

RECESS MEETING OF DECEMBER 17, 2013

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 December 17, 2013. Mayor Moran presiding, Aldermen Cox, Gill, McDonnell, Cody, Denyer, Dalgo and Impey were present. Also present was City Clerk Shelly Ferguson and City Attorney John Edwards.

The Mayor called the meeting to order.

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

OLD BUSINESS

Motion was made by Alderman Denyer, seconded by Alderman McDonnell and unanimously carried to appoint John Edwards and his firm Dogan and Wilkinson, PLLC as City Attorney, effective December 1, 2013, through June 30, 2016.

The Mayor asked the Board how they would like to proceed to select the City Engineer. The Board had previously interviewed five (5) firms at a Special Call Meeting. The Mayor presented a ballot listing the top five (5) firms. Motion was made by Alderman Cox and seconded by Alderman Cody to select the top three (3) engineering firms to be interviewed by the selection committee and make a recommendation to the Board. There was discussion concerning the process of the voting and whether to rank the firms or select the top three (3) firms. Motion carried with Aldermen Cox, Gill, McDonnell, Cody and Denyer voting aye; Alderman Dalgo voting nay and Alderman Impey abstaining from the vote to select the top three (3) engineering firms to be further interviewed by the selection committee.

After a ballot vote, the firms selected were Compton Engineering, Inc., Machado-Patano, and a tie vote between Michael Baker, Jr., Inc. and Goodwyn, Mills & Conwood (GMC). The selection committee will meet with the four (4) engineering firms after the holidays.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Robinson commended the Public Works Department and the Police Department.

The School Board Attorney, Mr. Alwyn Luckey, explained that one of the four school board members currently appointed by the City will now be elected from the school district area outside the City limits in the November 4, 2014 election. The new state

The School Board Attorney, Mr. Alwyn Luckey, explained that one of the four school board members currently appointed by the City will now be elected from the school district area outside the City limits in the November 4, 2014 election. The new state law that requires two (2) of the district's members be elected from the non-city area if the student count exceeds 30% of the total. He stated that approximately 47% of the students live outside of the city limits.

There was discussion concerning the next school board appointment beginning the first Saturday in March, 2014 and that it should be noted in the advertisement that it will be a 10-month appointment.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion was made by Alderman Denyer, seconded by Alderman Cody and unanimously carried to approve the Consent Agenda with exception of item (b) which was pulled by the Mayor; item (j) which was pulled by Alderman Cox and item (t) which was pulled by Alderman Impey.

The Mayor pulled item (b) for clarification. She announced the Department of Marine Resources and the 1699 Historical Society are hosting a heritage project, a re-interment of the French colonists at the Moran site in Biloxi on Friday, December 20th. The Mayor stated she is requesting permission to co-host a reception with the 1699 Historical Society on Thursday, December 19th at the Community Center. She said Dignitaries from all levels of government are expected to attend. Invitations have been extended to the French Consul General and the Cabildo, whose representatives are expected to bring the 1699 Landing Marker.

Motion was made by Alderman Gill, seconded by Alderman Cody and unanimously carried to authorize the City to partner with the MS Department of Marine Resources and the 1699 Historical Society to host the re-interment of the French Colonists at the Moran Site in Biloxi on December 20th and to request the City to co-host a reception to be held on December 19th at the Ocean Springs Community Center (Exhibit 6-b).

Alderman Cox pulled item (j) for clarification. Alderman Cox stated he thought the hiring for this position would be done in February or March, 2014 and asked for clarification. Alderman Cody said that the position needs to be filled to allow officers to be reassigned to the new Task Force, when it is formed. The H.R. Director advised the hiring process takes weeks to complete; therefore, the new officer possibly would not be on staff possibly until February.

Motion was made by Alderman Cox, seconded by Alderman Cody and unanimously carried to authorize to begin the process to fill the vacant patrol position, H.R. Committee concurs (Exhibit 6-j).

