

**CITY OF OCEAN SPRINGS - MAYOR & BOARD OF ALDERMEN
REGULAR MEETING OF OCTOBER 1, 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 October 1, 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, Community Development Director Carter Thompson, Parks & Recreation Director Stephen Glorioso, Project Manager Sarah Harris, Mary C. O'Keefe Center Director Sarah Qarqish, and Admin & Community Relations Coordinator Ravin Nettles.

The Mayor called the meeting to order.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Special Event Coordinator Chic Cody gave the invocation and Alderman Cox led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Mayor announced an agenda amendment, moving item 7-v the Resolution regarding the Planning Commission to new business. A motion was made by Alderman Impey, seconded by Alderman Blackman, and unanimously carried to accept the amended agenda.

PRESENTATION/PROCLAMATION

- a. Southern Specters Paranormal Investigations - The Mary C.

Southern-Specters Paranormal Investigation and Research presented to the Board their findings of the last two years at the Mary C. O'Keefe Cultural Center.

- b. Recognition of employment years of service:

- 15 years – Police Captain Matthew Morvant and Battalion Chief Keith Guice
- 5 years – Police Sergeant Parker Bourque, Patrolman Marshall Riff, Fire Captain Adam Johnson, Police Lieutenant Gregory McClellan, Yardman Danny Harris, Mechanic Thomas Lizana, Building Official Darrell Stringfellow and Street Assistant Supervisor Daniel Cockerham

Police Captain Matthew Morvant, Fire Battalion Chief Keith Guice, Police Sergeant Parker Bourque, Patrolman Marshall Riff, Building Official Darrell Stringfellow and Street Assistant Supervisor Daniel Cockerham accepted their certificates from the Mayor for years of service.

AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

Original Item 7-v, changed to 6-b during the agenda amendment – Joe Jewel, E. Brian Rose, Scott Park, and John Hitchcock spoke in opposition to the adoption of the Resolution.

OLD BUSINESS

- a. Ordinance Introduction: Amending Chapter 20 - Regarding Refuse/Garbage (Amended 09.30.2024)

A motion was made by Alderman Cox, seconded by Alderman Authement, and unanimously carried to authorize the ordinance as presented to be adopted at the next meeting.

- b. Adopt Ordinance: Removing Pecan Park Drive and Magnolia Street as One-way Streets

A motion was made by Alderman Cox and seconded by Alderman Papania to adopt Ordinance 2024-12 Removing Pecan Park Drive and Magnolia Street as One-way Streets. 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

NEW BUSINESS

- a. Authorize the Mayor to execute the Alexander, Van Loon, Sloan, Levens, Farve, PLLC (AVL) contract for the year ending September 30, 2024 Audit not to exceed \$58,000

A motion was made by Alderman Papania, seconded by Alderman Blackman, and unanimously carried to authorize the Mayor to execute the Alexander, Van Loon, Sloan, Levens, Farve, PLLC (AVL) contract for the year ending September 30, 2024, Audit not to exceed \$58,000.

- b. Agenda was Amended and the Item was moved to New Business: Adopt Resolution Waiving the Planning Commission Ward Residency Requirement

A motion was made by Alderman Blackman and seconded by Alderman Papania to adopt the Resolution Temporarily Waiving the Planning Commission Ward Residency Requirement, with the addition of the following wording: "This Resolution shall be temporary and valid only until the current terms of the Ward 2 and Ward 5 planning commissioners expire. At that time, the City will advertise for applications to fill commissioner positions for Ward 6 and 'at large,' ensuring that all wards are represented and the ward residency requirement is met."

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 Impey, seconded by Alderman Cox, and unanimously carried to approve the consent agenda except items 7-k pulled by Alderman Impey and 7-y (changed to 7-x when item 7-v was moved to new business) pulled by Alderman Papania.

Mayor:

- a. Approve Run Permit for St. Alphonsus Night of Neon 5K, Fun Run, Tiny Saints Trot on November 9, 2024, from 4:30 p.m.-7:00 p.m., using the Night of Neon route, the applicant to pay all costs
- b. Authorize the 15th annual John R. Blossman Humanitarian Award & Charity Banquet sponsorship of \$1,000 at the Beau Rivage Resort and Casino on Thursday, November 21, 2024
- c. Authorize the installation of a streetlight at 416 Jackson Avenue and approve the corresponding increase in the monthly bill from Mississippi Power

City Clerk:

- d. Authorize the Mayor to execute the Grounds Maintenance Contract Amendment 2 with Premier Landscaping
- e. Accept the September 2024 Aged Receivable Report for utility billing
- f. Approve Minutes: Recess Meeting September 17, 2024
- g. Ratify check 130743 for Counseling Fees for General Obligation Note performed in April - Payment previously approved during note acceptance
- h. Ratify check 130747 to Moran Hauling for Pay App 5 on Fort Bayou Area Wastewater - Closeout documents previously approved on 9/17/24
- i. Ratify electronic payment made to Quadient Finance for postage meter funding
- j. Award Fuel Supply Services Bid to the lowest bidder, Eagle Energy Inc.

Human Resources/Risk Management:

- k. Accept retirement of Building Inspector Terry Franklin, effective October 15, 2024, and authorize to begin the process of filling the vacant position

Alderman Impey verified the title was correct and congratulated Terry on his retirement. A motion was made by Alderman Impey, seconded by Alderman Authement, and unanimously carried to accept the retirement of Building Inspector Terry Franklin, effective October 15, 2024, and authorize to begin the process of filling the vacant position.

