

REGULAR MEETING OF JANUARY 2, 2024 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 at 6:00 p.m. on January 2, 2024. Mayor Holloway presided, and Aldermen Burgess, Authement, Wade, Cox, Papania, Blackman, and Impey were present. Also present were City Attorney Will Norman, City Clerk Patty Gaston, Deputy City Clerk Vicky Hupe, Police Chief Ryan Lemaire, Fire Chief Derek McCoy, Building Official Darrell Stringfellow, Public Works Director Allan Ladhier, 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

The Special Events Coordinator gave the invocation and Alderman Blackman led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

PROCLAMATIONS

- a. Recognition of employment years of service: 15 Years ~ Executive Assistant to the Police Chief Charlene Anderson, Sewer Assistant Supervisor Michael Creel; 10 Years ~ Parks Maintenance Technician Edward Ward, Firefighter Randall Cuevas; 5 Years ~ Fire Captain Connor Pickich, Deputy City Clerk Vicky Hupe and Patrolman Charles Rhodes.

The Deputy City Clerk was in attendance and accepted the Certificate of Recognition from the Mayor.

- b. Commending Michael Smith for his 31 years of service to the City of Ocean Springs Public Works Department upon his retirement

Michael Smith accepted the proclamation upon his retirement from the Mayor.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

a. Board update regarding Annexation Litigation

A motion was made by Alderman Papania, seconded by Alderman Impey, 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 Blackman, seconded by Alderman Burgess, and unanimously carried to remain in executive session to discuss pending annexation litigation.

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

AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

OLD BUSINESS

a. Adopt Resolution Adopting the Services & Facilities Plan

A motion was made by Alderman Impey and seconded by Alderman Papania to adopt the Resolution Adopting the Services & Facilities Plan. The motion carried with a roll call vote as follows:

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

Nay: None

b. Discuss Urban Renewal Plan

A motion was made by Alderman Papania and seconded by Alderman Burgess to adopt a Resolution Designating the Urban Renewal Area. The motion carried with a roll call vote as follows:

Aye: Alderman Burgess, Alderman Papania, Alderman Blackman, Alderman Impey

Nay: Alderman Authement, Alderman Wade, Alderman Cox

NEW BUSINESS

a. Discuss Golf Cart procedures and fees

The City Clerk recommended that the Golf Cart Registration fee be increased to \$75 per year to be in sync with the other coastal communities and said that an in-person inspection is needed. A motion was made by Alderman Papania and seconded by Alderman Burgess to increase the Golf Cart Registration and Inspection fee to \$75.00

on the fee schedule.

The motion failed with a vote as follows:

Aye: Alderman Burgess, Alderman Papania, Alderman Blackman

Nay: Alderman Authement, Alderman Wade, Alderman Impey, Alderman Cox

A motion was made by Alderman Authement and seconded by Alderman Impey to increase the Golf Cart Registration and Inspection fee to \$50.00 on the City's Fee Schedule. The motion carried with a roll call vote as follows:

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

Nay: Alderman Wade, Alderman Cox

CONSENT AGENDA

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

Mayor:

- a. Approve the Special Event Permit Application (contingent on approval from the special event committee) for Mardi Hop on January 13, 2024, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., Beginning on Bowen Avenue, to Bellande Avenue to City Hall; the applicant to pay all associated costs.

City Clerk:

- b. Accept December 2023 Aged Receivables Report

Police Department:

- c. Authorize Out-of-State Travel for Employee #2697 to Attend 3-Day Hands-On Criminal Interdiction Workshop in Crestview, Florida, on January 30-February 1, 2024

Planning Commission:

- d. Approve a Residential Short-Term Rental Permit – 131 Lafayette Circle – Randall R. Godwin – Planning Commission Recommends Approval
- e. Approve a Residential Short-Term Rental Permit – 294 Holcomb – Jacob Jones – Planning Commission Recommends Approval
- f. Approve a Residential Short-Term Rental Permit – 610 General Pershing – Julie Thai – Planning Commission Recommends Approval
- g. Approve a Residential Short-Term Rental Permit – 150 Booth Circle – Francisco Ferreiro-Sarduy – Planning Commission Recommends Approval
- h. Approve a Residential Short-Term Rental Permit – 126 Booth Circle – Francisco Ferreiro-Sarduy – Planning Commission Recommends Approval

Grants Administration:

- i. Authorize Award for the Public Access Portion of the Front Beach Public Event Center & Marina – GOMESA – MSDMR – Water & Woods, LLC – \$608,805.00

Building Department:

- j. Accept Code Report through December 27, 2023
- k. Approve the Building Official's recommendations for the tree applications received through December 27, 2023

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 Cox, seconded by Alderman Blackman, 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: Accept the Monthly Budget Report

A motion was made by Alderman Authement, seconded by Alderman Burgess, and unanimously carried to accept the monthly budget report.

- c. Building: Review tabled tree appeal for 2824 Lawnwood with new letter from insurance company

Rober Aucoin, the property owner, requested the removal of the entire tree rather than the recommendation of the Building Official to remove any overhanging limbs above the structures and trim of the tree up to 20%. A motion was made by Alderman Papania, seconded by Alderman Authement, and unanimously carried to deny the appeal and uphold the Building Official's recommendation of up to 20% trim and six to eight feet from the roof of the structures.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Liz Elmore said she has environmental concerns about the Urban Renewal Area.

Scott Elmore spoke against raising taxes and fees.

Bryan Whitmer spoke against the golf cart registration and inspection fee increase.

Noel Nolan Rider requested the Board review the MDEQ Environmental Covenant for the Pine Drive property and requested a plan of remediation for the property.

James Lewis asked about the current Short-Term Rental limit and complained about skateboards and scooters on Government Street.

Alderman Burgess said the Lighthouse Academy sent a request to obtain the Fort Maurepas playground equipment that they will remove before the installation of new playground equipment. A motion was made by Alderman Burgess, seconded by Alderman Authement, and unanimously carried to declare the playground equipment at Fort Maurepas surplus and no use to the City. A motion was made by Alderman Burgess, seconded by Alderman Authement, and unanimously carried to donate the playground equipment removed from Fort Maurepas to Lighthouse Academy.

Alderman Cox said he has been approached about dedicating a tree at Freedom Field and requested to check if all trees are dedicated already.

RECESS UNTIL 6:00 P.M. on January 16, 2024

The meeting ended at 7:22 p.m.

Mayor [Signature] Date 1/17/24 Clerk Gather Maston Date 1-17-24

