

RECESS MEETING OF JULY 18, 2013

Be it remembered that the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the City of Ocean Springs met in a Recess Meeting at City Hall in the City of Ocean Springs at 6:00 p.m. on June 18, 2013. Mayor Moran presiding, Aldermen Cox, Gill, McDonnell, Cody, Denyer, Dalgo and Impey were present. Also present was City Clerk Shelly Ferguson and City Attorney John Edwards.

The Mayor called the meeting to order.

Alderman Cody gave the invocation and the Mayor led the Pledge of Allegiance.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Charles Burns stated his concerns about traffic on Robinson Street with the children playing in the area and the 18-wheelers and delivery trucks dropping off supplies to the restaurants. He would like to see the City develop a parking area at the Fallo site similar to Keys Municipal Park and the Chamber parking area. It was suggested to add signage redirecting the delivery trucks to Government Street and ask the vendors to make deliveries to the restaurants in smaller trucks and vans. He also stated he was not in favor of extending Robinson Street to General Pershing Avenue. Mr. Burns also asked if the streets around that area could be cleaned and sidewalks repaired as well as trimming tree limbs on the north side of Robinson Street.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Yaya Mohammad 1704 Davis Street, spoke on behalf of his sister, stating she does not want Robinson Street to become a commercial street with the large trucks that they would like to keep the neighborhood as residential. He would also like to have sidewalks in his neighborhood.

Alderman Impey left the meeting.

Mr. Mike Streif introduced Mr. Sy Easterling from Bancorp South. Mr. Easterling thanked the City for allowing Bancorp South to handle the City's insurance business for employee benefits and hopes to continue serving the City.

Mr. Gerald "Tony" Miller, 1216 Porter Avenue, owner of Cambium Tree Care and certified arborist in the City, state licensed tree surgeon, spoke about the large oak tree at 505 Forrest Hill Drive. He explained a large limb had recently fallen from the tree causing damage to a vehicle and two (2) sheds. He has assessed the remaining tree

and has given it an overall risk rating of high and feels that the tree will go over within one (1) year possibly causing damage and injury. The Tree Committee did assess the tree as well but was under the impression the homeowner was asking to remove the limb that split from the oak tree. Ms. Foreman expressed her heart felt loss of losing the tree that is approximately 500 years old.

Mr. Anthony Brown spoke about concerns with traffic on Robinson Street and felt there would be more traffic on Robinson than on Government Street if Robinson Street was extended. He asked if there were other options. The City will meet with all the neighbors in the area after a traffic count study has been done.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion was made by Alderman Cody, seconded by Alderman Gill and unanimously carried to approve the Consent Agenda with exception of item (k) which was pulled by Alderman Cody; item (l) which was pulled by Alderman McDonnell and item (n) which was pulled by Alderman Dalgo.

Alderman Cody pulled item (k) to voice his opposition of hiring a laborer in the Public Works Department. He stated the Board passed a motion July 17, 2012 to impose a hiring freeze. It was modified on September 4, 2012, to lift the hiring freeze on public safety officers. Alderman Cody asked to delay the hiring of the Public Works laborer until after the Board has seen the proposed budget.

Motion was made by Alderman Cody and seconded by Alderman Cox to postpone hiring Ron Blanton as Laborer in the Street Department until after the FY13-14 budget is adopted. Aldermen Cox, Cody and Dalgo voted aye and Aldermen Gill, McDonnell and Denyer voted nay. Alderman Impey was absent and not voting. The Mayor broke the tie vote by voting nay. Motion fails.

Motion was made by Alderman Cody and seconded by Alderman McDonnell to approve employment of Ron Blanton, Laborer, effective July 22, 2013, \$12.00 hourly, six-month probationary period and pending successful completion of all pre-employment requirements. Motion carried with Aldermen Gill, McDonnell, Cody, Denyer and Dalgo voting aye and Aldermen Cox and Dalgo voting nay. Alderman Impey was absent and not voting (Exhibit 6-k).

Alderman McDonnell pulled item (l) for clarification. Motion was made by Alderman McDonnell, seconded by Alderman Cox and unanimously carried to approve the Tree Committee Report with the exception of the recommendation of 505 Forrest Hill Drive and allow the property owner to have the tree removed based on the findings of the tree arborist, Tony Miller, to be included in a written report and spread a copy of the

letter from Sylvia Foreman expressing her heart felt loss of the tree on the minutes (Exhibit 6-l).

