

## **REGULAR MEETING OF JUNE 7, 2016**

Be it remembered that the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the City of Ocean Springs met in a Regular meeting at City Hall in the City of Ocean Springs at 6:00 p.m. on June 7, 2016. The *Mayor Pro Tem* Cox presiding, Aldermen McDonnell, Cody, Denyer, Dalgo and Impey were present. Also present was City Clerk Shelly Ferguson and City Attorney John Edwards. The Mayor and Alderman Gill were absent.

The *Mayor Pro Tem* called the meeting to order.

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

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Senator Brice Wiggins gave a legislative update related to the City of Ocean Springs. He explained the State's budget is \$5.6B which is down from previous years leading to an 8-12% budget cuts to all agencies. He further stated that the tax cuts do not take effect until 2018. He stated the main concern is the reduction in sales tax with a majority lost through online sales. Senator Wiggins also presented a copy of the Fiscal Year 2017 budget as well as some general legislation adopted by the State Legislature.

Ms. Janet Stennis presented her appeal of the Tree Protection Committee's recommendation to deny her request to remove a cedar tree at 615 Jackson Avenue. Ms. Stennis explained she has a safety issue when backing into her driveway with an RV and jet skis. The cedar tree is hindering their ability to widen the driveway. Motion was made by Alderman McDonnell, seconded by Alderman Cody and unanimously carried to deny the Tree Protection Committee's recommendation and allow the homeowners to remove the cedar tree at 615 Jackson Avenue due to alternative driveway design unreasonably restricts the homeowner's use of the property with requirement and requiring the planting of two (2) 4"-5" cedar trees in another area of the yard.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Ms. Jane Beaugez asked if there are any new developments concerning the short term rentals in residential areas. No new information was presented at the meeting.

Ms. Pam Seymour Cox, 500 Dewey Avenue, stated her concerns with the elderly grandparents being able to get to the outer ballfields at Highway 57 sports complex and recommended using a gator to help transport people to these outer fields. She also asked for a report concerning the amount of legal fees the City has paid to resolve the

East Beach matter. Ms. Cox recognized Ms. Vicki Applewhite for organizing the concert on Saturday. It was a wonderful and very well planned event. She also thanked Ms. Stacy Powell for allowing them to move the concert to the Mary C. due to inclement weather. Ms. Cox stated another concern was Dewey Avenue being included in the new entertainment district and stated her objection to it. She stated Dewey Avenue is a long established family neighborhood and sees no reason it should be included in this district.

Mr. Phil Moore, 257 Holcomb Blvd., asked if the zoning issue around the Mary C. O'Keefe Cultural Center had been resolved. It will be considered at the Planning Commission meeting on June 14, 2016.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

Motion was made by Alderman Impey, seconded by Alderman Cody and unanimously carried to approve the Consent Agenda with the exception of item (n) which were pulled by Alderman Denyer.

Alderman Denyer pulled item (6-n) for discussion during closed session to determine if it is an item for executive session.

## **DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

### **Mayor:**

Motion was made by Alderman McDonnell, seconded by Alderman Cody and unanimously carried to accept the MDOT permit to install cameras on the Biloxi/Ocean Springs bridge behind the mosaic wall and spread upon the minutes (Exhibit 7-a).

### **Human Resources/Risk Management:**

Motion was made by Alderman Denyer, seconded by Alderman Cody and unanimously carried to change the probationary period for all employees to one-year (Exhibit 7-b).

Motion was made by Alderman Dalgo, seconded by Alderman Denyer and unanimously carried to allow the separation of the Building and Planning Departments with no title change or salary increase (Exhibit 7-c).

### **Building Department:**

Motion was made by Alderman Denyer, seconded by Alderman Impey and unanimously carried to accept an engineered rebound wall built to appropriate construction standards and approved by Building Official at no cost to the City (Exhibit 7-d).

Motion was made by Alderman McDonnell, seconded by Alderman Denyer and unanimously carried to authorize the Building Official to obtain two (2) quotes to

remove the remaining concrete remnants on the vacant lot at Government Street and Handy Avenue owned by Herman and Ethel Cochran (Exhibit 7-e).

