

CITY OF PASS CHRISTIAN, MISSISSIPPI

MINUTE BOOK 148

REGULAR MEETING

February 18, 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.

- 1. Consider hearing from Denise Smith with the American Red Cross about the Blood Drive they had at the Randolph Center to thank and present a certificate to the City from the Red Cross.
- 2. Proclamation for Thomas Ruspoli. TABLED TO 1ST METTING IN MARCH
- 3. Proclamation for Sally James who was very instrumental in bringing the Library back after Hurricane Katrina
- 4. Pass Christian earns 2024 Tree City USA Recognition from Arbor Day Foundation

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Upon motion of Alderwoman Betty Sparkman and seconded by Alderwoman Regina Charlot the Board unanimously approved the agenda for the February 18, 2025, Board of Alderperson Meeting.

ADMINISTRATIVE

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Upon motion of Alderman Kenny Torgeson and seconded by Alderwoman Betty Sparkman the Board unanimously agreed hearing quarterly report update from Pass Christian Main Street Board President, Wendy Diaz, as requested by Susan Putnam.

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Upon motion of Alderwoman Regina Charlot and seconded by Alderwoman Betty Sparkman the Board unanimously accepted the easement from K &H Investments, LLC for a portion of the right-of-way for the “Woodman Avenue extension” bordering the St. Paul project on its Western boundary in exchange for the City’s contractor extending water and sewer connections under the proposed public street to be constructed to accommodate future development by K & H Investments.

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Upon motion of Alderwoman Regina Charlot and seconded by Alderwoman Betty Sparkman the Board unanimously approved changing the March 4, 2025, Board meeting to March 5, 2024, since it is Fat Tuesday/Mardi Gras.

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Upon motion of Alderwoman Regina Charlot and seconded by Alderwoman Betty Sparkman the Board unanimously approved changing the June 3, 2025, Board meeting to June 4, 2025, due to the 2025 Municipal General Election.

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Upon motion of Alderwoman Regina Charlot and seconded by Alderman Kenny Torgeson the Board unanimously authorized overtime pay to City Clerk and Deputy clerks to conduct the 2021 Municipal Primary and General Elections as needed/or for other related duties and as required by law on the following Saturdays:

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| March 1, 2025 – Voter Registration | May 3, 2025 - Voter Registration |
| March 22, 2025 – In Person Absentee Voting | May 24, 2025 – In person Absentee Voting |
| March 29, 2025 – In Person Absentee Voting | May 31, 2025 – In Person Absentee Voting |

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Upon motion of Alderman Victor Pickich and seconded by Alderman Kirk Kimball the Board unanimously agreed hearing an update from the City Attorney and the Code Department as to the violation of PM gas station formerly known as CJ’s gas station on the corner of Henderson and North Street regarding the City’s lighted sign ordinance that states no digital lit billboards as requested by Alderman Pickich and Alderman Kimball.

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Upon motion of Alderwoman Betty Sparkman and seconded by Alderman Kenny Torgeson the Borad unanimously approved Change Order #1 in favor of DNA Underground LLC, for the West North Street and Cedar Avenue Drainage Repairs in the amount of \$6,676.00 which decreases the contract for a final total contract amount of \$27,023.00 and authorize the Final Pay Application #1 in the amount of \$27,023.00 to be paid from Account 118.301.911 (MIT Construction in progress). 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 Alderwoman Betty Sparkman and seconded by Alderwoman Regina Charlot the Board unanimously approved Change Order #1 in favor of DNA Underground LLC, for the Woodman Avenue Lift Station Emergency Repairs in the amount of \$3,420.00 which increases the contract for a final total contract amount of \$43,940.00 and authorize the Final Pay Application #1 in the amount of \$43,940.00 to be paid and reimbursed by GOMESA funds. The prosed 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 Alderwoman Regina Charlot and seconded by Alderwoman Betty Sparkman the Board unanimously Consider approving Pay Application #9 to Bottom 2 Top Construction, LLC in the amount of \$11,302.64 for the GOMESA North Street Gravity Sewer project, as requested by Bob Escher, City Engineer. Funds will be reimbursed by the GOMESA grant.

