

SPECIAL CALL MEETING DECEMBER 23, 2020

Be it remembered that the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the City of Ocean Springs met in a Special Call meeting at City Hall in the City of Ocean Springs at 4:30 p.m. on December 23, 2020. The Mayor Pro-tempore presiding, Aldermen Gill, Bellman, Cox, Papania, Blackman and Impey were present. The Mayor was absent. Also present were City Clerk Patty Gaston, Deputy City Clerk Vicky Hupe, Fire Deputy Chief Ray West, Police Chief Mark Dunston, Building Official Darrell Stringfellow, Planning & Grants Administrator Carolyn Martin, Public Works Director Allan Ladnier, Parks & Recreation Director Stephen Glorioso, and Special Events Coordinator Chic Cody.

The Mayor Pro-tempore called the meeting to order.

The Special Call Meeting is for the purpose of any and all matters pertaining to the discussion of Mardi Gras parades in Ocean Springs, discussion of Municipal Court for January 6, 2021, discussion of Church Street waterline replacement project cost-share proposal with Rosetti Park East Subdivision (Exhibit c), discussion of a lease agreement with Gulf Coast Studios for the Scharr-Elmo recording studio (Exhibit d), discussion of authorizing Northwood Church use of the Civic Center January 6, 7, & 8, 2021 (Exhibit e).

Motion was made by Alderman Cox, seconded by Alderman Blackman and unanimously carried to accept the agenda.

Alderman Cox said he would like to hear from the carnival associations and Mardi Gras crews to find out their opinions.

Marty Calhoun said the Ocean Springs Elks day parade has received little response, about 6 participants so far compared to 75-80 typically. He said there is much cost involved before the parade rolls. He said it is not cost-effective to have the parade at the moment.

The Mayor Pro-tempore said several other communities along the Gulf Coast have already canceled parades and more will follow. He said the City was successful with Cruisin' the Coast and the Peter Anderson Festival, those events were able to space out and control the crowds and does not see how Mardi Gras parades will be able to do the same.

Alderman Papania said with the escalation of COVID-19 on the Gulf Coast, the City would be exposing City employees to the virus because they would have to work the parades.

Alderman Blackman said the reason for discussing this issue today was so that the organizations do not spend money on parades that will eventually be canceled. He said the Mississippi COVID-19 numbers hit an all-time high yesterday.

EXHIBIT # 8-d

Alderman Gill said this is a hard decision but with the circumstances, canceling the parades seems to be the right thing to do.

Billy Nix said he polled the board of the Ocean Springs Carnival Association and they would like to proceed with the night parade. He said last year there were 42 floats, he called 36-38 of them and approximately 29 have said they would participate. He said he is frustrated that he has already received a permit from the city to hold the parade and has spent \$1,300 on insurance for the event. He said the crowds and people are always a problem and does not want to see it canceled yet. He asked if the City is so concerned about crowds, what about the crowds downtown on the weekends. The City Clerk responded that the majority of the Police Department is not required downtown on the weekends. She said during the parades most of the Police Department, at least 12 Firemen and 15 from Public Works, work the event. The City cannot take the risk to jeopardize that many employees health and risking spreading throughout City employees.

Alderman Papania said that when the parades were approved, there appeared to be a better situation at that time but currently COVID-19 numbers are steadily increasing. He said it would be negligent to expose City employees.

Alderman Cox requested the decision be held until the next regular meeting to see what the situation is then.

Alderman Gill requested the City Attorney assist Gulf Coast Carnival Association to get a refund on the insurance bought for the parade. The City Attorney requested the policy be sent to her so that she could review it.

Mike Davis, a member of the Krewe of Barry and participant in the Elks parade, said his Krewe has not purchased any supplies for the parade because they were expecting a cancelation.

The Special Events Coordinator requested to wait until two weeks before the scheduled parades to make a final decision, in case the COVID-19 situation changes for the better.

Motion was made by Alderman Blackman, seconded by Alderman Papania and unanimously carried to cancel the 2021 Mardi Gras parades in the City of Ocean Springs. Alderman Cox requested to meet to discuss alternatives or rescheduling of the Mardi Gras parades.

