

CITY OF PASS CHRISTIAN, MISSISSIPPI

MINUTE BOOK 147

REGULAR MEETING

December 17, 2024

BE IT REMEMBERED that the Mayor and Board of Alderpersons of the City of Pass Christian, Mississippi met on the above date at the Municipal Court Bldg., 105 Hiern Avenue, Pass Christian, Mississippi, at 6:00 p.m., same being the time and place for said meeting.

PRESENT: Mayor Renaud “Jimmy” Rafferty, Alderman at Large Kenny Torgeson, Alderwoman Betty Sparkman, Alderwoman Regina Charlot, Alderman Victor Pickich, City Attorney, Alderman Kirk Kimball, City Attorney, Malcolm Jones, City Clerk, Marian Governor

There being a quorum present to transact the business of the City, the following proceedings were had and done.

Special Shout Out to The Pass Christian Fire Fighter’s Association, Fire Department, Police Department, Public Works, Beautification, and other City Employees who played a role in making Christmas in the Pass a special event. Extra thanks to Captain Andy Purchner (Event Coordinator), Lindsey Fowler (Whoville), Wendy Diaz dell Valle with Mainstreet, the Businesses of Pass Christian, and the volunteers who make this event possible each year.

Special Shout Out for everyone who played a part in making this year’s City Employee Christmas party a success. In particular, Police Chief Daren Freeman who was the Event Coordinator. We look forward to doing it again next year. Merry Christmas.

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Upon motion of Alderwoman Betty Sparkman and seconded by Alderman Victor Pickich the Board unanimously agreed opening bids for the construction of the Beautification Building, and Pier P-2 Electrical Upgrades.

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Upon motion of Alderwoman Betty Sparkman and seconded by Alderman Kirk Kimball the Board unanimously adopted the agenda for December 17, 2024, Board of Alderperson Meeting.

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ADMINISTRATIVE

Upon motion of Alderman Kenny Torgeson and seconded by Alderwoman Betty Sparkman the Board unanimously accepted November 2024 Budget Report. (will be emailed out to BOA over the weekend).

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Upon motion of Alderwoman Betty Sparkman and seconded by Alderman Kirk Kimball the Board unanimously approved the Memorandum of Understanding with the Ms. Dept of Finance for the Senate Bill 2468 2024 Regular Legislative Session Capital Expenditure grant in the amount of \$750,000 specifically designated for downtown development, as requested by Marian Governor, City Clerk.

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Upon motion of Alderman Kirk Kimball and seconded by Alderwoman Betty Sparkman the Board unanimously approved opening the Senate Bill 2468 bank account at Hancock Whitney as a separate bank account is required for the grant and authorize the Mayor, City Clerk and Mayor Pro Tem as authorized signers.

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Upon motion Alderman Kirk Kimball and seconded by Alderwoman Betty Sparkman the Board agreed to appoint John Weber as an additional public defender under the same terms of compensation as the existing public defender in Municipal Court as requested by Judge Skip Negrotto.

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Upon motion of Alderman Kirk Kimball and seconded by Alderwoman Betty Sparkman the Board accepted the donation from Byron Bowser in the amount of \$45 for the Fire Department and \$40 for the Police Department and amend their budget accordingly.

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Upon motion of Alderman Kirk Kimball and seconded by Alderwoman Betty Sparkman the Board unanimously agreed to review the recommendation of Historic Preservation Commission concerning the decision of the Mayor and Board of Alderpersons to condemn and demolish 110 West Scenic Drive as a code violation.

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Upon motion of Alderman Kirk Kimball and seconded by Alderwoman Betty Sparkman the Board unanimously approved the payment for the following Invoices:

Inv# 16481.08-21 City Engineering Services for November 2024 - \$2,050.00
Inv# 16534.08-06 PC Pickleball Courts for 10/1/2024 – 11/30/2024 - \$4,046.26

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COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Upon motion of Alderwoman Betty Sparkman and seconded by Alderman Kirk Kimball the Board unanimously approved the variance application to exceed the maximum size for an outbuilding (Pool house of 2,080 total sq feet) for Chris and Ashley Bass. The property is located at 513 East Scenic Drive (Tax Parcel# 0413E-01-002.000). (This action of recommendation was approved by a variance application through the Planning Commission on December 9th, 2024).

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Upon motion of Alderman Kenny Torgeson and seconded by Alderman Kirk Kimball the Board unanimously agreed to refund \$600.00 for the application fees for 3 building permits, as requested by Mark Savasta. Permit# 240398- 225 Clark Ave / Permit# 240399- 218 Demetz / Permit# 240400- 0 Demetz Ave.