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Upon motion of Alderwoman Regina Charlot and seconded by Alderwoman Betty Sparkman the Board unanimously approved Work Order #3 in the amount of \$59,644.00 to DNA Underground LLC for the work to be done on the Cedar Avenue Sewer Replacement to be paid from 118.301.911 (MIT Construction in progress), as requested by Bob Escher.

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Upon motion of Alderman Kirk Kimball and seconded by Alderwoman Betty Sparkman the Board unanimously approved Application Payment #1 in the amount of \$124,995.78 to DNA Underground LLC for the work done on the Emerald Avenue Lift Station Rehabilitation, as requested by Bob Escher.

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Upon motion of Alderwoman Betty Sparkman and seconded by Alderman Kenny Torgeson the Board unanimously accepted the recommendation to reject all bids received for the construction of the Beautification Building as requested by the City Engineer, Bob Escher.

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Upon motion of Alderwoman Betty Sparkman and seconded by Alderwoman Regina Charlot the Board unanimously approved the transfer of \$800,000 from the Peoples Bank Utility Operating account to the Hancock Whitney Utility Operating account.

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Upon motion of Alderwoman Regina Charlot and seconded by Alderwoman Betty Sparkman the Board unanimously approved the supplemental contract for additional services on an hourly basis for Neel-Schaffer for engineering services for the construction of a sidewalk from Cedar Avenue to Pine Avenue along W. North Street to include a new concrete sidewalk 10 to 5 feet wide with drainage improvements. The proposed sidewalk will be located on the south side of W. North Street and crosswalks will be improved in front of the Pass Christian High School. The Engineer will provided additional services as related to the W. North Street Sidewalk Project, including but not limited to, obtaining an update to wetlands delineation and permit submittal to Army Corp. Engineers, updating plans and contract documents to comply with current MDOT requirements that may have changed since the documents were last submitted, finalize right-of-way files with approval from MDOT and Plan revisions to accommodate the existing gas pipeline.

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COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Upon motion of Alderwoman Regina Charlot and seconded by Alderman Kenny Torgeson the Board unanimously agreed hearing an update on the Community Development Tyler software upgrade as requested by Alderwoman Charlot.

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EVENTS

Upon motion of Alderwoman Regina Charlot and seconded by Alderman Kenny Torgeson the Board unanimously agreed moving the Pass Christian Farmers Market to the Harbor Green Space on Saturday, March 22, 2025, due to the two events that will be using War Memorial Park on the same day and time. Harbormaster, James Butcher has already agreed to let the Market use the Harbor Green Sparce, as requested by Susan Putnam.

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Upon motion of Alderwoman Regina Charlot and seconded by Alderwoman Betty Sparkman that Board unanimously allowed the LAD Project to use the “Green Space” at the West Pass Christian Harbor for “The LAD Project 2025 Children’s Fest” on April 26, 2025. This event is a fun and educational gathering to bring awareness to citizens about the services and programs the LAD Project offers. There will be family entertainment, community resources, vendors, inflatable house/slide, and a silent auction. This bringing favorable notice to the resources and opportunities of the City.

- City Stage
- City Generator
- Circuit Board Panel
- Trash Cans
- City Barricades
- One Police Officer
- Two Beautification Employees
- Spray area for ants
- Anything deemed necessary by the Mayor

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Upon motion of Alderwoman Regina Charlot and seconded by Alderwoman Betty Sparkman the Board unanimously agreed to the Pass Christian Library to use War Memorial Park for the Butterflies in the Pass Monarch Festival on Saturday, October 4, 2025, from 10am-1pm and waive any fees, this bringing favorable notice of the resources and opportunities of the City.

