

## **RECESS MEETING OF JUNE 15, 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 June 15, 2021. The Mayor presiding, Aldermen Gill, Authement, Bellman, Cox, Papania, Blackman, and Impey were present. 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, Human Resources & Risk Management Director Mindy McDowell, Planning & Grants Administrator Carolyn Martin, Building Official Darrell Stringfellow, Public Works Director Allan Ladnier, Parks & Recreation Director Stephen Glorioso, and Executive Assistant to the Mayor & Board Meggan Switzer.

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 Blackman, seconded by Alderman Impey, and unanimously carried to accept the agenda.

### **PROCLAMATION**

The Mayor presented Alderman John Gill with a proclamation for serving 36 years as an Alderman in Ocean Springs (Exhibit 3-a). Leslie Kelly from the Fort Bayou Civic Association Board presented Alderman Gill with framed photos of Ward 1 and thanked him for his attentiveness, responsiveness, and support of Ocean Springs residents for 36 years.

The Mayor presented Police Lieutenant Alfred "Al" Parker with a proclamation for his retirement and thanking him for his 14 years of service to the City of Ocean Springs (Exhibit 3-d).

The Mayor presented Police Lieutenant Julian Quiroz with a proclamation for his retirement and thanking him for his 23 years of service to the City of Ocean Springs (Exhibit 3-c).

The Mayor read a proclamation honoring Police Captain William "Chuck" Jackson for his retirement after 25 ½ years of service to the City of Ocean Springs (Exhibit 3-b). Carolyn Martin accepted the proclamation on his behalf.

### **AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**EXHIBIT # 1-1**

## **ITEMS OUT OF ORDER**

The following three items were addressed out of order due to the time restraints of the interested parties.

Item 6-c – The Planning & Grants Administrator requested concurrence to use \$500,000 of MS SB 2002 BP Settlement bond funds that will expire early next year. She said the four projects it will be used towards are: Steelman Lane, CIPP lining sewer lines throughout the City, Bio-Tech Drive in Sun Plex water and sewer material cost, and the repairs at the Halstead Water Well. A motion was made by Alderman Gill, seconded by Alderman Authement, and unanimously carried granting concurrence for Water Sewer Projects to be funded by the MS Department of Finance & Administration State Bonds related to MS SB 2002 (BP settlement) for Water Sewer Infrastructure Improvements (Exhibit 6-c).

Item 5-c – The Planning & Grants Administrator said the Planning Commission approved the use of a gravel driveway at 9341 Meadowview Circle but they cannot grant a variance to not require the 10' apron of solid surface as requested (Exhibit 5-c). The property owner, Ashley Harold, said there currently is 4' of asphalt and a French Drain. He said he is concerned adding 10' of asphalt would create drainage issues. Alderman Papania asked if the gravel driveway was added before a permit was obtained. The property owner said it was because he did not know he needed a permit. He said the gravel driveway is a secondary drive and is only used to park a boat. A motion was made by Alderman Blackman and seconded by Alderman Gill to grant the appeal and allow a gravel driveway without the required 10 feet solid surface at 9341 Meadow View Drive. The motion passed with Aldermen Gill, Authement, Bellman, Cox, Blackman, and Impey voting aye; and Alderman Papania voting nay.

Item 8-g – Alderman Impey explained the Tree Appeal for 10 Davis Bayou Circle which was recently purchased and is being renovated. Timothy Trepagnier, the new homeowner, said the property had deteriorated and he is in process of renovating. He said the property is full of trees and is asking for permission to remove the tree that is damaging the shed on the property. He said he would like to save the shed from further damage caused by the tree. Alderman Papania asked if he will plant a protected tree. The homeowner agreed. A motion was made by Alderman Impey, seconded by Alderman Blackman, and unanimously carried to grant the appeal to allow removal of a tree due to hardship and close proximity to the shed and the homeowner is to plant another protected tree.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Alderman Bellman requested the Parks & Recreation Building at 400 Alice Street be named the "John McKay Parks & Recreation Building". Alderman Impey read and provided

