

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING

MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN

City of Quitman, Mississippi

January 4, 2022

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

COUNTY OF CLARKE

CITY OF QUITMAN

BE IT REMEMBERED that the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the City of Quitman, Mississippi met in regular session on Tuesday, January 4 2022, at 5:00 P.M. at the City Hall in Quitman, Mississippi with the following present: Mayor Steve Watkins, Alderman Ward #1 Joe Eddie Brooks, Alderwoman Ward #2 Bridgett Peters, Alderman Ward #3 Ronald Holloway, Alderman Ward #4 Steve Neely, Alderman At Large Harry Wheat, Attorney Edward N. Kramer, III, Police Chief Mike McCarra, Water/Sewer Superintendent Jonathan Tanner, Street Superintendent/Parks Director Andy Reese, Building Inspector Carlton Green and City Clerk Cindy Kirkman.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

The hour of 5:00 P. M. having arrived Mayor Steve Watkins called the meeting to order.

2. INVOCATION

Mayor Steve Watkins opened the meeting with the invocation. Everyone stood and recited in unison the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL AND ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM

Mayor Watkins determined that a quorum was present.

4. RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

The following visitor(s) were present at the meeting: Rebecca Watkins, Jeffrey Johnson, Archie Scarborough, Belinda Allen.

5. CONFIRMATION OF THE AGENDA

Alderman Joe Eddie Brooks made a motion for the confirmation of the agenda with the following additions:

#9c. Water adjustments

#9d. Operator training

#9e. State ARPA Funding

Alderman Steve Neely seconded the motion and all the Aldermen voted in the affirmative.

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS/APPEARANCES

a. Belinda Allen of The Clarke County Tribune requested the Board to purchase a sponsorship ad for the upcoming Profile Special Section to be published February 25, 2022.

Alderwoman Bridgett Peters made a motion to purchase a 5 X 3 Ad for \$150. Alderman Joe Brooks seconded the motion. The vote was as follows:

Alderman Joe Brooks	Voted	Yes
Alderwoman Bridgett Peters	Voted	Yes
Alderman Ronald Holloway	Voted	Yes
Alderman Steve Neely	Voted	Yes
Alderman At Large Harry Wheat	Voted	No

The motion carried

7. REPORTS OF STANDING AND/OR SPECIAL COMMITTEES

a. Mayor Steve Watkins and Water/Sewer Superintendent Jonathan Tanner gave an explanation to the board regarding the Master Meter – Harmony MDM Software.

A Meter Reading problem with Master Meter's display did not affect our November billing and was coincidental. The billing issues in November was in fact due to the closing out of the month twice.

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. Municipal Building Project No. 7305 – Construction Overview

Mayor Watkins gave a Construction Project Overview of the Municipal Building Project.

b. Bank Loan Update – Municipal Project No. 7305

Mayor Watkins informed the board the paperwork for the \$250,000 loan was signed on Tuesday, January 4, 2022 by Watkins and City Clerk Cindy Kirkman.

A motion was made to open a new checking account at First State Bank and deposit the \$250,000. Those funds are to be used solely for the Municipal Building Project.

Alderman Ronald Holloway made the motion and Alderman Joe Brooks seconded the motion. All Aldermen voted in the affirmative

9. NEW BUSINESS

a. Approval of minutes from regular board meeting on December 21, 2021.

Alderman Steve Neely made the motion to approve the minutes. Alderman Bridgett Peters seconded the motion and all the Aldermen voted in the affirmative.

b. Personnel – Mike McCarra

Police Chief Mike McCarra requested the approval to hire two part time police officers and one full time narcotics officer.

Mildred Maria Utsey – Part time - \$13.00/Hour

Ryan Evans – Part time - \$13.00/Hour

Mason Blaine Thomas – Full time - \$17.51/Hour

Chief McCarra informed the board that the present narcotics officer recently resigned and the position needed to be filled.

Alderman Ronald Holloway made the motion to hire the three officers. Alderman Steve Neely seconded the motion.

Alderman Joe Brooks	Voted	Yes
Alderwoman Bridgett Peters	Voted	No
Alderman Ronald Holloway	Voted	Yes
Alderman Steve Neely	Voted	Yes
Alderman At Large Harry Wheat	Voted	Yes

Alderwoman Bridgett Peters made a motion to hire Officer David Viverette as Assistant Police Chief.

The motion died due to a lack of second due to pending litigation

A motion was made by Alderwoman Bridgett Peters to go into closed session. Aldermen Ronald Holloway seconded the motion and all Aldermen voted in the affirmative.

A motion was made by Joe Brooks to go into executive session to discuss training issues. Alderman Harry Wheat seconded the motion and all Aldermen voted in the affirmative.

No action was taken during executive session

A motion was made by Alderman Joe Brooks to enter into closed session. Alderman Steve Neely seconded the motion and all Aldermen voted in the affirmative.

A motion was made by Alderman Joe Brooks to enter into open session. Alderwoman Bridgett Peters seconded the motion and all Aldermen voted in the affirmative.

c. Water Department Adjustments.

A motion was made by Alderman Harry Wheat for the approval of water adjustments. Alderman Joe Brooks seconded the motion and all Aldermen voted in the affirmative.

Jessica Doby - \$99.15

Diane Wallace - \$57.65

Ticondria Hayes - \$36.90

Water/Sewer Superintendent Jonathan Tanner also reminded the board about the rate increase that went into effect January 1, 2022 and will be on the upcoming billing cycle.

d. Operator training.

A motion was made for the approval of two training classes for Jonathan Tanner. The motion was made by Alderman Ronald Holloway. The motion was seconded by Harry Wheat and all Aldermen voted in the affirmative.

Training – January 13, 2022 – One day Class – Meridian

Training – February 8, 2022 – Greenwood Public Works, Greenwood, Ms. This training requires an overnight stay.

e. State ARPA Additional Funding

Mayor Watkins informed the board that a survey has been submitted thru Mississippi Municipal League for the upcoming Legislative Session that will open doors for the City to receive additional funds during the Legislative Session. Mayor Watkins also sent letters to State Representative Troy Smith and Jeff Tate; and Fontaine Engineering Bronzon Miles also submitted a one page handout outlining water/sewer/drainage needs in the city.

10. CLAIMS DOCKET OR PAYMENT OF EXPENSES

a. Regular Monthly Claims and Expenses - \$153,257.31

b. Jones Construction – Payment No. 5 - \$34,332.19

Alderman Steve Neely made a motion to pay regular claims and expenses. Aldermen Joe Brooks seconded the motion and all Aldermen voted in the affirmative.

Alderman Joe Brooks made a motion to pay the claim of Jones Construction for Payment No. 5 and to be paid from the new loan proceeds. Bridgett Peters seconded the motion and all the Aldermen voted in the affirmative.

11. MISCELLANEOUS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SUMMARY COMMENTS

a. Historic Preservation Commission Board Meeting – Tuesday, January 11, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.

b. Unity Parade – Saturday, January 15, 2022 at 12:00 P.M.

c. MLK Candlelight Vigil – Sunday, January 16, 2022 at 5:00 P.M.

Mayor Watkins reminded the board members of the upcoming events and that events were also posted on city website.

12. Adjournment

Alderman Ronald Holloway made a motion to adjourn until January 18, 2022 at 5:00 P.M. Alderman Bridgett Peters seconded the motion and all the Aldermen voted in the affirmative.



Steve Watkins, Mayor



Cindy Kirkman, City Clerk