

REGULAR MEETING OF MARCH 7, 2023

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 March 7, 2023. Mayor Holloway presided, and Aldermen Burgess, Authement, Wade, Cox, Papania, Blackman, and Impey were present. 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.

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

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

PROCLAMATION

The Mayor read a Proclamation declaring Ray Bellande the Official Historian of Ocean Springs on March 7, 2023.

AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

OLD BUSINESS

A motion was made by Alderman Impey, seconded by Alderman Authement, and unanimously carried to appoint Nicole Sullivan to the Civil Service Commission.

NEW BUSINESS

The Mayor said that the Fourth of July will be on Tuesday this year. He said he had looked into coordinating with Biloxi's fireworks but the location needed for their

fireworks will not work for Ocean Springs. He suggested having the City's fireworks during the Final Friday at the Fort event before July 4th. Aldermen Impey asked if Fire and Police agree with the date change, and both Chiefs responded they were good with the change. A motion was made by Alderman Authement, seconded by Alderman Burgess, and unanimously carried to schedule the City's Fireworks for June 30, 2023, in coordination with the Final Friday at the Fort event.

The Planning & Grants Administrator explained the request is to extend a deck into the right of way to create seating space around a tree which would not block the sidewalk at 711 Washington Avenue (Exhibit 6-b). Henry Furr spoke about the plan and the objective of adding the decking for additional seating for the planned ice cream parlor. He said it has taken months to get the different utilities to sign off that the encroachment is agreeable to each of them. Alderman Authement asked about a lease and said if the lease was going to be in place it would be acceptable to him. Mr. Furr said they would be agreeable to a lease but would rather it not delay the building of the deck since the planned opening is April 18th. Alderman Authement requested they use 4 x 4 mount blocks for the deck around the roots of the tree and consult with an arborist and Mr. Furr agreed. Alderman Papania said he is not inclined to support building structures next to the street and is concerned about damage to the tree and encumbering pedestrian traffic. Mr. Furr responded the sidewalk would not be blocked and the tree would not be damaged. The City Attorney said a lease agreement without an amount is not a valid contract and two appraisals would be required to determine an amount. A motion was made by Alderman Authement and seconded by Alderman Cox to approve a license to encroach into the public right of way for the construction of a deck at 711 Washington Avenue PID #60137022.000 subject to a valid lease agreement. The motion carries with Aldermen Authement, Burgess, Wade, Cox, and Impey voting aye and Aldermen Papania and Blackman voting nay.

CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Alderman Impey, seconded by Alderman Cox, and unanimously carried to approve the consent agenda except for item 7-h pulled by Alderman Impey.

- a) Approve the Special Event Permit Application for the 9th Annual Feed the Need on Sunday, April 16, 2023, from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Government Street Grocery, the applicant will pay all costs for the event (Exhibit 7-a)
- b) Authorize to waive the \$600.00 daily fee for use of the Ocean Springs Community Center for the Library Summer Program for June 6, 13, 20, and 27, 2023 from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.; security deposit will still be collected (Exhibit 7-b)
- c) Authorize a \$500.00 payment to Canebrake HOA for subdivision entrances improvements from Ward 5 funds (Exhibit 7-c)
- d) Ratify a \$600.00 check to Khristin Hollimon and a \$370.00 check to Jessie Galloway Jr. for security services (Exhibit 7-d)

- e) Authorize the Mayor to execute the Grounds Maintenance Services Contract for 2023 with Premier Landscaping for all four options – Hwy 90 Safety Complex \$670.00/mowing, Hwy 90 Median \$1,400.00/mowing, Hwy 90 North & South \$2,200.00/mowing, and Zones 1-3 \$1,320.00/ mowing (Exhibit 7-e)
- f) Accept the February 2023 Aged Receivable Report for utility billing (Exhibit 7-f)
- g) Approve Minutes: Recess Meeting of February 22, 2023 (Exhibit 7-g)
- h) Authorize to declare the list of items included in the exhibit as surplus property, no value to the City, remove from City inventory and send to AGJ to be destroyed (Exhibit 7-h)
- i) Human Resources action items (Exhibit 7-i):
 - a) Authorize promotion of Equipment Operator Jon Lizana to Street Supervisor, Step 1, \$21.14 hourly rate, effective March 18, 2023, six-month probationary status; authorize to begin the process of filling the vacant position
 - b) Authorize promotion of Street Laborer Daniel Cockerham to Street Assistant Supervisor, Step 1, \$18.26 hourly rate, effective March 18, 2023, six-month probationary status; authorize to begin the process of filling the vacant position
 - c) Authorize employment of Monica Dickinson, Public Works Administrator, Step 3, \$19.37 hourly rate, effective March 8, 2023; one-year probationary status, pending successful completion of all pre-employment requirements
 - d) Authorize employment of Bryan Gardner, Street Laborer, Step 1, \$12.36 hourly rate, effective March 8, 2023; one-year probationary status, pending successful completion of all pre-employment requirements
 - e) Authorize the transfer of Mechanic Jordan Craig to Street Department Laborer, Step 4, \$13.50 hourly rate effective March 18, 2023, six-month probationary status; authorize to begin the process of filling the vacant position
 - f) Accept termination of Probationary Beautification Laborer employee #2620, effective February 23, 2023; authorize to begin the process of filling the vacant position
 - g) Accept the resignation of Parks Maintenance Laborer Austin Trahan, effective March 10, 2023; authorize to begin the process of filling the vacant position
 - h) Authorize employment of Andrew Szumigala, Parks Maintenance Laborer, Step 1, \$12.36 hourly rate, effective March 8, 2023; one-year probationary status, pending successful completion of all pre-employment requirements
- j) Authorize to award the Front Beach Sidewalk Improvements Phase 2 Project to Jay Bearden Construction in the amount of \$894,958.50 (Exhibit 7-j)
- k) Authorize to award the annual contract for Video Water, Sewer, & Drainage Infrastructure – Utility Video & Cleaning Services to Smith Industrial Services (Exhibit 7-k)
- l) Approve the 2023 Water System Emergency Response Plan (Exhibit 7-l)
- m) Approve Residential Short Term Rental Permit for WAMA 505 Washington Avenue PID #60137230.000; the Planning Commission recommends approval (Exhibit 7-m)