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COURT

Upon motion of Alderwoman Betty Sparkman and seconded by Alderman Victor Pickich the Board unanimously approved the refund request of \$1,000.00 to Bennie Hilbun. Mr. Hilbun paid a cash bond at the Harrison County Adult Detention Center for Eli Hilbun. Eli Hilbun was heard on his charge September 18, 2024, and no monies were assessed. A refund is requested.

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HARBOR

Upon motion of Alderman Victor Pickich and seconded by Alderman Kirk Kimball the Board agreed to ratifying advertising for full-time Harbor Service Employee at a rate of \$13.46 to fill existing vacancy, as request by Harbormaster, James Butcher.

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POLICE DEPARTMENT

Upon motion of Alderwoman Betty Sparkman and seconded by Alderman Kenny Torgeson the Board unanimously approved the request to apply for Mississippi Office of Highway Safety Police Traffic Services Grant FY26 in the amount of \$25,000 for overtime reimbursement. This grant does not require a match, as requested by Chief Daren Freeman.

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Upon motion of Alderwoman Betty Sparkman and seconded by Alderman Victor Pickich the Board unanimously approved to adopt the Memorandum of Understanding Between Office of Homeland Security, A Division of MS Department of Public Safety and City of Pass Christian for the purpose of information sharing and as a grant requirement for the reimbursement from the Office of Homeland Security for the purchase of LPRs (License Plate Readers), as requested by Chief Daren Freeman.

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RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Upon motion of Alderman Kenny Torgeson and seconded by Alderman Kirk Kimball the Board unanimously accepted the bid from American Tennis Courts in the amount of \$47,227.00 for resurfacing the Tennis Court at War Memorial Park, as requested by Bret Bentz.

- Betty Sparkman Aye
- Regina Charlot Nay
- Kirk Kimball Aye
- Victor Pickich Aye
- Kenny Torgeson Aye

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Upon motion of Alderwoman Betty Sparkman and seconded by Alderman Kirk Kimball the Board unanimously approved the Final Payment Application #4 in the amount of \$8,831.83 for the construction of the Pickleball Court, as requested by Bob Escher.

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WATER DEPARTMENT

Upon motion of Alderman Kenny Torgeson and seconded by Alderwoman Betty Sparkman the Board discussed the possibility of disposing of the old meters that have accumulated for years, as requested by Jennifer Lizana and Kermit Anthony. There was a motion to come back with a Resolution on how to dispose of the meters, and a list of all meters in inventory.

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Upon motion of Alderwoman Regina Charlot and seconded by Alderman Kenny Torgeson the Board unanimously approved transferring the 2023 Chevrolet Trailblazer assigned to the Water Manager to the Administration Department for the Mayor’s use and transfer of the 2013 Ford Fusion from the Administration Department to the Water Department for use by the Water Manager.

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CONSENT AGENDA

Upon motion of Alderwoman Betty Sparkman and seconded by Alderman Victor Pickich the Board unanimously approved the items 1 –3 below

1. Approved closing the Peoples Bank payroll account ending in 0254 and authorizing transferring balance and accrued interest to the Hancock Whitney Payroll account ending in 7251, as requested by the City Clerk, Marian Governor. CA-1
2. Approved the closing of Hancock Whitney Water Works and Sewer account ending in 4900 (this is old Utility operating account prior to when we had switched to Peoples Bank) and transfer balance and accrued interest to Hancock Whitney Utility Operating Fund account ending in 7294. CA-2
3. Approved paying Invoice from Justin Wetzel, Harrison County Circuit Clerk, in the amount of \$2,000.00 for the Itemized Statement for City of Pass Christian Redistricting Services performed by Circuit Clerk for 2025 Municipal Elections. (See attached contract for services). CA-3

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CLAIMS DOCKET

Upon motion of Alderman Kenny Torgeson and seconded by Alderwoman Betty Sparkman the Board unanimously approved the Claims Docket in the amount of \$124,255.24.

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PUBLIC COMMENT

THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERPERSONS ALLOWED RESIDENTS AN OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK WITH A THREE-MINUTE TIME LIMIT ON EACH SPEAKER. NO PUBLIC QUESTIONING COMMENTS ARE ALLOWED DURING THE MEETING, UNLESS THE MAYOR RECOGNIZES SUCH PERSON.

Mayor

12-17-2024
Date

City Clerk

12-17-2024
Date