

**MEETING OF THE
MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMAN OF THE
CITY OF RIDGELAND, MISSISSIPPI
July 2, 2024
6:00 PM**

Mayor opened the July 2, 2024 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 D.I. Smith, Alderman Bill Lee, City Attorney Jerry Mills, and City Clerk Paula Tierce. Absent was Alderman Brian Ramsey. The meeting was opened with an invocation by Alderman Kevin Holder followed by the pledge of allegiance.

The Mayor and Board of Aldermen were provided the City Attorney's statement for services through June 26, 2024.

Next came the recognition of Officer Tristan Xerri for being selected "Officer of the Month" for May 2024. Mayor McGee announced that on May 10, 2024, Ridgeland officers were advised to be on the lookout for a silver sedan, which was involved in an Armed Robbery at the Exxon on County Line Road in Jackson. Officer Xerri observed a silver Toyota displaying a very similar tag number to that of the suspect vehicle and conducted a traffic stop on Interstate 55 in Ridgeland. Upon further investigation it was determined that the driver was the armed robbery suspect and he was taken into custody along with stolen merchandise and a firearm. Thanks to Officer Xerri's efforts a dangerous criminal was removed from the streets of Ridgeland. Mayor McGee commended Officer Tristan Xerri for a job well done.

Next came the presentation of the MML Award of Excellence, Economic Development for Cities over 10,000 population to Public Works Director Alan Hart by Mayor McGee. Mayor McGee stated that to land the single largest economic development project in the state's history, among other important economic development projects in the vicinity, the City of Ridgeland planned and made significant infrastructure investments to the southern end of Highland Colony Parkway. As a result, the City of Ridgeland landed Southern Beverage and Amazon Web Services. The planning of this project called for an innovative way to rehabilitate the street infrastructure. A team of engineers planned a solution to make point repairs to the street base using geotextile fabrics and limestone to quickly stabilize each failed area. Profile milling was performed to create a level surface to lay new asphalt on top of the old road and repaired base, increasing the structural capacity of the road to support 80,000 pound loads, which was necessary to support the truck traffic associated with Southern Beverage, a \$30,000,000 investment in Ridgeland. During the same time, the City of Ridgeland set out to improve the water quality and capacity for that area of the city. The unique innovation of this public works project is the complex funding strategy that includes federal, state, and local funding and the speed in which the permit and plans were prepared. The water tank and well project bid has been awarded and will be built prop to the opening of

the first phase of the AWS data center. As a result of the innovate strategy to deliver the project AWS plans to invest \$4 billion in which is likely to be the first of several phases that will span multiple years. The Phase 1 Ridgeland location will be home to 200 new jobs with an average annual wage of \$80,000.

Next came the presentation of the Building Department of the Year award to Public Works Director Alan Hart by Mayor McGee. Mayor McGee announced that the City of Ridgeland received the Building Department of the Year Award from the Board of Directors of BOAM at the Summer BOAM Conference in June. This award recognizes the extraordinary performance of the entire department and is based on several factors, including, but not limited to, the number of permits issued, the monetary amount of permits issued, and the efficiency of the inspectors. The award also recognizes leadership in the profession and is chosen by a group of peers in the association. Recognized from the Building Division of the Community Development Department were: Drew Smith, Scott Swinny, Tally Berry, Robert Ray, Steven Ramsey, Jordan Lohman, and Bayleigh Sears.

Next came the matter of accepting the Minutes of the June 17, 2024 Work Session and the June 18, 2024 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) Reappoint Mills & Scanlon, PA as City Attorney for Period Beginning 7/1/2024 and Ending 6/30/2025 - Order Attached Hereto as Exhibit "A"
- b) Ratify Declaration of Emergency signed by Mayor Gene McGee for the replacement of the School Street Well - Order Attached Hereto as Exhibit "B"
- c) Site Plan Review for Ridgeland Data Center Phase 1 - Revisions - Order Attached Hereto as Exhibit "C"
- d) Appointment to be Deputy Court Clerk (Police Department) - Order Attached Hereto as Exhibit "D"
- e) Review and Approve LEFTA System Purchase and Service Agreement (Police Department) - Order Attached Hereto as Exhibit "E"
- f) Approve Contract between City of Ridgeland and Wildstone Construction Services, LLC in the Amount of \$296,855.00 for the Freedom Ridge Overhead Net Project - Order Attached hereto as Exhibit "F"
- g) Approve Letter of Engagement with BMSS Advisors & CPAs for the FY2024 Audit - Order Attached hereto as Exhibit "G"
- h) Sewer Adjustments - Order Attached hereto as Exhibit "H"

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 D.I. Smith, Alderman Bill Lee
Nay(s): None
Absent: Alderman Brian Ramsey

The Mayor then declared the Motion carried.

Next came the payment of claims numbered 191412 - 191663 and the June 28, 2024 Payroll (\$1,486,272.820). Alderman Ken Heard 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 D.I. Smith, Alderman Bill Lee
Nay(s): None
Absent: Alderman Brian Ramsey

The Mayor then declared the Motion carried.

Mayor McGee then announced the need to go into Executive Session to discuss a personnel issue and potential litigation. Alderman Bill Lee moved to go into Closed Session to discuss a personnel issue and potential litigation. Alderman Wesley Hamlin seconded the motion and a vote was taken as follows:

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

Absent: Alderman Brian Ramsey

The Mayor then declared the Motion carried.

CLOSED SESSION

Alderman Kevin Holder moved to go into Executive Session discuss a personnel issue and potential litigation. Alderman Wesley Hamlin seconded the motion and a vote was taken as follows:

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

Nay(s): None

Absent: Alderman Brian Ramsey

The Mayor then declared the Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

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

Nay(s): None

Absent: Alderman Brian Ramsey

The Mayor then declared the Motion carried.

There being no further business before the Board of Aldermen, the Mayor adjourned the meeting at 6:26 pm.

WITNESS MY SIGNATURE, this the 10th day of July, 202



GENE F. MCGEE, MAYOR

ATTEST:



PAULA TIERCE, CITY CLERK