**Public Works:**

Motion was made by Alderman McDonnell, seconded by Alderman Cody and unanimously carried to accept the recommendation of the Public Works Director to rescind the agreement with MDOT for the grant award through correspondence to GRPC and to use local funds rather than the STP award through MDOT for the downtown sidewalk project.

The Public Works Director stated he will obtain another quote for the crosswalk repair at Government Street and Washington Avenue.

**ALDERMEN'S FORUM**

Alderman Cody presented a quote from Delta Construction in the amount of \$1,457.50 for the concrete work on the sidewalk at the YMCA for the crosswalk. The Public Works Director stated the costs for the thermoplastic and insulation would be \$500.00 and \$250.00 for signage. Motion was made by Alderman Cody, seconded by Alderman McDonnell and unanimously carried to request the YMCA to participate up to one-half of the funding for the crosswalk project at the YMCA on Government Street with a total project costs not to exceed \$2,200.00.

Motion was made by Alderman Cody, seconded by Alderman McDonnell and unanimously carried to authorize trimming the limbs at the Taconi building as requested by the insurance company.

Motion was made by Alderman Cody, seconded by Alderman McDonnell and unanimously carried to authorize a traffic study on Halstead between Davidson and Brumbaugh to substantiate the need for a stop sign or speed bumps.

Alderman Cody asked for a grass cutting schedule for the temporary public works employees. The Public Works Director advised they are working the high profile areas. There are three (3) crews working throughout the City. The youth corp workers are working on the highway.

Alderman McDonnell asked if the Youth Corp. workers will be working on the beach this summer. The Public Works Director advised they are doing trash pickup at the beach every Monday but once they are done working the highway, they will begin on the beach. Alderman McDonnell also asked Public Works to check the sprinkler heads on Front Beach because they are not functioning properly. He also asked if the fertilizer had been applied on the grassy area on Front Beach. He asked the City to identify the taxi companies who provide handicap service and post it on the City website.

Alderman McDonnell asked the Police Department to check a speeding issue on Shearwater, Calhoun and Kensington.

Alderman Denyer stated there is a speeding problem on Twin Pines. He stated the residents want speed bumps installed. He asked the Police Department to provide a report at the next meeting with their suggestions to address this issue.

Alderman Impey recognized and commended the ladies at the Police Department for their hard work on the fundraiser for Corrections Officer Gage Nelson. They raised \$6,676.00.

Alderman Cox asked that the ditches in front of the Fire Department and Police Department be cut. The Public Works Department will cut it with the side arm mower.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Motion was made by Alderman Cody, seconded by Alderman Denyer and unanimously carried to go into closed session to determine the necessity of going into executive session.

The City Clerk returned to the meeting and announced a motion was made by Alderman Denyer, seconded by Alderman Cody and unanimously carried to remain in executive session to discuss litigation regarding a contract; personnel in Public Works and litigation in Chancery Court.

Motion was made by Alderman Dalgo, seconded by Alderman McDonnell and unanimously carried to return to regular session.

Motion was made by Alderman McDonnell, seconded by Alderman Cody and unanimously carried to amend the hourly pay for Jordan Ewing, Beautification Laborer, to \$11.00 per hour.

Motion was made by Alderman Dalgo, seconded by Alderman Cody and unanimously carried to recess until 6:00 p.m. on June 21, 2016.

Meeting ended at 7:57 p.m.