- n) Accept Code Enforcement Report through March 2, 2023 (Exhibit 7-n)
- o) Accept Tree Department Recommendations – Tree Applications through March 2, 2023 (Exhibit 7-o)

Item 7-h was pulled to remove Asset #7651 Dell desktop from the surplus list. A motion was made by Alderman Impey, seconded by Alderman Cox, and unanimously carried to authorize to declare the list of items included in the exhibit, excluding Asset #7651, as surplus property, no value to the City, remove from City inventory and send to AGJ to be destroyed (Exhibit 7-h).

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Mayor:

A motion was made by Alderman Authement and seconded by Alderman Impey to adopt a Resolution setting the Public Hearing for the Tax Increment Financing Redevelopment Plan on March 21, 2023, along with the Redevelopment Plan and Exhibit 1 (Exhibit 8-a). The motion carries with a roll call vote as follows:

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

Chris Gouras, on behalf of OHOS Development LLC, spoke about the project at 1515 Government Street which will have a boutique hotel, restaurant and retail spaces, condominiums, and a parking garage with a budget of \$33 Million. He said the proposed development is projected to increase city taxes by \$32,000/year, \$94,000 in sales tax activity, \$56,000 in food & beverage tax, and \$49,000 in lodging tax. He requested the approval of the Resolution for the property to participate in the Tourism Tax Rebate Program. A motion was made by Alderman Authement and seconded by Alderman Impey to adopt a Resolution supporting the application of the developer of a downtown hotel under the Tourism Tax Rebate Program and acknowledging the diversion of sales tax in connection therewith (Exhibit 8-b). The motion carries with a roll call vote as follows:

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

City Clerk:

A motion was made by Alderman Authement, 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 (Exhibit 8-c).

A motion was made by Alderman Impey, seconded by Alderman Blackman, and unanimously carried to approve the monthly budget report (Exhibit 8-d).

Project Manager:

The Project Manager presented an update on the current 17 projects city-wide (Exhibit 8-e).

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

MAYOR & ALDERMAN'S FORUM

A motion was made by Alderman Authement, seconded by Alderman Cox, and unanimously carried to approve the City's Vehicle Tracking Policy once approved by the Human Resources & Risk Management Director and the Mayor.

A motion was made by Alderman Wade, seconded by Alderman Cox, and unanimously carried to request the City Attorney draft a Resolution requesting funds from Jackson County for a Ditch sidewalk project on Bechtel Blvd from Teringo Circle to Davison Road.

Alderman Cox informed the Public Works Director that a fence for a lift station on Jackson Avenue was damaged over the weekend and requested the wood fence be replaced and repaired.

Alderman Blackman requested the City Attorney investigate if the Civil Service Administrator will be able to retain that position now that she has been hired by the City to be the Public Works Administrator.

A motion was made by Alderman Impey, seconded by Alderman Cox, and unanimously carried to authorize the employment of John Kirkland, Patrolman, Step 4, \$19.67 hourly rate; effective March 14, 2023; one-year probationary status, pending successful completion of all pre-employment requirements.

The Mayor requested the City Planner review the Urban Renewal Map to determine what areas meet the legal definition of slum and blight as required. He said the area designated for urban renewal must be blighted and/or slum areas, so most of the areas need to be removed from the map. He said there is a beached boat on Front Beach and the owner has been identified and Jackson County is working to have the boat removed. He said Jackson County is requesting a Resolution with the City's paving list sorted by priority. He requested the Aldermen sort their wards by priority and then the Project Manager and Public Works Director will prioritize the city-wide list. He reminded all that the City is collecting canned fruit for the March of the Mayors and it can be dropped off at City Hall, the Chamber, or the Fire Station. He ended by reading a letter received from the Spanish Cove HOA commending Project Manager Sarah Harris for a job well done.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

A motion was made by Alderman Impey, seconded by Alderman Cox, and unanimously carried to recess the meeting until 6:00 p.m. on March 21, 2023.

The meeting ended at 6:58 p.m.

	<u>3/24/23</u>		<u>3/22/2023</u>
Mayor	Date	City Clerk Deputy	Date

