

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN**

City of Quitman, Mississippi

January 25, 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 25 2022, at 5:00 P.M. at the Quitman Depot in Quitman, Mississippi with the following present: Mayor Steve Watkins, Alderman Ward #1 Joe Eddie Brooks, Alderwoman Ward #2 Bridgett Peters, 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. Alderman Ward #3 Ronald Holloway was absent.

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

Alderman Joe Brooks 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

Rebecca Watkins, Mickey Long, Retha Thornburg, Jennifer Bozeman, Julie Hibbs, Edward Kramer, Mary Kate Smith, Tobey Bartee, Judy Roberts, Jaynice Neely

The following visitor(s) were present at the meeting:

5. CONFIRMATION OF THE AGENDA

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

#6d. Jonathan Tanner – Lagoon Pump

#9e. FAA Rescue Grant

#9f. Quitman Recreational Complex

#9g. Police Department Hiring

#9h. Executive session

#9i. BCBS February 1, 2022 Renewal

#9j. Hiring Procedures for Police Department

#9k Booster Club Bucket Drive

#10a. Spread to minutes Fontaine Engineering \$20,000

Alderswoman Bridgett Peters seconded the motion and all the Aldermen voted in the affirmative.

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS/APPEARANCES

a. Quitman Volunteer Fire Chief Mickey Long informed the board of the new fire rating for the City of Quitman decreased from a 7 to a 6.

b. Jennifer Bozeman representing Creature Comforts requested the City of Quitman to continue their annual contribution to Creature Comforts with an allocation of \$100 per month. Alderman Harry Wheat made the motion to approve the contract. Alderman Joe Brooks seconded the motion and the motion carried with three Yes votes. Alderman Steve Neely refrained from voting due to his wife being on the Creature Comfort Board of Directors.

c. Municipal Judge Tobey Bartee requested the Board to consider providing an area in City Hall for the Municipal Clerk. No action was taken.

d. Jonathan Tanner informed the board that due to parts delay it could be middle to end of March before the repair of the lagoon pumps are completed. Tanner requested the vendor, IPS to find a pump in stock for the lagoon if needed.

7. REPORTS OF STANDING AND/OR SPECIAL COMMITTEES

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. Municipal Building Project No. 7305 - Mayor Steve Watkins informed Board members the checking account for Municipal Project 7305 has been established and reminded Aldermen to go to bank and sign signature cards.

9. NEW BUSINESS

a. Clarke County Distinguished Young Women Ad. A motion was made by Alderman Steve Neely to table this decision until a committee member from DYW can attend the meeting. Alderman Harry Wheat seconded the motion and the motion carried.

b. BBI Software/Hardware Agreement for 2022. A motion was made by Alderman Joe Brooks to spread to the minutes the signed agreement between the City and BBI for \$18,579.00 to provide software/hardware support. Alderman Steve Neely seconded the motion and the motion carried.

c. Approval of Board Minutes

A motion was made by Alderman Harry Wheat for the approval of the January 4, 2022 minutes. Alderman Joe Brooks seconded the motion and the motion carried.

d. First State Bank Resolution. A motion was made by Alderman Harry Wheat to table this vote until the Mayor can speak with the Bank president regarding a correction. Alderman Steve Neely seconded the vote and the motion carried.

e. FAA Airport Grant. A motion was made by Alderman Steve Neely to spread to the minutes for the Mayor and Board Attorney to sign the airport grant. Alderman Harry Wheat seconded the motion and the motion carried.

f. Street/Parks Superintendent Andy Reese requested the board to approve the quote of \$8,884.75 from Hendry Services for the replacement of an electrical box at the Baseball Complex. A motion was made by Alderman Steve Neely to table the vote until Reese so

can request if the electrical work comes with a warranty and if a timer could be installed in the box. Alderman Harry Wheat seconded the motion and the motion carried.

The quotes received were:

Bunch Electric \$11,370.00

Premier, Bay Springs \$9,408.00

Hendry Services \$8,884.75

A second motion was made by Alderman Harry Wheat to obtain quotes for an air conditioning unit for the snack bar at the Complex. Alderman Steve Neely seconded the motion and the motion carried.

g. Police Chief Mike McCarra requested the board's approval to move Officer Randy Harper from part time status to full time at \$16.25/per hour. Alderman Steve Neely made the motion and Alderman Harry Wheat seconded the motion. The motion carried.

h. Executive session. A motion was made by Alderman Joe Brooks to enter into closed session for personnel. Alderman Steve Neely seconded the motion. The motion carried. A motion was made by Alderman Steve Neely to enter into executive session. Alderman Joe Brooks seconded the motion and the motion carried.

A motion was made by Alderman Harry Wheat to come out of executive session into closed session. Alderman Joe Brooks seconded the motion and the motion carried. A motion was made by Alderman Harry Wheat to enter into open meeting. Alderman Joe Brooks seconded the motion and the motion carried.

