

**CITY OF OCEAN SPRINGS - MAYOR & BOARD OF ALDERMEN
REGULAR MEETING OF MARCH 4, 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 March 4, 2025. Mayor Holloway presided, and Aldermen Burgess, Authement, Wade, Cox, Papania, Blackman, and Impey were present. City Attorney Will Norman, City Clerk Patty Gaston, Deputy City Clerk Vicky Hupe, Interim Police Chief Steven Dye, Interim Fire Chief Chris Hupe, Building Official Darrell Stringfellow, Public Works Assistant Director Gerald Groue, Human Resources & Risk Management Director Mindy McDowell, Grants Administrator Carolyn Martin, Interim Community Development & Planning Director Wade Morgan, Parks & Recreation Director Stephen Glorioso, and Project Manager Sarah Harris were also present.

The Mayor called the meeting to order.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

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

PUBLIC HEARING

- a. Madison Place Phase II / PIDN:60124060.000 – Elliott Land Development –
Requesting Preliminary Plat approval of a 51-lot subdivision

A motion was made by Alderman Impey, seconded by Alderman Cox, and unanimously carried to open the Public Hearing.

The Interim Community Development Director explained that Elliott Land Development is requesting preliminary plat approval for Phase II of Madison Place Subdivision. He stated that this stage involves the construction of streets and infrastructure. The Planning Commission recommended approval of the preliminary plan with the removal of the proposed extension connector road between Gibson Road and Pinehaven Drive, noting that this matter could be addressed separately before final plat approval. In response, the developer revised the plans by removing Lot 51 and incorporating a "hammerhead" fire turnaround.

Alderman Authement noted that during previous discussions, it was required that Madison Place Phase II connect with Lakeview Subdivision to provide an additional exit for Lakeview residents. Alderman Impey stated that several Lakeview residents spoke out against it during the Planning Commission meeting.

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Amanda Crose of Elliott Land Development stated that the original plans included the connecting road and confirmed that it could be reinstated before final plat approval if necessary. She also stated that they are open to a gravel road with a gate and Knox Box for the fire department if requested.

Public Comment:

Easy Rider, William Betterton, and Samantha Bignell spoke against the connecting road.

Christopher Johnson submitted written comments in favor of the connecting road.

A motion was made by Alderman Cox, seconded by Alderman Blackman, and unanimously carried to close the Public Hearing.

A motion was made by Alderman Impey, seconded by Alderman Blackman, and unanimously carried to approve the preliminary plat for Madison Place Phase II (PID: 60124060.000), with the final determination regarding the connecting road to be made at the time of final plat approval.

AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

Agenda item 5-k, E. Brian Rose noted a potential error in the packet materials for this agenda item, stating that the letter is missing a signature page and does not include the cost information referenced in the memo.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. Adopt Resolution Requesting Assistance from Jackson County for Dredging of Waterway

A motion was made by Alderman Burgess and seconded by Alderman Authement to adopt a Resolution requesting assistance from Jackson County for the dredging assessment of the waterway abutting Percy Miller Park. The motion carried with a roll call vote as follows:

Aye: Alderman Burgess, Alderman Authement, Alderman Papania,
Alderman Blackman, Alderman Impey, Alderman Cox, Alderman Wade
Nay: None

CONSENT AGENDA

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

Mayor/BOA:

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- a. Authorize the Mayor to execute the CivicPlus renewal Statement of Work (SOW)
- b. Authorize the Jazzy Johnz rental for the Ocean Springs Chamber of Commerce - Main Street's 2025 Spring Arts Festival for a total of \$3,210.60
- c. Authorize \$1,000 payment from Ward 5 funds to support a beautification project in the Spanish Cove Subdivision common area
- d. Approve the Special Event Permit Application for the Junior Auxiliary Biloxi- Ocean Springs Easter Egg Hunt Event on April 12, 2025, from 8:00 a.m. until 12:30 p.m., Little Children's Park.
- e. Authorize the Mayor to sign the agreements to contract with the Friday at the Fort bands on April 25, May 30, June 27, and August 29 from 6:00-9:00 p.m. at Fort Maurepas Park

Mary C. O'Keefe Cultural Center:

- f. Authorize the execution of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and Hold Harmless with William Carey University Theatre Tim Matheny
- g. Authorize the execution of the MOU and Hold Harmless with Taylor Hunter

City Clerk:

- h. Approve Minutes: Special Call Meeting February 3, 2025
- i. Approve Minutes: Regular Meeting February 4, 2025
- j. Approve Minutes: Recess Meeting February 18, 2025
- k. Accept Municipal Growth Report of work performed by Slaughter & Associates from January 2022 through July 2024

