

## **RECESS MEETING OF MARCH 16, 2021**

Be it remembered that the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the City of Ocean Springs met in a Recess Meeting at City Hall in the City of Ocean Springs at 6:00 p.m. on March 16, 2021. The Mayor presiding, Aldermen Gill, Authement, Bellman, Cox, Papania, Blackman, and Impey were present. Also present were City Attorney Nicole Sullivan, Deputy City Clerk Vicky Hupe, Fire Chief Derek McCoy, Police Chief Mark Dunston, Human Resources & Risk Management Director Mindy McDowell, Planning & Grants Administrator Carolyn Martin, Building Official Darrell Stringfellow, Public Works Director Allan Ladnier, Parks & Recreation Athletic Coordinator Chris Kostmayer, 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.

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

Judy Dalgo from the Ocean Springs Library Board (JGRLS) addressed the Board regarding the passing of Joey Rice, who a Library Board member for 15 years and a longtime vital artist in Ocean Springs. Librarian Yvonne Parton read the poem, "The World I Live In" by Mary Oliver in memory of Joey Rice. The daughters of Joey Rice presented and donated an art piece painted by their mother to the Ocean Springs Library entitled "Nocturne III".

### **PROCLAMATION**

The Mayor proclaimed March 21, 2021, as World Down Syndrome Day (Exhibit 3-a). He presented the proclamation to the Hartman family and the Williams family.

### **PUBLIC HEARING**

The Planning & Grants Administrator presented the request is for sketch plat approval for Bechtel Oaks Subdivision PID #60129070.000 and said the Planning Commission recommends approval (Exhibit 4-a). She said it's an odd remnant piece of property on Bechtel Boulevard that will be divided into 3 lots and a storage area. She answered Alderman Gill, that the zoning is R-D which would allow either single-family or duplex properties. A motion was made by Alderman Blackman, seconded by Alderman Gill, and unanimously carried to open the Public Hearing for the request of sketch plat approval at Bechtel Oaks Subdivision PID #60129070.000.

Chic Cody expressed concerns about the drainage of the property, which he said is already an issue. He requested the developer address the drainage issues before moving forward.

**EXHIBIT # 8-r**

A motion was made by Alderman Impey, seconded by Alderman Cox, and unanimously carried to close the Public Hearing.

A motion was made by Alderman Bellman, seconded by Alderman Gill, and unanimously carried to approve the sketch plat presented for Bechtel Oaks Subdivision PID #60129070.000.

## **AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Alderman Authement said he would like to begin the process to advertise for RFQ's for pre-position contracts for a storm consultant, debris monitor, and debris hauler. He said the debris monitor and debris hauler were successful during Hurricane Zeta. He said with hurricane season upcoming, he would like to start the process since there is no fee until the city activates the contract. He said he understands the City Clerk's monetary concerns but feels the Board should consider having a contract in place in case of a catastrophic event. Alderman Blackman said he agrees since there is no fee involved but when a committee is formed, let them decide how and when the RFQ's would happen. He said they need to be mindful of the city staff workload. Alderman Authement requested the City Attorney review the current hauler contract to determine if it could be extended. A motion was made by Alderman Authement, seconded by Alderman Gill, and unanimously carried to authorize to begin the process to advertise for RFQ's for pre-position contracts for a storm consultant and debris monitor.

Alderman Authement asked if the Board would rather have a committee or it brought to the entire Board. Alderman Bellman said the committee should consist of Aldermen Authement, Blackman, and Impey. A motion was made by Alderman Authement, seconded by Alderman Bellman and unanimously carried to form a pre-position contracts committee with Aldermen Authement, Blackman, and Impey serving.

The City Attorney said the City had an agreement with the Ocean Springs Baseball Organization last year but because of COVID baseball tournaments were limited. She said the organization requested a new agreement for the 2021 baseball season which will allow the baseball organization to use City golf carts when not in use by the City and would provide a positive advertisement to the City. A motion was made by Alderman Gill, seconded by Alderman Blackman, and unanimously carried to adopt a Resolution authorizing execution of an MOU and Hold Harmless Agreement with the Ocean Springs Baseball Organization (Exhibit 6-c and 6-d).