for Exhibit 5-a, reasons the building should be renamed. The reasons included John McKay serving as the City's first Recreation Director from 1971-1985 and his many accomplishments during his term. A motion was made by Alderman Bellman and seconded by Alderman Papania to name the Parks & Recreation Building at 400 Alice Street the "John McKay Parks & Recreation Building". The motion carried with Aldermen Gill, Bellman, Cox, Papania, and Impey voting aye; and Aldermen Authement and Blackman voting nay.

The Human Resources & Risk Management Director said there was another FEMA site visit to Fort Maurepas and the City is on hold due to the accessible sidewalk being damaged between the trees (Exhibit 5-b). She said a decision regarding the damaged tree is needed before moving forward with the repair or relocation of the sidewalk. Alderman Cox said the tree should have had the brick sidewalk removed and dirt added to the root system to assist in the recovery of the tree several months ago. The City Clerk said clear direction was never received and a motion was not made to do that to the sidewalk and tree. Alderman Papania asked about the coverage at the Fort if the tree remains. The Human Resources & Risk Management Director said the issue is there is a report from an arborist that the tree is a threat to life, putting the City on notice of risk and would be difficult to defend in a lawsuit. Alderman Authement said there is a risk with every tree and he feels there is a minimum risk with the tree. The City Clerk said a decision must be made to open the playground when the repairs are complete. Alderman Blackman said the Board received a legal opinion that explained the liability of the City should an accident occur. A motion was made by Alderman Gill and seconded by Alderman Bellman to remove the damaged tree at Fort Maurepas and to inquire about a decoration being carved in the trunk. The motion carried with Aldermen Gill, Bellman, Blackman, Papania, and Impey voting aye; and Aldermen Authement and Cox voting nay.

A motion was made by Alderman Cox, seconded by Alderman Blackman, and unanimously carried to extend all contracts, agreements, and boards & commissions appointments from expiring on June 30th to July 31st.

The City Clerk said School Crossing Guards cost the City between \$40,000 to \$45,000 each year and Ocean Springs is the only municipality along the Coast to pay for Crossing Guards for the school district. Alderman Blackman asked the City Attorney to draft a letter to request the Ocean Springs School Board take over the payment of the School Crossing Guards. Alderman Cox said he has been notified the school board's budget has been finalized. The City Clerk said the school budget has not been finalized because it has not been sent to the City Clerk's office to calculate the millage. A motion was made by Alderman Blackman and seconded by Alderman Gill for the City Attorney to draft a letter requesting the Ocean Springs School Board take over the funding of School Crossing Guards. The motion carried with Aldermen Gill, Authement, Bellman, Blackman, Papania, and Impey voting aye; and Alderman Cox voting nay.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

A motion was made by Alderman Authement and seconded by Alderman Bellman to adopt an Ordinance to reinstate civil service coverage to the City Clerk (Exhibit 6-a). The motion carried with a roll call vote as follows: Aldermen Authement, Bellman, Papania, and Impey voting aye; and Aldermen Gill, Cox, and Blackman voting nay.

A motion was made by Alderman Authement and seconded by Alderman Bellman to adopt an Ordinance to reinstate civil service coverage to the Public Works Director (Exhibit 6-a). The motion carried with a roll call vote as follows: Aldermen Authement, Bellman, Papania, and Impey voting aye; and Aldermen Gill, Cox, and Blackman voting nay.

A motion was made by Alderman Authement and seconded by Alderman Bellman to adopt an Ordinance to reinstate civil service coverage to the Assistant Public Works Director of Field Operations (Exhibit 6-a). The motion carried with a roll call vote as follows: Aldermen Authement, Bellman, Papania, and Impey voting aye; and Aldermen Gill, Cox, and Blackman voting nay.

