

**CITY OF PASS CHRISTIAN, MISSISSIPPI**

**MINUTE BOOK 148**

**REGULAR MEETING**

**January 21, 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 (via phone), 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.

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Upon motion of Alderwoman Betty Sparkman and seconded by Alderwoman Regina Charlot the Board unanimously approved the agenda for the January 21, 2025, Board of Alderperson Meeting.

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***ADMINISTRATIVE***

Upon motion of Alderwoman Betty Sparkman and seconded by Alderman Kenny Torgeson the Board unanimously agreed to TABLE Consider 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 the 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 Alderman Kirk Kimball and seconded by Alderwoman Regina Charlot the Board unanimously agreed to advertise the West Small Craft Harbor, Pier C-2 Improvements as requested by the City Engineer.

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Upon motion of Alderwoman Regina Charlot and seconded by Alderwoman Betty Sparkman the Board unanimously approved Payment Application #1 to DNA Underground LLC in the amount of \$16,705.00 for Baywood Drive, Drainage Improvements, as recommended by the City Engineer Bob Escher.

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Upon motion of Alderwoman Regina Charlot and seconded by Alderwoman Betty Sparkman the Board unanimously approved Payment Application #3 to Gray Falcon Construction in the amount of 37,050.00 for Phase I Hurricane Mitigation Improvements, as recommended by the City Engineer Bob Escher.

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Upon motion of Alderman Betty Sparkman and seconded by Alderman Kenny Torgeson the Board approved payment of Pay Application #8 in the amount of \$121,754.22 to Bottom 2 Top Construction, LLC for the North Street Gravity Sewer. This will be paid out of the GOMESA Fund 152-701-91, as requested by Overstreet & Associates.

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Upon motion of Alderwoman Regina Charlot and seconded by Alderman Kenny Torgeson the Board unanimously agreed hearing from the City’s Emergency Manager as well as City Attorney, concerning the City’s Annual Maintenance Contract and Phase 1 of Fire Installation, as requested by Alderman Pickich.

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COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Upon motion of Alderwoman Betty Sparkman and seconded by Alderwoman Regina Charlot the Board agreed to TABLE the appointment of Kaitlyn Kidd and Mike Simpson to the Historic Preservation Commission for a new three-year term.

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

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Upon motion of Alderwoman Betty Sparkman and seconded by Alderman Kenny Torgeson the Board unanimously appointed Chris Daniel to replace Lou Rizzardi on the Tree Board for a three-year term with effect from January 1, 2025, as requested by Lou Rizzardi. While in college, Chris worked in a University Arboretum and has been responsible for the grounds and tree grove at his church.

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Upon motion of Alderman Kenny Torgeson and seconded by Alderman Kirk Kimball the Board agreed to amending Ordinance No. 492 to increase the number of members on the Tree Board from “five” to six.

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

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Upon motion of Alderman Kenny Torgeson and seconded by Alderwoman Regina Charlot the Board unanimously approved the appointment of Avra Odwyer to the tree Board.

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EVENTS

Upon motion of Alderwoman Regina Charlot and seconded by Alderman Kenny Torgeson the Board unanimously approved the request for the following City resources for the 2025 Jazz in the Pass Festival to be held in War Memorial Park on Sunday, May 25, 2025, as requested by Joseph Piernas, Sr., Jazz in the Pass.

- Use of War Memorial Park on Sunday, May 25, 2025.
- Mowing, cleaning and spraying fire ants in the park during the week before the event.
- Use of the A-frame electrical panel.
- Installation of water/hose connects along Fleitas Ave.
- Marking of sprinkler heads and lines for tent set-up.
- Extra trash cans throughout the park. (with can liners)
- Use of public works/beautifications employees to assist with trash removal and stocking cleaning the public restrooms, etc.
- Police presence throughout the event.
- Use of the City Stage.
- Closing of Scenic Dr between Fleitas Ave and West end of park between Friday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> through Tuesday, May 27<sup>th</sup>, due to the stage being set up in roadway.
- Barricade for traffic control.
- Other resources as deemed necessary by Mayor Rafferty.

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Upon motion of Alderwoman Regina Charlot and seconded by Alderman Kenny Torgeson the Board unanimously approved request from Pass Christian Public School District for the use of War Memorial Park on March 22, 2025, for their Annual Read, Write and Run for Renaissance 5K/1 Mile Run & Kindness Fair Fundraising Event. Also, to ensure the safety of our participants, the city is providing the presence of our police department on the course to ensure the well-being of all runners. This brings favorable notice to the resources and opportunities of the City, as requested by Nathan Claret, School Counselor.

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***FIRE DEPARTMENT***

Upon motion of Alderman Kenny Torgeson and seconded by Alderwoman Regina Charlot the Board unanimously accepted the recommendation from Watters Architecture to award the contract to Calder Co. LLC, the lowest and best bid, to renovate Fire Station #1 at a cost of \$395,750 to be funded by the 2025 Bond Series.

