

## **REGULAR MEETING OF DECEMBER 1, 2020**

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 December 1, 2020. The Mayor presiding, Aldermen Gill, Authement, Bellman, Cox, Papania, Blackman and Impey were present. Also present were City Attorney Nicole Sullivan, City Clerk Patty Gaston, Deputy City Clerk Vicky Hupe, Fire Chief Derek McCoy, Police Chief Mark Dunston, Planning & Grants Administrator Carolyn Martin, Building Official Darrell Stringfellow, Public Works Director Allan Ladnier, Human Resources & Risk Management Director Mindy McDowell, Parks & Recreation Director Stephen Glorioso, and Executive Assistant to the Mayor & Board Meggan Brown.

The Mayor called the meeting to order.

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

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

### **PRESENTATIONS**

Earnest Bowers and Andrew Hanes from Waldorf University presented Fire Battalion Chief Ryan Heath with a scholarship. The scholarship is valued up to \$23,000 and will allow him to complete his bachelor's degree in Fire Science.

George Toth with Alpha Eagle Technology presented the Board a proposal for solar energy at the Ocean Springs Police and Fire buildings. The project would cost a total of \$305,999 and the cost would be recouped in 14.2 years.

### **AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Alderman Authement requested the discussion regarding Lighthouse Academy be tabled until next meeting when they can attend (Exhibit 5-a).

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Motion was made by Alderman Bellman, seconded by Alderman Gill and unanimously carried to adopt a resolution extending the school speed zone near Ocean Springs Upper Elementary School (Exhibit 6-a).

**EXHIBIT # 8-e**

Motion was made by Alderman Blackman, seconded by Alderman Authement and unanimously carried to appoint Allen Stanfield to the Planning Commission to complete a vacated position for Ward 3 with the term expiring June 30, 2022 (Exhibit 6-b).

Motion was made by Alderman Authement, seconded by Alderman Gill and unanimously carried to authorize an agreement with Applewhite Landfill/Waste Pro of MS for Hurricane Zeta debris disposal at a rate of \$6.00 per cubic yard (Exhibit A-2a).

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

Motion was made by Alderman Impey, seconded by Alderman Papania and unanimously carried to approve the Consent Agenda.

- a) Authorize to extend the resolution proclaiming the existence of a local emergency enacted March 16, 2020 regarding the COVID-19 outbreak (Exhibit 7-a)
- b) Approve Special Event permit application for Christmas Under the Oaks with St. Paul; Sunday, December 12, 2020 from 4:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.; at St. Paul's – road closure on Porter Ave from Jackson Ave to Rayburn Ave; no cost to the City, applicant pays associated event cost (Exhibit 7-b)
- c) Approve Special Event permit application for 2021 OS Elks Mardi Gras Parade; Saturday, January 30, 2021 set up to begin at 9:30 am event start 1:00 pm; regular parade route; overtime cost may be incurred by the City (Exhibit 7-c)
- d) Authorize to extend the resolution proclaiming the existence of a local emergency enacted March 11, 2019 for Front Beach Drive due to the incapacitation of street lights along Front Beach Drive; extend for 30 days (Exhibit 7-d)
- e) Accept October 2020 Aged Receivable Report for utility billing (Exhibit 7-e)
- f) Authorize to advertise for competitive bids once each week for two consecutive weeks in the MS Press for the purpose of making a determination as it relates to Jahnke & Sons Construction Inc. WHP Training Towers being a sole source pursuant to MS Code 31-7-13(m)(viii), 31-7-13(c) and the current MS Procurement manual (Exhibit 7-f)
- g) Authorize to execute grant agreement and advertise for professional design services – Tidelands: FY21-P412-01 – Porter Avenue public access (Exhibit 7-g)
- h) Authorize to execute contract extension with Christian Preus Landscape Architecture, PLLC – MDOT TIP Federal STP – Citywide Wayfinding Study STP-3057-00(018) / LPA 108104-711000 (Exhibit 7-h)
- i) Accept Code Enforcement Report through December 1, 2020 (Exhibit 7-i)
- j) Approve Tree Protection Department recommendations – Tree Applications through December 1, 2020 (Exhibit 7-j)
- k) Accept Tennis Committee November 18, 2020 meeting minutes (Exhibit 7-k)
- A-1a) Approve road closure on Government Street from Ward Avenue to Magnolia Street, the section in front of the Mary C and Ocean Springs Lumber from 5:30 to 8:30 pm December 3, 2020 (Exhibit A-1a)
- A-1b) Authorize to advertise for bids for water tank repairs and painting (Exhibit A-1b)

A-1c) Authorize an additional holiday for City employees per Governor Reeves on December 31, 2020; the additional holiday is not budgeted and will be an additional expense of \$11,042.72 (Exhibit A-1c)

## **DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

### City Clerk:

Motion was made by Alderman Impey, seconded by Alderman Blackman and unanimously carried to approve the docket of claims; the Board finds that all expenditures are appropriate and authorized by law (Exhibit 8-a).

Motion was made by Alderman Blackman, seconded by Alderman Cox and unanimously carried to approve the monthly budget report (Exhibit 8-b).

