

REGULAR MEETING OF FEBRUARY 2, 2021

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 2, 2021. The Mayor presiding, Aldermen Gill, Authement, Bellman, Cox, Papania, Blackman, and Impey were present. Also present were City Attorney Robert Wilkinson, 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.

Dr. Mike Barnett 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.

PROCLAMATION

The Mayor and Alderman Impey presented a proclamation to Scout Lucia Barberena of Troop 229G for becoming the first female Eagle Scout in Mississippi.

AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

OLD BUSINESS

During the previous board meeting, the Public Hearing regarding amending the Ocean Springs Code of Ordinances, Zoning, and Subdivisions to revise Chapter 14, Article III, Section 14-42 was deferred to the February 2, 2021 meeting. This item will now be deferred pending further evaluation and will be re-advertised if brought back to the Board for consideration.

Alderman Authement requested giving Lighthouse Academy for Dyslexia an option to renew for 3 years in their 2021-2022 lease (Exhibit 5-b). Motion was made by Alderman Authement, seconded by Alderman Blackman and unanimously carried to authorize the execution of a lease agreement with Lighthouse Academy for Dyslexia for 2021-2022 school year with the option to renew for three years added to the lease.

EXHIBIT # 6-h

Alderman Authement requested a school zone sign be added to Ward Avenue for the Lighthouse Academy for Dyslexia area with 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. as the listed times. The Board agreed and requested the City Attorney and the Police Chief bring a proposed ordinance to the Board's next meeting.

Alderman Authement requested Lighthouse Academy for Dyslexia be allowed to clean and paint the additional rooms they will have access to for the 2021-2022 school year. Motion was made by Alderman Authement, seconded by Alderman Blackman and unanimously carried to authorize Lighthouse Academy for Dyslexia to clean and paint rooms in Taconi they will have access to for the 2021-2022 school year.

NEW BUSINESS

The discussion of a crosswalk at 505 Washington Avenue to connect the Walter Anderson Museum of Art and Creative Cottage across the street (Exhibit 6-a); was tabled.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion was made by Alderman Blackman, seconded by Alderman Gill and unanimously carried to approve the Consent Agenda, except item 7-l pulled by Alderman Papania.

- 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) Ratify Mayor's execution of Memorandum of Understanding with Ocean Springs Carnival Association for the rental of the Civic Center, pursuant to the minutes from the August 4, 2020, regular meeting of the Board of Aldermen (Exhibit 7-b)
- c) Approve Special Event permit application for 28th Annual Spring Arts – OS Chamber; Saturday & Sunday, March 27 - 28, 2021; from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm each day; overtime cost may be incurred by the City (Exhibit 7-c)
- d) Approve Special Event permit application for 4th Annual Zebra Event – United MSD Foundation; Saturday, April 17, 2021; starting at 8:30 am until 10:00 am; Fort Maurepas to bridge and back for the event; no overtime incurred by the City (Exhibit 7-d)
- e) Approve Special Event permit application for Luther Dickinson's Annual "Music Inspired by the Seven Climates" Concert; Saturday, May 15, 2021; starting at 4:00 pm until 11:00 pm; in front of WAMA to Senior Center, road closure Washington Avenue from WAMA to Joseph Street; no overtime cost incurred by the City (Exhibit 7-e)
- f) 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-f)
- g) Accept January 2021 Aged Receivable Report for utility billing (Exhibit 7-g)

