

**CITY OF OCEAN SPRINGS - MAYOR & BOARD OF ALDERMEN
RECESS MEETING OF FEBRUARY 18, 2025 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 February 18, 2025. Mayor Holloway presided, and Aldermen Burgess, Wade, Cox, Papania, Blackman, and Impey were present. Alderman Authement was absent. City Attorney Will Norman, City Clerk Patty Gaston, Deputy City Clerk Vicky Hupe, Police Deputy Chief Steven Dye, Interim Fire Chief Chris Hupe, Building Official Darrell Stringfellow, Public Works Director Allan Ladnier, Parks & Recreation Director Stephen Glorioso, Project Manager Sarah Harris, Mary C. O'Keefe Center Director Sarah Qarqish, and Admin & Community Relations Coordinator Ravin Nettles were also present.

The Mayor called the meeting to order.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Alderman Papania gave the invocation and Alderman Blackman led the Pledge of Allegiance.

After the proclamations were read, a motion was made by Alderman Impey, seconded by Alderman Blackman, and unanimously carried to accept the agenda.

PRESENTATIONS/PROCLAMATIONS

- a. PROCLAMATION - Commending Donna Staszko for her 19 years of service to the City of Ocean Springs Police Department upon her retirement

Donna Staszko was present to accept the proclamation and the Mayor declared Tuesday, February 18, 2025, as Donna Staszko Day.

- b. PROCLAMATION - Commending Police Chief Ryan LeMaire for his 22 years of service to the City of Ocean Springs Police Department upon his retirement

Chief Ryan Lemaire was present to accept the proclamation and the Mayor declared Friday, February 28, 2025, as Ryan Lemaire Day.

- c. PRESENTATION - Melanie Allen and Julia Weaver - 200 Trees Project Update
Julia Weaver and Melanie Allen provided the Board with an update on the 200 Trees Project, discussing its progress and seeking input on the next steps.

d. **PRESENTATION - OSSD Superintendent Michael Lindsey - Bond Referendum**
Superintendent Michael Lindsey provided an overview of the upcoming Bond Election and the school district's plans for the use of the funds. He explained that Oak Park and Pecan Park elementary schools will receive additional classrooms to accommodate 4th-grade students, allowing all lower elementary schools to serve grades K-4. The Upper Elementary will relocate to the current Middle School campus and serve 5th and 6th graders. The Middle School will then move to the Upper Elementary campus and serve 7th and 8th graders, with new facilities to be constructed for the transition. Superintendent Lindsey also noted that the district will host open houses at the central office on February 27th and March 3rd to answer any public questions regarding the bond and proposed changes.

AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

Eric Brian Rosenberg, agenda item 5-m, spoke against the approval of the minutes as written.

Ellen Hall, agenda item 6-a, questioned the \$12,000 payment to Cypress Environmental.

Joe Jewell, agenda item 6-a, spoke against open-ended contracts like Cypress Environmental and Slaughter & Associates.

Mike Davis, agenda item 5-q, thanked Ravin Nettles for her years of work with the city.

Alderman Blackman stepped out of the meeting at 6:55 p.m.

CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Alderman Cox, seconded by Alderman Wade, and unanimously carried to approve the consent agenda, except items m pulled by Alderman Cox and jj pulled by Alderman Wade.

Mayor/BOA:

- a. Authorize the installation of a streetlight to MS Power Pole #1205 on Iola Road and approve the corresponding increase of the monthly bill from Mississippi Power
- b. Authorize the addition of two lights at the Cason Cove Subdivision entrance and approve the corresponding increase of the monthly bill from Singing River Electric Power Association
- c. Ratify the authorization to waive the rental fee of the Ryan Youth Center for

the Krewe Unique Community Outreach Organization to feed students for the Mardi Gras Parade on February 15, 2025; to advertise the resources of the city