### Human Resources & Risk Management:

The Human Resources & Risk Management Director presented a tree risk assessment report made by arborist Fulgham's Inc. assessing a Live Oak damaged during Hurricane Zeta at Fort Maurepas. The report assessed the risk as high but also recommended visual assessments every three months and after major storms. The Board directed the Parks and Public Works Directors to barricade the park and secure the area so that the Aldermen can view the tree and sidewalk and discuss at the next meeting. The City Clerk said that the removal would be covered under protective measures.

### Grants Administration:

The Planning & Grants Administrator brought up off the floor, grants programs available for the Mary C building and for the Community Center. She said three smaller grants with a 50% match have already been submitted through Archives and History for a comprehensive study and window repair at the Mary C and repairs at the Community Center. She said there is a larger grant available through the National Parks Service that is due December 12th but it is a 50% match. She recommended completing the the Condition Report study, which has been applied for through MDAH before applying for the larger grants to have a comprehensive plan. Alderman Cox said he would like to meet with her to discuss proceeding with a larger Archives and History grant.

## **GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

The Special Events Coordinator gave an update on the Christmas Tree Lighting Event to be held Thursday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>. He said Santa and golf carts will begin set up at City Hall at 5:30 p.m., the firetruck will pick up Santa at 6:15 p.m. and will arrive at the Mary C at 7:00 p.m. He said there has been an alternate plan made for Saturday if weather will not allow it to proceed Thursday. Motion was made by Alderman Cox, seconded by Alderman Authement and unanimously carried to approve road closure on Government Street from Ward Avenue to

Magnolia Street, the section in front of the Mary C and Ocean Springs Lumber from 5:30 to 8:30 pm on December 5, 2020 if event is rescheduled.

## **ALDERMAN'S FORUM**

Alderman Gill asked the Building Official if the homeowner on Queen Elizabeth Drive got a permit. He replied the homeowner has applied for a permit for a concrete sidewalk, concrete driveway and to fill a hole with dirt.

Alderman Authement said tomorrow is the ribbon cutting for Lighthouse Academy at 4:00 p.m. and invited the Board to attend. He then asked the Mayor for a cost for running the water line from Robinson Street to Desoto Street for Rosetti Park. The Public Works Director said an estimate was given and he will forward it to the Mayor tomorrow.

Alderman Cox requested the ditch on Riley Road at Trentwood Park be cut by Public Works with a sidearm. He asked the City Clerk for the status of the new lights from Mississippi Power for Front Beach. She replied the lights should be in stock now but more work with wiring will be needed for installation. Alderman Cox said that the power company gave a not to exceed cost to repair between each pole. The Planning & Grants administrator said that she was in discussion with MDOT to determine if there is possible funding and that it would be best if MS Power was not working on the same thing that we are trying to get FEMA and/or MDOT-Federal Highway funds to repair.

Alderman Papania asked about the bridge light issues and requested more discussion before a final decision is made. He said Hanley Road was recently paved and the lanes have not been painted yet. He said prior to paving it was a four lane road but was very small. He said it was suggested that it be a three lane with a turn lane in the middle and one lane going north and one lane going south. The Board was in agreement to change to a three lane and requested the Police Chief work with Supervisor Randy Bosarge to complete.

Alderman Blackman requested the cancelled Finance Committee meeting be rescheduled this week. The City Clerk said that the Human Resource Committee had requested to be presented with the information before it went to the Finance Committee. The Mayor said he would send invites for a Finance Committee meeting to be held at 4:00 p.m. on Monday. Alderman Blackman asked the Public Works Director to repair the side rails on the pedestrian bridge at Davis Bayou that were damaged during Hurricane Zeta.

Alderman Impey asked about the paving in Ward 5 and 6. The Public Works Director said the county has not responded after the measurements were sent.

The Parks & Recreation Director said Northwood Church that uses the Civic Center would like to donate 600 chairs to be used in the Civic Center. He presented the chair that would be purchased. The City Clerk said the current chairs are very heavy and hard to move around. Alderman Blackman asked where the new chairs would be stored, would the new chairs be

used for rentals and if they are stain resistant. The Parks & Recreation Director said he will develop a plan to store both sets of chairs. The City Attorney said a donation should be accepted officially. The Parks & Recreation Director said he would invite Northwood Church to attend the next meeting and formally make the donation.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Motion was made by Alderman Blackman, seconded by Alderman Gill 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 that a motion was made by Alderman Blackman, seconded by Alderman Cox and unanimously carried to remain in executive session to discuss potential litigation regarding 321 Jackson Avenue and the Friends of the Mary C as discussion of these issues in open session would hinder the City's litigation position.

Motion was made by Alderman Impey, seconded by Alderman Cox and unanimously carried to come out of executive session where no action was taken.

Motion was made by Alderman Impey, seconded by Alderman Bellman and unanimously carried to recess the meeting until 6:00 p.m. on December 15, 2020.

Meeting ended at 7:48 p.m.

Patty Maston 12/15/2020  
City Clerk Date

Blair D. Brown 12/15/2020  
Mayor Date