

**MEETING OF THE
MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMAN OF THE
CITY OF RIDGELAND, MISSISSIPPI
May 20, 2025
6:00 PM**

The Mayor opened the May 20, 2025 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. The meeting was opened with an invocation by Alderman Chuck Gautier followed by the pledge of allegiance.

The Mayor and Board of Aldermen were provided a copy of the April 2025 Financial Report and the May 2025 Sales Tax Report.

Next came the recognition of Sergeant Jesse Berry. Mayor McGee announced that on March 28, 2025, package thefts had been reported in Ridgeland and Sgt. Berry began to investigate. Sgt. Berry quickly located the suspect vehicle, confirmed the suspect description with video evidence, made an arrest, obtained a confession, recovered the stolen packages and even solved another theft that had not been reported. Mayor McGee thanked Sgt. Berry and encouraged him to continue the good work.

Next came the matter of determining of whether the property located at 325 W. Oak Leaf Ct., Ridgeland, Mississippi constitutes a public menace to the public health, safety and/or welfare of the community. The City Attorney John Scanlon adjudicated that proper notice was made and a copy of the Notice of Hearing is attached hereto as Exhibit "A". Code Enforcement Officer Tally Berry presented information supporting that the property should be declared a public menace to the public health, safety and/or welfare of the community. Photographs of the property dated May 20, 2025 are attached hereto as Exhibit "B". Alderman Kevin Holder moved to declare the property located 325 w. Oak Leaf Ct., Ridgeland, Mississippi a public menace to the public health, safety and/or welfare of the community. 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.

Next came the matter of determining of whether the property located at 373 Red Eagle Circle, Ridgeland, Mississippi constitutes a public menace to the public health, safety and/or welfare of the community. The City Attorney John Scanlon adjudicated that proper notice was made and a copy of the Notice of Hearing is attached hereto as Exhibit "C". Code Enforcement Officer Tally Berry presented information supporting that the property should be declared a public menace to the public health, safety and/or welfare of the community. Photographs of the property dated May 20, 2025 are attached hereto as Exhibit "D". Steven Nixon, the attorney for Rocket Mortgage, requested additional time on behalf of his client to foreclose on the property and evaluate the needed repairs. Alderman Wesley moved to declare the property located 373 Red Eagle Circle, Ridgeland, Mississippi a public menace to the public health, safety and/or welfare of the community and authorized Code Enforcement Officer Tally Berry to work with Rocket Mortgage as requested. 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 Consent Agenda. Alderman Bill Lee moved to approve the Consent Agenda as follows:

- a) Receive FY2024 Audit - Order Attached Hereto as Exhibit "E"

- b) Appoint Lynette Praytor to the Ward 4 Vacancy on the Architectural Review Board - Order Attached Hereto as Exhibit "F"
- c) Approve Final Plat for Oakmont Phase II with the Condition that the Covenants cannot be Changed without Approval from the Board of Aldermen Until Such Time that the HOA Controls the Management of the Phase II Platted Area - Order Attached Hereto as Exhibit "G"
- d) Site Plan / Architectural Review for Renaissance Phase II Tenant Storefront - Order Attached Hereto as Exhibit "H"
- e) Authorize the Mayor to Sign the Replacement MOU for the Steed Road Connector Multi-use Path - Order Attached Hereto as Exhibit "I"
- f) Authorize the Mayor and Public Works Director to pursue NRCS EWP Funding for Freedom Ridge Soccer Stadium Ditch Repair - Order Attached Hereto as Exhibit "J"
- g) Authorize the Mayor to Sign the USIC Labor Escalation Agreement Amendment to the USIC Agreement - Order Attached Hereto as Exhibit "K"
- h) Grant the Public Works Department the Authority to Advertise the I-55 Lighting Project - Order Attached Hereto as Exhibit "L"
- i) Approve CE&I Consultant Section for the I-55 LED Lighting Project - Order Attached Hereto as Exhibit "M"
- j) Approve MDOT Contractor Reimbursement Request No. 2 for the Hwy51/Lake Harbour Drive Intersection Improvements Project STP-6928-00(019) LPA 109161-701000 - Order Attached Hereto as Exhibit "N"
- k) Review and Approve Quotes to Purchase Police Motorcycles (Police Department) - Order Attached Hereto as Exhibit "O"
- l) Special Event - Shred It Day (Police Department) - Order Attached Hereto as Exhibit "P"
- m) Special Event - Sunnybrook Children's Home "Fostering Hope" 5K (Police Department) - Order Attached Hereto as Exhibit "Q"
- n) Special Event - Fleet Feet "The Big Run" (Police Department) - Order Attached Hereto as Exhibit "R"
- o) Approve Contract with Canton Convention & Visitors Bureau - Order Attached Hereto as Exhibit "S"
- p) Sewer Adjustments - Order Attached Hereto as Exhibit "T"
- q) Resolution of Intent to Approve the Real and Personal Property Ad Valorem Tax Exemption for Joint Venture 2024, LLC - Resolution Attached Hereto as Exhibit "U"

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.

Next came the payment of claims 198082 - 198477 and May 6, 2025 Payroll (\$2,503,022.01). Alderman D.I. Smith moved to approve. The Motion was seconded by Alderman Ken Heard 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 the need to go into Executive Session to discuss two personnel matters and one matter of litigation. Alderman Wesley Hamlin moved to go into Closed Session to discuss the need of going into Executive Session to discuss two personnel matters and one matter of litigation. The motion was seconded by Alderman Chuck Gautier and a vote was taken there 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 D. I. Smith moved to to into Executive Session to discuss two personnel matters and one matter of litigation. The motion was seconded by Alderman Chuck Gautier 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 Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Alderman Chuck Gautier 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

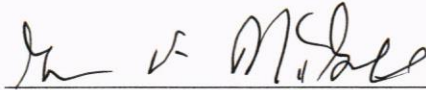
Abstention(s): None

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.

There being no further business before the Board of Aldermen, the Mayor adjourned the meeting at 6:53 p.m.

WITNESS MY SIGNATURE, this the 21st day of May, 2025.



GENE F. MCGEE, MAYOR

ATTEST:



PAULA TIERCE, CITY CLERK



