

REGULAR FIRST TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 2022, MEETING  
OF THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN

BE IT REMEMBERED that Tuesday, September 6, 2022, being the first Tuesday of said month and the day fixed by Board order for holding the first 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	Present*
Town Clerk Kate Scott Pennock	Absent
Town Attorney Richard W. Ryals, II	Present
Police Chief Kevin Hatton	Present
Operations Manager Thomas J. Robinson, III	Present
Public Works Supervisor Reggie Griffin	Present
Town Chaplain Danny Smith	Present
*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. Chaplain Smith led in prayer.

The Board considered the minutes from the August 16 and August 23, 2022, meetings. Alderman Turner moved to approve the minutes as written and previously provided to the Board. 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 Board then considered the claims for August 2022. It was noted that a summary of the claims was previously provided to the Board. Additionally, all claims were available for review by the Board. After a brief discussion of the claims and a review by Mayor Dulaney, Alderman Pierce moved to approve the claims as presented. 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.

## APPENDIX B – AUGUST CLAIMS

### REPORTS:

- Police Report: Police Chief Hatton reported for the Police Department. There is one police car in the shop being repaired. Additionally, he has one office on light duty. Following a review of his report, Chief Hatton was thanked for the information.
- Public Works: Thomas Robinson and Reggie Griffin, reported on public works and other operations. Following their report, they were thanked for the information.
- Tunica Mainstreet: The Board received an update relating to the ongoing Main Street projects and programs. Mayor Dulaney provided the report for Ms. Withers as she is on a teleconference concerning the Main Street program.
- Community Events: It was announced that the 9/11 program will be held on Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. in Rivergate Park. Mr. Smith will work to get an advertisement placed in the Tunica Voice. The information is posted around town on the Town's community calendar as well as has been included on the Town's website. Prior to the event, a text alert will be sent out.

Mayor Dulaney advised that the Board would next consider the budget for FY23. A copy of the budget was provided to everyone present. Mayor Dulaney gave a brief overview of the budget. Following the review of the budget the Board held a public hearing.

First, it was announced that notice of the proposed adoption of the budget and tax levy had previously been posted as required by law. A copy of the notice along with an affidavit relating to the posting of the notice was received and directed to be included in the minutes.

## APPENDIX C – BUDGET ADOPTION AND TAX LEVY NOTICE & AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING OF THE SAME

Mayor Dulaney opened the meeting up for comments from the public. No one appeared to comment on the proposed budget. There being no comments relating to the budget, Alderman Hartsfield moved that the hearing be closed. 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. It was noted that the Board will consider the formal adoption of the budget and tax levy later in the meeting.

The Board was advised that Tunica County, Mississippi, has approved the agreements relating to the tax collections and fire protection. These have previously been considered by the Board. Signed copies of the referenced agreements were received. After a brief discussion, Alderman Fyfe moved that the Board received the agreements and, to the extent necessary and required,

ratify, and confirm said agreement and the prior execution thereof by the Mayor and/or Clerk. 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 D – AGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE TOWN OF TUNICA & TUNICA COUNTY RE TAX COLLECTIONS AND FIRE PROTECTION

The Mayor and Board of Alderman of the Town of Tunica then discussed and considered the water adjustments for the last month(s) due to leaks that have now been repaired. The Board was advised that the leaks have been confirmed and that each has been repaired/addressed by the customer. Mr. Robinson has received the required information for each repair. Mr. Robinson confirmed that the proposed adjustments are in conformity with the Town's policy for water adjustments. Alderman Turner moved the adjustments be approved as presented and that the necessary Town employees be authorized to take such action as is reasonably necessary to adjust the indicated customers water bills as the customers did not receive the benefit of water/sewer. Alderman Fyfe seconded. 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 E – WATER ADJUSTMENTS

The Mayor and Board next considered and discussed adoption of the final budget and tax levy for fiscal year 2022. The Mayor and Board of Aldermen have held the required public hearings. The budget has been carefully reviewed by each Aldermen. It was noted that the tax levy will be the same as last. Alderman Hartsfield moved to approve the adoption of the final budget and tax levy for fiscal year 2023. Alderman Pierce 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 F – FY 2023 BUDGET AND TAX LEVY

The Mayor and Board next discussed contracting with The Payment Group, LLC (paya.gov). The Payment Group, LLC will provide credit card processing services for the Town. They will replace Heartland. The Board was advised that the cost to the customers will be approximately the same to customers as it is now. The paya.gov system has been evaluated by Kate Scott Pennock and Mary Evelyn Watson. Both recommend the paya.gov system as it is more user friendly and will be better integrated into the Town's account system. Following the discussion, Alderman Turner moved that i) the proposal from The Payment Group, LLC be accepted, ii) to the extent necessary notice of termination be given to Heartland, and iii) that the Mayor and/or Clerk be authorized to sign any contracts or agreements relating to this. 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.