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LIBRARY

Upon motion of Alderwoman Betty Sparkman and seconded by Alderman Regina Charlot the Board unanimously approved the request from the Pass Christian Garden Club to have the City declare Thursday, February 20th as Arbor Day in Pass Christian. The Garden Club will be donating a tree to be planted that day as well, this bringing favorable notice to the resources and opportunities of the City, as requested by Wendy Allard, Librarian.

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PUBLIC WORKS

Upon motion of Alderwoman Betty Sparkman and seconded by Alderwoman Regina Charlot the Board unanimously approved the request to hire Robert Spencer as a Laborer at the Public Works Department with an hourly pay rate of \$14.00 per hour with a start date of February 19, 2025, pending drug screen and background check, as requested by Kirk Ladner.

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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 Southern Paradise Homes LLC, for a sewer tap located at 537 Royal Oak Dr., that was found to have an existing tap in the amount of \$306.25, as requested by Jennifer Lizana.

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Upon motion of Alderwoman Regina Charlot and seconded by Alderman Kenny Torgeson the Board unanimously agreed to TABLE the request from a resident for a refund on a commode that was leaking when she moved into her home in Bethel/Pass Estates. The resident moved in on 10/31/2024 and it took up to December 2024 to repair the problem. The bill was 44,000 and her average is 8,000 gallons. If you choose to approve the adjustment it would be as listed as follows: Water: \$48.60 for 18,000 / Sewer: \$208.80 for 36,000, as requested by Jennifer Lizana.

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Upon motion of Alderman Victor Pickich and seconded by Alderman Kenny Torgeson the Board unanimously agreed giving an adjustment to Kimberlee Mahony at 131 Northwood St., in the amount of \$34.80 (6 x \$5.80) for sewer over the average. The resident left a hose on and is requesting an adjustment. The repair does not fall under the leak adjustment policy so it would require Board approval, as requested by Jennifer Lizana.

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Upon motion of Alderwoman Regina Charlot and seconded by Alderwoman Betty Sparkman the Board unanimously agreed giving the request from Bill Wingfield at 915 East Scenic Dr., for an adjustment in the amount of \$1,716.80 (sewer only) for a broken pipe fitting that he had repaired. An adjustment over \$500.00 requires Board approval, as requested by Jennifer Lizana.

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CONSENT AGENDA

Upon motion of Alderwoman Betty Sparkman and seconded by Alderman Kenny Torgeson the Board unanimously approved the items 1 –12 below

- 1. Approved refunding a permit fee of \$1,110.00 to James Development. The contractor did not use the permit to build. The \$200.00 application fee is not refundable, as requested by Mark Savasta. CA-1
- 2. Approved reimbursing Mark Savasta, \$100.00 for the Plumber’s Continuing Education Online Webinar Class he will take on March 11, 2025. CA-2
 - Betty Sparkman Aye
 - Regina Charlot Aye
 - Kirk Kimball Aye
 - Victor Pickich Nay
 - Kenny Torgeson Aye
- 3. Approved the request to send Dia'mond Woodman to attend MFIA SPRING SEMINAR Fatal Fire Investigation Course March 26-28 there is a \$225 Course fee, and the use of City Vehicle, as requested by Chief Dia'mond Woodman. CA-3
- 4. Approved the request to send David Easterling to FIREFIGHTER LEVEL I & II, at The MSFA February 23rd through April 10, 2025. There is a \$500 course fee, per diem \$784, and the use of a City Vehicle, as requested by the Fire Chief, Dia'mond Woodman. CA-4
- 5. Fire Department: Consider approving the request to send Marcos Chacon to FIREFIGHTER INTERVENTION RESCUE SURVIVAL TECHNIQUEST at The MSFA March 24th -27th There is a \$250.00 course fee, per diem \$112 and use of City Vehicle, as requested by Fire Chief, Dia'mond Woodman. CA-5