- d. Authorize the Mayor to execute the Right of Use agreement with Hancock Whitney Bank starting at 4:00 p.m. on March 21, 2025, and ending at 7:00 p.m. on March 23, 2025, for the 2025 Spring Arts Festival Event
- e. Approve the Special Event Permit Application for the City of Ocean Springs Easter Egg Hunt Event on April 5, 2025, from 9:00 a.m. until 12:30 p.m., Fort Maurepas Park
- f. Approve Run Permit Application for a fun run on Saturday, April 5, 2025, from 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m., Front Beach/Bridge Run; there will be no overtime cost incurred by the City
- g. Approve the Special Event Permit Application for the Walter Anderson Museum of Art (WAMA) Flower Fest 2025 on April 12, 2025, from 11:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m., Washington Avenue street closure from WAMA to Joseph Street, city sponsorship, at no cost to the City, the applicant pays other associated event cost
- h. Approve the Special Event Permit Application for the 11th annual Feed the Need on Sunday, April 27, 2025, from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.; inside and outside of The Government Street Grocery; waive fees for trashcans and barricades; city sponsorship to advertise resources of the city
- i. Approve the Run/Walk/Bike Permit Application for the annual Gray Over the Bay 5K on May 10, 2025, beginning at 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.; Front Beach/OS Bridge; the applicant will pay any cost for the event
- j. Approve Special Event Permit for the JGRLS Regional Summer Library Program Kick-Off on May 31, 2025, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.; Authorize to waive rental fees of the Civic Center
- k. Approve the Special Event Permit Application for a family reunion on June 7, 2025, from 2:00 - 8:00 p.m. on Front Beach; applicant to pay any associated costs.

Mary C. O'Keefe Cultural Center:

- l. Accept the 2024 Year-End Report for the Mary C

City Clerk:

- m. **TABLED:** Approve Minutes: Regular Meeting February 4, 2025

A motion was made by Alderman Cox, seconded by Alderman Wade, and unanimously carried to table item 5-m for the City Attorney to review the items addressed by Eric Brian Rosenberg.

Alderman Blackman returned to the meeting at 7:01 p.m.

- n. Ratify electronic payment of \$287.28 to Amazon Capital for 3 invoices to avoid late payment

Police Department:

- o. Accept OSPD monthly report for January 2025

Fire Department:

- p. Accept OSFD Monthly Fire Report for January 2025

Human Resources/Risk Management:

- q. Accept the resignation of Administration & Community Relations Coordinator Ravin Nettles, effective February 28, 2025; authorize to begin the process of filling the vacant position
- r. Accept the retirement of Police Chief Ryan Lemaire, effective February 28, 2025; authorize to begin the process of filling the vacant position and the purchase of his duty weapon for \$1.00 as authorized by Mississippi State Statute 45-9-131
- s. Accept the retirement of Police Lead Dispatcher Donna Staszko, effective February 28, 2025; authorize to begin the process of filling the vacant position
- t. Authorize the removal of Police Research Analyst Jesse Breland from probationary status to full-time status effective immediately
- u. Authorize the employment of James King III, Firefighter, Step 1, \$13.64 hourly rate; effective February 20, 2025; one-year probationary status, pending successful completion of all pre-employment requirements
- v. Authorize the removal of Firefighter Eugene Gildea from probationary status to full-time status effective immediately
- w. Authorize removal of Building Permit Clerk Karen Savoie from probationary status to full-time status effective immediately
- x. Authorize the transfer of Beautification Laborer Vickey Dailey from the Beautification Department to the Street Department effective March 1, 2025
- y. Accept the resignation of Water Laborer/Truck Driver Conner Jarrett, effective February 7, 2025; authorize to begin the process of filling the vacant position
- z. Authorize the removal of Parks Maintenance Custodian Paige Sanders from probationary status to full-time status effective February 19, 2025
- aa. Authorize the employment of Hunter Bryant, Parks Maintenance Technician, Step 1, \$16.00 hourly rate; effective February 19, 2025; one-year

probationary status, pending successful completion of all pre-employment requirements

Planning Commission (PC):

- bb. Approve a request for a lot split at 5717 Peacock Street/PIDN: 61057134.940 - The property is zoned R-4; PC recommends approval

Historic Preservation Commission (HPC):

- cc. Approve a request for a Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) at 525 Porter Ave./PIDN:60225030.100 – requesting approval to add a 4 ft. black metal fence in the front yard and add skirting around the house; HPC recommends approval
- dd. Approve a request for a COA for 1406 Bowen Ave/PIDN: 60137132.000 – Approval for a 14 x 14 ft shed with awning, painted to match the exterior of the home and trim; HPC recommends approval
- ee. Approve a request for a COA at 314 Jackson Ave./PIDN: 60137420.000 – Approval for an addition to his storage shed, Expanding the south side of the shed by 8 ft.; HPC recommends approval
- ff. Approve a request for a COA at 921 Ocean Ave. First Presbyterian Church of Ocean Springs/PIDN:60137394.000 to replace 3 wooden windows; HPC recommends approval