- h) Ratify check to Justice Court of Jackson County in the amount of \$75.00 for the filing fee for garnishment (Exhibit 7-h)
- i) Ratify check to MS Development Authority in the amount of \$27,826.65 for loan ED289/12490 final payment (Exhibit 7-i)
- j) Authorize the Mayor to execute Polling Place Lease Agreement with Grace Baptist Church (Exhibit 7-j)
- k) Authorize the Mayor to execute Resolution authorizing execution of Lighthouse Academy Lease Addendum #2 (Exhibit 7-k)
- l) Approve Minutes: Regular Meeting January 5, 2021 (Exhibit 7-l)
- m) Human Resources action item (Exhibit 7-m):
 - a. Authorize employment of Zach Zirlott, Parks Maintenance Worker, Step 1, \$12.00 hourly rate; effective February 3, 2021; one year probationary status, pending successful completion of all pre-employment requirements
- n) Adopt Resolution accepting the adopted Fee Schedule (Exhibit 7-n)
- o) Accept Code Enforcement Report through January 28, 2021 (Exhibit 7-o)
- p) Accept Tree Department recommendations – Tree Applications through January 28, 2021 (Exhibit 7-p)
- q) Approve Facility Use Agreement for Ocean Springs Girls Lacrosse for use of Gay Lemon and OS Sports Complex fields January 4 – May 21, 2021 (Exhibit 7-q)

Motion was made by Alderman Papania, seconded by Alderman Impey and unanimously carried to approve the January 5, 2021 minutes with the correction of Alderman Papania's motion to authorize the expenditure of ward funds edited from Ward 3 funds to Ward 4 funds.

The Mayor said the deadline for the Art & Culture Coordinator applications was today and requested to set up an interview meeting day and time. The Art & Culture Coordinator interviews will be held at a special call meeting Monday, February 8, 2021, at 4:30 p.m.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

City Clerk:

Motion was made by Alderman Impey, seconded by Alderman Bellman 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 Gill, seconded by Alderman Authement and unanimously carried to approve the monthly budget report (Exhibit 8-b).

Public Works:

The Public Works Director requested adding a Water Laborer position because the workload has increased with the 811 calls. He said this would be in addition to the current open

position in the Water Department. Motion was made by Alderman Cox, seconded by Alderman Papania and unanimously carried to add a Water Laborer position (Exhibit 8-c). The Public Works Director requested authorization to hire a Water Laborer for a position that is currently vacant. Motion was made by Alderman Authement, seconded by Alderman Gill and unanimously carried to authorize the employment of Collin Newman, Water Laborer, \$12.50 hourly rate, effective February 3, 2021, with one-year probationary status; pending successful completion of all pre-employment requirements.

Parks & Recreation:

The Parks & Recreation Director said during Hurricane Zeta in Trentwood Park a fence was damaged and a tree was damaged and is leaning. He requested permission to remove the fence from personal property and to remove a tree that is on the property line. The Planning & Grants Administrator said the tree appears to be in the middle of the property line. She said the fence is well into the property owner's property. She recommended getting the property surveyed to ensure where the property line is to move the fence to the park property. Alderman Impey said the fence is in as much as 20 feet of private property and the City Attorney has prepared a Hold Harmless Agreement for both the tree and fence (Exhibit 8-d). The Parks & Recreation Director said the property owner has completed a survey and the tree is on city property. Motion was made by Alderman Gill, seconded by Alderman Cox and unanimously carried to authorize to remove the damaged tree in Trentwood Park and to execute the Hold Harmless Agreement with the property owner regarding the damaged tree and fence.

Alderman Cox asked the Public Works Director if the drainage ditch at Trentwood Park has been addressed and cleared. He responded that it has been cut but will need to dry before more can be done.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

The Mayor addressed the Front Beach Drainage Project before public comment began. He said it is a man-made beach and it will be necessary to have the unnatural infrastructure to protect it. He added that a presentation was given to the City during the Recess Meeting on December 19, 2019, regarding the Front Beach Drainage Project which was discussed. He said only two citizens commented at that time. He said Jackson County is responsible for replenishing the beach and the swales have decreased the erosion.

Mike Illane, 303 Front Beach Drive, spoke against the concrete swales on Front Beach. He said he missed the discussion in 2019 but does have a petition with 150 signatures against the project. He said it is questionable if the project is economical and the ditch will not mitigate erosion.