Motion was made by Alderman Dalgo, seconded by Alderman McDonnell and unanimously carried to accept the Planning Commission's recommendation to approve the lot reconfiguration on Pine Drive (Lots 1 and 34) Point O' Pines Subdivision (Exhibit 6-n).

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Mayor:

The Mayor thanked Ms. Anne Pitre for organizing and planning the MML reception held at the Community Center along with the City Clerk and her staff for their hard work.

The Mayor also reported she and the City Clerk have some ideas to present to the finance committee for the upcoming budget concerning the enterprise fund; the collection of old fines and converting the vehicle fleet to natural gas over the next several years.

The Mayor congratulated Alderman Chic Cody and Alderman Matt McDonnell for being inducted into the Hall of Fame during the Mississippi Municipal League Convention for their 20 years of service as Aldermen of the City of Ocean Springs.

Public Works:

The Mayor stated the Public Works Director had placed this item on the agenda for a discussion concerning the new firearms signage. The Mayor asked the City Attorney to draft an ordinance the banning of firearms in municipal facilities and parks. There was also discussion on where the signs would be posted. The City Attorney explained he is working with other municipal attorneys who are researching the legalities of this issue and drafting a model ordinance for all municipalities to use. Alderman Dalgo stated he felt it was too soon to adopt an ordinance banning firearms in municipal facilities and parks.

Motion was made by Alderman Cody, seconded by Alderman Gill and unanimously carried to authorize the City Attorney to review and draft an ordinance based on the recommendation of the MML subcommittee of attorneys to be presented to the Board.

Motion was made by Alderman Gill, seconded by Alderman McDonnell and unanimously carried to authorize the Mayor to apply for Pat Harrison Waterway District funding for the Sussex Drainage Improvements (Fort Bayou Estates) and also to authorize the Mayor to forward a letter to the Jackson County Board of Supervisors requesting their support in this drainage project (Exhibit 7-c).

Motion was made by Alderman Gill, seconded by Alderman McDonnell and unanimously carried to authorize to accept the quote from Gulf Coast Underground, LLC for the Sewer Manhole Lining property in the amount of \$48,000.00 (Exhibit 7-d).

The Mayor announced CSX Railroad will begin repairs at the Thorn Avenue and Betchel Boulevard crossings.

City Attorney:

Motion was made by Alderman Cody and seconded by Alderman McDonnell to adopt **Ordinance No. 2013-05 AND ORDINANCE REGULATING AND RESTRICTING PARKING IN THE CITY OF OCEAN SPRINGS ON PORTIONS OF BELLANDE BETWEEN GOVERNMENT STREET AND BOWEN AVENUE** (Exhibit 7-b). The motion carried with a roll call vote as follows:

Alderman Cox	<u>Voting Aye</u>
Alderman Gill	<u>Voting Aye</u>
Alderman McDonnell	<u>Voting Aye</u>
Alderman Cody	<u>Voting Aye</u>
Alderman Denyer	<u>Voting Aye</u>
Alderman Dalgo	<u>Voting Aye</u>
Alderman Impey	<u>Absent</u>

ALDERMEN'S FORUM

Motion was made by Alderman Denyer, seconded by Alderman Cody and unanimously carried to authorize up to \$100.00 from the Ward 4 Capital Improvement Account for port-o-lets rentals downtown on September 7, 2013.

Alderman Cox asked the Parks Director about the deposit paid for the Lacrosse Tournament. The Parks Director explained the deposit was not refunded due to the damage to the speakers caused during the tournament. They also requested the City to assist with keeping restrooms clean during the tournament. He would like the Lacrosse Tournament to return next year and hopes the City can all work together to continue to have these types of tournaments at the Highway 57 Sports Complex. He would like to attend some of the Parks Advisory Board meetings.

Alderman Cox stated that during a tour of the Mary C. O'Keefe Cultural Center with the Mayor and several Aldermen from Fairhope, AL, he noticed there are leaks throughout the building causing damage to the sheetrock and exhibits.

The Grants Administrator advised they are trying to determine the exact location of the leaks. She explained that because of the historic nature of the building, the

Department of Archives and History would not allow some of the improvements. The two (2) different roof systems may be causing the problem. The Mayor stated they are in the process of determining whether or not the roof damage will be covered under the warranty. If not, there is additional grant funding they will be seeking. The Facilities Director will take pictures of the leaks for documentation.

