

**CITY OF OCEAN SPRINGS - MAYOR & BOARD OF ALDERMEN
REGULAR MEETING OF JANUARY 7, 2025 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 7, 2025. 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 Ladtner, Human Resources & Risk Management Director Mindy McDowell, Grants Administrator Carolyn Martin, Parks & Recreation Director Stephen Glorioso, 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

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

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

CERTIFICATES

- a. Recognition of employment years of service: 15 Years - Police Lieutenant Brian Kestner; 10 Years - Sewer Laborer Stephen Beets, Fire Battalion Chief Kenneth Lee; 5 Years - Firefighter Conner Havard and Parks Grounds Maintenance Quintine Anderson

Police Lieutenant Brian Kestner, Fire Battalion Chief Kenneth Lee, Firefighter Conner Havard and Parks Grounds Maintenance Quintine Anderson accepted their certificates from the Mayor.

AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

Agenda items 6-a and 6-b) William Betterton spoke in favor of allowing golf carts on Ocean Springs Road and against the ordinance amendment.

OLD BUSINESS

- a. Approve the Harper Grove Subdivision Final Plat and Accept the Performance

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Bond and Maintenance Bond

The City Attorney clarified that the Unified Development Code (UDC) requires a three-year maintenance bond; however, the developer only provided a two-year maintenance bond. Freddy Fountain, the project engineer, explained that the UDC includes a provision allowing the three-year bond to be reduced if 85% of the project is completed within two years. He proposed that the two-year bond be accepted and, if the project is not 85% complete at the end of that period, an additional one-year bond would be purchased. A motion was made by Alderman Papania, seconded by Alderman Impey, and unanimously approved to table the final plat approval for Harper Grove Subdivision until a three-year bond is secured.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. Discussion of the recommendation to change the speed limit on Ocean Springs Road from 35 mph to 25 mph from the roundabout to Deana Road

Ben Smith from BMA Engineering provided an overview of the recommendation to reduce the speed limit on Ocean Springs Road from 35 mph to 25 mph, specifically from the roundabout to Deana Road. He explained that a previous traffic study identified speeding as a concern and highlighted the need for pedestrian and bicycle pathways in the area. Now that the pedestrian and bicycle pathway has been completed, Mr. Smith emphasized that lowering the speed limit is necessary to promote safe and increased usage of the pathway by pedestrians and cyclists. A motion was made by Alderman Burgess and seconded by Alderman Papania to draft an ordinance to reduce the speed limit on Ocean Springs Road from 35 mph to 25 mph from the roundabout to Deana Road. The motion carried with a roll call vote as follows:

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

Nay: Alderman Wade

- b. Ordinance Introduction: An Amendment to the Code of Ordinances, Chapter 14, Article V, Section 14-127, to prohibit golf carts and low-speed vehicles from operation on Ocean Spring Road

No action taken.

- c. ITEM REMOVED

CONSENT AGENDA

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

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Mayor:

- a. Authorize the Mayor to sign Singing River Health System's Patient Transportation Program's Section 5310 Operating and Capital Grant through FTA
- b. Approve Special Event Application for Wild Day - MLK Celebration on Monday, January 20, 2025, from 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.; in MLK Park, at no cost to the City, the applicant pays the associated event cost
- c. Approve the Special Event Permit Application for the Krewe Unique Mardi Gras Parade on Saturday, February 15, 2025, from 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Directly following the Elks Parade; Regular Parade Route; there will be overtime costs to the City, and the applicant pays other associated event cost

City Clerk:

- d. Accept donations from the Friends of the Ocean Springs Municipal Library - pergola and framed Chris Stebly art piece
- e. Approve Minutes: Recess Meeting December 17, 2024
- f. Ratify checks 131465 and 131582 for city fuel purchases
- g. Accept the December 2024 Aged Receivables Report for Utility Billing
- h. **ADDED:** Authorize the proposal received from MS Power to install new LED fixtures at Porter Avenue and Minor Lane, and approve the increase in monthly cost of \$11.29

Human Resources/Risk Management:

- i. Authorize removal of Building Inspector Rick Hutcherson from probationary status to full-time status effective immediately
- j. Accept the resignation of Patrolman Kristopher Saccurato, effective January 2, 2025; authorize to begin the process of filling the vacant position
- k. Authorize removal of Police Operations Administrator Leah Phillips from probationary status to full-time status effective immediately
- l. Authorize removal of Fire Chief Ryan Heath from probationary status to full-time status effective immediately
- m. Authorize removal of Deputy Fire Chief Chris Hupe from probationary status to full-time status effective January 8, 2025
- n. Authorize removal of Fire Captain Garrett Beasley from probationary status to full-time status effective January 8, 2025
- o. Authorize to extend the probationary period for employee #1780 by six months, to July 8, 2025