Alderman Impey pulled item (t) to ask what guarantee the City has this developer to maintain the entryway and parking lot. The Mayor explained verbiage would be in the Warranty Deed as a deed restriction. The City will not expend any of the Tidelands grant money until the property has been transferred to the City. If for any reason the property transfer does not come to fruition, the city can request a reallocation of funding through Tidelands.

Motion was made by Alderman Dalgo, seconded by Alderman Cody and unanimously carried to authorize the Mayor to execute the Grant Agreement for the Tidelands Funds FY2014-P401, OS Old Fort Bayou Greenway – Phase I (Exhibit 6-t).

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Mayor:

Motion was made by Alderman Cox, seconded by Alderman McDonnell and unanimously carried to appoint David Beaugez to the Parks Advisory Board, term expiring June 30, 2018.

Public Works:

The Assistant Public Works Director explained the Army Corps of Engineers will begin the closeout process of Section 592 project for the design and construction of water system improvements for the City. New appropriations have not been available since 2009, nor are any expected in the future.

Peer Review Committee:

Motion was made by Alderman Denyer, seconded by Alderman McDonnell and unanimously carried to authorize the Grants/Planning Administrator to notify Jackson County that the City of Ocean Springs will not implement CIAP Project MS 30.715 to acquire Flood-prone properties and relinquish project funding to the county for re-authorization; authorize advertisement of a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for Engineering Services for stormwater and pedestrian improvements related to CIAP Project MS 30.706; authorize the procurement of surveying services related to CIAP Project MS 30.706 to determine descriptions for necessary easements and authorize the procurement of appraisal and review appraisal services related to CIAP Project MS 30.706.

Alderman Denyer reported the Peer Review Committee discussed the cost related to insuring the public art displays. The annual premium is \$1,796.00 with a \$5,000.00 deductible and is not a budgeted item. Mr. Scott Lemon is checking with other

companies for a different type of policy. Motion was made by Alderman Cox and seconded by Alderman Cody to authorize to pay \$1,796.00 for the insurance costs related to the public art. Motion carried with Aldermen Cox, Gill, McDonnell, Cody, Dalgo and Denyer voting aye and Alderman Impey voting nay.

There was further discussion to offer a reward concerning the vandalism done to the art work at the Chamber parking lot. Capt. Jackson stated he will contact Crimestoppers to ask about advertising this reward through them. The Grants/Planning Administrator will research grants to fund this type of reward.

ALDERMEN'S FORUM

Alderman Gill expressed his concern about the city's current budget as well as next year's budget. He stated sales tax is down by \$17,000 as compared to last year's figure at this same time. He also stated trash pick-up service offered to the residents of the City, cost \$850,000.00 annually. He asked the Board members to consider raising the garbage fee assessed on the homeowners by \$2.00 in January, 2014. He also stated he is concerned there is nothing else to cut out of the budget for FY14-15. The City Clerk will check with State Tax Commission concerning the extra 2% tax and make sure that is being correctly collected. Alderman Denyer stated his concern was the lack of striping between Holcomb and Bechtel Boulevards which may be a safety issue. He also suggested that the finance committee look at the water/sewer budget. The City Clerk was instructed to submit a memo to the Board to consider increasing the garbage fee by \$2.00 in January, 2014.

Alderman Cox thanked the Jackson County Harbor Commission for asking him to be the Parade Marshall at the Christmas Boat Parade.

Alderman McDonnell asked the City Engineer for an update on the Fallo parking lot project. Mr. Foster stated the project is out for bid until January 15, 2014, with a base bid and add alternates.

Alderman Denyer stated that Government Street is in need of new striping. He also suggested putting reflectors in the road and also asking the County to participate with these improvements. The Mayor suggested including it to the Government Street Improvements Project.

