

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

BE IT REMEMBERED that Tuesday, May 2, 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	Absent
Operations Manager Thomas J. Robinson, III	Present
Public Works Supervisor Reggie Griffin	Present
Town Chaplain Danny Smith	Present
*Via telephone – as indicated.	
**Present 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. Mr. Smith led in prayer.

The Board considered the minutes from the April 18, 2023, meeting. Alderman Pierce moved to approve the minutes as written and previously provided to the Board of Aldermen. 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 then considered the claims for April 2023. It was noted that a summary of the claims was previously provided to the Board. After a brief discussion of the claims and a review by Mayor Dulaney, Alderman Fyfe moved to approve the claims as presented. 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 B: APRIL CLAIMS

The Mayor and Board next had an appointment with Marie Warner, Director of the Tunica Airport. Ms. Warner discussed a possible sale of certain real property that is not being used for Airport purposes. It is not anticipated that the property in question will be used for Airport purposes. The two lots located just south of Coahoma Electric Power Association on the east side of White Oak Road are the lots proposed to be sold. Following the discussion, Alderman Peirce moved that the Town of Tunica consent to and approve the sale based on the terms to be negotiated by the Airport Board. Once the details are finalized, Ms. Warner may come back to the Board of Aldermen for final approval. 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.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

REPORTS:

- Police Report: Police Chief Hatton was unable to be at the meeting as he is in Circuit Court for a criminal trial. Chief Hatton will be at the Board's May 16, 2023, meeting to present his report.
- Public Works: Mr. Robinson reported to the Board concerning utility issues. The missing manhole cover for the north end of School Street has been replaced. There are several ongoing issues with a couple of pumping stations. These are being addressed. Mr. Griffin gave the Board an overview of the recent activities for the public works department. Truck 15 is down and has been taken to be repaired. Mayor Dulaney discussed the importance of Truck 15 and advised that he is looking to include a new knuckle boom truck in next year's budget. Additionally, Mayor Dulaney thanked Mr. Griffin and his crew for their hard work for River Gate.
- Tunica Main Street: Laura Withers reported on Main Street activities. Ms. Withers updated the Board on the recently held River Gate Festival. Ms. Withers discussed various upcoming events. Main Street host not events in May. Ms. Withers was thanked for the report.

Alderman Turner arrived at the meeting.

Mayor Dulaney advised that he understands the Town's application for a MCWI Grant has been approved. As soon as the MOU for the grant is received, it will be presented to the Board. These

funds will be used to replace water lines in the north end of the Town. No action was taken at the meeting on this matter.

The Mayor and Board of Aldermen next discussed the Tunica Tennis Court Reconstruction Project (the "Project"). The Town has retained Neel-Schaffer, Inc., a firm of professional engineers, to assist with plans & specifications, as well as bidding. Neel-Schaffer, Inc. has developed the plans and specifications. These were submitted to three qualified contractors who have experience with tennis courts and reconstructing them. Initially, a date/time/place was established for all bids/quotes to be submitted to Neel-Schaffer, Inc. Only one quote was received. In light of this, Neel-Schaffer, Inc. has worked for several weeks to secure a second bid/quote for the work. While they have been lead to believe that a second bid/quote was forthcoming, it has not been received. At this time, Neel-Schaffer, Inc. is concerned that it will not be able to secure a second bid/quote. Additionally, delaying the matter to much further could jeopardize the initial bid. Neel-Schaffer, Inc. has opined that based on their professional opinion, the one bid is commercially competitive and represents a fair price to have the work performed. Mayor Dulaney advised that he has discussed the matter with the firm that audits the Town. He was advised that based on the significant efforts used to secure two bids and the fact that the one bid is deemed commercially competitive, the Town could move forward with the Project with the one bid. After further discussion and given the above facts, Alderman Fyfe moved that the engineers' recommendation be accepted and the bid/quote of Barton Sports Construction be accepted for the resurfacing, etc. of the tennis courts into one tennis court and two pickleball courts at a bid price of \$36,850. Mayor Dulaney is authorized to execute such contracts or purchase orders as needed in order to contract to have the work performed based on the bid received and plans/specifications. 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: ENGINEERS' RECOMMENATION FOR TENNIS COURT PROJECT

The Board was briefly updated on the position of Chief of Police. No action was taken.

