

## **RECESS MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 21, 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 September 21, 2021. The Mayor presiding, Aldermen Burgess, Authement, Wade, 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 Switzer.

The Mayor called the meeting to order.

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

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

### **PRESENTATION**

American Legion Post Commander Carl King explained the history of the American Legion post and their different locations within the City. He also spoke about the charitable volunteer work the organization has done within the City over the years. On behalf of Post 42, he requested the City provide them use of the old Dewey Police Station. He requested the City ask Jackson County to expand the Library building's roof repairs project to cover the roof repairs at the Dewey building.

### **AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT**

Diana Schmied spoke regarding Agenda item 5-a, the Animal Ordinance. She expressed concerns about the chicken regulations in the new Ordinance and requested the Board table the adoption of the Ordinance.

Adam Broome spoke regarding Agenda item 5-d, the agreement with the Capital Group. He said the agreement is missing a "not to exceed amount" and requested the Board add the cap limit before approval. He said without the cap limit the City would need to advertise for the services.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

**EXHIBIT # 8-k**

Alderman Burgess said the Animal Ordinance has been worked on extensively with several other cities, departments, and the City Attorneys. She said if you currently have chickens or other animals without issue then this Ordinance will not cause problems. Alderman Authement said the Ordinance has been reviewed line by line and it addresses needed regulations but it does not target chickens. A motion was made by Alderman Burgess and seconded by Alderman Authement to adopt an Ordinance: An amendment to the Code of Ordinances, Zoning, and Subdivisions; to revise Chapter 5 Animal Control (Exhibit 5-a). The motion carried with a roll call vote as follows:

Alderman Burgess	Aye
Alderman Authement	Aye
Alderman Wade	Aye
Alderman Cox	Aye
Alderman Papania	Aye
Alderman Blackman	Aye
Alderman Impey	Aye

A motion was made by Alderman Burgess and seconded by Alderman Authement to go into effect immediately for public safety for the Ordinance: An amendment to the Code of Ordinances, Zoning, and Subdivisions; to revise Chapter 5 Animal Control (Exhibit 5-a). The motion carried with a roll call vote as follows:

Alderman Burgess	Aye
Alderman Authement	Aye
Alderman Wade	Aye
Alderman Cox	Aye
Alderman Papania	Aye
Alderman Blackman	Aye
Alderman Impey	Aye

Alderman Papania said he requested an ordinance for a four-way stop at Parkwood Place at the intersection of Ridgewood Road and Ridgewood Circle to slow traffic (Exhibit 5-b). A motion was made by Alderman Papania and seconded by Alderman Impey to adopt an Ordinance: An amendment to the Code of Ordinances, Zoning, and Subdivisions; to revise Chapter 14 Article I Section 14-8 regarding stop streets; at Parkwood Place at the intersection of Ridgewood Road and Ridgewood Circle; effective immediately for public safety. The motion carried with a roll call vote as follows:

Alderman Burgess	Aye
Alderman Authement	Aye
Alderman Wade	Aye
Alderman Cox	Aye
Alderman Papania	Aye
Alderman Blackman	Aye
Alderman Impey	Aye

Alderman Cox said the YMCA is still utilizing the Ryan Youth Center to spread out their elderly fitness classes and would like for the Resolution to be extended. A motion was made by Alderman Cox, seconded by Alderman Burgess, and unanimously carried to adopt a Resolution to donate the use of the Ryan Youth Center to the YMCA for 6 months (Exhibit 5-c).

The Mayor said the City's previous lobbying service provider has retired. He said he has vetted and is recommending The Capital Group for lobbying services for the City. Alderman Papania said previously, several applicants were interviewed for these types of contracts and then a decision would be made for the contract. He requested since the legislation does not begin until January to request applications from lobbying groups. The Mayor responded that another lobbying group on the Coast could not be found and lobbying in Jackson is happening now. Alderman Cox said he does not have an issue with looking at other firms but a decision needs to be made quickly. Alderman Impey said to be procedurally correct, interviews should take place before going under contract but the timeline is short due to recently being notified of Mr. Gill's retirement. A motion was made by Alderman Blackman and seconded by Alderman Authement to authorize the Mayor to execute a Professional Service Agreement with The Capital Group, LLC for lobbying and consulting services (Exhibit 5-d). The motion passes with Aldermen Burgess, Authement, Wade, Cox, and Blackman voting aye; and Aldermen Papania and Impey voting nay.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

The City Clerk discussed the agreement with Local Government Services and said this group was previously used to assist the City with the Telecommunications contracts and saved the City funds. She said the current agreement is \$3,000 for the audit, but if no money is found in the audit, the cost is reduced to \$1,500. A motion was made by Alderman Blackman, seconded by Alderman Papania, and unanimously carried to authorize the Mayor to execute an Engagement Agreement with Local Government Services, LLC for consulting services (Exhibit 6-a).