Alderman Denyer has received many phone calls from residents on or near East Beach about almost getting hit by cars. He would like to obtain estimates to build a sidewalk on the north side of the road. He also asked the Grants/Planning Administrator to research grants to fund this type of project and keep this on a priority list.

Alderman Cody asked that the runners in the City wear vests while running after dark.

Alderman Impey commended everyone involved with the Christmas Boat Parade. Everyone looked to be having a good time and hopefully this event will grow in the future. Alder Impey also recognized Ms. Anne Pitre and the staff for their work in rapidly transitioning the Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony from Marshall Park to the Community Center. It along with the Charnley Open House was very well attended.

Aldermen Impey asked why the City has not been involved in the BP Restore Act meetings. Meetings held previously were attended by Alderman Cody and the Parks Director, Geri Straight. Ms. Straight was the only representative at the meeting held in November. He said all other cities were all represented. He said the BP Restore Act money is a one-time shot and the City should not miss this opportunity. He stated he did appreciate Ms. Straight attending these meetings.

The Mayor stated she has met with Trudy Fisher's staff along with the Building Official, Jason Mackenzie and the Parks Director. They toured all of the City's sites and projects submitted by the Board two (2) years ago. The Parks Director has been representing the City at the follow-up meetings but she has also been in direct contact with them. They looked at infrastructure, economic development, parks and recreation, drainage issues, as well as the Fort Bayou Greenway project. They were very interested in this project. The Mayor also suggested doing a partnership project with the City of Gautier for economic development for a master wetlands permitting plan especially for undeveloped areas of Highway 90 and up Highway 57. The Mayor asked the Board if they have other particular projects they would like to add, the City can still submit these as well. Also, included is the Highway 57 Wetlands Mitigation for additional parking.

Alderman Impey suggested partnering with the County on the Davis Bayou restoration project for dredging.

Motion was made by Alderman Gill, seconded by Alderman Cody and unanimously carried to adjourn until 6:00 p.m. on January 7, 2014.

Meeting ended at 7:54 p.m.

City Clerk

Mayor

Date

Date

**AGENDA
MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN
CITY OF OCEAN SPRINGS
RECESS MEETING
December 17, 2013 - 6:00 p.m.**

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ROLL CALL

3. OLD BUSINESS

4. NEW BUSINESS

- 5. PUBLIC COMMENT:** The public is invited to address the Board for up to 3 minutes. The Board will take all comments under advisement for potential action at a later date if warranted.

6. CONSENT AGENDA*

** Consent Agenda – All matters listed under Item 6, Consent Agenda, are considered to be routine by the Board of Aldermen and will be enacted by one motion. There will not be separate discussion of these items. If discussion is desired, that item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and will be considered separately.*

Mayor:

- a) Authorize to advertise to fill the vacancy on the Ocean Springs School Board due to a term expiring on February 28, 2014; deadline to submit applications will be February 11, 2014 at 5:00 p.m. (Exhibit 6-a)
- b) Authorize the City to partner with the MS Department of Marine Resources and the 1699 Historical Society to host the re-interment of the French Colonists at the Moran Site in Biloxi on December 20th and to request the City to co-host a reception to be held on December 19th at the Ocean Springs Community Center ((Exhibit 6-b)

City Clerk:

- c) Approve Minutes: Special Call Meeting December 3, 2013 (Exhibit 6-c)
- d) Approve Minutes: Regular Meeting December 3, 2013 (Exhibit 6-d)
- e) Approve payment: Docket of Claims and spread Summary upon the Minutes (Exhibit 6-e)
- f) Accept Action Report (Exhibit 6-f)
- g) Authorize to ratify the sponsorship in the amount of \$500.00 for the Christmas Board Parade paid from donated funds (Exhibit 6-g)
- h) Authorize to move Deanna McLallen to the Administrative Clerk position in the City Clerk's department at her current rate of pay; begin the process to fill the vacant Deputy Court Clerk position; fill the vacant dispatcher position due to Debra Powell, Dispatcher, being temporarily long-term assigned to the Court Department, H.R. Committee concurs (Exhibit 6-h)