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Upon motion of Alderman Kenny Torgeson and seconded by Alderwoman Betty Sparkman the Board unanimously approved Chief Woodman's request to move Brooks Hoda from P/T to F/T Firefighter 2. Salary of \$13.90 per hour, transfer date Jan 31st, with a one (1) year probation. Brooks has met civil service requirements and background check, and drug screen was completed in part-time process.

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Upon motion of Alderwoman Regina Charlot and seconded by Alderman Kenny Torgeson the Board unanimously accepted the resignation and retirement of Bruce Wilkerson effective January 31st and pay him any comp-time and vacation time pay per City Policy that he may have accrued while employed. Bruce started with Pass Christian in August of 2002 and has served the City in multiple capacities over his 25 years. We wish him well in his retirement.

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Upon motion of Alderman Kenny Torgeson and seconded by Alderwoman Betty Sparkman the Board unanimously agreed to the transfer of Charles “Dean” Toler from full time to part time, \$12.02 an hour, effective January 18, 2025, and pay him any comp-time and vacation time pay per City Policy that he may have accrued.

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***HARBOR***

Upon motion of Alderman Kirk Kimball and seconded by Alderman Kenny Torgeson the Board unanimously agreed to changing one of the budgeted Harbor Service Employees positions to Supervisor of Harbor Service Employee at a rate of \$15.00 per hour. This will not have any increase in the budget, as requested by James Butcher, Harbor Master.

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Upon motion of Alderwoman Betty Sparkman and seconded by Alderwoman Regina Charlot the Board unanimously agreed to hiring Steven Jordan as a Harbor Service Employee at a rate of \$13.46 per hour beginning 01/22/25 pending pre-employment drug screen and background check, as requested by James Butcher, Harbor Master.

Upon motion of Alderwoman Betty Sparkman and seconded by Alderman Kenny Torgeson the Board unanimously agreed to go into Closed Session to discuss personnel.

Upon motion of Alderman Kenny Torgeson and seconded by Alderman Victor Pickich the Board came out of Closed Session.

Upon motion of Alderman Kenny Torgeson and seconded by Alderwoman Betty Sparkman the Board agreed to go into Executive Session.

Upon motion of Alderwoman Regina Charlot and seconded by Alderman Kenny Torgeson the Board agreed to come out of Executive Session.

It was agreed up by the Board to hire Steven Jordan as a Harbor Service Employee with the condition that his driving history is insurable.

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Upon motion of Alderwoman Regina Charlot and seconded by Alderwoman Betty Sparkman the Board unanimously agreed to moving Matthew Forrest to the new position of Harbor Services Employee Supervisor at a rate of \$15.00 per hour beginning 01/24/2025. He has been doing an exceptional job training and educating the Harbor Staff Employees, as requested by James Butcher, Harbor Master.

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PUBLIC WORKS

Upon motion of Alderwoman Betty Sparkman and seconded by Alderman Kenny Torgeson the Board unanimously approved the request to accept the best lowest bid from Jeff Register Building & Truss for the Public Works Equipment Storage to include a 20W x 96L x 1413H single slop at \$15,980.00 and the other side 36W x 36L x 16.13H single slope for \$ 11,300.00 for a total cost of \$27,280.00 to be funded through the 2025 bond issuance.

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Upon motion of Alderman Kenny Torgeson and seconded by Alderman Victor Pickich the Board unanimously approved the request to accept the lowest and best bid from Puckett Cat for a CAT302.7 07A Micro Excavator. This is a lease purchase for the sum of \$41,403.63. The City received two quotes.

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WATER

Upon motion of Alderwoman Betty Sparkman and seconded by Alderman Kenny Torgeson the Board unanimously approved a refund check request from Shannon Uschold. She had an approved adjustment on BOA 6/18/2024 and is now requesting a refund for the credit to her account in the amount of \$1,533.60 due to paying the original bill in full.

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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 –5 below*

1. Approved the request of the Gulf Coast Running Club for use of War Memorial Park and public streets for the annual running event on the following dates in 2025, from 7:00am to 10:00am. This bringing favorable notice to the resources and opportunities of the City, as requested by Leonard Vergunst, Representative. CA-1
  - Saturday April 12, 2025
  - Saturday August 2, 2025
  - Saturday December 20, 2025
2. Approved the use of a City Vehicle for Brad Manus to attend the 2025 PAAM Conference at the MSU Riley Center in Meridian, Mississippi on January 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>. All costs for attending the conference, hotel fees and all other costs have been paid by Brad Manus, as requested by Brad Manus, Beautification Director. CA-2
3. Approved reimbursing Kirk Kimball \$200.00 due to overpayment of permit fees (permit#230383), as requested by Mark Savasta. CA-3
4. Approved the request to send Gavin Carter to FIRE OFFICER LEVEL I, NFPA 1021-I at The MSFA Jan 27- 30th, there is a \$250 Course fee, per diem \$112, and use of City Vehicle. CA-4
5. Approved the December 2024 budget report. (will be emailed to BOA). CA-5

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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 \$55,236.46.

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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.

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Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
01-21-2025  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
01-21-2025  
Date