

SPECIAL CALL MEETING SEPTEMBER 4, 2012

Be it remembered that the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the City of Ocean Springs met in a Special Call Meeting at City Hall in the City of Ocean Springs at 5:00 p.m. on September 4, 2012. Mayor Moran presiding, Aldermen Cox, Gill, McDonnell, Cody, Denyer, Dalgo and Hagan were present. Also present was City Clerk Shelly Ferguson.

The Mayor called the meeting to order.

Alderman Cody gave the invocation and the Mayor led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Special Call Meeting is for the purpose of any and all matters pertaining to the FY12-13 proposed budget.

The Mayor commended all department heads and Aldermen for their work and input on the budget.

This budget has no layoffs or furloughs but many other items have been cut such as the Aldermen's and mayor's capital improvement accounts, special projects, capital outlay, reduced number of cell phones, take-home vehicles limited no. as well as some major projects being postponed.

She reported an incline in sales tax revenues and it is a very tight, conservative budget for the upcoming fiscal year.

The Mayor also commended the City staff and Aldermen for their hard work during Hurricane Isaac. The City was well prepared and was able to test out the new EOC. We will address lessons to be learned from this storm. She also thanked Nate Wilson as the EOC Director, the Police Chief, Fire Chief and Public Works Departments.

Alderman Gill stated this budget contains no property tax increase.

Alderman McDonnell also commended the department heads for working together to figure out solutions and therefore, not having to implement layoffs, furloughs or increase millage in the FY12-13 budget.

The City Clerk presented the proposed FY12-13 budget. The City has seen a slight increase in property tax revenue, sales tax, however overall revenue is down.

The Evergreen Cemetery project is underway. We anticipate selling plots in November by a lottery system as recommended by the City Attorney.

The City Judge increased some of the court fines.

The City Clerk is proposing to add a festival fee charged to the promoter holding the event for our departments' to operate. The department heads researched the cost incurred by the City for the festivals in overtime and supplies purchased for the event. The City will meet with the Chamber of Commerce to discuss this fee.

The City Clerk reported a reduction in travel but left in only travel expenses to maintain certifications, cell phone usage was reduced; City vehicles will only be driven home by one (1) on-call employee; dues/subscriptions have been reduced across the board. Also eliminated from the upcoming budget is all capital and special projects.

The Board of Aldermen will no longer have City issued cell phones. They have eliminated their capital ward funding and all donations to non-profit charitable organizations. She suggested adopting an ordinance as a safe guard stating the City will no longer be giving donations or waiving any rental fees for our facilities and further, they will not go on the agenda.

As far as the City museum budget, there is \$10,000 for museum coordinator and \$4,000 for supplies.

There will now be a separate line item in each department's personnel budget to easily track the cost associated with working the special events paid by the City.

The City received a 10% reduction in health insurance premiums totaling approximately \$100,000. One disability policy was eliminated with a savings of \$13,000.

The City Clerk stated the budget eliminates hiring a City Planner. Planning services will be contracted out on an as needed basis only, not to exceed \$2,000.00.

The Chamber of Commerce will receive \$25,000.00 from the 2% hotel tax along with \$30,000 from the 2% tax levy to promote restaurants. Alderman McDonnell asked for a financial breakdown from the Chamber of Commerce of how these funds will be used.

The City is now collecting \$100M from the food and beverage tax. Most of the capital projects are complete with the exception of Highway 57 Sports Complex. The Parks and Leisure Services Director has compiled a list of equipment needed to fully complete this project. The City Clerk stated it will take 1-1/2 years to fully fund these items. The Board asked for the list of equipment.

The City Clerk advised implementing and adopting certain Ordinances for the new fiscal year: 1) appointing a peer review committee to evaluate budgeting, purchasing, personnel, new hires and policies to be made up of 2 Aldermen and 3 Directors to meet once a month and any other time as needed. This will not be a decision making committee. It will be a recommending body to the Board; 2) direct the City Clerk to no longer place waiver and donation requests on agendas and will advise the public that the Board can no longer accept such requests; 3) direct all athletic funding requests and any other athletic activity to be processed through the Parks and Leisure Services Department personnel; 4) direct department heads to establish a festival fee to promotion event sponsors and coordinators to pay for overtime and supplies in order to hold the event with payment being due 2 weeks prior to the event and if payment is not received, the festival will be cancelled; 5) professional services for budgeted, unbudgeted and new projects must be approved by the Board of Aldermen prior to hiring vendor including engineering and consulting and 6) travel, training, conference fees must be preapproved by the Board of Aldermen in advance of travel arrangements being made.

The Public Hearing on the proposed budget will need to be on Friday, September 7th at 5:00 p.m. and adoption of the budget will need to be on Friday, September 14th.

The Mayor spoke of the Washington Avenue Pedestrian Path. The budget shows \$32,500.00 as being returned to the general fund. She reported only \$19,000.00 is available. She suggested using \$20,000 from Public Works sidewalk budget but would be replenished if other funds become available next fiscal year. Alderman Denyer asked to stop the Washington Avenue Project and then reevaluate and hold until next fiscal year.

MDOT Transportation Enhancement Grant will lose funding if we don't proceed with this project.

The Public Works Director asked to wait on a decision about this project until the next meeting until actual dollars can be verified.

Motion was made by Alderman Gill, seconded by Alderman Hagan and unanimously carried to adjourn the Special Call Meeting.

The meeting ended at 6:04 p.m.

Mayor

City Clerk

**CITY OF OCEAN SPRINGS
COUNTY OF JACKSON
STATE OF MISSISSIPPI**

Call for a Special Meeting of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the City of Ocean Springs, Mississippi.

From: Mayor Moran

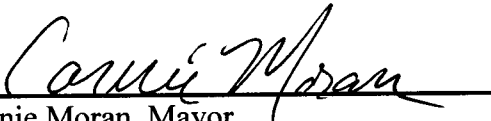
To: Aldermen Cox, Gill, McDonnell, Cody, Denyer, Dalgo, and Hagan

You are hereby notified that a Special Call Meeting is called to meet at City Hall at **5:00 p.m., Tuesday, September 4, 2012.**

THE OBJECT OF THE MEETING IS AS FOLLOWS:

Any and all matters pertaining to:

- 1) Budget for FY12-13



Connie Moran, Mayor

ATTEST:



Shelly Ferguson
City Clerk