

SPECIAL CALL MEETING MAY 13, 2020

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 6:00 p.m. on May 13, 2020. The Mayor presiding, Aldermen Cox, Gill, Authement, Bellman, Papania, Blackman and Impey were present. Also present were City Attorney Nicole Sullivan, City Clerk Patty Gaston, Deputy City Clerk Vicky Hupe, Police Chief Mark Dunston, Fire Chief Derek McCoy, Public Works Director Allan Ladnier, Parks & Recreation Director Geri Straight, Human Resources & Risk Management Director Mindy McDowell and Executive Assistant to the Mayor & Board Meggan Brown.

Let the minutes reflect that proper notice of the meeting was provided to all Aldermen via email and that the notice was posted at City Hall and online within one hour of the meeting being called.

No public were physically present due to the local state of emergency proclaimed by Mayor Dobson on Monday, March 16, 2020. The meeting was made available to the public via live stream.

The Mayor called the meeting to order.

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

The Special Call Meeting is for the purpose of any and all matters pertaining to the discussion of section of Government Street Closure; Monster Ditch Agreement with Overstreet & Associates (Exhibit 2); accept Finance Committee Minutes, Meeting May 11, 2020 (Exhibit 3); Police and Fire Hazard Pay Resolution (Exhibit 4); school permit fee; discussion of moving Recess meeting to the Civic Center (Exhibit 6); discussion of Cemetery Board duties and expectations (Exhibit 7); discussion of reopening City Buildings and suspension of Administrative Leave; and discussion of Park & Recreation Summer Camp (Exhibit 9).

The Mayor said he has been working on a plan to help a section of Government Street businesses expand their footprint while there are restrictions in place due to COVID-19 pandemic. Alderman Blackman said that he doesn't feel it is needed and some business owners have contacted him that are against closing the street. Alderman Cox said there is still a safer at home order, he feels this will be pushing the limits and will look like a street party. Alderman Authement said some business owners have expressed concern about closing the street. He recommended waiting until the Recess meeting to determine how weekend business goes.

Motion was made by Alderman Papania, seconded by Alderman Gill and unanimously carried to approve the Monster Ditch Agreement with Overstreet & Associates (Exhibit 2).

Motion was made by Alderman Authement, seconded by Alderman Cox and unanimously carried to accept the Finance Committee Meeting Minutes for May 11, 2020; correcting the ending time of the meeting to 4:15 p.m. (Exhibit 3).

The City Clerk explained that Police and Fire personnel will be more at risk for Coronavirus as more people will be out in the City. She said hazard pay for shift personnel was discussed by the Finance Committee which recommends hazard pay for Police and Fire personnel required to be out interacting with the public in the amount of \$100 per pay period for the remaining 10 pay periods in the fiscal year. She said both departments have the funds in their budgets to cover the added expense. Motion was made by Alderman Blackman, seconded by Alderman Gill and unanimously carried to adopt the Police and Fire Hazard Pay Resolution (Exhibit 4).

Motion was made by Alderman Cox, seconded by Alderman Impey and unanimously carried to waive the permit fee in the amount of \$958.00 for Ocean Springs School District to install solar panels.

The Deputy City Clerk explained the Civic Center would be the best option to move the Recess meeting to be able to allow public to attend and follow the social distancing recommendations (Exhibit 6). Motion was made by Alderman Impey, seconded by Alderman Blackman and unanimously carried to move the May 19th Recess meeting to the Ocean Springs Civic Center.

The City Clerk asked Alderman Gill about the previous duties and expectations for the Cemetery Board (Exhibit 7). He said they would walk cemeteries and flag problems like water oak growths before they became a problem. The City Clerk said she did not want to empower the committee and not support them. Alderman Blackman said they would make assessments for all liabilities. He recommended Alderman Gill lead the committee. Alderman Gill agreed that he would assist the Cemetery Committee to get started.

The Mayor said he has spoken with other Mayor's along the Coast and the other cities will open to the public either June 1st for most of Harrison and Hancock Counties or May 18th for Jackson County. The City Clerk said there are regulations that will be put into place to open May 18th, including only 3 customers in City Hall at a time. She requested the restrooms not be opened to the public at this time. The Human Resources Director said if Administrative Leave is suspended, the at-risk or other employees that remain out will have to begin taking personal leave. Motion was made by Alderman Blackman, seconded by Alderman Gill and unanimously carried to reopen City buildings that conduct business and suspend Administrative Leave on Monday, May 18, 2020.

The Parks & Recreation Director said she has concerns opening Summer Camp at full capacity; including that there will be no separation of children, supplies are limited, field

trips will not be available and the staff is not trained to provide COVID-19 examinations. Alderman Bellman recommended requiring a waiver and opening as normal not with limited capacity. Alderman Authement said he has a contact that should be able to supply the needed items. Alderman Gill suggested volunteer doctors or nurses be there each morning to monitor and observe the children. He said he would contact Singing River Hospital to inquire about volunteers. The Deputy City Clerk said Singing River Hospital has provided training for other municipalities to reopen and recommended reaching out to them to provide Summer Camp employees training. The Mayor said he would speak to Lee Bond with Singing River Hospital to see what they can provide. Motion was made by Alderman Cox and seconded by Alderman Bellman to open Summer Camp requiring a signed COVID-19 waiver on May 26, 2020 with the Parks & Recreation Director having discretion on the program. Motion carried with Aldermen Authement, Bellman, Cox, Papania and Blackman voting aye and Alderman Impey voting nay.

Motion was made by Alderman Gill, seconded by Alderman Bellman and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting ended at 7:25 p.m.

Patty Manton 6/2/2020
City Clerk

Date

Ben Dizon 6/2/2020
Mayor

Date

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

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

From: Mayor Dobson

To: Aldermen Cox, Gill, Authement, Bellman, Papania, Blackman, and Impey

You are hereby notified that a Special Call Meeting is called to meet at City Hall at **6:00 p.m., Wednesday, May 13, 2020.**

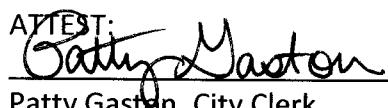
THE OBJECT OF THE MEETING IS AS FOLLOWS:

Any and all matters pertaining to:

1. Discussion of section of Government Street Closure
2. Monster Ditch Agreement – Overstreet & Associates (Exhibit 2)
3. Accept Finance Committee Minutes – Meeting May 11, 2020 (Exhibit 3)
4. Police and Fire Hazard Pay Resolution (Exhibit 4)
5. School Permit Fee
6. Discussion of moving Recess meeting to the Civic Center (Exhibit 6)
7. Discussion of Cemetery Board duties and expectations (Exhibit 7)
8. Discussion of reopening City Buildings and suspension of Administrative Leave
9. Discussion of Park & Recreation Summer Camp (Exhibit 9)



Shea Dobson, Mayor

ATTEST:


Patty Gaston, City Clerk