

REGULAR THIRD TUESDAY JUNE 2023, MEETING
OF THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN

BE IT REMEMBERED that Tuesday, June 20, 2023, being the third Tuesday of said month and the day fixed by Board order for holding the second 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
Interim Police Chief Richard Veazey	Absent
Operations Manager Thomas J. Robinson, III	Present
Public Works Supervisor Reggie Griffin	Present
Town Chaplain Danny Smith	Present
*Participated via teleconference.	

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.

It was noted that Ms. Pennock had a doctor's appointment and is unable to attend the meeting. Also, it was noted that Mr. Veazey is at the Chief's Conference.

The Board considered the minutes from the June 6 and June 9, 2023, meetings. Alderman Pierce moved to approve the minutes as written and previously provided to the Board of Aldermen. 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.

REPORTS:

- **Police Report:** In Mr. Veazey's absence, Investigator Chris Cheslock reviewed the operations since the last meeting. In addition to Mr. Cheslock's report, Mayor Dulaney updated the Board on changes being made with regard to how telephone calls are handled by the Police Department, issues that are being addressed concerning dispatching and issues that are being addressed with Veterans Park and the playground. Following the report, Mr. Cheslock was thanked for the information.
- **Public Works:** Mr. Griffin updated the Board with regard to Public Works. With the rain over for a little while, the crew is back to cutting grass and weed eating. Mr. Griffin discussed equipment issues. Thomas Robinson updated the Board regarding the water and sewer. He advised the Board that the plans for the Walker McGee Pump Station Rehab have been completed and he is working on getting multiple bids. He also discussed the CCR which has been finalized, posted, etc. Finally, he advised that engineering surveys will start Friday for the waterline replacement project in the north end of Town. Mr. Griffin and Mr. Robinson were thanked for their reports.
- **Tunica Main Street:** Ms. Withers was not able to attend today's meeting. Mayor Dulaney briefly updated the Board. With regard to upcoming events, Ms. Withers is working to have signs placed at Veteran's Park or the Post Office and another in the lot near the mural.
- **Code Enforcement:** David Graves gave an update on code enforcement issues. Mr. Graves discussed his report and the ongoing actions for code enforcement. Mr. Graves was thanked for the information.

The Mayor and Board next hear from Doll Gill. Ms. Gill timely submitted a request to appear before the Board to discuss various issues. Mayor Dulaney welcomed Ms. Gill and the floor was open for her remarks. Ms. Gill stated that since making the request to the appear before the Board, Mayor Dulaney as well as Alderman Turner have discussed the issues with her and provided her with information relating to the same. Ms. Gill stated that she is concerned about two primary items. First, she discussed the state of several of the roads in Town. Next, she discussed debris and the timeliness of it getting picked up. Following her remarks, Ms. Gill was thanked for her presentation. Mayor Dulaney acknowledged that without a newspaper in Town, it was difficult to get information out to everyone to keep the public updated on what is being done. Mayor Dulaney has talked with the Mississippi Department of Audit. The Audit Department has advised that the Town can pay to have a letter sent out updating the citizens and residents of the Town as to the "state" of the Town. Additionally, Mayor Dulaney is working with Mr. Griffin to establish a route for the debris truck to use to insure that the Town picks up from each house at least once each week.

Mayor Dulaney updated the Board regarding the newly formed senior citizens committee. The initial meeting has been held. Work is underway to create a survey, to provide to the senior citizens in Tunica, to gauge interest in various potential programs. As this moves forward, the Board will be kept updated.

The Mayor advised the Board that the MCWI Grant which the Board approved on June 9, 2023, has now been approved and signed by the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ). A copy of the fully executed agreement was presented to the Board. As part of the discussion, the Board was advised that the engineer will start surveys this coming Friday. After a brief review of the signed agreement, Alderman Turner moved that the fully executed Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality – Mississippi Municipality and County Water Infrastructure Grant Agreement (253-2-DW5.15) be received and a copy included in the Board’s minutes. 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: MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY – MISSISSIPPI MUNICIPALITY AND COUNTY WATER INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT AGREEMENT

The Board discussed the fire facility. Mr. Ryals will follow up on the deed for the real property. No action was taken.

The Mayor and Board discussed training for employees. Mayor Dulaney advised that he has been in discussion with the MSU – Stennis Institute concerning employee training with a focus on sexual harassment. The Stennis Institute is available to provide various training for its employees including training relating to sexual harassment. Alderman Turner moved that the Board authorize and approve Mayor Dulaney (and other appropriate Town officials) contracting with the Stennis Institute for employee training. 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.

