

## **REGULAR MEETING OF MARCH 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 March 2, 2021. The Mayor presiding, Aldermen Gill, Authement, Bellman, Cox, Papania, and Impey were present. Alderman Blackman joined the meeting by teleconference pursuant to Section 25-41-5 of the Mississippi Code. Let the minutes reflect that there is a speaker in the meeting room and that all those present are able to hear Alderman Blackman. Also present were the 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.

A motion was made by Alderman Cox and seconded by Alderman Impey to accept the agenda and addendum.

The motion carried with a roll call vote as follows:

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

## **PROCLAMATION**

The Mayor proclaimed the week of February 21 – 27, 2021 National Montessori Education Week and presented to Leah Bray from Treehouse Montessori Christian School (Exhibit 3-a).

## **PUBLIC HEARING**

A motion was made by Alderman Authement and seconded by Alderman Cox to open the public hearing for the Rosetti Park East Subdivision Phase II PID# 60119116.000 request for preliminary plat approval (Exhibit 4-a).

The motion carried with a roll call vote as follows:

**EXHIBIT # 8-d**

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

The Planning and Grants Administrator said there will be three lots between Cox Avenue and Church Street in Phase II of the Rosetti Park East Subdivision. She said the Planning Commission recommends approval.

No public comment was received.

A motion was made by Alderman Authement and seconded by Alderman Cox to close the public hearing for the Rosetti Park East Subdivision Phase II PID# 60119116.000 request for preliminary plat approval.

The motion carried with a roll call vote as follows:

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

A motion was made by Alderman Authement and seconded by Alderman Gill to approve the preliminary plat for the Rosetti Park East Subdivision Phase II PID# 60119116.000.

The motion carried with a roll call vote as follows:

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

**AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

## OLD BUSINESS

Alderman Papania said he requested the stop at Siowan Avenue and La Branche Avenue be changed from a two-way stop to a four-way stop. A motion was made by Alderman Papania and seconded by Alderman Cox to adopt an Ordinance for a stop sign at Siowan Avenue and La Branche Avenue; to adopt an amendment to the Ocean Springs Code of Ordinances, Zoning and Subdivisions; to revise Chapter 14 Article 1 section 14-8 regarding stop streets (Exhibit 6-a).

The motion carried with a roll call vote as follows:

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

A motion was made by Alderman Cox and seconded by Alderman Papania to adopt the Resolution to authorize the Mayor to request assistance up to \$30,000 from Jackson County to replace floors in the Ryan Youth Center (Exhibit 6-c).

The motion carried with a roll call vote as follows:

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

The City Attorney said at the previous board meeting the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Mississippi Transportation Commission and the City of Biloxi regarding the Biloxi Bay Bridge was approved with a contingency regarding the fifteen-day provision (Exhibit 6-d). She said the provision cannot be removed and the original MOU is back before the Board for approval or denial. She added that Biloxi has approved the MOU. Several Aldermen expressed concern that the city is being strong-armed to agree for public safety reasons. Alderman Gill asked the City Attorney to research the original agreement to determine if it contained wording that the city would take over maintenance in the future. A motion was made by Alderman Cox and seconded by Alderman Bellman to authorize the MOU with the Mississippi Transportation Commission and the City of Biloxi regarding the Biloxi Bay Bridge Lighting and Landscape area maintenance and operations.

The motion carried with a roll call vote as follows:

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

## NEW BUSINESS

The city received a request from the OS Chamber of Commerce to hold a public forum for candidates in the upcoming 2021 Municipal Election at the Ocean Springs Civic Center Thursday, March 11th from 8 a.m. until 9 p.m. and for the rental fee to be waived (Exhibit 7-a). Alderman Authement said the Republican Executive Committee presented an Attorney General's opinion that they interpreted to read that the fee can't be waived for this event or a previously approved event. The City Attorney said she has not been given the opinion for review, but the event would not be solely benefitting the sitting board. A motion was made by Alderman Cox and seconded by Alderman Papania to authorize the OS Chamber of Commerce to host a public forum for candidates in the upcoming 2021 Municipal Election at the Ocean Springs Civic Center Thursday, March 11th from 8 a.m. until 9 p.m. and for the rental fee to be waived contingent on the City Attorneys complete review of the Attorney General's opinion brought forth.