The Mayor and Board of Aldermen next discussed the Board's CDBG application. Mayor Dulaney reviewed various proposed resolutions and plans which the Town needs to consider and adopt in order to move forward with the grant application. Following a reading the resolutions and plans to the Board by Mayor Dulaney, Alderman Hartsfield moved the resolutions and plans as outlined on the attached appendix be approved by the Town and Andrew Dulaney and Kate Scott Pennock, Mayor and Clerk, be authorized to sign and deliver the same. 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 D: RESOLUTIONS RELATING TO THE TOWN'S CDBG APPLICATION

The Mayor and Board of Aldermen next discuss concerns with the Veteran's Park. There are several large oak trees in the park, particularly along Edwards Avenue. One of these trees will have to be cut down due to disease. The others are going to be trimmed. The Board has previously received bids for this work and approved Have-Saw-Will-Travel to carry out the project. Mayor Dulaney has discussed the state of the trees with Mr. Mangum. It has been recommended that the area be designated no parking. The parking under the trees is compacting the soils and potentially damaging the trees. Additionally, it is preventing any grass from growing in certain areas. If the area can be designated no parking, then the soil can possibly be aerated and the Town can get grass established in the these areas. There is a dedicated parking lot for the park – one each end of the park. There is one in front of the Veteran's Memorial and another by the playground. Additionally, the Board discussed adding signage for the playground. A proposed sign for the playground was received and reviewed by the Board. After a discussion of the matter and based on the above information, Alderman Pierce moved that the Town designate the area each of the pavement of Edwards Street and west of Main Street as "No Parking" and that appropriate signage and other markings be placed there, and that the sign be approved, purchased, placed and enforced at the playground. 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 E: SIGN FOR THE PLAYGROUND

The Mayor and Board briefly discussed a request by Tunica County that the Town consider a donation of real property to Tunica County for the construction of a new department of human services and child protection services building. The County would like the building to be constructed on Peabody somewhat across from Aaron E. Henry Health Clinic. Mayor Dulaney will work to get additional details and will report back to the Board.

The Mayor and Board discussed vector control services for 2023. In particular, mosquitos present a danger to the health of the residents. Historically, the Town has contract to have Town sprayed in the evening. A proposal for the professional service has been solicited. Only one proposal was received. It is from Advanced Mosquito Control, Inc. The price is \$5,850 per month for spraying six times each week and up to six aerial applications. Following the discussion, Alderman Fyfe moved that the proposal of Advanced Mosquito Control, Inc. be accepted for the professional services. A copy of their proposal is included with the minutes. 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 F: PROPOSAL FOR MOSQUITO CONTROL SERVICES

The Mayor and Board of Aldermen next discussed the outside working conditions for the Town's employees during the summer months. The weather gets extremely hot and can be dangerous. Insuring proper hydration is important for the health and well-being of the Town's employees. In light of this, Alderman Fyfe moved that the Town purchase water, Gatorade and other similar drinks for the Town's employees that work outside. This shall be effective for time of excessive heat including the months of May – September, 2023. Aldermen 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 Mayor and Board next discussed and considered applying for a grant through the Bureau of Justice Assistance-2023 Patrick Leahy Bulletproof Vest Partnership program. Alderman Fullilove moved to approve applying for the grant through the Bureau of Justice Assistance (JAG)-2023 Patrick Leahy Bulletproof Vest Partnership program. The program will reimburse the cost of 50% of new bulletproof vest purchased by the Town. 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 discussed and considered an engineering agreement with Neel-Schaffer, Inc. relating to the ARPA Project that the Town is considering for the replacement of various waterlines in the northern end of Tunica County which will include removing and replacing various lead fittings, etc. The Board has previously been through a selection process and has designated Neel-Schaffer, Inc. as the most qualified for the Project. Mayor Dulaney advised that Mr. Ryals has reviewed the contract for the Town and has approved the terms. After a discussion of the matter and a review of the contract, Alderman Hartsfield moved that the contract be approved and Andrew Dulaney and Kate Scott Pennock, Mayor and Clerk respectively, be authorized to executed and deliver the engineering agreement. 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 G: CONTRACT WITH NEEL-SCHAFFER, INC. FOR ARPA ENGINEERING

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 Pierce 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 as interim Chief of Police (the “Executive Session Matter”).

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

During the executive session, the Executive Session Matter was discussed. Alderman Fyfe moved that the Board authorize and approve hiring Richard Veazey at the rate of \$22.00 per hour to service as the “Interim Chief of Police” or “Chief of Police Advisor” to provide oversight to the Department when Chief Hatton is no longer here. Mr. Veazey will start May 23, 2023, in order to have a week or so of overlap with Chief Hatton. 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 Fullilove moved to leave executive session. Alderman Pierce 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.

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

- Richard Veazey, Mississippi Chief of Police Conference, Biloxi, MS June 19-23, 2023

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

With no other business, Alderman Pierce 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 this 2nd day of May 2023.

Andrew T. Dulaney, Mayor

ATTEST:

Kate Scott Pennock, Town Clerk

APPENDIX A: ATTENDANCE SHEET