No action was taken during the Executive Session

i. Blue Cross Blue Shield Renewal

Mayor Steve Watkins informed the board that the annual renewal for the city's health insurance was due for renewal February 1, 2022.

Under a previous administration, some employees were grandfathered in on an 85/15% for spouse coverage with one employee currently remaining under that policy. A motion was made by Alderman Steve Neely to continue this policy for employee Andy Reese. Alderman Harry Wheat seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Mayor Watkins requested the Board's approval to change the City's Agent of Record to Andy Mayatt of Benefits Management Group.

A motion was made by Alderman Harry Wheat to continue using the current agent, Mike Williams. Alderman Steve Neely seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was taken:

Joe Brooks Voted No

Bridgett Peters Voted No

Steve Neely Voted Yes

Harry Wheat Voted Yes

Mayor Steve Watkins was the tie breaking vote with a No vote. The motion failed.

A Motion was made by Alderwoman Bridgett Peters to hire Andy Mayatt with Benefits Management Group to serve as the new Agent of Record. Alderman Joe Brooks seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was taken:

Joe Brooks Voted Yes

Bridgett Peters Voted Yes

Steve Neely Voted No

Harry Wheat Voted No

Mayor Steve Watkins was the tie breaking vote with a Yes vote. The motion carried.

j. Police Department Hiring Procedure

A motion was made by Joe Brooks for the police chief to provide the three best applicants for an open position and provide a hiring recommendation. Alderman Steve Neely seconded the motion. The motion carried.

k. Baseball Association Bucket Drive Fundraiser.

Alderman Steve Neely made a motion to approve the bucket drive fundraiser for January 29, 2022. Alderman Joe Brooks seconded the motion. The motion carried.

10. CLAIMS DOCKET OR PAYMENT OF EXPENSES

a. Fontaine Engineering \$20,000

A motion was made by Alderman Steve Neely to spread to the minutes the payment of \$20,000 to Fontaine Engineering for the Wastewater Facilities Plan to be paid from the ARPA Fund. Alderman Joe Brooks seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Monthly Revenue & Expenditure Report & Bank Balance Report

City Clerk Cindy Kirkman provided board members with a list of all available funds in the City's checking accounts.

TELEPHONE ROLL CALL VOTE
CITY OF QUITMAN, MISSISSIPPI
BOARD OF ALDERMEN
JANUARY 18, 2022

On January 18, 2022, the following text message was sent to Alderman Joe Brooks, Alderwoman Bridgett Peters, Alderman Ron Holloway , Alderman Steve Neely, and Alderman Harry Wheat requiring a vote on three issues.

"We have three items needing your approval as soon as possible with deadlines that cannot wait for the Regular Board Meeting next Tuesday, January 25, 2022.

- (1) The FAA has awarded Clarke County Airport an 'Airport Rescue Grant' in the amount of \$22,000 for upgrades/repairs and requires the Mayor and President of the Board of Supervisors to sign for acceptance of the grant. City Board Attorney, Nick Kramer, has already looked over the paperwork and approved the mayor's signing. I need Board authorization for me to sign for acceptance of the grant.
- (2) Payment approval is needed for Fontaine Engineering in the amount of \$20,000. This expense is included in the Clean Water State Revolving Fund project which will contain our entire 2021 ARPA funds investment and will be paid out of the ARPA funds account.
- (3) Payment approval is needed for continuation of the annual BBI Contract in the amount of \$18,579 for services to be rendered in 2022. This is an annually budgeted expense, and this contract is in line with BBI's last two contracts.

Copies of invoices are included with this text message.

Text "YES" if you approve all three items.
Text "NO" if you do not approve all three items."

Votes recorded in order of response:

Alderman Ron Holloway (YES)
Alderwoman Bridgett Peters (YES)
Alderman Harry Wheat (YES)
Alderman Joe Brooks (YES)
Alderman Steve Neely (YES)

NOTE: The results of this telephone roll call vote will be spread to the minutes at the Regular Board Meeting scheduled for next Tuesday, January 25, 2022 at 5:00 PM to be held at the City of Quitman Depot.

Mayor Steve Watkins, Mayor
City of Quitman, Mississippi

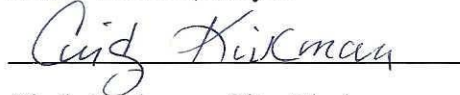
11. MISCELLANEOUS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SUMMARY COMMENTS

12. Adjournment

Alderman Harry Wheat made a motion to adjourn until February 1, 2022 at 5:00 P.M. at the Quitman Depot. Alderwoman Bridgett Peters seconded the motion. The motion carried.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Steve Watkins", written over a horizontal line.

Steve Watkins, Mayor

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Cindy Kirkman", written over a horizontal line.

Cindy Kirkman, City Clerk