

REGULAR FIRST TUESDAY MARCH 2023, MEETING
OF THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN

BE IT REMEMBERED that Tuesday, March 7, 2023, 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	Present
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	Absent
*Via telephone – as indicated.	

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. In Mr. Smith's absence, Vice Mayor Pierce led in prayer.

The Board considered the minutes from the February 21, 2023, meeting. Alderman Pierce 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.

The Board next discussed claims for February 2023. Ms. Green has been sick and unable to complete the claims docket. The Board will meet next week to consider the February claims.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

REPORTS:

- **Police Report:** Police Chief Hatton reported on the most recent activity and discussed current issues. Chief Hatton advised that he continues to work to find new employees. Following a review of the report, Chief Hatton was thanked for the information.
- **Public Works:** Mr. Robinson and Mr. Griffin gave the Board an overview of the recent activities for the water/sewer department and public works department. Mr. Robinson discussed ongoing issues with sewer pumping stations and updated the Board on various water leaks. Mr. Griffin discussed various drainage projects that he has been working on. Following the reports, Mr. Robinson and Mr. Griffin were thanked for the information.
- **Tunica Main Street:** Laura Withers reported on Main Street activities. Ms. Withers discussed the Wild Game Cookoff which was held in February. Ms. Withers discussed the new Bash Fitness which will be opening in the building Harris Fyfe was occupying. Additionally, Ms. Withers discussed the new Tunica Event Building which David Gicking is working to complete in the next couple of weeks. Ms. Withers updated the Board on the River Gate Festival and the plans that are underway. Ms. Withers was thanked for the report.

The Mayor and Board next discussed hanging baskets and related items for the beautification of downtown. This is a project that the Town annually budgets. After a discussion, Alderman Fyfe moved that the Board authorize and approve the purchase of hanging baskets and related items for the beautification of downtown at an estimated cost of \$4,000.00. 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 Board next discussed various drainage projects which are slated to be completed. Mr. Griffin has recently been working on the project along the north side of North Court Street and continuing over to US Highway 61 (along the drainage ditch on the north side of Mickey Johnson's house). The additional projects are: 1) School Street between Mockingbird and Delta on the west side; 2) Delta Street on the north side just east of Cummins; 3) Academy Drive/Friendship – along the north and south sides of Academy and a new ditch along the west line of Clifton Johnson's property; 4) Houston Cove area; and 5) Cummins and Hickory (Gookin/Withers). As these projects move forward, the Board will be kept up to date.

The Mayor and Board of Aldermen next discussed the purchase of new check valves for the wells. Mr. Robinson discussed the issue that each has which, if not addressed, will cause significant and costly problems in the future. Mr. Robinson has received quotes for the valves. The prices are outlined on the attached. After a discussion and based on Mr. Robinson's recommendation, Alderman Pierce moved that the purchase of the check valves be authorized and approved. 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 B: LETTER FROM NATIONAL WATER SERVICE ON COST OF CHECK VALVES

The Mayor next presented the preliminary site plan for the proposed fire expansion building. After a review of the site plan and discussion thereof. The Board discussed and reviewed the site plan. Following the discussion, Alderman Turner moved that the site plan be accepted and approved, and the right of way acquired. 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 C: SITE PLAN FOR PROPOSED FIRE STATION EXPANSION

The Mayor next presented an MOU with the State relating to certain training. Mr. Harrison, Tunica County Fire Coordinator, has arranged to have a bus rescue training class presented to the Tunica Volunteer Fire Department. In order for the State to perform the training, an MOU is required. Mr. Ryals has reviewed the form. Following the discussion, Alderman Hartsfield moved that the proposed MOU be accepted and approved. 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.

APPENIDIX D: MOU FOR BUS RESCUE TRAINING

There were no travel requested presented.

Brentlee Manning was at the meeting for North Delta Planning & Development District. It was announced that the Town timely received engineering proposals from: Neel-Schaffer, Inc., Fisher & Arnold, Inc., Allen & Hoshall, and Cook, Coggins Engineers, Inc. Ms. Manning will provide a scoring sheet so that each member of the Board can score the engineering proposals. The Board will compile and review the scoring at a special meeting to be held Tuesday, March 14, 2023, at 8:30 a.m. at which time it'll consider the engineering proposals.

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 Pierce moved that a closed determination be held to discuss whether an executive session is needed to be held and is appropriate. 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, 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 an individual for the water/sewer department (the “Executive Session Matter”).

Based on this, Alderman Turner 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, 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, Board attorney, Clerk and all members of the Board of Aldermen.

During the executive session, the Executive Session Matter was discussed and acted on as follows:

Willie Busby: The Board of Aldermen discussed the employment of Mr. Busby. Mr. Robinson advised the Board that Mr. Busby has prior experience with water and sewer. He is currently employed with the Clarksdale, Mississippi Utility Department. Mr. Robinson interviewed Mr. Busby. Also, Mr. Busby has met the other water and sewer employees. Mr. Robinson recommended that Mr. Busby be hired for \$12.00 per hour and that this increase to \$14.00 per hour after thirty (30) days of successful employment. Alderman Turner moved that the Board accept the recommendation and that Mr. Busby be hired as a fulltime employee for the water and sewer department with a starting hourly wage of \$12.00 per which shall increase to \$14.00 per hour after thirty (30) days of successful employment. 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.

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 the executive session.

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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 7th day of March 2023.

Andrew T. Dulaney, Mayor

ATTEST:

Kate Scott Pennock, Town Clerk

APPENDIX A:	ATTENDANCE SHEET
APPENDIX B:	LETTER FROM NATIONAL WATER SERVICE ON COST OF CHECK VALVES
APPENDIX C:	SITE PLAN FOR PROPOSED FIRE STATION EXPANSION
APPENDIX D:	MOU FOR BUS RESCUE TRAINING