

SPECIAL CALL MEETING AUGUST 11, 2022

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 4:30 p.m. on August 11, 2022. Mayor Holloway presiding, Aldermen Burgess, Authement, Wade, Cox, Papania, and Blackman were present. Alderman Impey was absent. Also present were City Attorney Robert Wilkinson, City Clerk Patty Gaston, Deputy City Clerk Vicky Hupe, Police Chief Mark Dunston, Fire Chief Derek McCoy, Human Resource & Risk Management Director Mindy McDowell, Building Official Darrell Stringfellow, Public Works Director Allan Ladnier, Planning & Grants Administrator Carolyn Martin, and Executive Assistant to the Mayor & Board Ravin Nettles.

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

The Special Call Meeting is for all matters pertaining to:

- a. Health Insurance Renewal Update ~ John Lockard
- b. FY 2022 – 2023 Budget

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

John Lockard with Lockard & Williams Insurance Services presented a Health Insurance Renewal review for services that will begin on October 1, 2022 (Exhibit a). He explained the City currently has a 95.4% claims loss ratio which is not favorable for renewal terms. Another negative issue is that the top 10 claimants are 70% of the cost and 8 of those are ongoing issues. He said he was able to shop around and even though Blue Cross Blue Shield was slightly lower, their recommendation is to stay with United Health Care with a 14% rate increase. He also recommended waiting until the Recess Board Meeting until a final decision is made in hopes that Blue Cross Blue Shield comes back with a lower offer. He said open enrollment will be in two weeks. The Human Resource & Risk Management Director said the dental and vision policy will increase 5% but will have a 2-year rate hold.

The City Clerk explained the need for an increase in operating millage by 2 mills. She said even with the increase, the City will still be lower than other cities in Jackson County using last year's numbers. She said the proposed budget was computed with a 10% increase in the cost of commodities and a 5% increase in the cost of utilities, which she is concerned may not be accurate with the current state of inflation. She said the advertisement needs to be sent to the paper Tuesday, if there is consideration of adding 2 mills it must be in the advertisement. She explained the ad would not obligate the Board to add the 2 mills but if it is not in the advertisement, they would not be able to increase the millage. The City Clerk continued to review the payroll budget and said the increase in payroll will be approximately \$97,000. Alderman Cox said he would rather not raise mills at all but could support a 1 mill increase. Aldermen Papania and Authement said to

EXHIBIT #8-m

maintain the City with the increasing cost of equipment and supplies, they support the 2 mills increase. The Mayor said the City is operating at a high level but receiving less than other Jackson County cities in ad valorem taxes. He added there are many unknown variables for the upcoming year, for instance, in the last couple of years there was a lot of stimulus money that may not be available this year. Alderman Burgess stated she supports the 2 mills increase, since it would not be a hardship for residents but would help with the City's employment retention issues which will benefit all citizens. The Deputy City Clerk read a statement received from Alderman Impey stating for the record he does not support a 2 mill increase. A motion was made by Alderman Papania and seconded by Alderman Authement to authorize advertising an increase in operating funds up to 2 mills for the fiscal year 2022-2023. The motion carried with Aldermen Burgess, Authement, Papania, and Blackman voting aye and Aldermen Wade and Cox voting nay.

A motion was made by Alderman Cox, seconded by Alderman Burgess, and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting ended at 5:11 p.m.

 9/6/22
Mayor Date

 9/6/22
City Clerk Date