- l. Accept the resignation of MCOK Facilities Technician Gary Cooper, effective September 27, 2024
- m. Authorize employment of Adam Carter, Patrolman, Step 3, \$22.50 hourly rate; effective October 7, 2024; one-year probationary status, pending successful completion of all pre-employment requirements
- n. Authorize employment of Saban Rae Trujillo, Patrolman, Step 2, \$21.00 hourly rate; effective October 2, 2024; one-year probationary status, pending successful completion of all pre-employment requirements
- o. Authorize employment of Jonathan Davis, Patrolman, Step 1, \$19.50 hourly rate; effective October 2, 2024; one-year probationary status, pending successful completion of all pre-employment requirements
- p. Accept resignation of Patrolman Kyle Watson, effective September 24, 2024; authorize to begin the process of filling the vacant position
- q. Authorize promotion of Mechanic Bryan Favre to Head Mechanic, Step 4, \$21.53 hourly rate, effective October 12, 2024, six-months probationary status; authorize to begin the process of filling the vacant position
- r. Accept termination of Probationary Street Laborer Employee #2792, effective September 19, 2024; authorize to begin the process of filling the vacant position
- s. Accept termination of Probationary Sewer Laborer Employee #2776, effective September 13, 2024; authorize to begin the process to fill the vacant position

Planning Commission (PC):

- t. Approve a Residential Short-Term Rental at 518 Magnolia Ave /PID# 61095041.000; PC recommends approval
- u. Approve a Residential Short-Term Rental at 108 Sunhaven Dr /PID# 61470016.00; PC recommended approval

Grants Administration:

- v. Authorize Supplementary Agreement #1 – MDOT Transportation Improvements Program (TIP) Federal Surface Transportation Program (STP) – Government Street Improvements Phase 2 – J.E. Borries, Inc. for an additional \$48,520.00
- w. Ratify Rescinding Agreement with Laird Engineering, Inc. per Agreement Provisions – AND – Authorize Professional Services Agreement for Construction Oversight with Dale Partners – Mary C. O’Keefe Cultural Center Window Repair / Replacement Supported By State Bond and GCRF Funding – Amount Not to Exceed \$34,500.00

Building Department:

- x. Approve the Building Official's recommendations for the tree applications received through September 25, 2024

Alderman Papania reported that 323 Sheppard Drive presented new evidence of damage from both trees they requested to have removed, despite the Building Official's original recommendation to remove only one. A motion was made by Alderman Papania, seconded by Alderman Cox, and unanimously carried to approve the removal of two live oak trees at 323 Sheppard Drive. A motion was made by Alderman Impey, seconded by Alderman Cox, and unanimously carried to approve the Building Official's recommendations for the remaining tree applications received through September 25, 2024.

- y. Accept Code Report through September 26, 2024

Public Works:

- z. Authorize Engel Electric to continue serving as Public Works Electrical Service Provider at the hourly rates listed effective through July 31, 2025
- aa. Authorize GT Instruments to continue serving as a Public Works' electrical service provider at the hourly rates listed effective through September 30, 2025

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 Blackman, 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.

- b. City Clerk: Accept the Monthly Budget Report

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

- c. City Clerk: Adopt Municipal Compliance Questionnaire for Fiscal Year 2024 and spread upon the minutes

A motion was made by Alderman Impey, seconded by Alderman Burgess, and unanimously carried to adopt the Municipal Compliance Questionnaire for Fiscal Year 2024 and spread upon the minutes.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Michael Phiffer addressed the Mayor and the Board.

MAYOR AND ALDERMEN'S FORUM

Alderman Burgess thanked the Public Works Director for the new signs in Culeoka Subdivision and said she would get with him later in the week about other work orders.

A motion was made by Alderman Authement, seconded by Alderman Blackman, and unanimously carried to accept the proposal from Butler Snow for environmental attorney services, with a cost not to exceed \$10,000. The expense will be paid from the ending cash balance, as it is not a budgeted item.

Alderman Wade congratulated Magnolia Park Elementary School for being named a Blue Ribbon School.

A motion was made by Alderman Impey, seconded by Alderman Cox, and unanimously carried to authorize the employment of Mercado Rodrigues Herberto, Parks Grounds Maintenance, Step 1, \$14.00 hourly rate; effective October 14, 2024; one-year probationary status, pending successful completion of all pre-employment requirements.

Alderman Impey reminded everyone about National Walk to School Day, taking place tomorrow morning, and the Community Comprehensive Plan Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, October 22nd, at the Civic Center.

Alderman Cox requested that the Mayor contact the MDOT Representative to coordinate road work in order to avoid peak traffic hours.

The Mayor requested the HR Director to obtain a proposal from the Stennis Institute for a city-wide salary and compensation study. He emphasized that the study should compare the salaries of department heads and management staff with those in cities of similar populations, geographic areas, and budgets.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Alderman Burgess, seconded by Alderman Papania, 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 Burgess, seconded by Alderman Authement, and unanimously carried to remain in executive session to discuss personnel in the Public Works Department.

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

A motion was made by Alderman Impey, seconded by Alderman Blackman, and unanimously carried to recess until 6:00 p.m. on October 15, 2024.

The meeting ended at 7:12 p.m.

Mayor

City Clerk



October 1, 2024 - REGULAR MEETING Minutes