A motion was made by Alderman Authement and seconded by Alderman Bellman to adopt an Ordinance to reinstate civil service coverage to the Executive Assistant to the Mayor & Board of Aldermen (Exhibit 6-a). The motion carried with a roll call vote as follows: Aldermen Authement, Bellman, Papania, and Impey voting aye; and Aldermen Gill, Cox, and Blackman voting nay.

A motion was made by Alderman Authement and seconded by Alderman Bellman to adopt an Ordinance to reinstate civil service coverage to the Building Official, Deputy Building Official, Planning/Grants Administrator, City Planner, Deputy City Clerk, Parks Director, Parks Superintendent, Assistant Public Works Director of Administration & Finance, and Human Resources & Risk Management Director (Exhibit 6-a). The motion carried with a roll call vote as follows: Aldermen Authement, Bellman, Papania, and Impey voting aye; and Aldermen Gill, Cox, and Blackman voting nay.

A motion was made by Alderman Authement and seconded by Alderman Bellman to adopt an Ordinance to reinstate civil service coverage to the Arts & Culture Coordinator (Exhibit 6-a). The motion carried with a roll call vote as follows: Aldermen Authement, Bellman, Papania, and Impey voting aye; and Alderman Gill, Cox, and Blackman voting nay.

A motion was made by Alderman Authement, seconded by Alderman Blackman, and unanimously carried to table item 6-b) authorize the Mayor to execute a letter of support for the Harbor Commission to place a sculpture in the harbor along the jetty; for further review by the City Attorney per Jackson County's request.

A motion was made by Alderman Authement, seconded by Alderman Gill, and unanimously carried to adopt a resolution requesting assistance from Jackson County for dredging the South Bayou at Iola Drive (added Exhibit 6-d).

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

A motion was made by Alderman Impey, seconded by Alderman Blackman, and unanimously carried to approve the Consent Agenda except item 7-f pulled by Alderman Impey.

- a) Authorize the contract auto-renewal for the Jackson-George Regional Library System contract with no changes renewing on October 1, 2021, for 1 year (Exhibit 7-a)
- b) Authorize the Temporary Dedication of Land for Public Use agreement for the Fayard Property on Front Beach Drive on July 4, 2021 (Exhibit 7-b)
- c) Adopt Resolution approving and authorizing emergency repairs to the Halstead Water Well (Exhibit 7-c)
- d) Ratify 31 checks totaling \$8,169.80 for the Municipal General Election – Election Commissioners and Poll Workers (Exhibit 7-d)
- e) Ratify a \$77,549.00 check to Crown Dodge Chrysler Jeep for two vehicles – Fire Department and Mayor’s Office (Exhibit 7-e)
- f) Authorize to advertise for RFP’s associated with disasters for the 2021 Hurricane season: Debris Monitoring Management, Debris Removal Services, Emergency Tree Removal Services, and Emergency Electrical Services (Exhibit 7-f)
- g) Approve Minutes: Recess Meeting May 18, 2021 (Exhibit 7-g)
- h) Accept monthly OSPD Report for May 2021 (Exhibit 7-h)
- i) Authorize the purchase of duty weapons for \$1.00 by retiring Police Lieutenants – Quiroz: Glock 17 Gen 5, Serial #BGLM203; Parker: Glock 17 Gen 5, Serial #BGLM219 – the \$1.00 purchase is authorized by MS Statute 45-9-131 (Exhibit 7-i)
- j) Authorize Mayor to execute documentation required to transfer title of the totaled 2015 Dodge Charger to COPART on behalf of EMC Insurance (Exhibit 7-j)
- k) Accept the monthly Fire Department Report for May 2021 (Exhibit 7-k)
- l) Human Resources Action item (Exhibit 7-l):
  - a. Accept retirement of Police Lieutenant Julian Quiroz, effective June 30, 2021; authorize to begin the process of filling the vacant position
  - b. Accept retirement of Police Lieutenant Al Parker, effective June 30, 2021; authorize to begin the process of filling the vacant position
  - c. Authorize promotion of Police Sergeant Len Ordonez to Lieutenant, Step 1, \$22.00 hourly rate; effective July 10, 2021; six-month probationary status; authorize to begin the process of filling the vacant position
  - d. Authorize promotion of Patrolman Gregory McClellon to Sergeant, Step 3, \$21.22 hourly rate; effective June 26, 2021; six-month probationary status; authorize to begin the process of filling the vacant position

