

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND BOARD  
OF ALDERMEN OF THE CITY OF BOONEVILLE  
September 19, 2023**

BE IT REMEMBERED that the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of September 2023, of the Mayor and the Board of Aldermen, of the City of Booneville, Mississippi, was held on Tuesday, September 19, 2023, at 5:30 pm, in the Board Room, at City Hall, the time and place for said meeting.

Those in attendance were the following members of the Board: Mayor Chris Lindley, Alderman Jimmy Hicks, Alderman Tara Lauderdale, Alderman Carolyn Miller, and Alderman Jeff Williams. Alderman LaVaile Shields participated by phone. Also present were City Clerk Sharon Williams, City Attorney Daniel Tucker, several City employees, and members of the public. The meeting was called to order in open session by Mayor Lindley, and a quorum was declared present.

The invocation was given by James McChristian.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Lindley.

There first came on for consideration, a motion to approve to add the following items to the consent agenda and to remove one item from the consent agenda:

- 1) APPROVE 2023-2024 BUDGET AS PRESENTED.
- 2) APPROVE COMPLETION OF THE COMPLIANCE QUESTIONNAIRE.
- 3) APPROVE RESOLUTION ADDING THE LANGUAGE OF THE 2024 NMMSRG APPLICATION TO INCLUDE THE MATCHING FUNDS BEING COMMITTED ARE CURRENTLY TOURISM FUNDS OF \$112,500.00.
- 4) MOVE ITEM F FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA TO THE REGULAR AGENDA.

Alderman Lauderdale made a motion to approve to add the items to the consent agenda and to move an item from the consent agenda to the regular agenda, seconded by Alderman Hicks, and with the Aldermen present and all voting "Aye", the motion unanimously carried.

There next came on for consideration, a motion to approve the following items on the consent agenda:

- 1) APPROVE BOARD MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 5, 2023, AND SPECIAL CALLED MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 5, 2023.

- 2) APPROVE CHRIS LINDLEY, SHARON WILLIAMS, AND COURTNEY MOORE TO ATTEND THE SMALL TOWN CONFERENCE IN MERIDIAN, MS ON OCTOBER 25-26, 2023, WITH MEALS AT \$138.00 EACH; REGISTRATION FEE AT \$125.00 EACH; LODGING AT \$1,015.02.
- 3) APPROVE TO PAY THE FMBANK CONSTRUCTION LOAN PAYMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$8,148.23.
- 4) APPROVE TO VOID PERSONAL PROPERTY TAXES FOR PPIN 902564 FOR 2020, 2021, 2022 DUE TO THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS.
- 5) APPROVE TREY SLATON AND LAURA SMITH TO ATTEND THE 2023 911 TRAINING CONFERENCE IN BILOXI, MS ON OCTOBER 22-27, 2023, WITH A TOTAL COST OF \$495.00 EACH FOR REGISTRATION; \$612.45 EACH FOR LODGING; \$276.00 EACH FOR MEALS; AND \$440.16 EACH FOR MILEAGE  
  
(THE STATE WILL REIMBURSE THE TOTAL COST FOR REGISTRATION, PER DIEM, AND UP TO \$489.96 EACH FOR LODGING).
- 6) DECLARE SURPLUS IN THE GAS DEPARTMENT OF \$1,000,000.00.
- 7) APPROVE FOR LISA STENNETT TO ATTEND OFFICE PROFESSIONAL TRAINING ON OCTOBER 25, 2023, IN TUPELO, MS. THE CLASS IS OFFERED BY MS RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION AND PAID BY MEMBER BENEFITS. TOTAL COST FOR MILEAGE OF \$38.75.
- 8) APPROVE FOR PAUL CARPENTER, OSCAR JOSHLIN, CHRIS LINDLEY, AND LISA STENNETT TO ATTEND THE MS DAMAGE PREVENTION SUMMIT NOVEMBER 1-3, 2023. ROOM CHARGES ARE \$179.18 EACH. MEALS ARE \$177.00 EACH. MILEAGE IS \$421.26 EACH. TOTAL COST OF THE SUMMIT IS \$3,109.76.
- 9) APPROVE TO PAY CIVICPLUS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,990.00 FOR THE MUNICODE LEGAL MANUSCRIPT.
- 10) APPROVE TO PAY RUSTY WHATLEY, JON HILL, AND MEREDITH STARKEY IN THE AMOUNT OF \$138.00 EACH FOR MEALS; \$121.44 EACH FOR MILEAGE FOR THE ATTENDANCE OF THE MRPA WORKSHOP IN TUPELO, MS SEPTEMBER 18-20, 2023, RETROACTIVE FROM THE PARK TOURISM ACCOUNT.
- 11) APPROVE TO PAY EUROFINS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,650.00 FOR THE WASTEWATER TREATMENT.