The motion carried with a roll call vote as follows:

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

Alderman Cox said the drainage pipes at Gay Lemon Park have caved in and requested the Board authorize the Mayor to request assistance, either monetary, labor, or both, from Jackson County (Exhibit 7-b). A motion was made by Alderman Cox and seconded by Alderman Papania to adopt the Resolution to authorize the Mayor to request assistance from Jackson County to repair drainage at Gay Lemon Park.

The motion carried with a roll call vote as follows:

Alderman Gill	Aye
Alderman Authement	Aye
Alderman Bellman	Aye
Alderman Cox	Aye

Alderman Papania	Aye
Alderman Blackman	Aye
Alderman Impey	Aye

## CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Alderman Gill and seconded by Alderman Authement 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 8-a)
- b) Approve Run/Walk permit application for Walking on Water – Coast Young Professionals; Saturday, March 24, 2021; from 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.; Ocean Springs Beach; no cost to the City, the applicant pays associated event cost (Exhibit 8-b)
- c) Adopt Resolution terminating the existence of a local emergency enacted March 11, 2019, for Front Beach Drive due to the incapacitation of streetlights along Front Beach Drive (Exhibit 8-c)
- d) Accept January 2021 Aged Receivable Report for utility billing (Exhibit 8-d)
- e) Ratify check to Grassmaster’s Lawn Service for \$1,785.00 for grass cutting service (Exhibit 8-e)
- f) Authorize the Mayor to execute a Municipal Election Contract with Jackson County Election Commission for the Primary Election to be held April 6, 2021 (Exhibit 8-f)
- g) Human Resources action items (Exhibit 8-g):
  - a. Authorize employment of certified Patrolman David Wilder, Step 5, \$20.26 hourly rate; effective March 8, 2021; one-year probationary status, pending successful completion of all pre-employment requirements
  - b. Authorize employment of certified Patrolman Ronald Bennett, Step 5, \$20.26 hourly rate; effective March 8, 2021; one-year probationary status, pending successful completion of all pre-employment requirements
  - c. Authorize employment of certified Patrolman Adam Frazier, Step 3, \$19.10 hourly rate; effective March 22, 2021; one-year probationary status, pending successful completion of all pre-employment requirements
  - d. Accept the resignation of Court Clerk Hailey Sheline, effective March 5, 2021; authorize to begin the process of filling the vacant position
  - e. Authorize removal of Firefighter Joshua Brown from probationary status to full-time status effective immediately
  - f. Accept the resignation of Beautification Laborer Summer Devrow, effective February 16, 2021; authorize to begin the process of filling the vacant position
  - g. Authorize removal of Sewer Laborer Cameron Hayes-Watson from probationary status to full-time status effective immediately
  - h. Accept the resignation of Parks Maintenance Leadman Chance Payton, effective February 17, 2021; authorize to begin the process of filling the vacant position

- i. Accept the resignation of Custodian Delante Weston, effective February 23, 2021; authorize to begin the process of filling the vacant position
- h) Authorize out of state travel for professional training ROCIC Spring Conference – Employee #1686 March, 14-17, 2021 in Myrtle Beach, SC (Exhibit 8-h)
- i) Authorize out of state travel for professional training Nation Interdiction Conference – Employee #2074 July 25-30, 2021 in Baltimore, Maryland (Exhibit 8-i)
- j) Accept Code Enforcement Report through February 26, 2021 (Exhibit 8-j)
- k) Accept Tree Department recommendations – Tree Applications through February 24, 2021 (Exhibit 8-k)
- A-2a) Authorize the City Clerk to execute the rental agreement with Quadiant Inc. for postage meter lease for 60 months (Exhibit A-2a)
- A-2b) Authorize the Mayor to execute the Scope of Engagement letter with Butler/Snow to remain as counsel and agent for continuing disclosure of bond requirements (Exhibit A-2b)
- A-2c) Transfer assets from Parks to Public Works: Asset #2225 Freightliner Dump Truck, #2236 Equipment Trailer, #619558 Utility Trailer 16’ and #22204 Utility Trailer 16’ (Exhibit A-2b)

The motion carried with a roll call vote as follows:

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

## DEPARTMENT REPORTS

### City Clerk:

A motion was made by Alderman Authement and seconded by Alderman Gill to approve the docket of claims; the Board finds that all expenditures are appropriate and authorized by law (Exhibit A-3a).

