderman Robert Cox Sr. The Mayor declared July 5, 2023, as Robert Cox Sr. Day.

Ernest Bowers with Waldorf University presented the Hero Behind the Hero Scholarship

to Deputy City Clerk Vicky Hupe to pursue her MBA.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

- a. Request approval for Zoning Change from the R-MH (Mobile Home Park) District to the C-H (Regional Commercial) District, 3419 Bienville Blvd. - Parcel No.: 60127491.050 as Recommended by the Planning Commission - Adopt Required Ordinance

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

The Planning & Grants Administrator explained that the property comprised several different parcels of Twin Pines Mobile Home Park and those parcels were combined. She said the zoning change will be more consistent with the southern part of the property. She said the Planning Commission recommended approval.

No public input was received.

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

A motion was made by Alderman Blackman and seconded by Alderman Cox to adopt Ordinance 2023-09 and approve the zoning change from the R-MH (Mobile Home Park) District to the C-H (Regional Commercial) District, 3419 Bienville Blvd. The motion carried with a roll call vote as follows:

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

Nay: None

AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

OLD BUSINESS

- a. Authorize the Planning & Grants Administrator to obtain appraisals and the City Attorney to draft the lease related to the License to Encroach for Kilwin's at 711 Washington

A motion was made by Alderman Authement and seconded by Alderman Cox to authorize the Planning & Grants Administrator to obtain appraisals and the City Attorney to draft the lease related to the License to Encroach at Kilwin's at 711 Washington Avenue. The motion carried with a roll call vote as follows: Aye: Alderman Authement, Alderman Wade, Alderman Blackman, Alderman Cox
Nay: Alderman Papania , Alderman Impey

NEW BUSINESS

- a. Authorize to advertise for Request for Proposal (RFP) for Disaster Debris Removal Services and appoint members to the Evaluation Committee

A motion was made by Alderman Blackman, seconded by Alderman Cox, and unanimously carried to authorize to advertise for a RFP for Disaster Debris Removal Services and appoint Aldermen Cox, Authement, and Blackman to the evaluation committee.

- b. Authorize to advertise for RFP for Disaster Debris Monitoring Services and appoint members to the Evaluation Committee

A motion was made by Alderman Blackman, seconded by Alderman Cox, and unanimously carried to authorize to advertise for a RFP for Disaster Debris Monitoring Services and appoint Aldermen Cox, Authement, and Blackman to the evaluation committee.

- c. Letter of Recommendation and Certified Bid Tab Fort Maurepas Stage Cover Project

A motion was made by Alderman Authement, seconded by Alderman Wade, and unanimously carried to award the Fort Maurepas Stage Cover Project to Hopkins Construction & Maintenance LLC for \$482,420.

- d. Letter of Recommendation and Certified Bid Tab Taconi Roof Project

A motion was made by Alderman Cox, seconded by Alderman Authement, and unanimously carried to award the Taconi Roof Project to Roofing Solutions LLC for \$621,400.

- e. Letter of Recommendation and Certified Bid Tab Term Bid Contract for Water, Sewer, and Drainage Projects 2023

A motion was made by Alderman Blackman, seconded by Alderman Wade, and unanimously carried to award the Term Bid Contract for Water Sewer and Drainage projects 2023 to Graham Construction Co, Inc. and to alternate Bottom 2 Top Construction, LLC.

CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Alderman Impey, seconded by Alderman Blackman, and unanimously carried to approve the consent agenda except items h pulled by Alderman Blackman and o pulled by Alderman Cox.

Mayor:

- a. Authorize to waive the rental fee for use of the Ocean Springs Sports Complex for the Kicking for Christmas kickball tournament on Wednesday, September 9, 2023
- b. Authorize the Mayor to execute the agreement to contract with Sound

Associates for the 2023 Cruisin' the Coast Friday Night Sock Hop on October 6, 2023, at the L&N Depot. Bands will play from 5:00-9:30 pm.

- c. Approve Run Permit for the MSG Sean M. Cooley Memorial Run on November 11, 2023, from 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., using the OS Bridge/Front Beach route. Applicant to pay all costs.

City Clerk:

- d. Approve Minutes: Recess Meeting June 20, 2023
- e. Authorize the Mayor to execute the 2023 - 2024 Head Start Lease of Taconi Building Space Agreement
- f. Ratify the \$353.25 electronic payment to the Mississippi State Department of Health for childcare program fingerprint cards required by state law.

Human Resources/Risk Management:

- g. Authorize to remove the following Dell desktops from inventory as they are no longer functioning correctly and allow AGJ to properly dispose of them: Assets #'s 7270, 7883, 7886, 9076, and 9211
- h. Authorize promotion of Patrolman Cody Gill to Sergeant, Step 1, \$20.00 hourly rate, effective July 8, 2023, six-month probationary status; authorize to begin the process of filling the vacant position

A motion was made by Alderman Blackman, seconded by Alderman Cox, and unanimously carried to authorize the promotion of Patrolman Cody Gill to Interim Sergeant, Step 1, \$20.00 hourly rate, effective July 8, 2023, six-month probationary status; authorize to begin the process of filling the vacant position.

