

**CITY OF OCEAN SPRINGS - MAYOR & BOARD OF ALDERMEN
RECESSED MEETING OF JUNE 18, 2024 MINUTES**

CALL TO ORDER

Be it remembered that the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the City of Ocean Springs met in a Recess Meeting at City Hall at 6:00 p.m. on June 18, 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 Ryan Heath, Building Official Darrell Stringfellow, Public Works Director Allan Ladnier, Human Resources & Risk Management Director Mindy McDowell, Parks & Recreation Director Stephen Glorioso, Project Manager Sarah Harris, Community Development Director Carter Thompson, and Admin & Community Relations Coordinator Ravin Nettles.

The Mayor called the meeting to order.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Parks & Recreation Director gave the invocation and Alderman Cox led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

PRESENTATION

- a. South Mississippi Planning and Development District Scholarship
Presentation to graduating senior Meredith LeBatard

The Mayor gave former Mayor's Youth Council member, Meredith LeBatard, a \$1,000 SMPDD Scholarship.

AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

OLD BUSINESS

- a. Adopt Ordinance: Change Hillandale Avenue to a One-Way Street
A motion was made by Alderman Authement and seconded by Alderman

Blackman to adopt Ordinance 2024-03 Changing Hillandale Avenue to a One-Way Street. 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. Appoint two members to the Ocean Springs Redevelopment Authority effective June 19, 2024

A motion was made by Alderman Blackman, seconded by Alderman Impey, and unanimously carried to appoint Doug Roll to the Redevelopment Authority for a term of one year.

A motion was made by Alderman Blackman, seconded by Alderman Impey, and unanimously carried to appoint Jeff Shepard to the Redevelopment Authority for a term of two years.

- c. Approve the GIS Update Proposal from Geographic Computer Technologies, LLC

The Community Development Director noted that the City's online mapping system has not been updated since 2009. The proposal from Geographic Computer Technologies includes updates for the newly annexed areas and the definition of the new ward lines. The City Clerk mentioned that if the proposal is approved, it will be included in the upcoming budget amendments. A motion was made by Alderman Impey, seconded by Alderman Authement, and unanimously carried to approve the GIS Update Proposal from Geographic Computer Technologies, LLC.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. Appeal ZAB denial – 1323 Diller Road /PID 61264006.000 Clint Bodin - Variance of north side yard setback from 5' to 3' 9.5" for an overhang of a boat shed cover

A motion was made by Alderman Burgess, seconded by Alderman Papania, and unanimously carried to grant the appeal and allow the variance of the north side yard setback from 5' to 3' 9.5" for an overhang of a boat shed cover at 1323 Diller Road.

- b. Discuss Mayor Pro-tempore, Finance Committee members, and HR Committee members

A motion was made by Alderman Cox, seconded by Alderman Wade, and unanimously carried for Alderman Cox to remain Mayor Pro-Tempore and for the Finance and HR Committee members to remain the same.

- c. **RETRACTED** - resignation of Kevin Westbrook from the Civil Service Commission - NO ACTION

Retracted resignation, no action.

- d. Authorize to advertise for the upcoming openings on the Planning Commission, Zoning & Adjustment Board, Historic Preservation Commission, Building Board of Adjustments & Appeals, and Cemetery Board

A motion was made by Alderman Blackman, seconded by Alderman Cox, and unanimously carried to advertise for the upcoming openings on the Planning Commission, Zoning & Adjustment Board, Historic Preservation Commission, Building Board of Adjustments & Appeals, and Cemetery Board.

CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Alderman Impey, seconded by Alderman Blackman, and unanimously carried to approve the consent agenda except items 7-a pulled by Alderman Cox, 7-g pulled by Alderman Authement, and 7-bb pulled by Alderman Impey.

Mayor:

- a. Adopt a Resolution to contribute funds to the Ocean Springs Redevelopment Authority

A motion was made by Alderman Cox, seconded by Alderman Blackman, and unanimously carried to adopt a Resolution to contribute funds to the Ocean Springs Redevelopment Authority adding a statement that the funds will be repaid back to the City once the Authority is funded.