The Mayor and Board discussed drainage concerns for the Houston Cove area. Mayor Dulaney has obtained a copy of Lina Roger’s deed, Belinda Tucker’s deed, the plat, and the tax map for this area. There is a “utility” easement between Ms. Roger’s lot and Ms. Tucker’s lot. Per the plat, the utility easement is for drainage as well as utilities. Mayor Dulaney recommended that Andy Richardson, a professional engineer, be hired to survey the area, establish the elevation(s) and make a recommendation to the Board on how to best address the issue. Alderman Fyfe moved that the recommendation be accepted, and Andy Richardson be hired to provide professional engineering services relating to the drainage in the Houston Cove area. 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 Mayor and Board next discussed the floor at the Post Office. The Town owns the Post Office and leases it to the United States Postal Service. The floor was damaged when a water line burst due to extreme cold weather. Mr. Griffin has been working with the Town's insurance company. The Town has been paid for the damage and now needs to have the floor replaced. There are additional other items which will also be repaired. The Board was advised that Mr. Griffin has received two proposals to remove the current floor and have it replaced. Premier Flooring has provided a bid of \$24,356. Jenkins Floors and More submitted a bid for \$55,284.50. Following a discussion, Alderman Hartsfield moved that the lowest bid/proposal as submitted by Premier Flooring be accepted and approved with a purchase order or other appropriate documentation being executed in order to contract for the work. 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.

The Mayor and Board next discussed landscaping downtown. A number of the Town's plants died over the winter and have been removed. These need to be replaced. Mayor Dulaney advised that he expects the cost to be under \$2,000.00. The Town will purchase the plants and the Public Works Department will plant them. After a discussion, Alderman Pierce moved that the Town authorize and approve purchasing new plants for the Town's landscaping at a cost of not to exceed \$2,000.00. 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 discussed the purchase of a new police car. Mayor Dulaney advised that Mr. Veazey has obtained a quote for a new police car which should be available in a few weeks. Mr. Veazey has informed Mayor Dulaney that the price is a state contract price. A copy of the invoice/quote was received and reviewed by the Board. After a discussion, Alderman Turner moved that the Board authorize and approve the purchase of a new police car based on the quote presented and which is included herein. 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: APPROVED QUOTE FOR NEW POLICE CAR

The Mayor and Board discussed authorizing payment to the Bank of America. This was inadvertently left off the claims docket. The amount is \$220.70. Alderman Turner moved that the Board authorize and approve paying Bank of America in the amount of \$220.70. 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 Mayor and Board discussed replenishing the petty cash drawer. Receipts showing payments totaling \$191.60 were available for review. After a discussion, Alderman Pierce moved that the Board approve replenishing the petty cash drawer for \$191.60. 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 advised the Board that the refrigerator in the breakroom located at Town Hall has stopped working. It has a crack in the top between the refrigerator portion and the freezer portion. A new refrigerator has been ordered. The cost to repair the same would be more than the cost of a new machine. After a brief discussion, Alderman Fyfe moved that the old non-working refrigerator be declared junk and disposed of. The same shall be removed from inventory. 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 Turner 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 the Municipal Court Judge and hiring a new police officer (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 Pierce 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, and all members of the Board of Aldermen.

During the executive session, the Executive Session Matter discussed was the position of Municipal Court Judge. The Board was advised that Judge McGarrh is retiring effective December 31, 2023. No action was taken. Additionally, the Board was advised that Mr. Veazey has interviewed Anfrenee Saffold for a part time police officer. The rate of pay is \$18.00 per hour. There will be no benefits. After a brief discussion, Alderman Fyfe moved that Mr. Saffold be

hired as a part time police officer with a rate of pay \$18.00 per hour. 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.

Following the discussion, Alderman Turner moved to leave executive session. 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. 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 discussed during executive session.

With no other business, Alderman Turner moved to adjourn the meeting. 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, and the meeting adjourned this 20th day of June 2023.

Andrew T. Dulaney, Mayor

ATTEST:

Kate Scott Pennock, Town Clerk

APPENDIX A:	ATTENDANCE SHEET
APPENDIX B:	MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY – MISSISSIPPI MUNICIPALITY AND COUNTY WATER INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT AGREEMENT
APPENDIX C:	APPROVED QUOTE FOR NEW POLICE CAR