Julia Weaver, 334 Lovers Lane, spoke against the concrete swales on Front Beach. She said the petition was shared with Jackson County and Ocean Springs. She said they have

requested a public hearing and an exchange of ideas with other experts about what alternatives there are, like changing the design of the knee wall or slowing the water uphill. She said she is concerned that there will be more beach closures due to this project. She also spoke about the I-10 corridor into Ocean Springs which has garbage and dumped materials, she requested the City reach out to MDOT and Jackson County to get the area cleaned quickly. Alderman Cox said he has already called after seeing himself the trash at the exit. Alderman Gill said it is not just Ocean Springs that the entirety of I-10 has trash from Pascagoula to Biloxi.

Sara Beaugez, 1707 Kensington Drive, spoke against the concrete swales on Front Beach. She requested more time to determine what will be put out into the bay from the swales.

Melanie Allen, 1924 Kensington Drive, spoke against the concrete swales on Front Beach. She said she loves the resource of Front Beach, a man-made beach that will always require a lot of maintenance. She said the original design of the sidewalk was flawed, it is a contributing factor to the issues. She requested consideration to recognize the sidewalk is a failed project.

Julia Illane, 303 Front Beach Drive, spoke against the concrete swales on Front Beach. She said a \$45,000 repair was made to part of the sidewalk and asked if that could be done to the rest of the sidewalk bringing it up. She said she cannot believe anyone would want a ditch down Front Beach.

ALDERMAN'S FORUM

Alderman Cox asked the Planning & Grants Administrator about the stop sign on Calhoun Avenue after the traffic study. She said she passed the numbers along and recommended adding a three-way stop. She said the next step would be an ordinance to place it if that is the desire of the Board. Alderman Cox asked the Public Works Director to add a no dumping sign at Monticello Woods and Shadwell Court.

Alderman Gill said at King Henry Drive and Ocean Springs Road there is a drop onto King Henry Drive that is dark and the lights previously added are not bright enough. He said Singing River Electric Cooperative can add a 35' LED light that will illuminate the area. Motion was made by Alderman Gill, seconded by Alderman Bellman and unanimously carried to approve adding an LED light at the entrance of King Henry Drive and Ocean Springs Road.

Alderman Papania said there was a sewer issue missed at the last meeting. Motion was made by Alderman Papania, seconded by Alderman Gill and unanimously carried to adjust the water/sewer account at 106 Pine Drive with a \$170.00 credit; with the finding that the customers did not receive the benefit of the utility and the excess usages were due to unforeseen circumstances.

Alderman Papania offered his prayers and condolences to Hancock County Sherriff Deputy Lieutenant Michael Boutte, family, friends, and loved ones after he was killed in the line of duty last week. The flags will be lowered to half-staff in his honor.

Alderman Blackman asked the Public Works Director if the materials for the boardwalk and bridge for the Government Street Sidewalk project have been delivered. He replied the pilings have arrived but the boardwalk is not expected to be shipped until Monday. The Planning & Grants Administrator said they are attempting to complete the administrative part to be able to start in the summer when school is out. Alderman Blackman asked for an update on Steelman Lane. She said the approvals have been received and it has been cleared and manholes have been ordered.

Alderman Impey wished recently retired Parks & Recreation Assistant Director Huffy Mayfield the best and thanked him for his commendable service to the City. He said he also has some lighting issues at entrances to subdivisions on Heritage Lane and Debbie Drive. He said he received a letter from Singing River Electric Cooperative with pricing to install 110 LED lights at both locations and to convert 48 LED to 110 LED costing \$140 for the install and a roughly \$46 increase per month charges (added as Exhibit 10-a). Motion was made by Alderman Impey, seconded by Alderman Blackman and unanimously carried to approve a document from Singing River Electric Cooperative to install LED lighting at Heritage Lane and Debbie Drive.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion was made by Alderman Impey, 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 Gill, seconded by Alderman Bellman and unanimously carried to remain in executive session to discuss potential litigation regarding the Sands and Gunn Harris as such discussions in open session would hinder the City's litigation position.

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

Motion was made by Alderman Gill, seconded by Alderman Impey and unanimously carried to recess the meeting until 6:00 p.m. on February 16, 2021.

Meeting ended at 7:30 p.m.

Betty Maston 2/17/2021 _____ 2/18/2021
City Clerk Date Mayor Date

