

**The Minutes of the City of Ocean Springs
Mayor & Board of Aldermen
Wednesday, September 6, 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 6:00 p.m. on September 6, 2023. Mayor Holloway presided, and Aldermen Authement, Wade, Cox, Papania, Blackman, and Impey were present. Alderman Burgess attended the meeting by teleconference pursuant to Section 25-41-5 of the Mississippi Code. Also present were City Attorney Will Norman, City Clerk Patty Gaston, Deputy City Clerk Vicky Hupe, Police Captain Ryan Lemaire, Fire Chief Derek McCoy, 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 Impey and seconded by Alderman Cox to accept the agenda. The motion carried with a roll call vote as follows:

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

Nay: None

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

1. Public Hearing - Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 - 2024 Proposed Budget

A motion was made by Alderman Papania and seconded by Alderman Impey to open the Public Hearing. The motion carried with a roll call vote as follows:

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

Nay: None

The City Clerk gave a summary of the proposed budget for FY 23-24. She said the proposed General Fund Budget is \$17,415,239. She said the City's mill value increased from \$210,000 to \$217,000 which should generate \$282,000 more in general fund. She explained most of the increases in expenses are due to salary increases and new positions. She gave a summary of the 2% Food & Beverage Tax Fund. She explained the fund can only be used for public safety, parks & recreation, and tourism. She said that \$600,000 will offset the cost of two new firetrucks.

There were no opponents against the proposed budget.
There were no proponents for the proposed budget.

Geri Mayfield asked what the \$15,000 for New Year's Eve was for. The City Clerk responded that there would be a new City event downtown for a New Year's Eve Ball

Drop.

A motion was made by Alderman Blackman and seconded by Alderman Wade to close the Public Hearing. The motion carried with a roll call vote as follows:

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

Nay: None

Alderman Cox said he requested the automatic 3% increase for water and sewer charges be suspended this fiscal year. The City Clerk responded that with costs continuing to increase, it was not in the City's best interest to not collect the additional \$200,000 per year. She also reminded all that Ocean Springs's minimum water bill is lower than neighboring cities. The Mayor asked for a consensus of the Board to be given to the Clerk to determine if the automatic increase would be included in this budget.

Alderman Cox said he requested an additional Assistant Director be added to the Public Works budget, but his request went unanswered. The City Clerk responded that the Finance Committee reviewed the request but did not move forward. A motion was made by Alderman Cox and seconded by Alderman Wade to include an additional Assistant Director in the Public Works budget. The motion failed with a roll call vote as follows:

Aye: Alderman Authement, Alderman Wade, and Alderman Cox

Nay: Alderman Burgess, Alderman Papania, Alderman Blackman, and Alderman Impey

2. Adopt Resolution Fixing the Tax Levy for FY 2023 - 2024

A motion was made by Alderman Impey and seconded by Alderman Papania to adopt the Resolution Fixing the Tax Levy for FY 2023-2024 setting the City at 28.92 mills. The motion carried with a roll call vote as follows:

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

Nay: None

A motion was made by Alderman Impey and seconded by Alderman Blackman to adopt the Resolution Fixing the Tax Levy for FY 2023-2024 setting the School District at 66.35 mills. The motion carried with a roll call vote as follows:

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

Nay: None

3. Adopt a Resolution setting the Public Hearing for the Urban Renewal Plan

A motion was made by Alderman Blackman and seconded by Alderman Authement to adopt a Resolution setting the Public Hearing for the Urban Renewal Plan for October 2, 2023, at the Civic Center at 6:00 p.m. The motion carried with a roll call vote as follows:

Aye: Alderman Papania, Alderman Burgess, Alderman Impey, Alderman Blackman,
Alderman Authement, Alderman Cox, Alderman Wade
Nay: None

A motion was made by Alderman Impey and seconded by Alderman Wade to adjourn
the meeting. The motion carried with a roll call vote as follows:
Aye: Alderman Papania, Alderman Burgess, Alderman Impey, Alderman Blackman,
Alderman Authement, Alderman Cox, Alderman Wade
Nay: None


Mayor

 9/20/2023
City Clerk Deputy