Alderman Authement said the court currently has more than 300 cases scheduled for January 6, 2021 (Exhibit b). The court has made arrangements for people with traffic citations to pay in full online or via drop box near dispatch, rather than coming into court and this option has been published on the City website and Facebook page.

The Planning & Grants Administrator presented a cost-sharing project with Rosetti Park East Subdivision for a water line replacement on Church Street (Exhibit c). The total project cost is \$24,186, with the City's portion being \$7,528 from the Public Works budget. Motion was made by Alderman Blackman, seconded by Alderman Cox and unanimously carried to approve a cost share proposal with Rosetti Park East Subdivision because there is a reasonable demand for the service and the costs are feasible considering the cost to extend the utility line will apply to and benefit a subdivision, as a whole, and its residents.

Aldermen Gill and Bellman left the meeting at 5:10.

The Arts & Culture Coordinator and the City Attorney have worked with Gulf Coast Studios to negotiate a lease for the Scharr-Ello Studio in the Mary C (Exhibit d). The first lease will be for six months at \$350 per month for approximately 15 days per month of usage including utilities and excluding internet services. Also, Gulf Coast Studios will provide two marketing commercials per six month period, provide bi-weekly consulting for marketing and branding the Mary C, and one streaming event per six month period. This will be a balance of in-kind services and fair market value for the amount of time of studio usage. The City will have the ability to contract out for other events in the studio. Motion was made by Alderman Cox, seconded by Alderman Impey and unanimously carried to approve the lease agreement with Gulf Coast Studios for the Scharr-Ello recording studio.

The Mayor Pro-tempore asked about the lock situation at the Mary C. The Planning & Grants Administrator said she has been working to get electronic code locks approved by Archives & History for safety reasons.

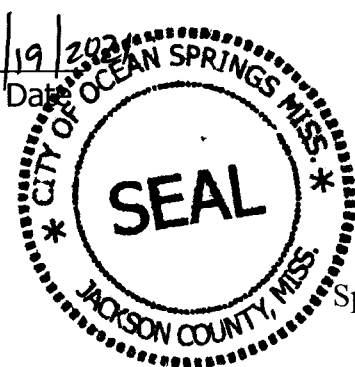
Motion was made by Alderman Blackman, seconded by Alderman Impey and unanimously carried to authorize Northwood Church use of the Civic Center at no additional cost January 6, 7, & 8, 2021 (Exhibit e).

Alderman Bellman returned to the meeting at 5:14.

Motion was made by Alderman Impey, seconded by Alderman Blackman and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting ended at 5:14 p.m.

Betty Gaston
City Clerk



Blair Doss
Mayor

1/19/2021
Date

**CITY OF OCEAN SPRINGS
COUNTY OF JACKSON
STATE OF MISSISSIPPI**

Call for a Special Meeting of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the City of Ocean Springs, Mississippi.

From: Aldermen Authement and Blackman

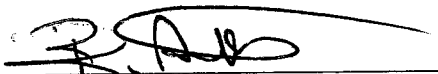
To: The Mayor and Aldermen Cox, Gill, Bellman, Papania, and Impey


You are hereby notified that a Special Call Meeting is called to meet at the City Hall at **4:30 p.m., Wednesday, December 23, 2020.**

THE OBJECT OF THE MEETING IS AS FOLLOWS:


Any and all matters pertaining to:

- a) Discussion of Mardi Gras parades in Ocean Springs
- b) Discussion of Municipal Court for January 6, 2021
- c) Discussion of Church Street waterline replacement project cost share proposal with Rosetti Park East Subdivision (Exhibit c)
- d) Discussion of lease agreement with Gulf Coast Studios for Scharr-Elmo recording studio (Exhibit d)
- e) Discussion of authorizing Northwood Church use of the Civic Center January 6, 7, & 8, 2021 (Exhibit e)


Alderman Authement, Ward 2


Alderman Blackman, Ward 5

ATTEST:


Patty Gaston, City Clerk