- e. Authorize promotion of Patrolman Timothy Regan to Sergeant, Step 2, \$20.60 hourly rate; effective June 26, 2021; six-month probationary status; authorize to begin the process of filling the vacant position
- f. Accept the resignation of Deputy Court Clerk Taylor Lunsford, effective July 30, 2021; authorize to begin the process of filling the vacant position
- m) Approve Bed & Breakfast Permit for 207 Dewey Avenue PID #60137478.000; Planning Commission recommends approval subject to annual renewal (Exhibit 7-m)
- n) Approve the Certificate of Appropriateness at 522 Jackson Avenue PID #6137206.000 for exterior paint, build storage building in the rear, construct 3.5-foot-tall picket fence and gate and install gutters; HPC recommends approval (Exhibit 7-n)
- o) Approve the Certificate of Appropriateness at 1204 Iberville Drive PID #60119196.000 for the demolition of the principal building; HPC recommends approval (Exhibit 7-o)
- p) Approve the Certificate of Appropriateness at 319 Washington Avenue PID #60137386.000 for the enclosure of an existing porch; HPC recommends approval (Exhibit 7-p)
- q) Approve the Certificate of Appropriateness at 1112 Bowen Avenue PID #601190014.000 for the brick columns to have mortar joints and to be painted white; HPC recommends approval (Exhibit 7-q)
- r) Authorize the Mayor to execute Engineering Contract with Overstreet & Associates for \$18,000 for the Front Beach Sidewalk repairs – OS Front Beach Infrastructure Maintenance FY18-P501-02OS (Exhibit 7-r)
- s) Accept the Building Department May 2021 Permit Report (Exhibit 7-s)
- t) Approve the Tree Department recommendations – Tree Applications through June 8, 2021 (Exhibit 7-t)
- u) Approve Code Enforcement Report through June 10, 2021 (Exhibit 7-u)
- v) Authorize refund of Fire Pit 12 on May 29th due to condition issues (Exhibit 7-v)
- w) Adopt Resolution to sell surplus personal property (scrap metal) with a value less than \$1,000.00 (Exhibit 7-w)

A motion was made by Alderman Impey, seconded by Alderman Cox, and unanimously carried to authorize to advertise for RFP's associated with disasters for the 2021 Hurricane season: Debris Monitoring Management, Debris Removal Services, and Emergency Tree Removal Services.

## **DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

### MAYOR:

No discussion needed for July 4<sup>th</sup> Fireworks funding (Exhibit 8-a).

### CITY CLERK:

A motion was made by Alderman Blackman, seconded by Alderman Gill and unanimously carried to approve the Docket of Claims; the Board finds that all expenses are lawful and appropriate (Exhibit 8-b).

The City Clerk said the new phone contract with a 60-month term will save the City \$25,000 per year. A motion was made by Alderman Impey, seconded by Alderman Gill and unanimously carried to authorize the City Clerk to execute a 60-month term Kloud 7 Phone Contract (Exhibit 8-c).

The City Clerk said the bids to repair the McPhearson Pier came in below budget, so an alternate bid was added. The alternate bid is to repair the pier and the decking below the pavilion for \$93,145.00 (Exhibit 8-d). She said the materials cannot be received for 80-100 days so the completion date will need to be changed. A motion was made by Alderman Impey, seconded by Alderman Gill and unanimously carried to award McPhearson Pier repair bid to J. E. Borries, Inc. in the amount of \$93,145.00 for base plus alternate bid extending the potential completion date based on when materials can be obtained.