#### APPENDIX G – THE PAYMENT GROUP SERVICE AGREEMENT – PAYA.GOV

The Mayor and Board next discussed contracting with textmygov. Textmygov will provide services to allow the Town to communicate with citizen and interest parties about important events such as water outages, community events, emergencies, etc. The cost is \$3,000 per year provided that the first year has an additional \$1,500 onetime set up fee. Currently, the Town is using Alert Media and its cost slightly over \$7,000 annually. The textmygov system has been evaluated by Kate Scott Pennock and Mary Evelyn Watson. Both recommend the textmygov system as it is easier to use and cost less. Following the discussion, Alderman Fyfe moved that i) the proposal from textmygov be accepted, ii) to the extent necessary notice of termination be given to Alert Media, and iii) that the Mayor and/or Clerk be authorized to sign any contracts or agreements relating to this. 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 H – PARTNERSHIP PROPOSAL – TEXTMYGOV

The Board of Aldermen next discussed engineering services for the MCWI Grant project. Previously the Board authorized the selection process. Notice relating to the same was given as required with the assistance of North Delta Planning & Development District. A copy of the proof of publication was received and directed to be included in the minutes. The Board was advised that two proposals were timely received – one from Neel Schaffer, Inc. and one from Cook Coggins. The proposals were received by Kate Scott Pennock. Ms. Pennock and Mayor Dulaney have opened the proposals. Each Alderman has been provided with a copy of each of the timely received engineering proposals. Also, each Alderman has been provided with a ranking sheet. Mr. Sherman from North Delta Planning and Development District was present to assist with the selection process. Mayor Dulaney advised that the ranking sheets will be tabulated while the Board works through the remaining items on the agenda. A report will be made to the Board prior to the Board's adjourning the meeting so that the most qualified engineering firm can be selected. A copy of the ranking sheets was directed to be included in the minutes as an appendix to the minutes.

#### APPENDIX I – BLANK RANKING SHEET

The Board of Aldermen next considered adopting the Municipal and County Water Infrastructure Program (MCWI) 2022 – Engineering and Construction Procurement Guidelines. Mayor Dulaney advised that any funds received and spent by the Town through MCWI Program will need to be spent in compliance with the proposed Guidelines. After a brief discussion, Alderman Turner

moved that the guidelines and related materials be adopted by Town of Tunica. 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.

#### APPENDIX J – MUNICIPAL AND COUNTY WATER INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM (MCWI) 2022 – ENGINEERING & CONSTRUCTION PROCUREMENT GUIDELINES

The Board briefly discussed setting zoning and permitting fees. The matter will be considered at a later meeting.

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

- Andrew Dulaney to attend the MML Board of Directors meeting September 29-30, 2022, in Greenwood, MS.

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 Fyfe moved that the reference travel request be approved. And, to the extent requested, a travel advance shall be made as authorized by law. 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.

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 Fullilove 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, yea. 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 hiring a specific individual for the sanitation department (the “Executive Session Matter”).

Based on this, Alderman Fyfe moved that the Mayor and Board of Aldermen hold an executive session to discuss, consider and act on the Executive Session Matter. Alderman Hartsfield 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, yea. 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, all members of the Board of Aldermen, Town Clerk Pennock, Reggie Griffin and Mr. Ryals.

During the executive session, Mr. Griffin advised that he has interviewed various individuals for a position with the sanitation department. Mr. Griffin recommended that Mr. Tamogin Redmond, Jr. be hired for the position with a starting salary of \$10.00 per hour for the first ninety (90) days and \$12.00 per hour beginning on his ninety-first (91<sup>st</sup>) day. After a discussion of the matter and based on Mr. Griffin's recommendation, Alderman Fyfe moved that Mr. Redmond be hired as a fulltime employee for the sanitation department/crew with an initial hourly rate of \$10.00 per hour which will increase to \$12.00 per hour after the first 90 days. Alderman Fullilove 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, yea. Thereupon, the matter was put to a vote and the same having received the unanimous affirmative vote of all Alderman present, the Mayor declared the same carried and adopted.

Following the discussion, Alderman Turner moved to leave executive session. Alderman Hartsfield 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, yea. 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 actions taken during executive session.

Mayor Dulaney presented the engineering recommendation. Based on an analysis of the ranking sheets, the Town has deemed Neel Schaffer, Inc. to be the most qualified for this project. Based on this, Mayor Dulaney recommended that the Board of Aldermen adopt a resolution designating Neel Schaffer, Inc. as the most qualified engineering firm and enter into negotiations with them for the engineering contract for the MCWI Grant project. After a discussion of the matter, Alderman Hartsfield moved that the recommendation be accepted and that the Board of Aldermen designate Neel Schaffer, Inc. as the most qualified and highest rated engineering firm for the Town's proposed MCWI Grant project with said rating and competition sufficient for the MCWI Application through MDEQ, and that Andrew Dulaney, and Wes Ryals, Mayor and Attorney respectively, be authorized to negotiate a contract with Neel Schaffer, Inc. The final contract will be presented to the Board for approval prior to execution. Alderman Pierce 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 K – RANKING SHEETS FOR ENGINEER SELECTION AND PROOF OF PUBLICATION RELATING TO SAME

With no other business, Alderman Fullilove moved to adjourn the meeting. 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, and the meeting adjourned this 6<sup>th</sup> day of September 2022.

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Andrew T. Dulaney, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Kate Scott Pennock, Town Clerk

APPENDIX A – ATTENDANCE SHEET

APPENDIX B – AUGUST CLAIMS

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