- b. Approve Special Event Application for a Wedding Ceremony on June 22, 2024, on Front Beach; applicant to pay any incurred costs
- c. Approve the Run/Walk/Bike Permit Application for the Kroc and Roll Sunset Race on July 6, 2024, beginning at 6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. Biloxi/OS Bridge route, the applicant will pay any cost for the event
- d. Authorize waiving the rental fee of the Ocean Springs Community Center for the Ocean Springs Garden Club's 60th anniversary celebration on Sunday, October 13, 2024; to advertise the resources of the City
- e. Approve the Run/Walk/Bike Permit Application for the 5th annual Harley Half Marathon Run on October 20, 2024, beginning at 7:30 am at the MS Coast Coliseum and over and back on the Biloxi/OS Bridge, the applicant will pay any cost for the event
- f. Approve the Run/Walk/Bike Permit Application for the 2024 Mississippi Gulf Coast Marathon - 5K on December 14, 2024, beginning at 8:00 am at the

Ocean Springs Harbor and over the Biloxi/OS Bridge, the applicant will pay any cost for the event

Mary C:

- g. Authorize the Mayor and the Arts & Culture Coordinator to execute the Instructor MOU and Hold Harmless with Haunted Rooms America - Wesley McDermott, DEN Theatrics - Brennan Prince, Jessie Hawkins, and Trinity by Joshua

A motion was made by Alderman Authement and seconded by Alderman Impey to authorize the Mayor and the Arts & Culture Coordinator to execute the Instructor MOU and Hold Harmless with Haunted Rooms America - Wesley McDermott, DEN Theatrics - Brennan Prince, and Jessie Hawkins. The motion carried with a vote as follows:

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

City Clerk:

- h. Approve Minutes: Recess Meeting May 21, 2024
- i. Approve Minutes: Regular Meeting June 4, 2024

Police Department:

- j. Accept OSPD Monthly Report for May 2024

Fire Department:

- k. Accept OSFD Monthly Report for May 2024

Human Resources/Risk Management:

- l. Authorize the closure of City offices July 5, 2024 in addition to the July 4th holiday, per the proclamation of Governor Tate Reeves
- m. Authorize removing Police Chief Ryan Lemaire from probationary status to full time status, effective immediately
- n. Authorize employment of Charles Hoggard, Patrolman, Step 3, \$22.50 hourly rate; effective June 19, 2024; one-year probationary status, pending successful completion of all pre-employment requirements
- o. Authorize employment of Dylan Davis, Patrolman, Step 1, \$19.50 hourly rate; effective June 19, 2024; one year probationary status, pending successful completion of all pre-employment requirements
- p. Authorize employment of Brandon Bock, Patrolman, Step 1, \$19.50 hourly rate;

effective June 19, 2024; one-year probationary status, pending successful completion of all pre-employment requirements

- q. Authorize employment of Chris Meadows, Part-time Patrolman, \$20.00 hourly rate; effective June 19, 2024; pending successful completion of all pre-employment requirements
- r. Authorize employment of Laura Macey Cochran, Dispatcher, Step 3, \$15.91 hourly rate; effective June 19, 2024; one-year probationary status, pending successful completion of all pre-employment requirements
- s. Accept retirement of Battalion Chief David Fisher, effective June 20, 2024; authorize to begin the process of filling the vacant position
- t. Authorize promotion of Code Enforcement Officer Rick Hutcherson to Building Inspector, Step 1, \$18.76 hourly rate, effective June 24, 2024; six months probationary status; authorize to begin the process of filling the vacant position
- u. Accept the resignation of Custodian Hope Stephens effective June 9, 2024; authorize to begin the process of filling the vacant position
- v. Authorize promotion of Assistant Sewer Supervisor Michael Creel to Sewer Supervisor, Step 4, \$24.92 hourly rate, effective June 22, 2024; six months probationary status; authorize to begin the process of filling the vacant position
- w. Authorize promotion of Sewer Laborer Chester Taylor to Water Supervisor, Step 1, \$22.80 hourly rate, effective June 22, 2024; nine months probationary status; authorize to begin the process of filling the vacant position
- x. Authorize employment of Rickey Cunningham, Water Laborer II, Step 6, \$17.83 hourly rate, effective June 19, 2024; one-year probationary status, pending successful completion of all pre-employment requirements
- y. Authorize employment of Thomas Olier, Water Laborer, Step 1, \$14.35 hourly rate, effective June 19, 2024; one-year probationary status, pending successful completion of all pre-employment requirements
- z. Authorize employment of Reginald Simmons, Sewer Laborer, Step 1, \$14.35 hourly rate, effective June 19, 2024; one-year probationary status, pending successful completion of all pre-employment requirements
- aa. Authorize employment of James Beauchamp, Street Laborer, Step 3, \$13.79 hourly rate, effective June 19, 2024; one-year probationary status, pending successful completion of all pre-employment requirements
- bb. ~~Authorize employment of David Hutchinson, Street Laborer, Step 3, \$13.79 hourly rate, effective June 19, 2024; one-year probationary status, pending successful completion of all pre-employment requirements~~