Alderman McDonnell asked for an alternative solution from the power company on Washington Avenue in front of A Tisket A Tasket. He further stated the tree limbs may just need to be trimmed. If a light needs to be placed there, he stated it should be a decorative light to match the other décor downtown. The Public Works Department will check if their department has some extra lighting supplies and follow up with Alderman McDonnell.

Alderman McDonnell stated there has been discussion among other counties and cities concerning the increases in flood insurance. He said the cities in Harrison County are getting united and they are adopting resolutions to send to the federal legislators showing how serious this issue could be to the residents. He said the City Attorney is reviewing the resolution and is asking the Board to consider adopting it at the next board meeting.

Alderman McDonnell asked the Assistant Public Works Director to contact the authorities at the Jackson County Work Center to allow an inmate work crew work on a couple of Saturdays to clean up the landscaping at specific areas on Front Beach. It has become a nuisance and may be a liability issue to the City. He asked for a plan for these issues.

Alderman McDonnell stated there needs to be more police presence on the weekends on the side streets in the downtown area. He asked the Police Department for a plan to have manpower in those areas on weekend nights and holidays.

Alderman McDonnell stated he would like the Mayor, the Grants Administrator, and Public Works Department to meet with Mr. Brumfield to determine whose responsibility it is to clean the Front Beach property left with construction materials by the sidewalk and lighting contractors. The Mayor asked to allow her some time to contact the contractors and have them remove the construction materials on the Brumfield property. Alderman McDonnell wants to resolve this matter so the City can continue to work with Mr. Brumfield in the future in regards to drainage projects in his area.

Alderman McDonnell stated he met with Ms. Margaret Miller form the Ocean Springs Chamber of Commerce and two (2) representatives from Mississippi Power Company. The discussion was centered around the viability of the proposed hotel on Government Street. It was stated in the meeting, there is a funding shortage of almost 50% of the estimated cost for the project. He wants to see the property used for the initial intent which was a parking lot. There is grant funding available to develop the Fallo site as a

parking lot. He stated the developer has an option on the Fallo site to build a boutique hotel. The opportunity for the grant funding ends in October and the developer's option does not end until December. The Grants Administrator stated if the City is pursuing a parking lot development, she may be able to obtain an extension. The grant funding is approximately \$100,000 that could be used for that project. The residents in the area stated they would not like to see the extension of Robinson to General Pershing.

Motion was made by Alderman McDonnell, seconded by Alderman Gill and unanimously carried to authorize the City Attorney to contact the developer, Thrash Development, to ask if he does not intend to development the Fallo property site due to a lack of funding, then the City is requesting him to give the option back to the Chamber. The City will then ask the Chamber to deed the property back in a timely fashion in order to proceed with a parking lot and utilize the available grant funding.

The Mayor further explained the banks will not finance this hotel or any park on the Macedonia Church property unless there is a rear exit for emergencies.

Motion was made by Alderman Gill, seconded by Alderman McDonnell and unanimously carried to task the Economic Development Commission to explore other sites for hotels in the City and work in conjunction with Singing River Electric Power Association to look for incentives to offer developers to build hotels around Highway 57.

Motion was made by Alderman McDonnell, seconded by Alderman Cody and unanimously carried to appoint Mary Marr Beckman, Dennis Warren and Michael Pleasant to the Planning Commission, term expires June 30, 2017.

Alderman Gill asked for a light study on Bowen at Washington Avenue to Bellande.

Alderman Denyer stated his concerns about the entrance where between the Community Center parking lot and Dewey Avenue substation parking lot. He asked if someone would contact WAMA to remove the storage building and clean up the area to be able to utilize both parking areas.

Motion was made by Alderman McDonnell, seconded by Alderman Cox and unanimously carried to appoint Alderman Cody as the City Liaison for the Cruisin' the Coast event and Peter Anderson Festival.

Alderman Cox asked to have the grass cut front of the Fire Department and Police Department that was left by the bush hog.

Motion was made by Alderman Denyer, seconded by Alderman McDonnell and unanimously carried to adjourn until 6:00 p.m. on August 6, 2013.

The meeting ended at 8:11 p.m.