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6. Approved the request from Pass Christian Yacht Club for the use of transient slips only on P-4 south-side for hosting the Star Class North American Championship April 6th – 13th. Constituting public entertainment, and this bringing favorable notice to the resources and opportunities of the City, as requested by James Butcher, Harbormaster. CA-6
7. Adopted the State of Mississippi State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program Memorandum of Understanding / Consent Form Batch 2 and the Interest Survey Form Batch 2 for the purpose of supporting interest in current and future State and local Cybersecurity Grant Program (SLCGP) funding. This is a requirement for the purchases of LPR's through the MS Office of Homeland Security Grant, as requested by Chief Daren Freeman. CA-7
8. Adopted the Memorandum of Understanding and HOTLIST Access Request form for the purpose of sharing information from Genetec, Inc. This is a requirement for the Free Trial Testing of Genetec License Plate Readers (not affiliated with the purchase of LPRs through the MS Office of Homeland Security Grant), as requested by Chief Daren Freeman. CA-8
9. Upon motion of Alderwoman Regina Charlot and seconded by Alderwoman Betty Sparkman the Board unanimously accepted the resignation for the retirement of Officer John W. Dedeaux effective March 3, 2025, as requested by Chief Daren Freeman. CA-9
10. Upon motion of Alderwoman Regina Charlot and seconded by Alderwoman Betty Sparkman the Board unanimously adopted the Resolution declaring Gloc 9mm handgun (SN# BHMP723) previously assigned to Officer John W. Dedeaux as surplus property upon resignation and retirement and authorizing same to be disposed of by private sale of One Dollar (\$1.00) to John W. Dedeaux after resigning from employment (ref: MCA Section 45-9-131), as requested by Chief Daren Freeman. CA-10
11. Upon motion of Alderwoman Betty Sparkman and seconded by Alderman Kenny Torgeson the Board unanimously approved the purchases of supplies for March 2, 2025, Mardi Gras Parade, authorized by Section 17-31 which allows advertising and promotional expenditures to advance the moral, financial and other interest of the municipality, for public entertainment. This will bring favorable notice to the resources and opportunities of the City. Not to exceed \$500.00. CA-11

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- 12. Accepted the January 2025 budget report. (will be emailed to the Board over the weekend). CA-12
- 13. Approved the minutes of December 17, 2024, Regular Mayor and Board of Alderpersons meeting, with changes, as requested by Deputy City Clerk, Shannon Starita. CA-13
- 14. Approved the minutes of January 7, 2025, Regular Mayor and Board of Alderpersons meeting, with changes, as requested by Deputy City Clerk, Shannon Starita. CA-14
- 15. Approved the minutes of January 21, 2025, Special Recess Meeting of the Mayor and Board of Alderperson, with changes, as requested by Deputy City Clerk, Shannon Starita. CA-15
- 16. Approved the minutes of January 22, 2025, Regular Mayor and Board of Alderpersons meeting, with changes, as requested by Deputy City Clerk, Shannon Starita. CA-16

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CLAIMS DOCKET

Upon motion of Alderwoman Betty Sparkman and seconded by Alderman Kenny Torgeson the Board unanimously approved the Claims Docket in the amount of \$118,220.74. CD-1

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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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EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon motion of Alderwoman Regina Charlot, the Board agreed to go into Closed Session to determine Executive Session for Litigation, as requested by Alderman Pickich and Alderman Kimball.

Upon motion of Alderwoman Regina Charlot and seconded by Alderwoman Betty Sparkman the Board unanimously agreed to come out of Closed Session.

Upon motion of Alderwoman Regina Charlot and seconded by Alderwoman Betty Sparkman the Board unanimously agreed to go into Executive Session to receive update from Skip Negrotto on pending Litigation.

Upon motion of Alderwoman Regina Charlot and seconded by Alderman Victor Pickich the Board unanimously agreed to come out of Executive Session.

Upon the motion of the Board there was NO ACTION TAKEN.

Mayor

02-18-2025

Date

City Clerk

02-18-2025

Date