

SPECIAL CALL MEETING SEPTEMBER 3, 2020

Be it remembered that the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the City of Ocean Springs met in a Special Call meeting at the Civic Center in the City of Ocean Springs at 6:00 p.m. on September 3, 2020. The Mayor presiding, Aldermen Authement, Cox, Papania and Impey were present. Aldermen Gill, Bellman and Blackman were absent. Also present were City Attorney Nicole Sullivan, City Clerk Patty Gaston, Deputy City Clerk Vicky Hupe, Police Deputy Chief Derek Hoppner, Fire Chief Derek McCoy, Planning & Grants Administrator Carolyn Martin, Building Official Darrell Stringfellow, Public Works Director Allan Ladnier, Parks & Recreation Director Stephen Glorioso, Human Resources & Risk Management Director Mindy McDowell and Executive Assistant to the Mayor & Board Meggan Brown.

The Mayor called the meeting to order.

The Special Call Meeting is for the purpose of any and all matters pertaining to a Public Hearing for the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 (FY 20-21) Proposed Budget and adopt a Resolution Fixing the Tax Levy for FY 20-21 (Exhibit b).

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

The City Clerk gave a summary of the proposed budget for FY 20-21. She said general fund income is expected to be \$14,068,490.00 in the upcoming fiscal year. She reviewed each department in the general fund, noting most of the changes come from distributing administration costs to both general fund and the enterprise fund. She said the step raise salary increase only accounted for \$12,000.00 of the increase in expenses.

The Human Resources & Risk Management Director said that turnover has improved from 49 employees exiting in FY 18-19 to 25 employees exiting in FY 19-20.

Alderman Impey thanked the citizens for shopping local once businesses opened during the COVID-19 pandemic. He said that in the proposed budget a fire training facility is listed. He said with the implementation of the training facility the City's fire rating would improve from a 5 to a 4 rating, which would benefit all but will have more of an impact on commercial businesses. He said the facility will also be used by the Police Department for training.

PUBLIC HEARING

Motion was made by Alderman Authement, seconded by Aldermen Cox and unanimously carried to open the Public Hearing for the proposed budget for FY 20-21.

Mike Illanne spoke neither for nor against the proposed budget. He asked about the City's infrastructure budget and if it was available for public viewing. He said he would like a capital improvement budget presented as well for transparency. The Mayor responded that projects have been identified and are in process for funding. The City Clerk added that most large projects are funded by loans, assistance from Jackson County, grants and bonds. Alderman Papania reiterated by saying that in Ward 4 the Monster Ditch project is being funded by Jackson County and the East Beach Sidewalk project is being funded by MDOT. He requested the Planning & Grants Administrator compile a list of projects and grants currently in process to provide for public viewing.

Mike Illanne requested the Emergency Management proposed budget, saying it is not enough to be adequately prepared. The City Clerk responded that the amount in the budget for Emergency Management is to fund the physical location of the EOC, not to use in emergencies. He recommended a public private partnership for a peer review for emergency preparation and response capability. He also recommended the city participate in Police and Fire Foundations to help with training, equipment and scholarships.

Greg Gipson spoke neither for nor against the proposed budget. He questioned the Highway 57 Sports Complex proposed budget being \$200,000.00. The City Clerk responded that those are funds that were not utilized in this fiscal year that have been rolled over to the proposed budget because the projects are still underway. Alderman Cox added that parking needed to be added to the facility, which Jackson County assisted with but now the City needs to provide ADA compliant sidewalks, score boxes, additional bathrooms and move the batting cages.

Greg Gipson asked if the City has a plan in place to address employees that will be retiring in the next 3 years. He added that Public Works compensation needed to be looked at to avoid losing qualified workers to another city. The City Clerk responded that all City Departments salaries have been reviewed and they all have to work together to keep the City functioning. She said that in the last year, Public Works has received some much needed equipment including a boom truck and street sweeper.

Greg Gipson asked if there is a 5 – 10 year plan available to the public. The Planning & Grants Administrator responded that a plan was started but is not complete.

Greg Gipson inquired about the plans for the City's old jail building. Alderman Cox said a loan is needed to repair the roof to make safe for people to utilize the building.

Motion was made by Alderman Cox, seconded by Aldermen Authement and unanimously carried to come out of Public Hearing.

Motion made by Alderman Impey and seconded by Alderman Cox to adopt a Resolution Fixing the Tax Levy for FY 20-21 (Exhibit b).

The motion carried with a roll call vote as follows:

Alderman Gill	Absent
Alderman Authement	Aye
Alderman Bellman	Absent
Alderman Cox	Aye
Alderman Papania	Aye
Alderman Blackman	Absent
Alderman Impey	Aye

The City Clerk said the FY 20-21 budget would be adopted at the September 15, 2020 Recess Meeting.

Alderman Cox requested the Board of Aldermen meetings be moved back to City Hall to make it easier on the staff for set up.

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

The meeting ended at 7:11 p.m.

Vicky Kupe 9/23/2020
City Clerk (Deputy) Date

Blair Olson 9/24/2020
Mayor Date