

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING**

**MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN**

**City of Quitman, Mississippi**

**March 1, 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, March 1, 2022, at 5:00 P.M. at the Depot in Quitman, Mississippi with the following present: Mayor Steve Watkins, Alderman Ward #1 Joe Eddie Brooks, 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. Alderwoman Bridgett Peters 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 Ronald 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 Whitley Watkins, Joshua Evans, Liz Dudley, Cathy Kennedy, Jennifer Bozeman, Greg Jackson, Tobey Bartee, Justin Dickerson, Kimberly Dickerson, James Buchanan, Patricia Arrington, Carole Loper, Judy Roberts, Chris Reeves and John L. Cooks.

**5. CONFIRMATION OF THE AGENDA**

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

#9i. Discussion of City Events

#9j. SWOT Analysis

#10c. Suncoast Construction Payment No. #3 CDBG

#10d. East Central Planning and Development District CDBG

#10e. Fontaine Engineering Invoice No. 3244

#10f. Fontaine Engineering Invoice No. 3245

Alderman Joe Brooks made a motion to approve the agenda with the additions. Alderman Ronald Holloway seconded the motion and all the Aldermen voted in the affirmative.

**6. PUBLIC COMMENTS/APPEARANCES**

**7. REPORTS OF STANDING AND/OR SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

**8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**9. NEW BUSINESS**

a. Approval of minutes from regular board meeting on February 15, 2022. Alderman Joe Brooks made the motion to approve the minutes. Alderman Ronald Holloway seconded the motion and all the Aldermen voted in the affirmative.

b. Jonathan Tanner – Introduction of Josh Evans

Jonathan Tanner introduced Josh Evans to the Board regarding an upcoming position that will be needed in the Water/Sewer Department. Evans has prior experience and certification in water & sewer.

c. City of Quitman Recreational Complex – Concession Stand Building – Air Conditioner Unit

Mayor Watkins presented a quote from H & H Services for the purchase of a 2-ton AC Unit at a cost of \$3900.

Alderman Steve Neely made the motion to accept the quote. Alderman Harry Wheat seconded the motion and all Aldermen voted in the affirmative.

d. Great Southern Bank – Temporary Variance

Great Southern Bank has requested a temporary variance to place a modular building behind the current location to serve as the bank during the demolition and construction of a new bank.

Alderman Ronald Holloway made a motion to approve a two year temporary variance for Great Southern Bank. Alderman Joe Brooks seconded the motion and all Alderman voted in the affirmative.

e. Water Leak Adjustment

Jerry Tillman - \$25.35

Alderman Ronald Holloway made a motion to approve the water leak adjustment for Jerry Tillman in the amount of \$25.35. Alderman Joe Brooks seconded the motion and all Alderman voted in the affirmative.

f. Confederate Memorial Holiday (Monday, April 25, 2022) Exchange for Good Friday, April 15, 2022.

Alderman Ronald Holloway made a motion to swap Confederate Memorial Holiday in exchange for Good Friday, April 15, 2022. Alderman Harry Wheat seconded the motion and all Alderman voted in the affirmative.

g. City Building Project No. 7305 – Overview Update

Mayor Watkins provided Board Members with an Update on the City Building Project.

h. Emergency Declaration – Thursday, February 17, 2022

Mayor Watkins informed the Board that he declared a State of Emergency for a Severe Weather and High Wind Event that was scheduled to affect Clarke County on February 17, 2022.

Alderman Steve Neely made a motion to spread the Declaration to the Minutes. Alderman Joe Brooks seconded the motion and all Aldermen voted in the affirmative.

i. City Events

Alderman Steve Neely stated he reached out to City of Meridian's mayor to discuss how they manage their requests and stated the City of Quitman could consider something similar before approving events on the spot.

Alderman Neely stated he felt the requests could be taken under advisement so that board members have an opportunity to discuss with the superintendents of the departments to determine the amount of manpower needed to be involved in the events/parades.

j. SWOT Analysis

Alderman Steve Neely stated he felt it would be beneficial to the city to schedule a SWOT (Strength, Weaknesses, Opportunity & Threat) meeting in an effort to find ways for the City to prosper and ways to build and grow.

Alderman Ronald Holloway and Mayor Steve Watkins stated that this may be something that the City could contact The Stennis Center to determine if there would be a fee to facilitate this meeting.

## 10. CLAIMS DOCKET OR PAYMENT OF EXPENSES

a. TIFF Bond Payment – Citizens National Bank-----\$13,136.84

Alderman Ronald Holloway made a motion to spread to the minutes the Tiff Bond payment due in the amount of \$13,136.84. Alderman Joe Brooks seconded the motion and all aldermen voted in the affirmative.

b. Regular Monthly Claims & Expenses-----\$100,036.72

Alderman Joe Brooks made a motion to approve the Regular Monthly Claims & Expenses in the amount of \$100,036.72. Alderman Ronald Holloway seconded the motion and all alderman voted in the Affirmative.

c. Suncoast Construction Payment \$103,919.67

Alderman Joe Brooks made a motion to spread to the minutes the approval of a Suncoast Construction payment in the amount of \$103,919.67 as part of the CDBG Water/Sewer

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

d. East Central Planning and Development – CDBG Water/Sewer Grant - \$5,000

Alderman Steve Neely made a motion to spread to the minutes the approval of the ECPDD fee for managing the project/grant in the amount of \$5,000. Alderman Joe Brooks seconded the motion and all Aldermen voted in the affirmative.

e. Fontaine Engineering Invoice No. 3244 in the amount of \$8,750.00 for their fee for the 2020 CDBG Sewer Rehabilitation

Alderman Joe Brooks made a motion to approve the payment. Alderman Steve Neely seconded the motion with all Aldermen voted in the affirmative.

f. Fontaine Engineering Invoice No. 3245 in the amount of \$16,000 for their fee for the Wastewater Collection & Treatment Improvements Facility Plan. This invoice is to be paid from the ARPA Account.

11. **Department Managers**

**City Clerk Cindy Kirkman – Administration**

City Clerk had no updates to report.

**Chief Mike McCarra**

Police Chief had no updates to report.

**Superintendent Andy Reese – Streets, Garbage and Parks.**

Reese updated the Board that the electrical work is to begin this week at the Complex. His department will also be working to replace the lights at the Tennis Court; as well as working to correct a drainage issue so that work to repair the walking trail at the Complex could begin soon.

**Superintendent Jonathan Tanner – Water and Sewer**

Tanner updated the Board that the Lift Station has been installed on Mulberry Lane and is working. There is clean-up his department will need to go back and complete.

12. **MISCELLANEOUS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SUMMARY COMMENTS**

a. Edgar's Woodfire Bar & Grill – Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting Tuesday, March 1, 2022.

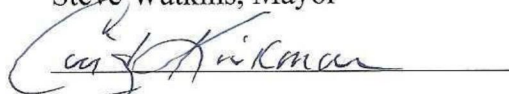
Mayor Watkins informed the Board that the Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting was held on March 1 and was successful.

13. **Adjournment**

Alderman Ronald Holloway made a motion to adjourn until March 15, 2022 at 5:00 P.M. at the Depot. Alderman Joe Brooks seconded the motion and all the Aldermen voted in the affirmative.



Steve Watkins, Mayor



Cindy Kirkman, City Clerk