

REGULAR FIRST TUESDAY JANUARY 2024, MEETING  
OF THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN

BE IT REMEMBERED that Tuesday, January 2, 2024, being the first Tuesday of January 2024, and the day fixed by Board order for holding the first monthly meeting, said meeting was held in the Boardroom in the Municipal Complex at 909 River Road in the Town of Tunica, Mississippi, beginning at 3:00 p.m. with the following present or absent as indicated below:

Mayor Andrew T. Dulaney	Present
Alderman Lee B. Turner	Present
Alderman Valerie Hartsfield	Absent
Alderman Rebecca P. Fyfe	Present
Alderman Adam Fullilove	Present
Alderman Daniel M. Pierce	Present
Town Clerk Kate Scott Pennock	Present
Town Attorney Richard W. Ryals, II	Present
Interim Police Chief Richard Veazey	Present
Operations Manager Thomas J. Robinson, III	Present
Public Works Supervisor Reggie Griffin	Present
Town Chaplain Danny Smith	Present**
*Via telephone – as indicated.	
**Arrived at the meeting as indicated.	

Others in attendance are listed on the attendance sheet.

APPENDIX A: ATTENDANCE SHEET

Mayor Dulaney called the meeting to order and led in the pledge of allegiance. In Mr. Smith's absence, Mayor Dulaney led in prayer for the Town.

The Board considered the minutes from the December 19, 2023, meeting. Alderman Fyfe moved to approve the minutes as written and previously provided to the Board of Aldermen. Alderman Turner seconded the motion. Thereupon, the matter was put to a vote and the same having received the unanimous affirmative vote of all Aldermen present, the Mayor declared the same carried and adopted.

The Board then considered the claims for December 2023. It was noted that a summary of the claims was previously provided to the Board. After a brief discussion of the claims and a review by Mayor Dulaney, Alderman Fullilove moved to approve the claims as presented. Alderman Fyfe seconded the motion. Thereupon, the matter was put to a vote and the same having received the

unanimous affirmative vote of all Aldermen present, the Mayor declared the same carried and adopted.

## APPENDIX B: DECEMBER CLAIMS

CITIZENS/PRESENTATIONS/HEARING: None.

### OLD BUSINESS:

The Mayor and Board discussed designating qualified depositories. It was announced that notice had been timely published in the Clarksdale Press Register, a newspaper having general circulation in Tunica County, Mississippi. Additionally, notice was sent to each of the three banks located in the Town of Tunica. Mayor Dulaney stated that Ms. Pennock timely received three proposals. Proposals were timely received from: Citizens Bank & Trust Company, First Security Bank, and Planters Bank & Trust. The proposals were available at the meeting for review and inspection by the Board members. Following a discussion, Alderman Fyfe moved that the Board accept each proposal and that all three banks be designated as qualified depositories for the Town of Tunica. Andrew Dulaney and Kate Scott Pennock, Mayor and Clerk respectively, are authorized and directed to execute such documents as are needed in connection with each bank being designated as a qualified depository. Alderman Fullilove seconded the motion. Thereupon, the matter was put to a vote and the same having received the unanimous affirmative vote of all Aldermen present, the Mayor declared the same carried and adopted.

## APPENDIX C: INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTS RELATING TO QUALIFIED DEPOSITORIES

### REPORTS:

- Police Report: Interim Police Chief Richard Veazey reported for the police department. Mr. Veazey presented and reviewed his report with the Board. Following the report, Mr. Veazey was thanked for the information and update.
- Public Works: Mr. Griffin reported for public works. Mr. Griffin discussed the garbage and how it was handled over the holidays. Mr. Robinson discussed various water leaks particularly the leak on Main Street. Following the discussion, Mr. Griffin and Mr. Robinson were thanked for the reports.
- Tunica Main Street: Ms. Withers updated the Board with regard to the upcoming Wild Game Cookoff. It will be held February 10th. Ms. Withers will file for the festival grant that she discussed with the Board earlier. It is a sponsorship grant for \$3,000 and will be used for River Gate. Ms. Withers is working on River Gate.
- Tunica Community Events: There are no upcoming community events. For 2024, the Town will host the three events in May (Peace Officers Memorial Day, National Day of

Prayer and Memorial Day). The Town will hold a September 11<sup>th</sup> event and its annual Veterans Day program.

Danny Smith arrived at the meeting.