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

A motion was made by Alderman Cox, seconded by Alderman Authement, and unanimously carried to approve the Consent Agenda except for item 7-p(d) pulled by Alderman Wade.

- a) Approve Special Event permit application for OSHS Homecoming Parade; Wednesday, September 22, 2021, from 4:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.; Jackson Avenue to Front Beach Drive to Porter Avenue to Washington Avenue then to Government Street ending at the Upper Elementary; will have overtime costs assessed to the City, the applicant pays any other associated event cost (Exhibit 7-a)

- b) Approve Special Event permit application for Lighting Up the Coast for Bright Minds – Dyslexia Awareness Month; Saturday, October 2, 2021, from 5:30 p.m. to 8:15 p.m.; Parking lot and pier at the Harbor on Front Beach pending approval by Jackson County; no cost to the City, the applicant pays associated event cost (Exhibit 7-b)
- c) Approve Run/Walk permit application for Rotary Club of Ocean Springs 13th annual 5-K R.A.C.E. and 1-mile Fun Run; Saturday, October 16, 2021, from 5:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.; Rotary 5-K Route; no cost to the City, the applicant pays associated event cost (Exhibit 7-c)
- d) Approve Run/Walk permit application for Night of Neon 5-K St. Alphonsus Catholic School; Friday, November 5, 2021, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.; OS Bridge Front Beach 5-K Route; no cost to the City, the applicant pays associated event cost (Exhibit 7-d)
- e) Approve Special Event permit application for 43rd Annual Peter Anderson Arts & Crafts Festival; Saturday & Sunday, November 6-7, 2021 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; Downtown Ocean Springs; this is a City-sponsored event and there will be overtime cost (Exhibit 7-e)
- f) Approve to waive the \$400.00 Ryan Youth Center rental fees for the Mayor’s Youth Council to host 2 free Women’s Self Defense classes on Saturdays, October 16th and November 20, 2021, from 8:00 a.m. to noon (Exhibit 7-f)
- g) Adopt Resolution to open the Uniform Assessment Schedule and Authorize to schedule the Public Hearing for October 5, 2021, to Adopt Uniform Assessment Schedule (Exhibit 7-g)
- h) Adopt Resolution to request assistance from the Jackson County Board of Supervisors to repair the Ocean Springs Library (Exhibit 7-h)
- i) Authorize to advertise the Monster Ditch No. 1 Project for bids (Exhibit 7-i)
- j) Ratify check for \$396.00 to Demetrio Marquez for instructor fees for classes at the Mary C (Exhibit 7-j)
- k) Approve Minutes: Recess Meeting August 17, 2021 (Exhibit 7-k)
- l) Approve Minutes: Special Call Meeting August 28, 2021 (Exhibit 7-l)
- m) Approve Minutes: Special Call Meeting August 31, 2021 (Exhibit 7-m)
- n) Accept OSPD monthly report for August 2021 (Exhibit 7-n)
- o) Accept OSFD monthly report for August 2021 (Exhibit 7-o)
- p) Human Resources action items (Exhibit 7-p):
  - a) Authorize the employment of Brittany Shepherd, Deputy Court Clerk II, Step 5, \$15.34 hourly rate; effective October 4, 2021; one-year probationary status, pending successful completion of all pre-employment requirements
  - b) Authorize the promotion of Firefighter Lionel Cothorn to Lieutenant, Step 1, \$15.90 hourly rate; effective October 2, 2021; six-month probationary status
  - c) Authorize the employment of Austin Trahan, Parks Maintenance Worker, Step 1, \$12.00 hourly rate; effective September 22, 2021; one-year probationary status, pending successful completion of all pre-employment requirements

- d) Accept the termination of Probationary Custodian #2507, effective September 17, 2021; authorize to begin the process of filling the vacant position
- q) Approve request of a lot split at 525 Jackson Avenue PID #60137098.000; Planning Commission recommends approval (Exhibit 7-q)
- r) Approve request of a gravel driveway and parking area at 401 Porter Avenue PID #60225080.000 The Collective; Planning Commission recommends approval (Exhibit 7-r)
- s) Accept recommendation of the approval of the appeal of rear yard building setback requirement and the appeal of the requirement for a green area along the driveway and parking area, provided the stormwater drains away from the neighbor to the west and the intent of the UDC is maintained; 401 Porter Avenue PID #60225080.000 The Collective (Exhibit 7-s)
- t) Authorize Brown, Mitchell, & Alexander, Inc. to continue with Engineering Services for the Deana Road Improvement Project (Exhibit 7-t)
- u) Accept Building Department Report for August 2021 (Exhibit 7-u)
- v) Accept Code Enforcement Report through September 16, 2021 (Exhibit 7-v)
- w) Accept Tree Application recommendations – Tree Applications through September 13, 2021 (Exhibit 7-w)

## **DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

### MAYOR:

A motion was made by Alderman Cox, seconded by Alderman Wade, and unanimously carried to adopt a Resolution to request Jackson County's assistance to repave Bills Avenue (Exhibit 8-a).

