

**MEETING OF THE
MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMAN OF THE
CITY OF RIDGELAND, MISSISSIPPI
February 15, 2022
6:00 PM**

The Mayor opened the February 15, 2022 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, Alderman Bill Lee City Attorney Jerry Mills, City Attorney John Scanlon, and City Clerk Paula Tierce. The meeting was opened with an invocation by Alderman Wesley Hamlin followed by the pledge of allegiance.

The Mayor and Board of Aldermen were provided the January 2022 Keep Ridgeland Beautiful Minutes, the January 2022 Financial Statement, and the February 2022 Sales Tax Report.

Next came the matter of accepting the Minutes of the January 31, 2022 Work Session and the February 1, 2022 Board of Aldermen meeting. The Minutes were accepted with no corrections noted.

Next came the consideration of the Consent Agenda. Alderman D. I. Smith moved to approve the Consent Agenda as follows:

- a) Petition and Application for Conditional Use for Renaissance at Colony Park, LLC - Ordinance Attached Hereto As Exhibit "A"
- b) Authorize the Mayor to Enter into an Agreement for Services with Baker Engineering for the Design of Intersection Improvements at Lake Harbour Drive and Highway 51 and Establish a Project Fund with a Budget Amendment Transferring \$140,000 from the General Fund to the Engineering Line Item of the Project Fund - Resolution Attached Hereto As Exhibit "B"
- c) Budget Amendment for the Ridgewood Road Drainage Fund (Transfer \$18,000 from 350-601-750 to 350-601-600) - Resolution Attached Hereto As Exhibit "C"
- d) Truck Route Permit for 114 Clairemont Cove (Pool Construction) - Order Attached Hereto As Exhibit "D"
- e) Approve Project Activation Resolution for Highland Commerce Drive - Resolution Attached Hereto As Exhibit "E"
- f) Declare Property Surplus - Resolution Attached Hereto As Exhibit "F"
- g) Approve Advertising for Bids - Court Renovations - Order Attached Hereto As Exhibit "G"
- h) Budget Amendment-Insurance Proceeds for the Ridgeland Police Department - Resolution Attached Hereto As Exhibit "H"
- i) Special Event for Christ Covenant School - Order Attached Hereto As Exhibit "I"
- j) Forfeited Weapons for the Ridgeland Police Department - Resolution Attached Hereto As Exhibit "J"
- k) Automation Designs and Solutions Agreement for the Ridgeland Police Department - Order Attached Hereto As Exhibit "K"

l) Maintenance Contract with Mid South Elevator - City Hall - Order Attached Hereto As Exhibit "L"

m) Sewer Adjustment of \$13.55 - 05-5565-06 (906 Shadowlake) - Order Attached Hereto As Exhibit "M"

The motion was seconded by Alderman Bill Lee 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 173803 - 174151 and February 11, 2022 Payroll (\$1,306,195.43). Alderman Wesley Hamlin moved to approve. The Motion was seconded by Alderman Kevin Holder 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 consideration of the Library Services Contract. Mayor McGee opened the floor for citizen comments. The following individuals spoke and voiced their concerns to the Board of Aldermen: Julia Matthews, Tonja Johnson, Teresa Gerald, Karie Bailey, Frank Rogowski, Maggie Soitz, Jennifer Heath, Chad Mitchell, Scott Jones, Arthur Jones, Gerald Heath, Jane Bond, Reni Bumpas, Cal Wells, Chris Hinkle, Lindsey Beckham, Alice O'Neal-Gratenhuis, Melissa McNaull, Patrick Jerome, and Charlance Rumwizz.

Following the comments by citizens, the Mayor announced the need to go into Executive Session. Alderman Wesley Hamlin moved to go into Closed Session to discuss the need of going into Executive Session to discuss potential litigation concerning the Ridgeland Branch of the Madison County Library System. The motion was seconded by Alderman D. I. Smith 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 concerning the Ridgeland Branch of the Madison County Library System. The motion was seconded by Alderman Kevin Holder 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 Wesley Hamlin moved to leave the Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Alderman Bill Lee 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 reopened the meeting and announced that there was no action taken by the Board of Aldermen during the Executive Session and the City Attorney, John Scanlon, read the following statement:

The Board of Aldermen has not withheld, is not withholding, and will not withhold money because of any books in the library system. There is currently a dispute between the Parties as to whether a valid contract exists. The City is requesting to enter into a new contract that would give the Board the authority to make the contributions. As pointed out in our statement of Feb. 1, the City of Ridgeland has for years enjoyed a harmonious relationship with the governing body of the Library System, and we wish to continue that. The Board of Aldermen has instructed the city's attorneys to enter into good faith negotiations with the Library System. Tonight, we have had a meaningful discussion with legal counsel from the Madison County Library System and have been requested to send a revised contract with the mutual goal of providing a library that's funded by our citizens, and the Board hopes that this matter could be resolved expeditiously.

There being no further business before the Board of Aldermen, the Mayor adjourned the meeting at 10:01 p.m.

WITNESS MY SIGNATURE, this the 17th day of February, 2022.

Gene F. McGee
GENE F. MCGEE, MAYOR

ATTEST:

Paula Tierce
PAULA TIERCE, CITY CLERK

