

**REGULAR THIRD TUESDAY OCTOBER 2021, MEETING
OF THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN**

BE IT REMEMBERED that Tuesday, October 19, 2021, being the third Tuesday of said month and the day fixed by Board order for holding the third monthly meeting, said meeting was held in the Boardroom in the Municipal Complex at 909 River Road in the Town of Tunica, Mississippi, beginning at 3:00 p.m. with the following present or absent as indicated below:

Mayor Andrew T. Dulaney	Present
Alderman Lee B. Turner	Present
Alderman Valerie Hartsfield	Present
Alderman Rebecca P. Fyfe	Present
Alderman Adam Fullilove	Present
Alderman Daniel M. Pierce	Absent
Town Clerk Kate Scott Pennock	Present
Town Attorney Richard W. Ryals, II	Present
Police Chief Kevin Hatton	Present
Operations Manager Thomas J. Robinson, III	Present
Town Chaplain Danny Smith	Absent
*Via telephone.	

Others in attendance are listed on the attendance sheet.

APPENDIX A – ATTENDANCE SHEET

Mayor Dulaney called the meeting to order and led in the pledge of allegiance. Alderman Turner led in prayer.

The Board considered the minutes from the October 5th and 7th, 2021, meetings. Alderman Fyfe moved to approve the minutes as written and previously provided to the Board of Aldermen. Alderman Hartsfield seconded the motion. Thereupon, the matter was put to a vote and the same having received the unanimous affirmative vote of all Aldermen present, the Mayor declared the same carried and adopted.

REPORTS:

- **Police Report: Chief Hatton reported for the Police Department. As part of his report, Chief Hatton presented plaques in recognition of ten years of service to Officer Casey Brown and Officer Keith Smith and five years of service to Investigator Chris Cheslock.**

- **Public Works:** Kelvin Cooke and J Robinson reported on public works and other operations.
- **Planning Commission:** Mayor Dulaney informed the Board that Bob Barber will attend the meeting on November 2, 2021, to give an update on previous Planning Commission meetings and make recommendations on possible amendments to the Town of Tunica Zoning Ordinance.
- **Tunica Mainstreet:** Laura Withers reported for Tunica Mainstreet. Ms. Withers updated the Mayor and Board of Aldermen on upcoming events such as the Holiday Shopping Social which will be held on November 4, 2021, from 4:00-6:00 pm and the Christmas Tree Lighting will be held December 2, 2021. She also gave an update on the awnings replaced for several downtown businesses.
- **Code Report:** David Graves reported on code enforcement. Following a review of Mr. Graves report, Mr. Graves was thanked for his efforts.

Mayor Dulaney informed the Board of Alderman that final budget amendments for fiscal year 2021 were being drafted and will be presented at a later meeting.

A copy of the engineering study and analysis to determine the needs and priorities for sewer projects was previously provided to the Board of Alderman. The Town of Tunica has now received a property from RJN Group, Inc. related to additional analysis in order that the specific projects and scopes of work can be developed. The preliminary cost estimate for this work is \$107,330.00. The proposal was just received and has not been reviewed. No action was taken and will be considered at a later meeting after everyone has an opportunity to review and consider the same.

APPENDIX B –ENGINEERING PROPOSAL AND DRAFT CONTRACT FOR SEWER PROJECTS

The Mayor and Board next considered and discussed the purchase of a fire truck for the Town of Tunica Volunteer Fire Department that was included in the budget for fiscal year 2022 using available funds in the Fire Rebate fund, which are restricted for such purchases. The proposed truck is a tanker truck which will allow for better emergency response to more rural areas. The truck is estimated to cost approximately \$385,000. Mayor Dulaney informed the Board of a grant opportunity which would help offset the cost to the trust. Mayor Dulaney has been informed that Tunica County is eligible for a \$50,000 grant through the Mississippi Rural Fire Truck Acquisition Grant Program. The \$50,000 will have to be matched. These funds will go towards the purchase of the truck. The truck will need a place to be housed once it is purchased and received. The initial discussion has been for the Town of Tunica to add an addition on the north end of the current fire department bays. This is something the Board of Aldermen will need to consider over the next several months. It is estimated that the truck will take 12-18 months for delivery. Alderman Turner moved that

the Town of Tunica approve participating in the Rural Fire Truck Acquisition Grant Program understanding that the grant will (or is expected to) be made to Tunica County and “transferred” to the Town of Tunica for the purchase of the fire truck. As part of the motion, it was moved that Mayor Dulaney and Mr. Ryals be authorized to work with Tunica County with regard to any contracts or memorandums of understanding needed between the Town and Tunica County in order for the Town to take advantage of the grant program. Any agreements signed will be returned to the Board of Aldermen to be included in the minutes. Alderman Fullilove seconded the motion. The matter was put to a vote and having received the unanimous affirmative vote of the Board of Alderman, the Mayor declared the same carried, adopted, and approved.

The Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the Town of Tunica next discussed and considered having a water and sewer rate study as well as updating the water/sewer cut-off policy. Mayor Dulaney and Mr. Robinson have had contact with Dr. Jason Barrett, Associate Extension Professor, Mississippi State University Extension. The service is free to the Town of Tunica. In order for Dr. Barrett to formally initiate the study and make a recommendation to the Board of Aldermen, the Board will need to adopt a resolution requesting the study. Alderman Fullilove moved that the Mayor and Board of Aldermen for the Town of Tunica approve requesting a water and sewer rate study as well as an updated water/sewer cut-off policy be prepared by the MS State Extension Service. Mayor Dulaney is authorized to sign such additional documents as necessary in order for such study to be initiated and completed. Alderman Turner seconded the motion. Thereupon, the matter was put to a vote and the same having received the unanimous affirmative vote of all Aldermen present, the Mayor declared the same carried and adopted on this the 19th day of October, 2021.