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City Clerk

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Mayor

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Date

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Date

**AGENDA**  
**MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN**  
**CITY OF OCEAN SPRINGS**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**June 7, 2016 - 6:00 p.m.**

- 1. CALL TO ORDER**
- 2. ROLL CALL**
- 3. NEW BUSINESS**
  - a) Presentation – Senator Brice Wiggins
  - b) Discussion concerning appeal of Tree Protection Committee recommendation - Ms. Janet Stennis (Exhibit 3-a)
- 4. OLD 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:**  
**City Clerk:**
  - a) Approve Minutes: Special Call Meeting May 13, 2016 (Exhibit 6-a)
  - b) Approve Minutes: Recess Meeting May 17, 2016 (Exhibit 6-b)
  - c) Approve Minutes: Special Call Meeting May 17, 2016 (Exhibit 6-c)
  - d) Approve Minutes: Special Call Meeting May 25, 2016 (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) Approve Run/Walk Permit Application for the Salvation Army Kroc Center Kroc and Roll 5K/10K race on Saturday, July 17, 2016 from 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. – Beginning at Golden Nugget to Biloxi/OS Bridge to Front Beach and ending at Golden Nugget; at a cost of \$150.00 for traffic control, (Exhibit 6-g)
  - h) Ratify checks for deposit refund to Khloe Folkers for \$200.00; animal cruelty investigation school to AACIS for \$300.00; MSRWA for summer training session for Stephen Beets for \$175.00; MS Secretary of State for lease application for kayak launch for \$150.00 and Center Point Energy for \$25.34 (Exhibit 6-h)
  - i) Authorize employment of Tachaka Lemon, Deputy Court Clerk, effective June 21, 2016, \$13.00 hourly, pending successful completion of all pre-employment requirements (Exhibit 6-i)
  - j) Authorize transfer of Eddie Hibbard from Street Department to Water Technician in the Billing Department, effective immediately, \$15.50 hourly, and authorize to fill the vacant position in the street department (Exhibit 6-j)

**Police Dept.:**

- k) Authorize employment of Henry Frank VI, Patrolman, effective June 8, 2016, \$14.93 hourly, one-year probationary period and pending successful completion of all pre-employment requirements (Exhibit 6-k)

**Fire Dept.:****Human Resources/Risk Management:****City Engineer:****Public Works:**

- l) Authorize Kevin Ewing to fill the Head Mechanic position, \$19.25 hourly, effective June 8, 2016, (Exhibit 6-l)
- m) Authorize removal of Jacob Hickman from probationary status to full-time status, effective June 16, 2016 (Exhibit 6-m)
- n) Authorize employment of Jordan Ewing, Beautification Laborer, effective June 8, 2016, \$12.00 hourly and pending successful completion of all pre-employment requirements (Exhibit 6-n)

**Community Development & Planning:****Building Department:**

- o) Accept Code Enforcement Report through May 27, 2016 (Exhibit 6-o)
- p) Accept Code Enforcement Report through June 1, 2016 (Exhibit 6-p)
- q) Accept report and recommendations of the Tree Protection Committee of May 17, 2016 (Exhibit 6-q)

**Parks & Leisure Services:****City Attorney:****Facilities:****Peer Review Committee:****H.R. Committee:**

- r) Accept Human Resources Committee Meeting Minutes of May 4, 2016 (Exhibit 6-r)
- s) Accept Human Resources Committee Meeting Minutes of May 23, 2016 (Exhibit 6-s)

**Finance Committee:**

## 7. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

**Mayor:**

- a) Accept MDOT permit to install cameras on Biloxi/Ocean Springs behind mosaic wall and spread upon the minutes (Exhibit 7-a)

**City Clerk:****Police Dept.:****Fire Dept.:****Human Resources/Risk Management:**

- b) Discussion concerning change in length of probationary period (Exhibit 7-b)
- c) Discussion concerning division of the Building and Planning Departments (Exhibit 7-c)

**City Engineer:****Public Works:****Community Development & Planning:****Building Department:**

- d) Discussion concerning Parks rebounder wall (Exhibit 7-d)
- e) Discussion concerning property cleaning on vacant lot at Government Street/Handy Avenue – Herman and Ethel Cochran (Exhibit 7-e)

**Parks & Leisure Services:****City Attorney:****Facilities:****Peer Review Committee:**

**H.R. Committee:  
Finance Committee:**

**8. ALDERMEN'S FORUM**

**9. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**RECESS UNTIL 6:00 P.M. on June 21, 2016**