The motion carried with a roll call vote as follows:

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

A motion was made by Alderman Papania and seconded by Alderman Impey to approve the monthly budget report (Exhibit 9-b).

The motion carried with a roll call vote as follows:

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

A motion was made by Alderman Cox and seconded by Alderman Impey to authorize adjustment of water/sewer accounts due to a finding that the customers did not receive the benefit of the utility and the excess usages were due to unforeseen circumstances (Exhibit 9-c).

The motion carried with a roll call vote as follows:

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

#### Human Resources:

The Human Resources & Risk Management Director gave an update on Hurricane Zeta damages and repairs. She said so far there are estimated damages of \$650,000 but there are approximately 45 more days in the FEMA period identify damages. She said the property insurance claim for wind damage is \$350,000 with a \$40,000 deductible. She added there has been difficulty in receiving estimates for damages. She said lighting damages at the ball fields are approximately \$98,000 and roof damages are currently around \$95,000.

#### Police Department:

A motion was made by Alderman Gill and seconded by Alderman Impey to adopt a Resolution for approval and use of the Right of Entry and Property Cleaning Authorization for both the Police Department and Public Works (Exhibit 9-e).

The motion carried with a roll call vote as follows:

Alderman Gill	Aye
Alderman Authement	Aye
Alderman Bellman	Aye
Alderman Cox	Aye

Alderman Papania	Aye
Alderman Blackman	Aye
Alderman Impey	Aye

Building Department:

The request for a permit to build a retaining wall partially on City right-of-way at 11 De La Rose Place (Exhibit 9-f); was tabled so the City Attorney could further review.

**GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**ALDERMAN’S FORUM**

Alderman Gill asked the Public Works Director to reseed on Nottingham Road where a previous sewer project was completed.

Alderman Authement said the Fort Bayou Bridge will be closed by MDOT for approximately six weeks. He requested to use 2% funds to purchase a billboard in conjunction with the OS Chamber of Commerce to help redirect traffic to Ocean Springs especially during the Spring Arts & Garden Festival. The City Attorney said she would prepare a Resolution. He said PAPOS has an art installation project of art panels they would like to place at MLK Park. Alderman Authement then stepped out of the boardroom briefly.

Alderman Cox said St. Paul’s Preschool is requesting the use of the Mary C. Auditorium at the non-profit rate. A motion was made by Alderman Cox and seconded by Alderman Bellman to approve St. Paul’s Preschool request to use the Mary C. Auditorium at the non-profit rate for production.

The motion carried with a roll call vote as follows:

Alderman Gill	Aye
Alderman Authement	No Vote (out of boardroom)
Alderman Bellman	Aye
Alderman Cox	Aye
Alderman Papania	Aye
Alderman Blackman	Aye
Alderman Impey	Aye

Alderman Impey congratulated the Mayor for his “228 Awards”, Most Handsome Mayor, and Coolest Mayor.



**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

A motion was made by Alderman Gill and seconded by Alderman Papania to go into a closed session to determine the necessity of going into an executive session.

The motion carried with a roll call vote as follows:

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

Alderman Blackman disconnects from the meeting at 6:53 p.m.

The Deputy City Clerk returned to the meeting and announced that a motion was made by Alderman Impey, seconded by Alderman Gill, and unanimously carried to remain in executive session to discuss personnel in Public Works.

A motion was made by Alderman Impey, seconded by Alderman Authement, and unanimously carried to come out of an executive session where the following action was taken.

A motion was made by Alderman Impey, seconded by Alderman Gill, and unanimously carried to extend the probationary status of employee #886 for 90 days to ensure compliance with conditions of employment agreed to on March 6, 2020.

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

Meeting ended at 7:36 p.m.

*Nicky Hulse*      3/16/2021  
City Clerk Deputy      Date

*Alex D'Amico*      3/16/2021  
Mayor      Date