The Mayor and Board of Alderman discussed and considered the purchase of a mini-excavator based on an agency contract approved by the Mississippi State Department of Finance, Office of Purchasing and Travel, in the amount of \$51,866.20. As the machine will be used for water, sewer and street purposes, the cost will be split between the budgets for streets, water and sewer departments. Alderman Hartsfield moved to approve the purchase of the mini-excavator from an agency contract approved the MS Department of Finance, Office of Purchasing and Travel, in the amount of \$51,866.20. Alderman Fullilove seconded the motion. Thereupon, the matter was put to a vote and the same having received the unanimous affirmative vote of all Aldermen present, the Mayor declared the same carried and adopted.

APPENDIX C – INVOICE FOR MINI-EXCAVATOR

The Mayor and Board next discussed and considered the following official travel requests:

- **Trentiss Gordon to attend certification class to maintain operator licenses in Biloxi, MS November 1-5, 2021.**

Following a discussion of the travel and a finding that the best interest of the Town will be served and benefited from the educational opportunities afforded to the those traveling, Alderman Turner moved that the reference travel request be approved. And, to the extent requested, a travel advance shall be made as authorized by law. Alderman Fyfe seconded the motion. Thereupon, the matter was put to a vote and the same having received the unanimous affirmative vote of all Aldermen present, the Mayor declared the same carried and adopted.

The Mayor and Board of Aldermen next considered holding an Executive Session, as authorized pursuant to Section 25-41-7, Mississippi Code of 1972, as amended. Alderman Fyfe moved that a closed determination be held to discuss whether an executive session is needed to be held and is appropriate. Alderman Hartsfield seconded the motion. Thereupon, the matter was put to a vote with the results as follows: Alderman Turner, yea; Alderman Hartsfield, yea; Alderman Fyfe, yea; Alderman Fullilove, yea; and Alderman Pierce, absent. The matter having received the majority affirmative vote of the Board of Aldermen of the Town of Tunica, the Mayor declared the motion carried and the Mayor and Board held a closed determination on the issue of whether an executive session is necessary. Mayor Dulaney stated that the purpose for holding the executive session would be to discuss compensation for Community Event Organizer/Town Chaplain, hiring/employment of Police Officers, and applications and specific applicants for the Chief of Police position (the “Executive Session Matter”).

Based on this, Alderman Hartsfield moved that the Mayor and Board of Aldermen hold an executive session to discuss, consider and act on the Executive Session Matter. Alderman Fullilove seconded the motion. The matter was put to a vote with the result as follows: Alderman Turner, yea; Alderman Hartsfield, yea; Alderman Fyfe, yea; Alderman Fullilove, yea; and Alderman Pierce, absent. The matter having received the majority affirmative vote of the Board of Aldermen of Tunica, the Mayor declared the same carried and the Board entered executive session to consider the Executive Session Matters. Present during the executive session were the Mayor and all members of the Board of Aldermen who were present for the meeting, Mr. Ryals, Town Attorney, and Kate Scott Pennock, Town Clerk.

During the executive session, the Executive Session Matter was discussed. An increase in compensation to Danny Smith, Community Event Coordinator/Town Chaplain, from \$500.00 monthly to \$600.00 monthly was considered and recommended. Alderman

Turner moved to approve the increase in compensation from \$500 per month to \$600 per month effective November 1, 2021, to Danny Smith for serving as Community Event Coordinator and Town Chaplain. Alderman Fyfe seconded the motion. Thereupon, the matter was put to a vote with the results as follows: Alderman Turner, yea; Alderman Hartsfield, yea; Alderman Fyfe, yea; Alderman Fullilove, yea; and Alderman Pierce, absent. The matter having received the majority affirmative vote of the Board of Aldermen of the Town of Tunica, the Mayor declared the motion carried and approved.

The Board discussed the applications for Chief of Police. Mayor Dulaney recommended that the Board of Aldermen interview each of the applicants. Following a discussion, Kate Scott Pennock, Town Clerk, will work to schedule interviews with each of the applicants.

Following the discussion, Alderman Hartsfield moved to leave executive session. Alderman Turner seconded the motion. The matter was put to a vote with the result follows: Alderman Turner, yea; Alderman Hartsfield, yea; Alderman Fyfe, yea; Alderman Fullilove, yea; and Alderman Pierce, absent. The matter having received the majority affirmative vote of the Board of Aldermen of Tunica, the Mayor declared the same carried and the Board ended the executive session and returned to open meeting. Mayor Dulaney announced the action taken during executive session.

With no other business, Alderman Fyfe moved to adjourn the meeting. Alderman Fullilove seconded the motion. Thereupon, the matter was put to a vote and the same having received the unanimous affirmative vote of all Aldermen present, the Mayor declared the same carried and adopted, and the meeting adjourned at 3:36 p.m. this 19th day of October 2021.

Andrew T. Dulaney, Mayor

ATTEST:

Kate Scott Pennock, Town Clerk

APPENDIX A – ATTENDANCE SHEET

APPENDIX B – ENGINEERING STUDY & ANALYSIS PROPOSAL FOR SEWER PROJECTS

APPENDIX C – INVOICE FOR MINI-EXCAVATOR