Alderman Lauderdale made a motion to approve the items on the consent agenda, seconded by Alderman Miller, and with the Aldermen present and all voting "Aye", the motion unanimously carried.

There next came on for consideration, the Kiwanis Club requesting approval to waive the rental fee for use of the Hardware Building on September 29, 2023, for food preparation for a BBQ plate fundraiser. Alderman Lauderdale made said motion, seconded by Alderman Hicks, and with the Aldermen present and all voting "Aye", the motion unanimously carried.

There next came on for consideration, Denise Downs requesting approval to waive the rental fee for use of the Hardware Building on October 6, 2023, for the Booneville First Church Preschool Fairy Tale Ball. A 501(C)3 has been provided. Alderman Miller made said motion, seconded by Alderman Hicks, and with the Aldermen present and all voting "Aye", the motion unanimously carried.

There next came on for consideration, under General Government, City Clerk Sharon Williams requesting approval of the final resolution for the Ad Valorem Tax Exemption for Scranton Manufacturing in the amount of \$3,397,913.00. Alderman Williams made said motion, seconded by Alderman Lauderdale, and with the Aldermen present and all voting "Aye", the motion unanimously carried.

Next, a request was made for approval of the final resolution for the Ad Valorem Tax Exemption for ProVia in the amount of \$4,165,562.00. Alderman Williams made said motion, seconded by Alderman Miller, and with the Aldermen present and all voting "Aye", the motion unanimously carried.

There next came for on consideration, Lori Tucker with the Tourism Department, requesting approval to hire Deborah Tubb as a full-time employee at the rate of \$14.00 per hour, effective October 1, 2023. Alderman Hicks made said motion, seconded by Alderman Lauderdale, and with the Aldermen present and all voting "Aye", the motion unanimously carried.

Next, a request was made for approval of a resolution for the MDAH Grant from NMPDD for the Depot rehabilitation. This resolution has already been approved by the Tourism

Board. Alderman Hicks made said motion, seconded by Alderman Miller, and with the Aldermen present and all voting "Aye", the motion unanimously carried.

Next, a request was made for approval of a resolution to rent a Portable Stage at the Triangle for a concert with Northeast Campus Country in the amount of \$800.00. This resolution has already been approved by the Tourism Board and would be paid for with Tourism funds. Alderman Lauderdale made said motion, seconded by Alderman Hicks, and with the Aldermen present and all voting "Aye", the motion unanimously carried.

Next, a request was made for approval of a resolution for the Holiday Open House in the amount of \$4,000.00. This resolution has already been approved by the Tourism Board and would be paid for with Tourism funds. Alderman Hicks made said motion, seconded by Alderman Lauderdale, and with the Aldermen present and all voting "Aye", the motion unanimously carried.

Next, a request was made for approval of a resolution to purchase an Information Kiosk in the amount of \$3,500.00. This resolution has already been approved by the Tourism Board and would be paid for with Tourism funds. Alderman Miller made said motion, seconded by Alderman Lauderdale, and with the Aldermen present and all voting "Aye", the motion unanimously carried.

There next came on for consideration, Jon Hill with the Park Department requesting approval to hire Victoria Mize as an Umpire at the rate of \$35.00 per game, effective immediately. Alderman Hicks made said motion, seconded by Alderman Lauderdale, and with the Aldermen present and all voting "Aye", the motion unanimously carried.

Next, a request was made for approval to hire Whitley Miles as an Umpire at the rate of \$35.00 per game, effective immediately. Alderman Lauderdale made said motion, seconded by Alderman Miller, and with the Aldermen present and all voting "Aye", the motion unanimously carried.

Next, a request was made for approval to hire Curtis Resta as an Umpire at the rate of \$35.00 per game, effective immediately. Alderman Hicks made said motion, seconded by Alderman Miller, and with the Aldermen present and all voting "Aye", the motion unanimously carried.