## **NEW BUSINESS**

The City Attorney said bicycles are already prohibited on City sidewalks and she received a request to add skateboards to the ordinance. Alderman Authement said he has received several complaints from the downtown businesses regarding safety issues with skateboards on the sidewalks. Alderman Cox requested the Board consider building a skate park as the next big project. A motion was made by Alderman Authement and seconded by Alderman Gill to adopt an Ordinance, an amendment to the Ocean Springs Code of Ordinances, Zoning, and Subdivisions; to revise Chapter 14 Article II Section 14-28 regarding bicycle and skateboard operation on sidewalks (Exhibit 7-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

The Planning & Grants Administrator said the UDC allows to request a gravel driveway but requires a 10-foot apron from the road. She said the Planning Commission received a request which would be an expansion of the existing driveway of an Ishee house with gravel in a low traffic area and the property slopes down from the roadway. She said the Planning Commission recommends the gravel driveway but they do not have the authority to waive the 10-foot apron. A motion was made by Alderman Bellman, seconded by Alderman Cox, and unanimously carried to approve the gravel driveway and waive the 10-foot apron requirement at 105 Myrtle Drive PID #60135041.000 (Exhibit 7-b).

Sarah Qarqish, the Arts & Culture Coordinator, said within her first 3 weeks in her position she has been able to connect with many partners both new and previous for the Mary C. She said that in coordination with the City, Parks & Recreation, and community volunteers have been able to clean, organize and restock to bring the Mary C. back to life with a strong start. She explained the upcoming new monthly event, "The Firefly" that will start on March 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. at the Mary C. She said it will feature interactive art, technology, entertainment, and refreshments.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

A motion was made by Alderman Gill, seconded by Alderman Impey, and unanimously carried to approve the Consent Agenda.

- a) Adopt Resolution authorizing Mayor to execute a one-year option to renew the MOA for the use and operation of the Charnley-Norwood House at 509 East Beach Drive (Exhibit 8-a)
- b) Approve Minutes: Special Call Meeting February 8, 2021 (Exhibit 8-b)
- c) Approve Minutes: Recess Meeting February 17, 2021 (Exhibit 8-c)
- d) Approve Minutes: Regular Meeting March 2, 2021 (8-d)
- e) Approve Minutes: Special Call Meeting March 9, 2021 (Exhibit 8-e)
- f) Accept monthly OSPD Report for February 2021 (Exhibit 8-f)
- g) Accept monthly Fire Department Report for February 2021 (Exhibit 8-g)
- h) Human Resources Action items (Exhibit 8-h):
  - a. Authorize removal of General Service Officer Peter Rigby from probationary status to full-time status effective immediately
  - b. Authorize removal of Street Laborer Daniel Cockerham from probationary status to full-time status effective immediately
  - c. Authorize employment of Lloyd Helveston III, Water Department Laborer, Step 1, \$12.50 hourly rate; effective March 17, 2021; one-year probationary status, pending successful completion of all pre-employment requirements
  - d. Accept the resignation of Parks Maintenance Worker Myikel Marks, effective March 5, 2021; authorize to begin the process of filling the vacant position
- i) Approve license to encroach for construction of a concrete parking area and connecting walkway at 510 Magnolia Avenue PID #61095044.000 (Exhibit 8-i)
- j) Approve Tax Exempt Application pre-construction for 929 Washington Avenue (Exhibit 8-j)
- k) Approve Tax Exempt Application pre-construction for 616 Porter Avenue (Exhibit 8-k)
- l) Approve Certificate of Appropriateness for wall signs and exterior paint at 929 Washington Avenue; Historic Preservation Commission will provide recommendation before meeting (Exhibit 8-l)
- m) Approve Certificate of Appropriateness for the site and building additions at 604 and 616 Porter Avenue; Historic Preservation Commission will provide recommendation before meeting (Exhibit 8-m)
- n) Authorization to execute contract amendment for \$10,000 with Compton Engineering for services to include waterline replacement– KCDBG Project R-109-282 Ft. Bayou Improvements Amendment #1 (Exhibit 8-n)
- o) Authorization to execute Hold Harmless Agreement related to use of 400 Front Beach Drive for materials storage – Tidelands Project FY18-P501-05OS – OS Front Beach Living Shoreline (Exhibit 8-o)
- p) Authorize the Mayor to execute Funding Grant Agreement HB 1730 and approve the distribution of funds and project implementation – 2020 Ocean Springs Water and Sewer Systems Improvements Fund \$1,000,000 (Exhibit 8-p)
- q) Authorization to execute Amendment #1 for DMR Grant Agreement OS-001-MOA and proceed with project implementation, Knapp Road Waterline Replacement Project (Exhibit 8-q)

- r) Authorization to execute Construction Engineering and Inspection (CE&I) Contract with Compton Engineering – East Beach Sidewalk (Exhibit 8-r)
- s) Authorization to execute Change Order #1 with Twin L Construction OS Front Beach Living Shore Line Tidelands Project FY18-P501-05OS (Exhibit 8-s)
- t) Approve request of variance from the side yard building setback regulations to allow an attached carport to encroach street side setback area at 200 Audrey Circle; ZAB recommends approval (Exhibit 8-t)
- u) Approve demolition of the structure at 421 Porter Ave., over 50 years old (Exhibit 8-u)
- v) Accept Building Department February 2021 Permit Report (Exhibit 8-v)
- w) Approve Tree Department recommendations – Tree Applications through March 9, 2021 (Exhibit 8-w)
- x) Approve Code Enforcement Report through March 11, 2021 (Exhibit 8-x)

## **DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

### MAYOR:

The Mayor said Keep Mississippi Beautiful will be donating wildflower seeds to the City for low maintenance beautification. He requested the Aldermen let him know by tomorrow what locations in their wards they would like to add the wildflowers to determine how much is needed.