### CITY CLERK:

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

A motion was made by Alderman Cox, seconded by Alderman Burgess, and unanimously carried to adjust the water/sewer accounts listed on Exhibit 8-c except for 4005 Breezy Hill Lane per the applicant's request; with the finding that the customers did not receive the benefit of the utility and the excess usages were due to unforeseen circumstances (Exhibit 8-c).

The Clerk gave the Board an update on Hurricane Zeta. She said FEMA needs to know if the City is going to mitigate the sewer lift stations in low lying areas and requested that the item to be placed on the next agenda for the Board to make a decision. She said there are 13 identified lift stations that get 11' of storm surge and if not mitigated FEMA will not continue to fund repairs. She said the pier boards are being treated and will be

ready to install in 6 weeks. She recommends replacing all of the bollards and trash cans on Front Beach and said FEMA will reimburse the cost for 23 damaged bollards of the 63 needed. FEMA recommended concrete trash cans for Front Beach, and they will reimburse the cost for 6 damaged trash cans of the 18 needed. She said an email has been sent to decide on the style of the bollards and trash cans. Alderman Papania requested concrete trash cans also be ordered for East Beach at the same time to be included in the delivery cost. She requested the City Attorney draft a Resolution for the next meeting to use 2% funds to purchase bollards and trash cans. Alderman Authement said the pet stations are damaged on Front Beach and asked if they could be replaced at the same time.

## **GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

## **ALDERMAN'S FORUM**

Alderman Burgess requested debris pick up in Ward 1. The Public Works Director said pick up was started this morning. She asked about the speed study results requested for Ward 1. The Planning & Grants Administrator said she has not received the results from GRPC, but would pass them along when she receives them. Alderman Burgess asked the Executive Assistant to the Mayor & Board about the priority items on her work order spreadsheet. The Executive Assistant to the Mayor and the Board responded she would review this week.

Alderman Authement requested a barricade at the curve on Iberville Drive. The Public Works Director said he would get a barricade placed.

Alderman Wade also requested debris pick up in Ward 3.

Alderman Cox said he attended a demonstration of the use of foam to level concrete panels. He requested the Board authorize the Mayor to get quotes to repair the sidewalks on Government Street and other spots the sidewalks are sunk near catch basins like near Ocean Springs Road near the hospital and in front of Starbucks. He requested the Building Official enforce that businesses do not put signs or any hindrance on the sidewalks.

Alderman Blackman asked the Public Works Director to install the new school zone sign by Magnolia Bayou this week. He also requested ideas for a reflective barrier at the end of Beachview Drive.

Alderman Impey asked the Planning & Grants Administrator if there is a start date on the remaining KCDBG drainage projects in the Trentwood subdivision. The Planning & Grants Administrator responded that there is no start date yet, but contractor clearance has been

received and awarded and a date will be determined during the Pre-Construction meeting once scheduled. Alderman Impey asked when the Ocean Springs Road project will start, and the Planning & Grants Administrator replied hopefully by the first of the year. Alderman Impey asked the City Clerk about the bridge lights, and the Planning & Grants Administrator replied she would reach out to the contractor to determine a timeline. She added there will be a retirement reception for Mr. Joe Gill, the City's lobbyist on October 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:00 p.m. at the Mary C. Alderman Impey noted the City's sales tax keeps increasing to record highs. A motion was made by Alderman Impey, seconded by Alderman Burgess, and unanimously carried to adopt a Resolution to allow the sale of beer by the American Legion for Cruisin the Coast 2021 (added Exhibit 10-a).

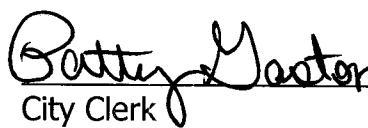
The Mayor said after each Board meeting the Department Heads have a meeting the following day to address issues discussed at the meeting. He reminded all that the Homecoming Parade will be downtown tomorrow at 6:00 p.m. A motion was made by Alderman Cox, seconded by Alderman Authement, and unanimously carried to authorize to advertise for bids for the Tidelands funded Front Beach Sidewalk replacement project.

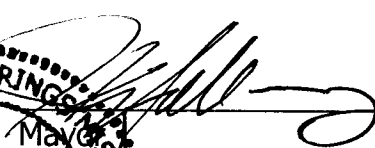
The Mayor congratulated Alderman Authement for being appointed to the MML Board of Directors.

### EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Alderman Impey, seconded by Alderman Cox, and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting until 6:00 p.m. on October 5, 2021.

Meeting ended at 8:10 p.m.

 10/05/2021  
City Clerk Date

 10/05/2021  
Mayor Date