Next, a request was made for approval of a resolution to pay NEMCC for the Boulevard Revitalization in the amount of \$35,000.00 retroactively. This resolution has already been approved by the Park Tourism Board and would be paid with Park Tourism funds. Alderman Lauderdale made said motion, seconded by Alderman Hicks, and with the Aldermen present and all voting "Aye", the motion unanimously carried.

There next came on for consideration, Lisa Stennett with the Gas and Water Office requesting a motion to declare a \$1,000,000.00 surplus in gas funds at the Gas Department. Alderman Lauderdale made said motion, seconded by Alderman Hicks, and with the Aldermen present and all voting "Aye", the motion unanimously carried.

Next, a request was made for approval to run the annual Ad for "What To Do If You Smell Gas" and "Call Before You Dig" one (1) time in the Banner Independent at a cost of \$156.00. Alderman Lauderdale made said motion, seconded by Alderman Miller, and with the Aldermen present and all voting "Aye", the motion unanimously carried.

Next, a request was made for approval to transfer the \$1,000,000.00 surplus from the Gas Fund to the General Fund. Alderman Lauderdale made said motion, seconded by Alderman Hicks, and with the Aldermen present and all voting "Aye", the motion unanimously carried.

There next came on for consideration, Paul Carpenter with the Water Department requesting approval for himself and Mitchell Maddox to attend the MS Rural Water Association on October 24-26, 2023, in Tupelo, MS. Registration will be \$250.00 each. Alderman Lauderdale made said motion, seconded by Alderman Hicks, and with the Aldermen present and all voting "Aye", the motion unanimously carried.

Next, a request was made for approval for Michael Crenshaw to attend the MS Rural Water Association and MDEQ for his Wastewater Class II license. Registration will be \$320.00. Alderman Lauderdale made said motion, seconded by Alderman Miller, and with the Aldermen present and all voting "Aye", the motion unanimously carried.

Next, a request was made for approval to promote Mike Cain to Water & Sewer Shop Foreman at a rate increase of \$2.00 per hour, effective next payroll. Alderman Lauderdale made said motion, seconded by Alderman Hicks, but the motion died for lack of a vote.

Next, a motion was made by Alderman Lauderdale to table the discussion of this issue, seconded by Alderman Hicks, and with the Aldermen present and all voting "Aye", the motion unanimously carried.

Next, a request was made for approval to promote Blakley Sander to Operator at a rate increase of \$2.00 per hour, effective next payroll. Alderman Lauderdale made said motion, seconded by Alderman Hicks, but the motion died for lack of a vote.

Next, a motion was made by Alderman Hicks to table the discussion of this issue, seconded by Alderman Lauderdale, and with the Aldermen present and all voting "Aye", the motion unanimously carried.

Next, a request was made for approval to hire Jeff Kelly as a Pipe Fitter at the rate of \$15.00 per hour, effective immediately. Alderman Hicks made said motion, seconded by Alderman Lauderdale, and with the Aldermen present and all voting "Aye", the motion unanimously carried.

Next, a request was made to purchase two (2) GPS locators from CGS Utility Products at \$12,580.32 each. Alderman Lauderdale made said motion, seconded by Alderman Hicks, but the motion died for lack of a vote.

Next, a motion was made by Alderman Lauderdale to table the discussion of this issue, seconded by Alderman Hicks, and with the Aldermen present and all voting "Aye", the motion unanimously carried.

Next, a request was made for approval to promote Brian McVey to Operator at a rate increase of \$19.29 per hour, effective next payroll. Alderman Hicks made said motion, seconded by Alderman Miller, but the motion died for lack of a vote.

Next, a motion was made by Alderman Lauderdale to table the discussion of this issue, seconded by Alderman Hicks, and with the Aldermen present and all voting "Aye", the motion unanimously carried.

Next, a request was made for approval to hire Michael Roberts as a Pipe Fitter at the rate of \$14.00 per hour, effective next payroll. Alderman Hicks made said motion, seconded by

Alderman Miller, and with the Aldermen present and all voting "Aye", the motion unanimously carried.

There next came on for consideration, Police Chief Michael Ramey requesting approval of the Interlocal Agreement between the Booneville School District and the Booneville Police Department/City of Booneville, Mississippi. Alderman Lauderdale made said motion, seconded by Alderman Hicks, and with the Aldermen present and all voting "Aye", the motion unanimously carried.