The Mayor next discussed issues that the Town is having with regard to its communication equipment, specifically the internet and telephone. The Town has received two proposals relating to this. Copies of both proposals were provided to the Board as part of the Board meeting package. Following a discussion, the proposals were taken under advisement.

The Mayor reminded the Board that bids will be received and opened on January 18, 2024, for the water line project. The engineers will evaluate the bids and provide a recommendation to the Board. Once the recommendation is received, Mayor Dulaney will give notice for a special meeting so that the Board can consider the bids and hopefully get the work under contract.

The Board next discussed the fire hydrant maintenance program. The Board was advised that proposals had been solicited from two qualified companies. Two proposals were timely received by the Town. One from Greg Roberts and one from Rogers Hydrant Service, Inc. The proposal from Rogers Hydrant Service, Inc. is the lowest and best proposal. The Town has approximately 230 fire hydrants. Following the discussion, Alderman Turner moved that the proposal from Rogers Hydrant Service, Inc. be accepted and that Andrew Dulaney, Mayor, be authorized to execute and deliver the agreement and to be sure the work is coordinated. Alderman Pierce seconded the motion. Thereupon, the matter was put to a vote and the same having received the unanimous affirmative vote of all Aldermen present, the Mayor declared the same carried and adopted.

#### APPENDIX D: FIRE HYDRANT PROPOSALS

The Board next discussed the acquisition of right of way for the sidewalk project (MDOT – TA – STP-0125-00(013)LPA/109167-711000). A copy of the right of way plats were available. It was discussed that the Town will make the initial contact with the landowners to advise them of the project, provide them with a copy of the Citizens Guide to Property Acquisitions, and request that the property be donated. Appraisals will be required for some of the parcels. After a discussion of the required and needed right of way, Alderman Fullilove moved that the right of way be acquired and that the following actions be authorized to be taken by Andrew Dulaney or any other Town Administrative official: contacting each landowner and working to secure the right of way, and negotiating and entering into a contract to have appraisals performed for these tracts and the lot for the fire facility, and Richard W. Ryals is authorized to provide all legal services necessary or needed in connection with preparing and securing rights of way and confirming clear title. Mr. Ryals will be paid hourly for the services associated with the right of way acquisition. Alderman

Fyfe seconded the motion. Thereupon, the matter was put to a vote and the same having received the unanimous affirmative vote of all Aldermen present, the Mayor declared the same carried and adopted.

#### APPENDIX E: RIGHT OF WAY PLATS FOR THE MDOT-TA PROJECT

The Mayor and Board discussed the dog park bids. The lowest bid received was \$55,000. The engineers are working to secure a lower bid/proposal and to consider modifications to the project to reduce the cost. No action was taken.

The Board discussed repairs and maintenance needed on the Town's backhoe. While the backhoe is out of service, the Town will need a backhoe to use. Mr. Griffin has secured a price to rent a backhoe. Following a discussion, Alderman Turner moved that the Town's backhoe be taken for repairs and maintenance, and that the Town rent a backhoe for a month for \$3,245.50 from Thompson CAT. Alderman Pierce seconded the motion. Thereupon, the matter was put to a vote and the same having received the unanimous affirmative vote of all Aldermen present, the Mayor declared the same carried and adopted.

#### APPENDIX F: RENTAL QUOTE FROM THOMPSON CAT

The Mayor and Board next discussed a refund due to Mid-State Opportunities, Inc. Mid-State previously paid numerous water bills for customers. This created a credit for many customers. When a customer closes his/her account, the amount of any credit created by the Mid-State payment is required to be refunded to Mid-State. Following the discussion and a review of the information provided by Ms. Pennock, Alderman Pierce moved that \$5,709.39 be refunded to Mid-State Opportunities, Inc. based on list provide at the meeting. Alderman Fullilove seconded the motion. Thereupon, the matter was put to a vote and the same having received the unanimous affirmative vote of all Aldermen present, the Mayor declared the same carried and adopted.

#### APPENDIX G: LIST OF REFUNDS DUE TO MID-STATE

The Board discussed the mileage reimbursement rate. The rate was updated by the State. Alderman Fyfe moved that the Board adopt the updated mileage reimbursement rate of \$0.67 per mile. Alderman Pierce seconded the motion. Thereupon, the matter was put to a vote and the same having received the unanimous affirmative vote of all Aldermen present, the Mayor declared the same carried and adopted.