Item tabled.

- cc. Authorize employment of Wylie Miller, Beautification Laborer, Step 3, \$13.79 hourly rate, effective June 19, 2024; one-year probationary status, pending successful completion of all pre-employment requirements
- dd. Authorize transfer of Beautification Laborer Ruban Price to Street Laborer effective June 22, 2024
- ee. Authorize transfer of Sewer Laborer Kince Saucier to Beautification Laborer effective June 22, 2024
- ff. Authorize employment of Janna Hinton, Utility Billing Supervisor, Step 4, \$19.52 hourly rate, effective June 26, 2024; one-year probationary status, pending successful completion of all pre-employment requirements

Grants Administration:

- gg. Authorize Execution of Contract Amendment #2 for Overstreet & Associates, PLLC – ARPA/MCWI Project 455: Downtown Sewer Improvements to Include Additional Required Sub-Grant Agreement Verbiage
- hh. Authorize the Mayor to Execute Amendment #2 for Brown, Mitchell, & Alexander, Inc. to add construction engineering services related to the Deana Road Improvement Project in the amount of \$151,900.00
- ii. Authorize the Mayor and Mayor Pro-tempore to Execute the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Between the Mayor and the Board of Aldermen for Funding Commitment – American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) / MS Municipality and County Water Infrastructure Grant (MCWI) – MDEQ Agreement # 455-1-
CW-5.5 – DOWNTOWN SEWER REHABILITATION
- jj. Authorize the Mayor and Mayor Pro-tempore to Execute the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Between the Mayor and the Board of Aldermen for Funding Commitment – American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) / MS Municipality and County Water Infrastructure Grant (MCWI) – MDEQ Agreement # 108-1-
CW-5.5 – EAST SIDE SEWER DIVERSION
- kk. Authorize the Mayor and Mayor Pro-tempore to Execute the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Between the Mayor and the Board of Aldermen for Funding Commitment – American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) / MS Municipality and County Water Infrastructure Grant (MCWI) – MDEQ Agreement # 127-2-
CW-5.6 – FORT BAYOU STORM DRAIN IMPROVEMENTS
- ll. Authorize the Mayor and Mayor Pro-tempore to Execute the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Between the Mayor and the Board of Aldermen for Funding Commitment – American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) / MS

Municipality and County Water Infrastructure Grant (MCWI) – MDEQ
Agreement # 482-2-
SW-5.5 – UTILITY EVALUATION – CLEAN & VIDEO LINES

- mm. Authorize the Mayor and Mayor Pro-tempore to Execute the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Between the Mayor and the Board of Aldermen for Funding Commitment – American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) / MS Municipality and County Water Infrastructure Grant (MCWI) – MDEQ Agreement # 470-2- SW-5.6 – STORM DRAIN IMPROVEMENTS: WEEKS BAYOU, HALSTEAD BAYOU, INNER HARBOR
- nn. Authorize the Mayor to Execute the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) and to Authorization to Advertise for Consultant Services for FY24 MDAH Certified Local Government (CLG) Grant Program – Review and Update Historic Guidelines and Districts
- oo. Adopt Resolutions – Gulf Coast Restoration Fund (GCRF) Applications – FY22 and FY23 – MS Development Authority (MDA): 1) RDA - Public Works Relocation, and 2) City of Ocean Springs – Public Works Relocation

Project Manager:

- pp. Authorize the execution of a One-Year Contract Extension Effective June 21, 2024, with Smith Industrial Service for the Video Utility Lines Storm Drain and Sanitary Sewer Lines Contract