Next, a request was made for approval to hire Walter Christie, Jr. as a full-time Police Officer at a rate of \$17.20 per hour, effective immediately. Alderman Lauderdale made said motion, seconded by Alderman Hicks, and with the Aldermen present and all voting "Aye", the motion unanimously carried.

Next, a request was made for approval to hire Brittany Sanders as a full-time Police Officer at a rate of \$16.70 per hour, effective immediately. Alderman Lauderdale made said motion, seconded by Alderman Miller, and with the Aldermen present and all voting "Aye", the motion unanimously carried.

Next under the Board Report, Alderman Lauderdale discussed policy change for appointment of various board members and that they should be approved by ward. The process would be open applications would be taken, then that Ward Alderman or Alderman at Large would recommend their top candidate. Then a vote would be had, and a majority would appoint the board member. Alderman Lauderdale made said motion, seconded by Alderman Hicks, and with the Aldermen present and all voting "Aye", the motion unanimously carried.

Next, under the Mayor's Report, Mayor Lindley requested approval to declare a work session for October 2, 2023, at 4:30 p.m. Alderman Lauderdale made said motion, seconded by Alderman Miller, and with the Aldermen present and all voting "Aye", the motion unanimously carried.

Next, a request was made for approval to close certain streets for the Booneville Homecoming Parade on September 21, 2023, at 5:30 p.m. Alderman Williams made said motion, seconded by Alderman Hicks, and with the Aldermen present and all voting "Aye", the motion unanimously carried.

Next, an announcement was made declaring Clean Up Day on October 7, 2023, from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

There next came for consideration, a request to approve the 2023-2024 Budget as presented. Alderman Lauderdale made said motion, seconded by Alderman Hicks, and with the Aldermen present and all voting "Aye", the motion unanimously carried.

There next came for consideration, a request to approve completion of the Compliance Questionnaire. Alderman Lauderdale made said motion, seconded by Alderman Williams, and with the Aldermen present and all voting "Aye", the motion unanimously carried.

There next came on for consideration, a request to approve the resolution adding the language of the 2024 NMMSRG application to include the matched funds being committed are currently Tourism funds of \$112,500.00. Alderman Lauderdale made said motion, seconded by Alderman Hicks, and with the Aldermen present and all voting "Aye", the motion unanimously carried.

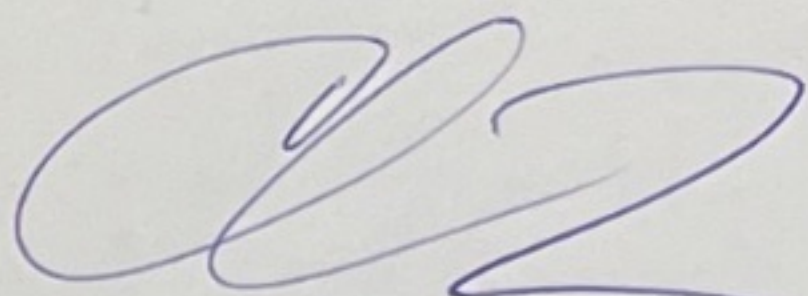
Next, a request was made to go into closed session to discuss potential litigation. Alderman Lauderdale made said motion, seconded by Alderman Hicks, and with the Aldermen present and all voting "Aye", the motion unanimously carried.

While in closed session, it was determined that an executive session was needed. Alderman Lauderdale made said motion, seconded by Alderman Miller, and with the Aldermen present and all voting "Aye", the motion unanimously carried.

Alderman Lauderdale made a motion to go back into open session, seconded by Alderman Miller, and with the Aldermen present and all voting "Aye", the motion unanimously carried.

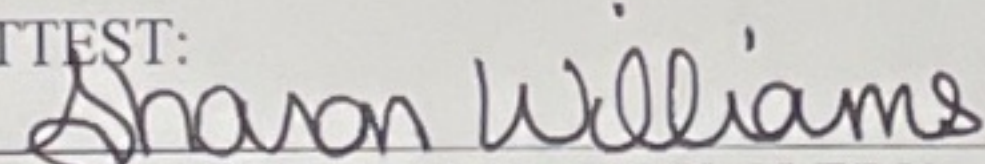
In open session, it was announced that no action was taken.

With there being no other business before the Board, Alderman Hicks made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Alderman Lauderdale, and with the Aldermen present and all voting "Aye", the motion unanimously carried.



CHRIS LINDLEY, MAYOR

ATTEST:

  
SHARON WILLIAMS, CITY CLERK