Grants Administration:

- gg. Authorize Amendment #1 for Construction Oversight with Dale Partners – Mary C. O’Keefe Cultural Center Window Repair / Replacement Supported By State Bond and GCRF Funding – Structural Engineering Support – \$17,250.00
- hh. Authorization to Execute Change Order #1 – Taconi Window Replacement Project – Capital Expense Funding –Steadfast Construction, LLC to Reduce by \$28,434.50
- ii. Authorize Contract Amendment with Overstreet & Associates, PLLC for Front Beach Pathway Improvements: Phase III – Construction Funded through Jackson County GOMESA Award
- jj. Authorize Advertisement for Term Bid Contracts for Milling / Paving Services and for Striping Services

Alderman Wade asked for clarification on the milling and paving term bid locations. The Project Manager explained the bid is necessary because the county’s paving company does not service the east side of Ocean Springs, and that state contract pricing will be used. Alderman Wade requested that Ward 3 streets be prioritized before starting new projects. The Mayor stated the main focus is Government Street from MLK Street to Washington Street, following a 2021 traffic and parking study.

While the original plan was to seal and stripe, it was determined that milling and paving are needed for proper repairs. A motion was made by Alderman Impey, seconded by Alderman Blackman, and unanimously carried to authorize the advertisement for Term Bid Contracts for Milling/Paving Services and for Striping Services.

Building Department:

- kk. Approve the Building Official's recommendations for the tree applications received through February 12, 2025
- ll. Accept the Building Department Permit Report for January 2025
- mm. Accept Code Enforcement Report through February 13, 2025

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 Impey, 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.

- b. 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 Blackman, seconded by Alderman Burgess, 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.

- c. Parks & Recreation: Sports Complex - Concession and Vending Contract

The Parks and Recreation Director explained that the minutes should reflect that although P&H Concessions was the lowest bidder, the award is made to Nutty B. Concessions based on past performance and vendor reliability as key factors in determining the lowest and best bid. A motion was made by Alderman Cox, seconded by Alderman Impey, and unanimously carried to award the Concessions and Operations Sales Vendor Contract for the Highway 57 Sports Complex to Nutty B. Concessions, effective February 19, 2025, through January 1, 2027, based on lowest and best bid considerations.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

William Betterton, Ellen Hall, Julia Weaver, and James Lewis addressed the Mayor and the Board.

MAYOR AND ALDERMEN'S FORUM

Alderman Burgess addressed Ward 1 issues with the Parks & Recreation Director.

A motion was made by Alderman Wade, seconded by Alderman Cox, and unanimously carried to appoint Police Deputy Chief Steven Dye as the Interim Police Chief effective February 28, 2025.

A motion was made by Alderman Papania, seconded by Alderman Cox, and unanimously carried to authorize the allocation of \$400.00 from Ward 4 funds to the Ashley Place HOA for landscaping replacement at the subdivision entrance.

Alderman Impey wished Ravin Nettles the best in her future endeavors and expressed that she will be missed. He also commended the Public Works Department for their swift cleanup efforts following the Mardi Gras parade.

The Mayor requested that the "No Dumping" sign on Vancleave Road be replaced. He echoed sentiments of gratitude and sadness regarding Ravin Nettles' departure as she pursues better career opportunities and further praised Public Works for their excellent work in cleaning up after the parade.

The City Clerk reminded residents that golf cart permits are due annually. She noted that City Hall will be open on select upcoming Saturdays for the elections and will have staff available to conduct golf cart inspections for those unable to attend during regular weekday hours.

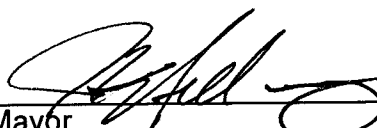
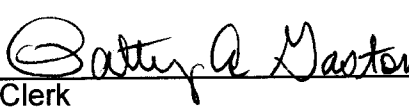
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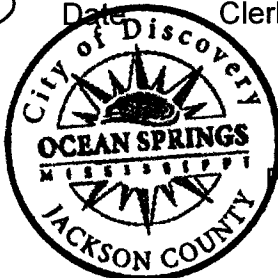
None.

ADJOURN UNTIL 6: 00 P.M. on MARCH 4, 2025

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

The meeting ended at 7:29 p.m.

 3/4/25
Mayor Date
 3/4/25
Clerk Date



February 18, 2025 - Recess Meeting Minutes