City Clerk

Mayor

Date

Date

AGENDA
MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN
CITY OF OCEAN SPRINGS
RECESS MEETING
July 18, 2013 - 6:00 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ROLL CALL

3. NEW BUSINESS

- a) Discussion on traffic problems on Robinson Street – Mr. Charles Burns (Exhibit 3-a)

4. OLD BUSINESS

5. PUBLIC COMMENT: The public is invited to address the Board for up to 3 minutes. The Board will take all comments under advisement for potential action at a later date if warranted.

6. CONSENT AGENDA*

** Consent Agenda – All matters listed under Item 6, Consent Agenda, are considered to be routine by the Board of Aldermen and will be enacted by one motion. There will not be separate discussion of these items. If discussion is desired, that item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and will be considered separately.*

Mayor:

- a) Authorize the Mayor to execute the Host Agency Agreement in connection with the Senior Community Service Employment Program (Exhibit 6-a)

City Clerk:

- b) Approve Minutes: Regular Meeting July 2, 2013 (Exhibit 6-b)
- c) Approve Minutes: Special Call Meeting July 10, 2013 (Exhibit 6-c)
- d) Approve payment: Docket of Claims and spread upon the Minutes (Exhibit 6-d)
- e) Accept Action Report (Exhibit 6-e)
- f) Authorize to schedule public hearing for August 6, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. to adopt Resolution and Order adopting the Uniform Assessment Schedule for motor vehicles (Exhibit 6-f)
- g) Authorize Mayor to execute the Order approving the application of Edwin Dodd for Ad Valorem Tax Exemption on a tract of land in the Central Business District located at 2408-2422A Government Street (Exhibit 6-g)

Police Dept.:

- h) Approve Special Event Permit for Ocean Springs Walk Fundraiser for Limbs for Life in honor of Joseph W. Smith, amputee, on Sunday, July 21, 2013, at 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon and 7th Annual Walking on Water Bridge Walk sponsored by the Coast Young Professionals for the annual community service project on Saturday, August 24, 2013 at 6:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. (Exhibit 6-h)
- i) Authorize to rehire Mike King as Dispatcher, effective July 19, 2013, \$12.29 hourly, six-month probationary period and pending successful completion of all pre-employment requirements, Civil Service concurs (Exhibit 6-i)

Fire Dept.:

- j) Accept Monthly Department Report for June 14, 2013 to July 11, 2013 (Exhibit 6-j)

Human Resources/Risk:

City Engineer:

Public Works:

- k) Approve employment of Ron Blanton, Laborer, effective July 22, 2013, \$12.00 hourly, six-month probationary period and pending successful completion of all pre-employment requirements (Exhibit 6-k)

Building Department:

Community Development & Planning:

- l) Accept Tree Committee Report (Exhibit 6-l)

Zoning and Adjustment Board:

- m) Accept Zoning and Adjustment Board's recommendation to approve the 20% variance to the front yard setback requested for De La Rosa Place, Lot 5 (Exhibit 6-m)

Planning Commission:

- n) Accept Planning Commission's recommendation to approve the lot reconfiguration on Pine Drive (Lots 1 and 34) Point O' Pines Subdivision (Exhibit 6-n)
- o) Accept Planning Commission's recommendation to approve the Amended lot reconfiguration at the Southwest corner of Bienville Boulevard and Hanshaw Road – Rose Lapin (Exhibit 6-o)

Parks & Leisure Services:

- p) Accept Parks Advisory Board Minutes from April 10, 2013 (Exhibit 6-p)
- q) Approve Facility Use Agreement for the Ocean Springs Adult Softball League to be played at the Sports Complex and Gay Lemon (Exhibit 6-q)

City Attorney:

Facilities:

Peer Review Committee:

7. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Mayor:

City Clerk:

Police:

Fire:

Human Resources/Risk:

City Engineer:

Public Works:

- a) Discussion on new firearm signage (Exhibit 7-a)

Building Department:

Community Development & Planning:

Parks & Leisure Services:

City Attorney:

- b) Adopt Ordinance Regulating and Restricting Parking in the City of Ocean Springs on Portions of Bellande between Government Street and Bowen Avenue (Exhibit 7-b)

Facilities:

Peer Review Committee:

8. ALDERMEN'S FORUM

- a) Street light on Washington Avenue in front of A Tisket -A- Tasket – Alderman McDonnell

9. EXECUTIVE SESSION

ADJOURN UNTIL 6:00 P.M. on August 6, 2013