Fire Department:

- l. Authorize to declare surplus, no use to the City, remove from inventory and send to auction: Asset #6080 Sharp MX-2610N Color copier

Human Resources/Risk Management:

- m. Accept resignation of Dispatcher William Collins, effective February 28, 2025; authorize to begin the process of filling the vacant position
- n. Authorize employment of Sam Parra, Water Laborer, Step 1, \$15.35 hourly rate; effective March 10, 2025; one-year probationary status, pending successful completion of all pre-employment requirements

Grants Administration:

- o. Ratify Authorization for Application to the FY25 MDAH Certified Local Government (CLG) Grant Program: Review and Update Historic Guidelines, Repairs to the Historic L&N Depot, Foundation and Fractured

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Wall Repairs at the OS Community Center

Building Department:

- p. Authorize Permit Fee Waiver – Jackson County Emergency Operations Center – Sunplex Industrial Park
- q. Approve the Building Official's recommendations for the tree applications received through February 25, 2025
- r. Accept Code Enforcement Report through February 27, 2025

Parks & Recreation Department:

- s. Authorize the Mayor to execute the Concessions Agreement with Nutty B. Concessions for the Hwy 57 Sports Complex awarded at the previous meeting

Public Works:

- t. Authorize the Mayor to execute Amendment #3 with Premier Landscaping, LLC to renew for six months beginning March 7, 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 Authement, 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 Budget Amendments

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

- c. Building: Discuss possible changes to UDC 6.13.5 regarding Temporary Portable Storage Containers usage

The Building Official stated that the current Unified Development Code (UDC) allows for the use of temporary portable storage containers for short-term construction and storage projects. He noted that WAMA and local business owners have expressed interest in making these containers more aesthetically appealing for long-term storage use. The Project Manager added that other cities have successfully repurposed these containers as cost-efficient public restrooms, concession stands, and other functional spaces. He requested that the Board consider revising the current requirements to allow for expanded use.

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GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

James Lewis, E. Brian Rose, David Hayden addressed the Mayor and Board.

The Mayor stated that the city received a letter on March 3rd from the Office of State Aid Road Construction notifying them of the immediate Hanshaw Road Bridge closure. He assured that the city will be working closely with Jackson County and the State to repair or replace the bridge as quickly as possible.

A motion was made by Alderman Cox, seconded by Alderman Blackman, and unanimously carried to formally request assistance from Jackson County for both the temporary and permanent repair or replacement of the Hanshaw Road Bridge.

MAYOR AND ALDERMEN'S FORUM

Alderman Burgess addressed Ward 1 issues with the Public Works Assistant Director, Parks & Recreation Director, and Project Manager.

Alderman Blackman requested increased patrols in the neighborhoods affected by the Hanshaw Road bridge closure.

Alderman Impey requested the installation of bollards at the pedestrian pathway on Ocean Springs Road to prevent golf cart access. He addressed Ward 6 and city-wide issues with Department Heads. A motion was made by Alderman Impey, seconded by Alderman Wade, and unanimously carried to authorize out-of-state travel for Employee #1843 to attend professional training at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland, from April 5-12, 2025.

Alderman Cox requested the installation of flashing speed signs on Ocean Springs Road and asked for an illuminated "No Through Traffic" sign to be added at the intersection of Hanshaw Road and Highway 90.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

a. Personnel in Police and Fire Departments

A motion was made by Alderman Cox, seconded by Alderman Burgess, 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 Impey, seconded by Alderman Papania, and unanimously carried to remain in executive session to discuss personnel in the Police and Fire Departments.

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

A motion was made by Alderman Burgess and seconded by Alderman Papania to advertise outside of the department for the Fire Chief open position. The motion carried with the vote as follows:

Aye: Alderman Burgess, Alderman Authement, Alderman Papania, Alderman Cox, Alderman Wade

Nay: Alderman Blackman, Alderman Impey

A motion was made by Alderman Cox and seconded by Alderman Authement to raise the current interim Fire and Police Chiefs to step one of the chief pay grade. The motion carried with the vote as follows:

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

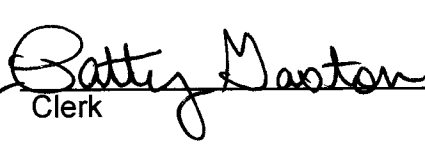
Nay: None

Abstain: Alderman Blackman

RECESS UNTIL 6:00 P.M. on MARCH 18, 2025

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

The meeting ended at 7:26 p.m.

 3/2/25 
Mayor Date Clerk Date

