

**MEETING OF THE
MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMAN OF THE
CITY OF RIDGELAND, MISSISSIPPI
May 19, 2020
6:00 PM**

The Mayor opened the May 19, 2020 meeting of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen to order. Present were Alderman Chuck Gautier, Alderman Wesley Hamlin, Alderman Ken Heard (via telephone), Alderman Kevin Holder, Alderman Brian Ramsey, Alderman D.I. Smith (via telephone), Alderman Bill Lee, City Attorney John Scanlon, and City Clerk Paula Tierce. The meeting was opened with an invocation by Mayor Gene McGee followed by the pledge of allegiance.

The Mayor and Board of Aldermen were provided a copy of the April 2020 Financial Statement and the May 2020 Sales Tax Report.

Next came the recognition of Officer Austin Baney for being selected "Officer of the Month" for April 2020. Mayor McGee stated that on March 16, 2020, officers were dispatched to Northpark Mall in reference to an armed carjacking that had just occurred. Officer Baney immediately began surveilling the area and located the victim's vehicle occupied by two males fitting the suspect's description. At this time, Officer Baney conducted a felony stop and the firearm used in the carjacking was located inside the vehicle. Both suspects were then subsequently arrested and taken into custody. Due to Officer Baney's attention to detail and diligence, two suspects were arrested along with the recovery of the victim's vehicle. Upon interviewing the suspects, four more arrests were made in reference to this carjacking and linked to other carjackings that had occurred in the metro area. Mayor McGee thanked Officer Baney for his service to the City of Ridgeland and encouraged him to keep up the good work.

Next came the matter of accepting the Minutes of the May 5, 2020 Board of Aldermen meeting. The Minutes were accepted with no corrections noted.

Next came the consideration of the Consent Agenda. Items "d", "e", and "h" were removed from the agenda. Alderman Chuck Gautier moved to approve the Consent Agenda as follows:

a) - Site Plan / Architectural Review for Wendy's (Renaissance Phase 4) - Order Attached Hereto As Exhibit "A"

b) - City Hall Change Order 3 for Shivers Construction Co., LLC for exterior camera - Order Attached Hereto As Exhibit "B"

c) - Declare Surplus Property and grant authority to Advertise for a corner piece of property at 204 West Jackson Street - Order Attached Hereto As Exhibit "C"

f) - Receive reimbursement check and approve funds transfer for Ridgeland Police Department - Resolution Attached Hereto As Exhibit "D"

g) - Approve Bid Award for Renaissance Traffic Signals - Order Attached Hereto As Exhibit "E"

i) - Approve Hazard Mitigation Plan Proposals - Order Attached Hereto As Exhibit "F"

j) - April 2020 Privilege License Report – Order Attached Hereto As Exhibit "G"

k) - RESOLUTION URGING U.S. CONGRESS TO SUPPORT DIRECT FEDERAL FUNDING TO ALL MUNICIPALITIES IN MISSISSIPPI TO HELP FIGHT COVID-19 AND PROTECT LOCAL CITIZENS FROM THE EFFECTS OF THE NOVEL CORONA VIRUS - Resolution Attached Hereto As Exhibit "H"

Alderman Bill Lee seconded the motion and a vote was taken thereon as follows:

Vote: Aye(s): Alderman Chuck Gautier, Alderman Wesley Hamlin, Alderman Ken Heard, Alderman Kevin Holder, Alderman Brian Ramsey, Alderman D.I. Smith, Alderman Bill Lee

Nay(s): None

Abstention(s): None

The Mayor then declared the Motion carried.

Next came the payment of claims 161016-161338 and May 8, 2020 Payroll (\$1,497,633.23). Alderman Chuck Gautier moved to approve. The Motion was seconded by Alderman Wesley Hamlin and a vote was taken thereon as follows:

Vote: Aye(s): Alderman Chuck Gautier, Alderman Wesley Hamlin, Alderman Ken Heard, Alderman Kevin Holder, Alderman Brian Ramsey, Alderman D.I. Smith, Alderman Bill Lee

Nay(s): None

Abstention(s): None

The Mayor then declared the Motion carried.

Next came the Appeal Hearing of Mid State Construction. Jason Parks, the representative of Mid State Construction, addressed the Board of Alderman and submitted a copy of a letter dated April 17, 2020, which is attached hereto as Exhibit "I". Sam Gregory and Jeff Cox, both representatives of Birdsong Construction, addressed the Board and made additional comments in support of the claim. Alan Grant of Dean & Dean Associates/Architects then addressed the Board of Alderman and explained their role in the matter as well as the reason for denying the request of Mid State Construction. John Algood of Benchmark Construction then made a presentation, a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit "J". Following the presentation of John Algood, Jeff Cox of Birdsong Construction then made rebuttal remarks.

The Mayor then announced the need to go into Executive Session to discuss potential litigation. Alderman Brian Ramsey moved to go into Closed Session to discuss the need of going into Executive Session to discuss potential litigation. The motion was seconded by Alderman Wesley Hamlin and a vote was taken thereon as follows:

Vote: Aye(s): Alderman Chuck Gautier, Alderman Wesley Hamlin, Alderman Ken Heard, Alderman Kevin Holder, Alderman Brian Ramsey, Alderman D.I. Smith, Alderman Bill Lee
Nay(s): None
Abstention(s): None

The Mayor then declared the Motion carried.

CLOSED SESSION

Alderman Wesley Hamlin moved to go into Executive Session to discuss potential litigation. Alderman Brian Ramsey seconded the motion and a vote was taken thereon as follows:

Vote: Aye(s): Alderman Chuck Gautier, Alderman Wesley Hamlin, Alderman Ken Heard, Alderman Kevin Holder, Alderman Brian Ramsey, Alderman D.I. Smith, Alderman Bill Lee
Nay(s): None
Abstention(s): None

The Mayor then declared the Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Alderman Kevin Holder moved to leave Executive Session. Alderman Bill Lee seconded the motion and a vote was taken thereon as follows:

Vote: Aye(s): Alderman Chuck Gautier, Alderman Wesley Hamlin, Alderman Ken Heard, Alderman Kevin Holder, Alderman Brian Ramsey, Alderman D.I. Smith, Alderman Bill Lee
Nay(s): None
Abstention(s): None

The Mayor then declared the Motion carried.

The Mayor then reopened the meeting and announced that no action was taken by the Board of Aldermen during the Executive Session.

Alderman Chuck Gautier moved to affirm the recommendation of Dean and Dean Associates/Architects as well as Benchmark Construction and deny the request of Mid State Construction. The motion was seconded by Alderman Brian Ramsey and a vote was taken thereon as follows:

Vote: Aye(s): Alderman Chuck Gautier, Alderman Wesley Hamlin, Alderman Ken Heard, Alderman Kevin Holder, Alderman Brian Ramsey, Alderman D.I. Smith, Alderman Bill Lee
Nay(s): None

Abstention(s): None

The Mayor then declared the Motion carried.

There being no further business before the Board of Aldermen, the Mayor adjourned the meeting at 7:00 p.m

WITNESS MY SIGNATURE, this the 21st day of May, 2020.

Gene F. McGee
GENE F. MCGEE, MAYOR

ATTEST:

Paula Tierce
PAULA TIERCE, CITY CLERK

