

CITY OF PASS CHRISTIAN, MISSISSIPPI

MINUTE BOOK 148

REGULAR MEETING

February 4, 2025

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 City Employees who did an outstanding job in getting the City back up and running after the snowstorm.
- Special Shout out to Jerrell Harris, Marie Lamb, Susan Putnam and Paul Ratliff for preparing the best gumbo at the Mayor’s Cup Gumbo Kickoff in Gulfport last weekend.
- Special Shout out to Paul Ellis who was recognized as the Outstanding Citizen of the Year at a Rotary event, Fire Department Captain Andy Purchner who was recognized as the City Employee of the Year and Pass Christian High School History Teacher Andy Batten who was recognized as the Teacher of the Year.
- On February 15, the J.W. Randolph Educational, Cultural, Heritage Council of Pass Christian will sponsor a Black History celebration at the Harrison County Civic Center on Espy Avenue at 11:00am. The guest of honor will be Gene Lang who played football at Pass Christian High School, LSU and for the Denver Broncos.
 - Consider opening bids for the Construction of the Beautification Bldg.
 - Consider opening bids for the Elevating Controls for City Lift Stations project.
 - Authorize advertisement of the West Bulkhead Wall Repairs – Phase II

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Upon motion of Alderwoman Betty Sparkman and seconded by Alderman Victor Pickich the Board unanimously approved the agenda for the February 4, 2025, Board of Alderperson Meeting.

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ADMINISTRATIVE

Upon motion of Alderman Kenny Torgeson and seconded by Alderwoman Regina Charlot the Board agreed to TABLE the request of awarding a grant of \$255,875 for infrastructure (i.e., water, sewer, retaining wall, sidewalks, stormwater detention, etc.) to K&H Investments, LLC for the Hilton Tower Commons project on Scenic Drive west of the St. Paul's development. The developer will convey property to the City for a portion of the road that will connect Scenic Drive and Second Street between his property and St. Paul's and the City will provide connections under the road. The developer will commit to investing \$2,570,000 in Phase I of the overall projected \$4,170,000 development. This will require the construction of two commercial structures on Scenic Drive. The funds will be paid from SB2468 (2024) \$750,000 Appropriation for the Capital Expenditure grant designated for downtown development (there is no City match associated with the Capex Grant).

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Upon motion of Alderwoman Regina Charlot and seconded by Alderman Kenny Torgeson the Board unanimously approved the Change Order #2, in favor of DNA Underground LLC, for the Morton Avenue Drainage Repairs in the amount of \$11,003.75 which decreases the contract for a final total contract amount of \$194,814.00 and authorize the Final Pay Application #2 in the amount of \$26,085.45 to be paid from 400.703.911. The proposed change is necessary or incidental to the completion of the work as originally bid, is commercially reasonable and not made to circumvent the public purchasing status, and that any increase or decrease in cost is reasonable.

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Upon motion of Alderman Kenny Torgeson and seconded by Alderwoman Betty Sparkman the Board approved the reimbursement of Pay Application #3 in the amount of \$47,160.00 to Edgerly Enterprises, for the St Paul Village Contract. Funds are available as per the City Clerk.

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

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Upon motion of Alderwoman Regina Charlot and seconded by Alderman Kenny Torgeson the Board agreed to discuss this matter. **NO ACTION TAKEN:** Consider discussing the award of bid to Calder Co., LLC, for renovation of Fire Station No. 1, awarded at the previous special board meeting. [Subsequent to the award of the bid but before execution of a contract the City Attorney has determined that the contractor is a Louisiana Limited Liability Company qualified to do business in Mississippi. As a non-resident contractor the company failed to submit the required copy of the public bidding preference law for Louisiana at the time it submitted its bid, and the contractor may not be considered a “resident contractor” excepting it from this requirement because it has not have maintained a permanent full-time office in Mississippi for two years prior to the bidding. The Contractor will have the opportunity to present its case to prove this point and if it fails to do so, it will be incumbent upon the Board to rescind its previous award of bid and decide if the city wishes to reject all bids and readvertise].

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Upon motion of Alderman Kenny Torgeson and seconded by Alderman Kirk Kimbal the Board agreed to adopting the amendments to Protected Tree Ordinance No. 492 to increase the number of members of the Tree Board to six, set the quorum of such Board at three members, establish fees, to clarify provisions as they pertain to trees in public rights-of-way and on public property, increase penalties, and for related purposes.

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

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Upon motion of Alderwoman Regina Charlot and seconded by Alderman Kenny Torgeson the Board unanimously agreed to TABLE the notice to terminate the contract with the Humane Society of South Mississippi, effective July 1, 2025.

