

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING

MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN

City of Quitman, Mississippi

February 15, 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, February 15, 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, Alderman Ward #3 Ronald Holloway, Alderman Ward #4 Steve Neely, Alderman At Large Harry Wheat, Attorney Edward N. Kramer, III, Water/Sewer Superintendent Jonathan Tanner, Street Superintendent/Parks Director Andy Reese, Police Chief Mike McCarra, Building Inspector Carlton Green, Fire Chief James Grantham and Assistant Chief David Bonner.

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 Ron Holloway 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, Debbie Wegner, Angie Gibbs, Patricia Arrington, Laurence Buckley, Judy Roberts, Wendell Carney, Carole Loper, Tracy McCarty

5. CONFIRMATION OF THE AGENDA

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

#9h. Downtown Parking

#9i. Zoning

#9j. Tennis Court Lights

#9k. Medicinal Marijuana

Alderman Ronald Holloway seconded the motion and all the Aldermen voted in the affirmative.

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS/APPEARANCES

a. Tracy McCarty – Request for Muscadine Music Festival Downtown Quitman July 2, 2022

Mayor Watkins brought up for discussion that parade/festival requests that are private are a cost to the city due to city workers and police officers are being brought in on an overtime basis to work the events.

Attorney Nick Kramer advised that the Board would need to enact an ordinance first.

A motion was made by Steve Neely to table the request until the Board could discuss adopting an ordinance regarding festivals/parades. The motion died for a lack of a second.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Bridgett Peters to approve the Muscadine Festival. Alderman Joe Brooks seconded the motion. Aldermen Wheat, Holloway, Peters and Brooks voted Yes. Alderman Steve Neely voted No. The motion passed.

b. Patricia Arrington & Lawrence Buckley – “Come Home to Clarke County” Parade/Event. The parade/event will be from 12 – 6 with a parade beginning at the DHS Building on Harris Ave thru Quitman. The event will be held on the Courthouse Lawn.

A motion was made by Alderman Ron Holloway to approve a parade, with the exclusion of four wheelers and to allow the use of the Depot Parking Lot for a Car Show on Saturday, April 30, 2022. Alderman Joe Brooks seconded the motion and all Aldermen voted in the affirmative.

c. Water & Sewer Upgrades – Jonathan Tanner

Mayor Watkins and Jonathan Tanner informed the board that beginning this year, the City will be allocated \$4.5 – 5 million in funds that is to be used for water and sewer upgrades.

The additional projects will require another person to be hired to the Water/Sewer Department. Mayor Watkins stated that he and Jonathan will continue talking with a candidate who is certified in Wastewater/Drinking Water.

7. Reports of Standing And/or Committees

8. Unfinished Business

9. New Business

a. Police Department Weapons Upgrade

Police Chief Mike McCarra requested the board’s approval to trade in (2) Smith and Wesson 45 Caliber and (1) Smith and Wesson (357 Caliber) for (2) new Glocks or purchase the two Glocks. McCarra received bids from Quitman Sporting Goods for \$520 and R.W. Sporting for \$850.00.

Alderman Harry Wheat made a motion to approve the trade. Alderman Steve Neely seconded the motion and all Aldermen voted in the affirmative.

b. Approval of Minutes from February 1, 2022 Regular Board Meeting.

Alderman Harry Wheat made a motion to approve the minutes with one correction. Alderman Joe Brooks seconded the motion and all Aldermen voted in the affirmative.

c. 307 Mulberry Lane

Mayor Watkins informed the board that a resident at 307 Mulberry Street has been without sewer for a month. Tanner stated that on the city's easement an Oak tree has encapsulated the sewer line.

A motion was made by Alderman Ron Holloway to purchase a lift station from Southern Pipe for \$4250 with a \$6,000 cap on the project. Alderman Harry Wheat seconded the motion and all Aldermen voted in the affirmative.

d. Wetlands Delineation Study

Mayor Watkins informed the Board that a Wetlands Study must be conducted at 2300 feet within County Road 140 and 1300 feet within Welborn Lane.

Mayor Watkins requested the Board's approval for Pittman Environmental Services to conduct the Wetlands Study at a cost of \$1,900 and to be paid from the ARPA fund.

Alderman Steve Neely made the motion to approve. Alderman Harry Wheat seconded the motion and all Aldermen voted in the Affirmative.

e. Mayor Watkins requested permission from the Board to apply for a Recreational Trails Grant from the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks. The deadline to apply is March 8, 2022 and if awarded, would provide an 80/20 funding with the City of Quitman paying 20% and the Government 80%. The Grant will be used to repair the Walking Trail at the Ballpark.

Alderwoman Bridgett Peters made the motion to approve Mayor Watkins to apply for the Grant. Alderman Steve Neely seconded the motion and all Aldermen voted in the affirmative.

f. City Hall Post Office Box Reconsideration

Mayor Watkins asked the Board to reconsideration a previous motion that passed during the February 1, 2022 meeting approving the discontinuation of P.O. Box 16 when the annual post office box renewal is due.

Mayor Watkins stated that with the cost to the City being \$92 per year, it was more feasible to keep the post office box.

Alderman Steve Neely made a motion to continue the use of the Post Office Box. Alderman Ron Holloway seconded the motion and all Aldermen voted in the affirmative.

g. Engagement Letter – Bethany Stringer Year End Audit

Mayor Watkins requested the Board's approval of an Engagement Letter from Bethany Stringer to perform the Year End Audit at a cost of \$1100.

Alderman Steve Neely made a motion to approve the Engagement Letter. Alderman Harry Wheat seconded the motion and all Aldermen voted in the affirmative.

h. Downtown Parking

Mayor Watkins informed the Board that there is a conflict in parking spots downtown and that all parking spots are open to everyone.

A motion was made by Alderman Harry Wheat to allow Police Chief Mike McCarra to inform the business owners that designated parking signs cannot be placed outside of their businesses. Alderwoman Bridgett Peters seconded the motion and all Aldermen voted in the affirmative.

i. Zoning Violation

Alderman Ron Holloway discussed with board members of a zoning violation where a resident is residing in a camper across from the Ballpark. The former mayor, Eddie

Fulton, had given the property owner permission to live in the camper while the landowner built a home. No action was taken.

j. Tennis Court Lights

Aldерwoman Bridgett Peters discussed the need for the tennis court lights to be replaced. Parks Director Andy Reese stated the weather has been a factor and that the ground needs to be dry before a bucket truck can be brought in to replace the lights.

k. Medicinal Marijuana

Alderman Steve Neely stated the City should have discussions on the Medicinal Marijuana.

Mayor Watkins stated he is waiting on opinions from the Mississippi Municipal League.

10. Monthly Revenue Report

The monthly revenue report was presented to the board.

11. MISCELLANEOUS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SUMMARY COMMENTS

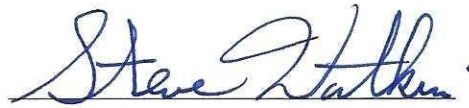
a. Mutual of Omaha

Mayor Watkins informed the board that in order for any of the alderman to be added to the Life Insurance policy, that all five would have to be added for an all or none situation.

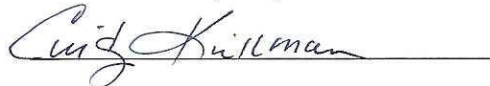
No action was taken.

12. Adjournment

Alderman Harry Wheat made a motion to adjourn until March 1, 2022 at 5:00 P.M. at the Quitman Depot. Aldерwoman Ron Holloway seconded the motion. The motion carried.



Steve Watkins, Mayor



Cindy Kirkman, City Clerk