

REGULAR MEETING OF FEBRUARY 3, 2015

Be it remembered that the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the City of Ocean Springs met in a Regular meeting at City Hall in the City of Ocean Springs at 6:00 p.m. on February 3, 2015. The Mayor presiding, Aldermen Cox, Gill, McDonnell, Cody, Denyer, and Impey were present. Also present was City Clerk Shelly Ferguson and City Attorney John Edwards. Alderman Dalgo was absent.

The Mayor called the meeting to order.

Rev. Mike Barnett gave the invocation and the Mayor led the Pledge of Allegiance.

NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Margaret Miller, Executive Director of the Ocean Springs Chamber of Commerce, gave an update concerning the marketing and advertising done by the Chamber specifically in regard to the 2% food and beverage tax funding they received in 2014 in the amount of \$25,000.00. Mrs. Miller announced there will be a restaurant quarterly meeting on Wednesday, February 9th at 3:00 p.m. at the Chamber and all restaurants and lounge owners are welcome to attend. She said the Chamber will be conducting a survey from all of the restaurants. The survey done by Mississippi Power Company will represent the more than 100 businesses that pay the 2% tax. The business owners have asked for more events; a comprehensive town guide with articles and images, buy-local campaign and social media. Some of the local events put on by the Chamber every year include, Peter Anderson Festival, Annual Herb Garden & Art Festival, assistance with the 1699 Historical Society's opening event and Art Walk, Red, White & Blueberry Festival, July Sidewalk Sale, St. Paddy's Day Celebration, Battle on the Bayou, Taste of Ocean Springs, Feast of Flavors, Cruisin' the Coast, Trick of Treat Down the Street, Annual Tree Lighting and Holiday Open House. She reported that all of these events bring in more than 350,000 individuals and up to 1 million with other events. The Chamber distributes The Ocean Springs Guide at the welcome centers, conferences, hotels, visitor centers and throughout the State three (3) times a year. The Chamber also is advertising through social media, the Ocean Springs Chamber's Facebook page with more than 5400 "likes" and daily and weekly posts regarding shopping and dining, etc. She explained the Buy-Local Campaign. This included the "Pelican Pound" which represented a \$5 coin to be used at the businesses in the City that are participating. The businesses are reimbursed by the Chamber at 100%. They also create and distribute 15,000 tourism bags per year and all businesses are offered the opportunity to participate.

Ms. Miller explained the new Restaurant Guide which is produced by the Mississippi Gulf Coast Regional Convention and Visitors Bureau. All of the restaurants and lounges are listed in this guide with over 100,000 guides distributed to the three (3) local counties, Hancock, Harrison and Jackson Counties. She also explained the new virtual online tour and the website that is updated on a regular basis. The Chamber also hosts the quarterly breakfast meetings with the Mayor and Aldermen at various restaurants.

Mrs. Miller explained the advertising aspect of the Chamber. They advertise on the radio and television. She explained the Chamber owns a billboard on I-10. They changed 3-4 times last year.

Ms. Miller stated the survey being done is to update the needs of every restaurant that participates and encourages all businesses to complete the survey.

She further explained they were able to triple the funding received from the City by applying for and receiving a BP grant. They did not receive a grant this year but will continue to look for new grants in the future. Ms. Miller stated the 2% food and beverage taxes do not go towards any salaries of Chamber employees; they are paid by membership dues.

The Mayor asked Ms. Miller if the Chamber would meet with the Economic Development Council regarding mobile phone apps. Ms. Miller said they would be happy to meet with the EDC.

Motion was made by Alderman McDonnell, seconded by Alderman Gill and unanimously carried to task the Finance Committee with determining a funding formula that would reward the Chamber and the businesses that generate the 2% taxes to increase the Chamber allocation as the City grows the tax collections. The formula should be calculated after the loan amount and the completion of the projects are deducted.

Motion was made by Alderman McDonnell, seconded by Alderman Cody and unanimously carried to install an ADA power door operator for the front entryway at the Police Station/Courthouse, funded by 2% tax levy (Exhibit 3-b).

OLD BUSINESS

The Mayor presented a proposal prepared by Karen Shall from Senior Security for the installation of cameras on the bridge. Alderman Denyer asked to present this to the Peer Review Committee due to it not being a budgeted item. Motion was made by Alderman Gill, seconded by Alderman Cox and unanimously carried to task the Peer Review Committee with reviewing the costs of the installation of the security cameras on the bridge pathway (Exhibit 4-a).

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Rev. Mike Barnett introduced Mr. Michael Dees, the Area Director of Young Life, an international ministry organization. Mr. Dees said Young Life was formed by a group of lay people out of concern for the students in the community. He explained this chapter of Young Life is 100% locally run and funded. It is a non-denominational Christian outreach ministry with the whole purpose is to love and care for the high school kids in this community. It is done through mentorship type of relationships by local Ocean Springs adults who have a concern for high school kids.

Mr. Ronald Vincent, 1412 Government Street, expressed his concern about the excessive noise caused by the patrons at the Yellow Tail Saloon. He said the motorcyclists are hot dogging and burning rubber in the street which creates a dangerous situation for the community.

The Mayor announced there will a reception to honor Mr. Adelchi Pilutti, a World War II Veteran and D-Day survivor, on Friday, March 6th at 6:00 p.m. at the Ocean Springs Community Center. Mr. Pilutti was awarded the French Legion of Honor award.

Alderman Impey recognized Boy Scout Troop 219 who was in attendance at the meeting. Alderman Impey said the troop expressed an interest in learning more about municipal government and citizenship. He thanked them for attending the meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion was made by Alderman Gill, seconded by Alderman Denyer and unanimously carried to approve the Consent Agenda with exception of item (g) which was pulled by the Alderman McDonnell.