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Upon motion of Alderwoman Regina Charlot and seconded by Alderman Kenny Torgeson the Board unanimously approved the proposal from Election Systems & Software for election support services for the primary (\$7,650.00), primary runoff (if needed, \$6,300.00) and general election (\$6,300.00) and .29 each for regular ballots and .36 for absentee ballots, as requested by Marian Governor, City Clerk.

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Upon motion of Alderwoman Betty Sparkman and seconded by Alderman Victor Pickich the Board unanimously accepted the resignation/retirement of Virginia (Jenny) Lowery effective April 30, 2025, and pay her for any comp-time and vacation pay per City Policy that she may have accrued while employed and authorize to advertise for the position.

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Upon motion of Alderwoman Betty Sparkman and seconded by Alderman Kenny Torgeson the Board unanimously agreed hearing an update from the Code Inspector, Billy Dauphin about RV Parks.

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Upon motion of Alderwoman Betty Sparkman and seconded by Alderman Kenny Torgeson the Board unanimously approved the harbor/marina software Dockwa contract pending any recommended changes by the City Attorney.

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Upon motion of Alderwoman Betty Sparkman and seconded by Alderman Kenny Torgeson the Board unanimously agreed on ratifying the resolution for approval of Work Order NO. 1 with DNA Underground, LLC in the sum of \$40,562 for emergency work to be performed on Woodman Avenue Sewer pump station as recommended by City Engineer.

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Upon motion of Alderman Victor Pickich and seconded by Alderman Kirk Kimball the Board unanimously agreed to discuss the drainage work to be performed by the City at the rear of the homes on East Royal Oak Drive beginning with the home under construction by Southern Paradise LLC (Glen Illich) to the connection to be made at Lot 20. [The Board previously approved the work to be done conditioned upon Mr. Illich paying for certain costs to install drainage pipe at the rear of the home at 537 East Royal Oak under construction and now would like to have an open ditch instead of paying for the pipe to be installed.] **Mr. Illich agreed to pay \$3,645.89 and the Board agreed that the City will finish digging the ditch into the property on lot #18 and behind it but will not install any pipe unless someone asks for it on a future date.**

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EVENTS

Upon motion of Alderman Kenny Torgeson and seconded by Alderwoman Regina Charlot the Board approved the request from Woodside Wildlife Rescue for *Second Annual Rockin' the Earth Day* Fundraiser featuring two live bands to be held Saturday March 22, 2025. This event is designed to educate and bring awareness to the importance of wildlife within our community. Any proceeds will be directed towards the rehabilitation and conservation of our wildlife. Use of the following resources from the City of Pass Christian in support of Woodside Wildlife Rescue as requested by Susan Putnam. This bringing favorable notice to the resources and opportunities of the City:

- Use of south end of War Memorial Park on Saturday, March 22, 2025
- Preparation of the grounds to include treatment for ants and grass cutting as appropriate.
- Use of city trash receptacles, (cans and recycle bins)
- Two Beautification employees for trash pick-up/ restroom management
- Use of City barricades
- Use of the City stage
- Use of City generator
- Use of the portable panel box
- Permission to sell beer/wine (will fill proper forms)
- Permission to have food and craft vendors (will file tax forms)
- Closing portion of Scenic Drive (in front of War Memorial Park)
- Two police officers
- City barricades/cones as needed
- Police, Fire, Beautification, Public Works support including overtime if necessary

And any further resources as deemed 'necessary and required by the Mayor.

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Upon motion of Alderman Victor Pickich and seconded by Alderwoman Betty Sparkman the Board unanimously approved the request for Blessing of the Fleet to be held Saturday April 12, 2025 (Sunday April 13th as a rain out day) hosted by St Paul's Carnival Association at the Pass Christian Harbor green space. The city will make a contribution of free slip rent (For two boats at an approximate cost of \$150.00 for under 35 ft and \$250 for over 35ft for a prize to the boat owner's that participated in decorating their boat). The following additional resources are requested, this bringing favorable notice to the resources and opportunities of the city, as requested by Alderman Kimball.

- Barricades & cones
- Digital traffic sign
- Use of the city's stage
- Use of the Harbor's Dumpster & Facilities
- Trash Cans
- Generators
- Use of Harbor Pier
- Use of Harbor personnel
- Two police officers for security
- Any overtime that may accrue for City Personnel / Harbor / Police/ Fire / Public Works & Beautification · Other needs as deemed necessary by the Mayor

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Upon motion of Alderwoman Betty Sparkman and seconded by Alderwoman Regina Charlot the Board unanimously agreed to allow Carrying the Load's National Relay for 2025 to have their walking event on Wednesday, May 21, 2025, starting at 4:30pm to 9:00pm. This event is to honor the sacrifices made by our nation's Military, Veteran's, First Responders, and their families. There is no requirement for closure of any streets, as requested by Hunter Lovelace, Event Coordinator. This bringing favorable notice to the resources and opportunities of the City.