The Deputy City Clerk said the Finance Committee has met to discuss the Taconi building lease renewals and will have their recommendations by the next Board meeting.

Building Department:

The City Engineer said the City Ordinance does not allow for the proposed grease trap at 2321 Government Street. He said there are several in the City that have been allowed and are being monitored but he can't recommend them. Alderman Authement said there are certain businesses that an exception should not be made and believes a bakery is one. Alderman Papania asked how the other businesses with an exception for a smaller grease trap are going. The Public Works Director said all are being monitored and are being cleaned more frequently. Lacey Cakes owner, Lacey Jay, said she would be making cakes to order and is a single-person staff transitioning from a home-based cottage baker. She said the sink she has is too large and is skewing the calculations for the grease trap size. She said she is willing to clean more frequently and being monitored frequently. Alderman Blackman said the ordinance needs to be reviewed by the Public Works Director, Building Official, City Engineer, and other employees with knowledge of grease traps. A motion was made by Alderman Papania and seconded by Alderman Cox to approve a 40-pound, 20-gallon per minute grease trap at Lacey Cakes at 2321 Government Street with Public Works monitoring. The motion carried with Aldermen Gill, Bellman, Cox, Papania, Blackman, and Impey voting aye; and Alderman Authement voting nay.

**GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

## **ALDERMAN'S FORUM**

Alderman Gill said this will be the last forum of his 36-year term as Alderman. He requested the Short-Term Rental (STR) Ordinance be reviewed and revised to be fairer to older subdivisions without HOA's. He said if a neighborhood does not have an HOA there is no way to stop STRs in the neighborhood. Alderman Papania agreed. They would like something added to the Planning Commission hearing that if a certain number or percentage of the neighbors object, then the STR is not allowed. Alderman Authement said there have already been 50 STRs approved and asked how this would affect them. Alderman Cox said the Ordinance has been reviewed and he does not see a different solution. A motion was made by Alderman Gill and seconded by Alderman Papania for the Planning & Grants Administrator and the City Attorney to review the Short-Term Rental Ordinance to give neighborhoods without HOA's a voice. The motion carried with Aldermen Gill, Authement, Bellman, Cox, Papania, and Blackman voting aye; and Alderman Impey voting nay.

Alderman Bellman thanked all of the other Aldermen, the Mayor, and City employees. He said it has been an honor to serve with them all and he has been impressed with the growth Mayor Dobson has made through his four-year term.

Alderman Cox said it was an honor to work with Alderman Gill, Alderman Bellman, and the Mayor and wished them luck in the future. He asked the Public Works Director if a solution was determined for the drainage issue on White Avenue that caused a house to flood. The Public Works Director said it is being worked on to remedy. Alderman Cox said to get whatever is needed to correct as soon as possible.

Alderman Blackman asked the Public Works Director to stay proactive for the upcoming rainy weather. He wished Alderman Gill well in his retirement and thanked Alderman Bellman and the Mayor for serving.

Alderman Impey remembered Alderman Gill playing Santa. He thanked Alderman Gill, Alderman Bellman, and the Mayor and wished them well. He asked for an update on the bridge lights. The City Clerk responded the lights on the side of the bridge are trying to be retrofitted due to exorbitant cost of original. She said she is unsure of the status of the middle lights and suggested the Mayor reach out to MDOT for an update.

The City Clerk thanked Alderman Gill for his years of service to the City. She recalled Alderman Gill made sure the width of the walking track at the Civic Center was corrected. She said she has enjoyed working with Alderman Gill, Alderman Bellman, and the Mayor.

A motion was made by Alderman Impey and seconded by Alderman Cox to pause the automatic pay raise for the Mayor and Aldermen noted in Ordinance 2001-01. The motion