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- p. **ADDED:** Accept the resignation of Parks Maintenance Assistant Supervisor Steven Trebotich, effective January 17, 2025, and authorize to begin the process of filling the vacant position

Planning Department:

- q. Authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to sign the plat for The Paddock, 2215 Government Street - the development was previously approved by the Board on January 16, 2024

Planning Commission (PC):

- r. Approve a Residential Short-Term Rental Permit for 805 Cleveland Ave/ PID #60137120.000; PC recommends approval
- s. Approve a Residential Short-Term Rental Permit for 300 McCool St./PID#61305181.000; PC recommends approval

Historic Preservation Commission (HPC):

- t. Approve a Certificate of Appropriateness for adding bathrooms and extension of the back porch at 605 Porter Avenue/PID#60137628.000; HPC recommends approval
- u. Approve a Certificate of Appropriateness to construct an accessory dwelling unit at 515 Rayburn/PID#60137596.000; HPC recommends approval

Grants Administration:

- v. Authorize Execution of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the MS Office of Homeland Security State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program for City Hall, Police Department, and Other City Offices
- w. Authorize Rejection and Re-advertisement for the EAST SIDE SEWER DIVERSION PROJECT – American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) / MS Municipality and County Water Infrastructure Grant (MCWI) – MDEQ Agreement # 108-1-CW-5.5
- x. Authorization to Re-Advertise Lift Station Improvements Related to the ARPA/MCWI Downtown Sewer Improvement Project – 455-1-CW-5.5
- y. Authorize Re-Advertisement for the STORM DRAIN IMPROVEMENTS: WEEKS BAYOU, HALSTEAD BAYOU – American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) / MS Municipality and County Water Infrastructure Grant (MCWI) – MDEQ Agreement # 470-2-SW-5.6

Building Department:

- z. Accept Code Enforcement Report through December 30, 2024
- aa. Approve the Building Official's recommendations for the tree applications received through December 31, 2024.

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DEPARTMENT REPORTS

- a. City Clerk: Approve payment: Docket of Claims, all expenditures are appropriate and authorized by law, and spread the summary on the Minutes

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

- c. City Clerk: Authorize Budget Amendments/Emergency Purchases from ending cash balance

A motion was made by Alderman Impey, seconded by Alderman Blackman, and unanimously carried to authorize the proposed budget amendments from ending cash balance.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

James Lewis, William Betterton, Richard Daniels, Arron Goetz, Shawn Varnell, Oren Zweig, and Tonya Bond addressed the Mayor and the Board.

MAYOR AND ALDERMEN'S FORUM

Alderman Authement asked the Public Works Director if the spot at Washington Avenue and Iberville Drive had been paved. The Director replied that it had not yet been completed. Alderman Authement then requested additional gravel be added.

The Mayor stated that, in light of the recent act of terrorism in New Orleans on New Year's Day, the Police and Fire Departments will be reviewing festival layouts and emergency plans to ensure the safety and security of upcoming events.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Alderman Papania, seconded by Alderman Wade, and unanimously carried to go into a closed session to determine the necessity of going into an executive session.

A motion was made by Alderman Impey, seconded by Alderman Papania, and unanimously carried to remain in executive session to discuss Ward Avenue litigation, Myrtle Avenue litigation, personnel in the Planning Department, and prospective

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litigation regarding Securix. City Attorney to recuse himself from any discussions regarding Securix.

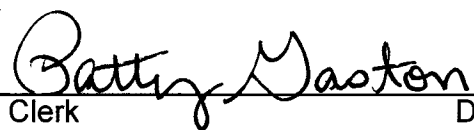
The City Attorney recused from the Executive Session and returned to the boardroom until the Executive Session was finished.

The Mayor and Aldermen returned to the boardroom. A motion was made by Alderman Cox, seconded by Alderman Impey, and unanimously carried to come out of the executive session where no action was taken.

A motion was made by Alderman Blackman, seconded by Alderman Impey, and unanimously carried to recess.

The meeting ended at 8:00 p.m.

RECESS UNTIL 6:00 P.M. on JANUARY 21, 2025

 _____ Mayor	2-6-25 _____ Date	 _____ Clerk	_____ Date
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