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NO ACTION TAKEN: Consider approving request for Jeepin the Coast to be held Wednesday May 28, 2025, at the Pass Christian Harbor green space. The following additional resources are requested, this bringing favorable notice to the resources and opportunities of the city, as requested by Alderman Kimball. EVENTS-4

- Barricades & cones
- Digital traffic sign
- Use of the city's stage
- Use of the Harbor's Dumpster & Facilities
- Trash Cans
- Generators & panel board
- Use of Harbor personnel
- Two Police officers for security
- 6 Pota- Pottys
- Any overtime that may accrue for City Personnel / Harbor / Police/ Fire / Public Works & Beautification
- Other needs as deemed necessary by the Mayor

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FIRE DEPARTMENT

Upon motion of Alderwoman Betty Sparkman and seconded by Alderman Kenny Torgeson the Board unanimously approved Chief Woodman's request to hire Jaclyn Laughlin as the Fire Administrator/Emergency Management Assistant with a Salary of \$18.00 per hour, start date 2/5/2025, pending background check and drug screen.

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POLICE DEPARTMENT

Upon motion of Alderman Kirk Kimball and seconded by Alderwoman Betty Sparkman the Board unanimously approved the recommendation to hire Steven Morris to fill the existing vacancy left by Christopher Waters effective February 14, 2025, at a starting salary of \$18.98 per hour plus holiday pay. He has passed all Civil Service requirements. This position has a one-year probationary period. This is a budgeted position, and funds are available as confirmed by the City Clerk, as requested by Chief Daren Freeman.

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CONSENT AGENDA

Upon motion of Alderwoman Betty Sparkman and seconded by Alderwoman Regina Charlot the Board unanimously approved the items 1 –9 below

1. Approved the reimburse Mayor Rafferty \$50 for his attendance at the Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting in Biloxi on February 18, 2025. CA-1
2. Approved Marian Governor, City clerk attending the 2025 Spring Municipal Clerk Conference on April 9 thru April 11, 2025, in Hattiesburg, Ms., registration fee of \$200.00, per diem of \$75, lodging of \$214 and use of city vehicle or reimbursement for lodging. CA-2
3. Approved payment to Overstreet and Associates for the following invoice in the amount of \$2,566.25 for North St Gravity Sewer Phase II & III. CA-3
4. Adopted the Resolution requesting Harrison County to allow the City to rent voting machines and other related equipment for use in the City's 2025 primary and general elections as requested by the City Attorney. CA-4
5. Approved changing the April 1, 2025, regular Board Meeting to Wednesday, April 2, 2025, due to the primary election, as requested by Marian Governor, City Clerk. CA-5
6. Upon motion of Alderwoman Betty Sparkman and seconded by Alderman Victor Pickich the Board unanimously approved the request from Claudette Jones with the Friends of PC to use the Randolph Center on 4.26.25 from 8am to 5pm and waive the fees, this bringing favorable notice to the resources and opportunities of the City, as requested by Alderwoman Charlot. CA-6
7. Approved Chief Woodman's attendance to Fire Instructor III at The MSFA February 4th through 6th. \$250, Course fee, per diem \$84, and use of City Vehicle. CA-7
8. Approved the installation of a covered boat lift in slip P-253 at the tenant's expense. All construction will comply with harbor modifications guidelines and will be installed by A Step Above who will obtain DMR permits before installation, as requested by James Butcher, Harbormaster. CA-8
9. Approved the request to send Deputy chief Chris Williams to FBI LEEDA Supervisor Leadership Institute class held Monday, March 10-14, 2025, in Biloxi, MS Tuition is \$795, and use of a City Vehicle is requested. Lodging is not required. This request for training is a budgeted item and funds are available as confirmed by the City Clerk.

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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 \$256,545.07.

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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.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Consider Closed Session to determine whether or not to go into Executive Session.

Upon motion of Alderman Victor Pickich the Board unanimously agreed to go into Closed Session to determine whether or not to go into Executive Session concerning strategy sessions for prospective litigation concerning the award of bid for renovation of Fire Station No. I when an open meeting would have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the City.

Upon motion of Alderwoman Regina Charlot and seconded by Alderman Kenny Torgeson the Board came out of Closed Session.

The Board did not go into Executive Session. The Board agreed to adopt the Resolution which states that since the business was a corporation of the State of LA and was not a full-time corporation in the State of MS for two years prior to the date of the bid the Board can reject that Bid resend that award and return all bids and re-advertise.

Mayor

02-04-2025

Date

City Clerk

02-04-2025

Date