Police Dept.:

- i) Authorize employment of Dylan Scott Wooley, as a patrol officer, effective December 18, 2013, \$12.50 per hour, one-year probationary period and pending successful completion of all pre-employment requirements; upon completion of academy pay rate to be \$13.94 (Exhibit 6-i)
- j) Authorize to begin the process to fill the vacant patrol position, H.R. Committee concurs (Exhibit 6-j)
- k) Authorize to declare X26 tasers as surplus; of no further use to the City and return them for credit towards the new tasers (Exhibit 6-k)

Fire Dept.:

- l) Accept Monthly Fire Department Report (Exhibit 6-l)

Human Resources/Risk Management:

- m) Authorize Fifth Annual Employee Wellness Fair on Tuesday, March 25, 2014, at the Ocean Springs Civic Center (Exhibit 6-m)

City Engineer:

Public Works:

- n) Authorize removal of Devin Sonnier from probationary status and placement on full time status, effective December 21, 2013 (Exhibit 6-n)
- o) Award bid to JET Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$48,000.00 for the Woodhaven Drainage Improvements Project; JET Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$48,000.00 for the Highway 90 North (Trentwood) Drainage Improvements Project and Graham Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$42,140.00 for the Sussex Drive Drainage Improvements Project, Pat Harrison Waterway District projects (Exhibit 6-o)
- p) Authorize to award bid to Saunders Construction, LLC in the total amount of \$171,213.50 for the Front Beach Drainage Project (Exhibit 6-p)

Community Development & Planning:

- q) Authorize the Mayor to execute the Construction, Engineering and Inspection (CE&I) contract with BKI related to the STP Project for Government Street Improvements, pending MDOT concurrence (Exhibit 6-q)
- r) Authorize the Mayor to execute the Maintenance Letter to Jackson County Board of Supervisors related to the Drainage Improvements on Front Beach (Exhibit 6-r)
- s) Ratify submitting the application and application fee of \$150.00 to apply to the Secretary of State for Tidelands Lease Related to CIAP funded Drainage Improvements Project on Front Beach (Exhibit 6-s)
- t) Authorize the Mayor to execute the Grant Agreement for the Tidelands Funds FY2014-P401, OS Old Fort Bayou Greenway – Phase I (Exhibit 6-t)

Planning Commission:

- u) Accept Planning Commission's recommendation to approve the lot split for Melinda Schlenk at 102 Heron Cove (Exhibit 6-u)

Historic Preservation Commission:

- v) Accept Historic Preservation Commission's recommendation to issue a COA to construct an addition to an existing home and renovate the exterior of the existing structure at 1309 Bowen Avenue (Exhibit 6-v)

Building Department:

- w) Accept Tree Committee Report (Exhibit 6-w)
- x) Accept Building Department Permit Report for November, 2013 (Exhibit 6-x)
- y) Accept Code Enforcement Report (Exhibit 6-y)

Parks & Leisure Services:

City Attorney:

Facilities:

Peer Review Committee:

H.R. Committee:

- z) Accept Human Resources Committee Meeting Minutes – December 5, 2013 (Exhibit 6-z)

Finance Committee:

7. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Mayor:

- a) Appointment for the Parks Advisory Board (Exhibit 7-a)

City Clerk:

Police Department:

Fire Department:

Human Resources/Risk:

City Engineer:

Public Works:

Information Item:

- b) Closeout Process for the Section 592 Project (Exhibit 7-b)

Community Development & Planning:

Building Department:

Parks & Leisure Services:

City Attorney:

Facilities:

Peer Review Committee:
H.R. Committee:
Finance Committee:

8. ALDERMEN'S FORUM

9. EXECUTIVE SESSION

ADJOURN UNTIL 6:00 P.M. on Tuesday, January 7, 2014