The Mayor and Board next discussed and considered the following official travel requests:

- Thomas J. Robinson, AL/MS Joint Water Annual Conference; April 7-10, 2024, Mobile, AL

Following a discussion of the travel and a finding that the best interest of the Town will be served and benefited from the educational opportunities afforded to those traveling, Alderman Fullilove moved that the reference travel request be approved. And, to the extent requested, a travel advance shall be made as authorized by law. Alderman Fyfe seconded the motion. Thereupon, the matter was put to a vote and the same having received the unanimous affirmative vote of all Aldermen present, the Mayor declared the same carried and adopted.

The Mayor and Board of Aldermen next considered holding an Executive Session, as authorized pursuant to Section 25-41-7, Mississippi Code of 1972, as amended. Alderman Fyfe moved that a closed determination be held to discuss whether an executive session is needed to be held and is appropriate. Alderman Turner seconded the motion. Thereupon, the matter was put to a vote with the results as follows: Alderman Turner, yea; Alderman Hartsfield, absent; Alderman Fyfe, yea; Alderman Fullilove, yea; and Alderman Pierce, yea. The matter having received the majority affirmative vote of the Board of Aldermen of the Town of Tunica, the Mayor declared the motion carried and the Mayor and Board held a closed determination on the issue of whether an executive session is necessary. Mayor Dulaney stated that the purpose for holding the executive session would be to discuss a personnel issue relating to one of the police officers (the "Executive Session Matter").

Based on this, Alderman Turner moved that the Mayor and Board of Aldermen hold an executive session to discuss, consider and act on the Executive Session Matter. Alderman Pierce seconded the motion. The matter was put to a vote with the result as follows: Alderman Turner, yea; Alderman Hartsfield, absent; Alderman Fyfe, yea; Alderman Fullilove, yea; and Alderman Pierce, yea. The matter having received the majority affirmative vote of the Board of Aldermen of Tunica, the Mayor declared the same carried and the Board entered executive session to consider the Executive Session Matters. Present during the executive session were the Mayor, Board attorney, Police Chief, Clerk, and the members of the Board of Aldermen who were present at the meeting.

During the executive session, the Executive Session Matter was discussed and acted on as follows:

Michael Scott: The Board of Aldermen discussed Officer Scott. Following the discussion, Alderman Turner moved that the action recommended be taken – 5 days suspension and restart his 12 months of probation. Alderman Fullilove seconded the motion. Thereupon, the matter was put to a vote and the same having received the unanimous affirmative vote of all Aldermen present, the Mayor declared the same carried and adopted.

Following the discussion, Alderman Turner moved to leave executive session. Alderman Fyfe seconded the motion. The matter was put to a vote with the result follows: Alderman Turner, yea; Alderman Hartsfield, absent; Alderman Fyfe, yea; Alderman Fullilove, yea; and Alderman Pierce, yea. The matter having received the majority affirmative vote of the Board of Aldermen of Tunica, the Mayor declared the same carried and the Board ended the

executive session and returned to open meeting. Mayor Dulaney announced the actions taken during the executive session.

Mayor Dulaney discussed the time of the Board's meeting. Currently, the Board meets at 3:00 p.m. Based on the schedules of some of the Alderman as well as to be consistent with Tunica County and the Board of Supervisors meeting time, the Board discussed moving the meetings until 4:00 p.m. Following the discussion, Alderman Pierce moved that the Board adopt the resolution in substantially the form as are attached hereto relating to the Board changing its regular meeting time from 3:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. Alderman Fullilove seconded the motion. Thereupon, the matter was put to a vote and the same having received the unanimous affirmative vote of all Aldermen present, the Mayor declared the same carried and adopted.

APPENDIX H: RESOLUTION APPROVING CHANGING MEETING TIME  
FROM 3:00 P.M. UNTIL 4:00 P.M. FOR THE BOARD'S  
REGULAR MEETINGS

With no other business, Alderman Turner moved to adjourn the meeting. Alderman Fyfe seconded the motion. Thereupon, the matter was put to a vote and the same having received the unanimous affirmative vote of all Aldermen present, the Mayor declared the same carried and adopted, and the meeting adjourned this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of January 2024.

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Andrew T. Dulaney, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Kate Scott Pennock, Town Clerk

APPENDIX A:	ATTENDANCE SHEET
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