Alderman McDonnell pulled item (6-g) correct the typographical error in the amount of the bid. Motion was made by Alderman McDonnell, seconded by Alderman Gill and unanimously carried to award the bid to JET Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$47,243.75 for the Sheppard-Whispering Pines Drainage Improvements, Pat Harrison Waterway District project (Exhibit 6-g).

ALDERMEN'S FORUM

Alderman Impey thanked Public Works for the great job done cleaning the streets after the Mardi Gras parade.

Alderman Impey announced Breakfast with the Mayor and Aldermen on Wednesday, February 11th at 8:00 a.m. at McElroy's.

Alderman Cox said there is a 1-1/2"-2" drop off at the end of bridge on Handshaw Road heading towards Walmart from the school. He said the problem has gotten worse. The Asst. Public Works Director and City Engineer explained some work has been done and they continue to monitor this issue in order to determine a solution.

Alderman Cox asked to trim six (6) trees in front of The Mary C. to lift the canopy at no cost to the City.

Motion was made by Alderman Cody, seconded by Alderman Gill and unanimously carried to allow \$500.00 from his ward funding to the Ocean Springs Carnival Association.

Alderman McDonnell thanked Public Works, the Jackson County Board of Supervisors, Carolyn Martin and Hilliard Fountain for all the work they did to complete the Fallo-Pleasant Parking Lot, creating 63 new parking spaces for the downtown area.

Alderman Gill thanked all departments for a job well done at the Mardi Gras parade.

Alderman McDonnell stated the night parade has more potential for volatility and asked the Police Chief to beef up foot patrol in areas more prone for problems during the parade as well as utilizing the segways to patrol the back streets in the neighborhoods. He also asked the Police Chief to put out a press release to make the public aware there will be increased patrol for businesses and property owners in the area.

Motion was made by Alderman Gill, seconded by Alderman Cody and unanimously carried to have a light study done on Cash Alley to Kotzum. The Mayor will report back to the Board with the recommendation.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion was made by Alderman Gill, seconded by Alderman Cody and unanimously carried to go into closed session to determine the necessity of going into executive session.

The City Clerk returned to the meeting and announced a motion was made by Alderman Gill, seconded by Alderman Cox and unanimously carried to remain in executive session to discuss current litigation in Federal Court.

Motion was made by Alderman Cody, seconded by Alderman Gill and unanimously carried to return to regular session.

Motion was made by Alderman Cody, seconded by Alderman Impey and unanimously carried to recess until 6:00 p.m. on February 18, 2015.

Meeting ended at 7:39 p.m.

City Clerk

Mayor

Date

Date

**AGENDA
MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN
CITY OF OCEAN SPRINGS
REGULAR MEETING
February 3, 2015 - 6:00 p.m.**

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ROLL CALL

3. NEW BUSINESS

- a) OS Chamber of Commerce report on their marketing and advertising efforts
- b) Discussion regarding installing a handicap accessible automatic door at the police station

4. OLD BUSINESS

- a) Discussion regarding cameras on the bridge (Exhibit 4-a)

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) Accept Economic Development Council meeting minutes of January 16, 2015 (Exhibit 6-a)

City Clerk:

- b) Approve Minutes: Recess Meeting January 20, 2015 (Exhibit 6-b)
- c) Approve Minutes: Special Call Meeting January 28, 2015 (Exhibit 6-c)
- d) Approve payment: Docket of Claims and spread summary upon the Minutes (Exhibit 6-d)
- e) Accept Action Report (Exhibit 6-e)
- f) Approve Run/Walk Permit Application for the 8th Annual Bridge Walk and Canned Food Drive sponsored by the MS Gulf Coast Chamber of Commerce/Coast Young Professionals on Saturday, August 29, 2015 from 6:00 a.m. – 12:00 Noon at no costs to the City (Bridge Only) (Exhibit 6-f)

Police Department:

Fire Department:

Human Resources/Risk Management:

City Engineer:

Public Works:

- g) Award bid to JET Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$43,243.75 for the Sheppard-Whispering Pines Drainage Improvements, Pat Harrison Waterway District project (Exhibit 6-g)

Community Development & Planning:

- h) Authorize to apply for the National Fish & Wildlife Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration Program for Front Beach Restoration to include a shared 50% match in the form of budgeted staff and equipment (Exhibit 6-h)

Building Department:

- i) Accept Tree Committee meeting minutes of January 29, 2015 (Exhibit 6-i)

Parks & Leisure Services:

- j) Approve Facility Use Agreement with the MS Gulf Coast YMCA for use of Freedom Field for flag football, tee ball, spring soccer and fall soccer programs (Exhibit 6-j)
- k) Approve Facility Usage Application for the Ocean Springs School District tennis team for use of Halstead Tennis Courts for practices and home matches at an amount agreed upon by both parties beginning February 4th thru May 3rd (Exhibit 6-k)

City Attorney:

City Attorney:

Facilities:

Peer Review Committee:

H.R. Committee:

1) Accept Human Resources Committee meeting minutes of January 27, 2015 (Exhibit 6-1)

Finance Committee:

7. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Mayor:

City Clerk:

Police Department:

Fire Department:

Human Resources/Risk Manager:

City Engineer:

Public Works:

Community Development & Planning:

Building Department:

Parks & Leisure Services:

City Attorney:

Facilities:

Peer Review Committee:

H.R. Committee:

Finance Committee:

8. ALDERMEN'S FORUM

9. EXECUTIVE SESSION

RECESS UNTIL 6:00 P.M. on a date to be determined by the Board due to the Mardi Gras Holiday on Tuesday, February 17, 2015