### CITY CLERK:

A motion was made by Alderman Authement, seconded by Alderman Gill and unanimously carried to approve the Docket of Claims; the Board finds that all expenses are lawful and appropriate (Exhibit 9-a).

### PUBLIC WORKS:

The City Engineer said they recommend awarding the Water Tank Repairs and Painting contract to Tank Pro, Inc. and Public Works agreed. A motion was made by Alderman Impey, seconded by Alderman Cox, and unanimously carried to award Tank Pro, Inc. the three Water Tank Repairs and Painting contract for \$1,033,598.00 (Exhibit 9-b).

## **GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

Paula Rychtar, 516 Martin Avenue, reported drainage issues from construction at a neighboring property, The Roost. She said a drainage pipe goes under the fence and drains into her back-yard dumping water and red clay. She said they would also like The Roost to extend the fence the length of the property. Alderman Gill said there is an ordinance that does not allow neighboring properties to drain on other properties and asked if there is a drainage easement. She said no, it's her property and not an easement. The Planning & Grants Administrator said because it is not a new development, it did not

go through Planning Department but that there is an ordinance that requires developments have a net zero change in the runoff. The Building Official said The Roost was told not to proceed with any drainage alterations until the drainage plan was approved and the Certificate of Occupancy would not be issued for the property until the drainage was approved. The Building Official, Public Works Director, and the City Engineer planned to visit the site and assess the issue the following day. The Mayor said he was unaware the issue had not been previously resolved but will stay on top of the issue. Alderman Authement said the City will need to address the amount of water flowing from Porter Avenue, which is part of the issue.

## **ALDERMAN'S FORUM**

Alderman Gill asked the Planning & Grants Administrator for an update on his request to establish fishing reefs at City piers. She said she will investigate Tideland's funds. He suggested she call DMR. He thanked Public Works for a good job on a drainage ditch in Monticello Woods Subdivision.

Alderman Authement said Jackson County is taking over the property by the Harbor for boat parking. He said the fence that is there will not work and requested to ask Jackson County to install the type of fence they already have at the Harbor of post and ropes. The Planning & Grants Administrator said she is unsure the funding source will allow overflow parking and fencing. She said several issues would need to be researched before making a decision or request.

Alderman Papania said Water's Edge HOA has requested ward funds to replace plants in the subdivision. A motion was made by Alderman Papania, seconded by Alderman Bellman, and unanimously carried to give Water's Edge HOA \$1,099 of Ward 4 funds.

Alderman Blackman said Bienville Place HOA has requested ward funds to add additional lighting in the subdivision. A motion was made by Alderman Blackman, seconded by Alderman Impey, and unanimously carried to give Bienville Place HOA \$1,000 of Ward 5 funds for additional lighting.

Alderman Blackman asked the Planning & Grants Administrator for an update on the Government Street Sidewalk project. She said there have been delays in receiving the bridge materials due to the supply chain and delivery trucks plus MDOT submittal issues. She said once MDOT closes out this contract, the project should be ready to advertise for completion. She said the road will probably be closed for two weeks at a minimum based on current plans. She said she is hopeful to advertise by the end of May.

Alderman Impey asked the Public Works Director for an update on the County paving project. He replied that he has left a message but has not received a response on when the project will be started.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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

The Deputy City Clerk returned to the meeting and announced that a motion was made by Alderman Cox, seconded by Alderman Bellman, and unanimously carried to remain in executive session to discuss the course of action regarding security plans or devices with the City.

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

- a) A motion was made by Alderman Impey, seconded by Alderman Gill, and unanimously carried to authorize the City Attorney to pursue an Attorney General opinion regarding the use of certain security devices within the City of Ocean Springs.

A motion was made by Alderman Authement, seconded by Alderman Gill, and unanimously carried for the use of \$1,000 in Ward 2 funds for a crosswalk decal at WAMA.

A motion was made by Alderman Impey, seconded by Alderman Blackman, and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting until 6:00 p.m. on April 7, 2021.

Meeting ended at 7:45 p.m.

Betty Barton      4-8-21  
City Clerk                      Date

Glen Davis                      4/8/21  
Mayor                                      Date