- i. Authorize removal of Firefighters Quinton Clark and Michael Thomas from probationary status to full-time status effective immediately
- j. Authorize employment of David O'Neal, Tractor Operator II, Step 4, \$15.64 hourly rate, effective July 6, 2023; one-year probationary status, pending successful completion of all pre-employment requirements
- k. Authorize employment of Raymond Smith, Truck Driver I, Step 2, \$15.48 hourly rate, effective July 6, 2023; one-year probationary status, pending successful completion of all pre-employment requirements
- l. Authorize employment of Mark Seay, Water Laborer, Step 1, \$13.63 hourly rate, effective July 6, 2023; one-year probationary status, pending successful completion of all pre-employment requirements
- m. Authorize employment of Christopher Williams, Water Laborer, Step 1, \$13.63 hourly rate, effective July 6, 2023; one-year probationary status, pending successful completion of all pre-employment requirements
- n. Authorize employment of Samuel Guagliardo, Parks Maintenance Laborer A, Step 5, \$16.11 hourly rate, effective July 10, 2023; one-year probationary status, pending successful completion of all pre-employment requirements

Grants Administration:

- o. Authorize to Rescind Award – MDOT Transportation Improvements Program (TIP) Federal Surface Transportation Program (STP) – STP-9061-00(003) LPA 108085-701000 - East Beach Sidewalk

Alderman Cox asked the Planning & Grants Administrator for an explanation. She replied that the scope had changed to a wider pathway and that an alternate funding source was obtained that would be less time-consuming and more cost-effective than going back through MDOT. A motion was made by Alderman Cox, seconded by Alderman Papania, and unanimously carried to authorize to rescind the Award – MDOT Transportation Improvements Program (TIP) Federal Surface Transportation Program (STP) – STP-9061-00(003) LPA 108085-701000 - East Beach Sidewalk.

- p. Ratify Submission of Five (5) Funding Applications to MS Department of Marine Resource (MDMR) FY25 Tidelands Program: 1) Front Beach Marina and Event Space Access, 2) Little Children's Park Drainage, 3) Marble Springs Boardwalk, 4) Front Beach Fire Pits Phase II, and 5) McPhearson Pier Rehabilitation

Building Department:

- q. Accept Building Official Recommendations for Tree Applications through June 27, 2023
- r. Accept Code Enforcement report through June 29, 2023

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Alderman Blackman, seconded by Alderman Authement, 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 Papania, and unanimously carried to remain in executive session to receive a litigation update.

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

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 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. City Clerk: Approve Budget Amendments - To be provided to the Board before

the meeting

The City Clerk explained some of the budget amendments. She said the City's rating for Worker's Compensation was down, saving \$53,000 thanks to the employees. She said since there is now a Maintenance Department, the City has done more projects costing more than expected, causing more budget amendments. She said both Fire and Police buildings needed unexpected repairs that needed to be added. The Fishing Pier needs new solar lights. Alderman Wade asked about the \$40,000 for an economic feasibility study on the Pine Street property. The Mayor said the Redevelopment Authority would like a feasibility study on the Pine Street property. He said that when the RDA becomes active, they will need to move quickly and know what is needed on the property to request more funds from the legislature this session. The Planning & Grants Administrator said a feasibility study is different than a master plan. Alderman Cox said he would rather wait until it's needed before making the budget amendment and would like a work session to discuss the project. A motion was made by Alderman Impey and seconded by Alderman Blackman to authorize the proposed budget amendments. The motion carried with Aldermen Cox, Papania, Blackman, and Impey voting aye and Aldermen Authement and Wade voting nay.

Alderman Cox requested a work session to discuss the movement of the RDA.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Ellen Hall said she requested the Downtown noise issue be formally addressed at this meeting but it was not. She requested it be formally addressed.

Sylvia Boscoe asked about the City's plans to fix the flooding issue that occurs during heavy rains at Washington Avenue and Front Beach Drive. The Planning & Grants Administrator replied that funding has been secured and that it is in the design phase.

MAYOR AND ALDERMEN'S FORUM

Alderman Authement requested the garbage can at Cash Alley near the ball bollards be changed to a planter.

Alderman Wade informed the Public Works Director that there is a water leak at 204 Biddix Street.

A motion was made by Alderman Blackman, seconded by Alderman Impey, and unanimously carried to authorize the revision of the Police Department salary scale effective July 8, 2023.

A motion was made by Alderman Impey, seconded by Alderman Blackman, and unanimously carried to advertise for two openings on the Planning Commission and one opening on the Historic Preservation Commission.

RECESS UNTIL 6:00 P.M. on July 18, 2023

A motion was made by Alderman Impey, seconded by Alderman Papania, and unanimously carried to recess/adjourn the meeting until 6:00 p.m. on July 18, 2023.

The meeting ended at 7:20 p.m.

 07/18/2023 Bethy Gaston 07/18/2023
Mayor Date Clerk Date