Building Department:

- qq. Approve the Building Official's recommendations for the tree applications received through June 12, 2024
- rr. Approve the Building Department Permit Report for May 2024
- ss. Accept Code Report through June 13, 2024

Public Works:

- tt. Adopt a Resolution to sell surplus personal property (scrap metal) with a value of less than one thousand dollars

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

- a. Board of Aldermen: Add lights to Groveland Road
A motion was made by Alderman Blackman, seconded by Alderman Impey, and unanimously carried to authorize Singing River Electric Cooperative to install (20) new 130 LED Cobra Heads and convert (1) existing light to a 130 LED Cobra Heads on Groveland Road for a cost of \$1,470 and a monthly bill increase by an estimated \$285 per month.

- b. 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 Burgess, 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.

- c. City Clerk: Authorize the adjustment of water/sewer accounts due to a finding that the customers did not receive the benefit of the utility and the excess usage was due to unforeseen circumstances

A motion was made by Alderman Authement, seconded by Alderman Papania, and unanimously carried to adjust the water/sewer accounts listed, with the finding that the customers did not receive the benefit of the utility and excess usage was due to unforeseen circumstances except 3602 Fernwood Drive.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Joe Jewell spoke against commercial development on Front Beach.

Jeff Hall spoke against the cap increases of residential short-term rentals.

Ellen Hall, speaking on behalf of herself and SaveOS.org, stated that while they frequently visit downtown bars and restaurants, they are concerned about downtown workers' exposure to harmful noise levels.

Bill Moore thanked the Aldermen for their help at the Red White and Blueberry Festival.

Julia Illane inquired about the variances permitted in a Planned Unit Development (PUD) and expressed her opinion that PUDs should not be allowed in the City's neighborhoods.

MAYOR AND ALDERMEN'S FORUM

Alderman Burgess asked the Public Works Director about street signs for the Culeoka Subdivision. He responded they should be available next week.

A motion was made by Alderman Papania, seconded by Alderman Blackman, and unanimously carried to promote Interim Fire Chief Ryan Heath to Fire Chief, Step 1, \$35.10, effective June 22, 2024.

Alderman Blackman announced Government Street closures have begun for the sidewalk replacement project. He said that the City's softball tournament was a fun successful event and congratulated the Fire Department on their win.

A motion was made by Alderman Impey, seconded by Alderman Cox, and unanimously carried to accept the termination of Probationary Patrolman, employee #2732, effective June 13, 2024.

The Mayor said we are expecting a very active storm season and encouraged all to be prepared. He added that Friday at the Fort on June 28th performers will be Dwayne Dopsie & the Zydeco Hellraisers and the MS Songwriters will have their 100th Song & Stories this Thursday.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

a. Police Department personnel

A motion was made by Alderman Authement, 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 Blackman, seconded by Alderman Burgess, and unanimously carried to remain in executive session to discuss Fisher litigation, Ward Avenue litigation, and potential litigation.

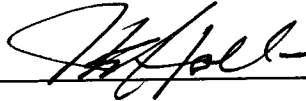
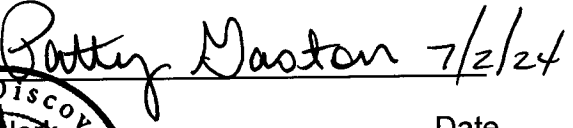
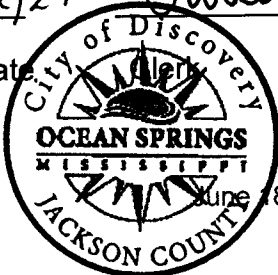
A motion was made by Alderman Wade, seconded by Alderman Cox, and unanimously carried to come out of the executive session where the following action was taken:

A motion was made by Alderman Blackman, seconded by Alderman Impey, and unanimously carried to authorize the City Attorney to file a motion in the Fisher et al. litigation.

A motion was made by Alderman Cox, seconded by Alderman Wade, and unanimously carried to adjourn.

The meeting ended at 7:00 p.m.

ADJOURN UNTIL 6: 00 P.M. on JULY 2, 2024

 7/2/24  7/2/24
Mayor Date City of Discovery Date

June 18, 2024 - Recess Meeting Minutes