

**MEETING OF THE
MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMAN OF THE
CITY OF RIDGELAND, MISSISSIPPI
January 31, 2024
2:40 PM**

The Mayor opened the January 30, 2024 special called meeting of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen to order. Present were Alderman Chuck Gautier, Alderman Wesley Hamlin, Alderman Ken Heard, Alderman Kevin Holder, Alderman Brian Ramsey, Alderman D.I. Smith, Alderman Bill Lee, City Attorney John Scanlon and City Clerk Paula Tierce. City Clerk, Paula Tierce, adjudicated that proper notice of the special called meeting was made; a copy of said notice is attached hereto as Exhibit "A". The meeting was opened with an invocation by Boy Scout Ford Boone followed by the pledge of allegiance, which was led by Boy Scout Troop 1 from St. James Episcopal Church. The Mayor announced that Boy Scout Troop 1 from St. James Episcopal Church was present working on the Citizenship in the Community merit badge. The following scouts were introduced: Ford Boone, Miles Perry, Sophia Rice, Max Newman, Connor Griswold, Taylor Strain, Sonu Sethi, Ford Wadlington, and Lyon Ogburn.

The Mayor opened the public hearing regarding the proposed redistricting of the election districts for the City of Ridgeland. Mayor McGee announced that the City of Ridgeland was not required to hold a public hearing on the matter; however, a public hearing was being held in order to be completely transparent. Mayor McGee asked if there was anyone that wanted to speak that did not sign the sign-in sheet and there was no response. A copy of the sign-in sheet is attached hereto as Exhibit "B". Chris Watson of Bridge & Watson made a presentation regarding the redistricting of the election districts based on the 2020 Census Data information; a copy of the presentation is attached hereto as Exhibit "C". Alderman Ken Heard asked a question regarding ward lines crossing I55 and Mr. Watson responded. Alderman Ken Heard then asked Mr. Watson to discuss the polling locations in the wards. Mr. Watson and Mayor McGee both responded to Alderman Ken Heard. Bobbie Murray then stated that she opposed any changes to the ward lines. Mary Lou Heany and Karen Jacobs both declined to make comments. Walter Young, Jr. stated that he supported Watson Plan 2. James Martin asked whether the Department of Justice would have to review the plan selected by the Board of Aldermen and the Mayor responded. Jeanie Smith stated that she supported Ridgeland's Concept Plan 4. Gerald Beard stated that all wards should be 50/50 and that both of the proposed plans did not include the individuals that were classified as "other". Howard Brown asked if there was a timetable and Mayor McGee responded. Mayor McGee asked if there was anyone else that would like to speak and there was no response. Mayor McGee then closed the public hearing.

Alderman Wesley Hamlin moved to select the Ridgeland's Concept Plan 4 and authorize the City Attorney to draft an Ordinance for adoption at the February 20, 2024 Board of

Aldermen meeting. The motion was seconded by the 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.

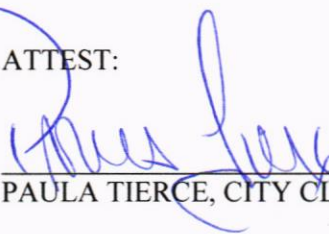
The Mayor announced that there was no further business before the Board of Aldermen and adjourned the meeting at 6:44 p.m.

WITNESS MY SIGNATURE, this the 31st day of January, 2024.



GENE F. MCGEE, MAYOR

ATTEST:



PAULA TIERCE, CITY CLERK

