

BE IT REMEMBERED that the Mayor and Board of Aldermen met on September 9, 2021, at 5:00 P.M., this being the special meeting time. Mayor Graves called the meeting to order and the following Aldermen were present: Simpson, Dear, Moore and Tanksley. Also present were Ginger Miller, City Attorney; Katie Harbin, City Clerk; and Fran Johnson, Deputy City Clerk. Alderman Hale was absent.

Consent Agenda

Mayor Graves went over the Consent Agenda, items # 4 – 9, asked if anyone had any questions.

Authorize to hire Lucia Booker as a part time Concession Worker

Motion was made by Alderman Dear, seconded by Alderman Tanksley, to authorize to hire Lucia Booker as a part time Concession Worker. All voting yea, motion carried.

Authorize to hire Kaylee Griffin as a part time Concession Worker

Motion was made by Alderman Dear, seconded by Alderman Tanksley, to authorize to hire Kaylee Griffin as a part time Concession Worker. All voting yea, motion carried.

Authorize to hire Gregory Jackson as a part time Concession Worker

Motion was made by Alderman Dear, seconded by Alderman Tanksley, to authorize to hire Gregory Jackson as a part time Concession Worker. All voting yea, motion carried.

Authorize to hire Trevon Lark as a part time Concession Worker

Motion was made by Alderman Dear, seconded by Alderman Tanksley, to authorize to hire Trevon Lark as a part time Concession Worker. All voting yea, motion carried.

Authorize to hire Kaitlin Saunders as a part time Concession Worker

Motion was made by Alderman Dear, seconded by Alderman Tanksley, to authorize to hire Lucia Booker as a part time Concession Worker. All voting yea, motion carried.

Authorize to move Markaylah Shorty to part time Concession Worker Manager

Motion was made by Alderman Dear, seconded by Alderman Tanksley, to authorize to move Markaylah Shorty to part time Concession Worker Manager. All voting yea, motion carried.

Presentation from Slaughter and Associates for Comprehensive Plan, Redistricting, and Rezoning Professional Services

Mike Slaughter with Slaughter and Associates, went over his firm and their work. Mr. Slaughter stated that he has been doing this work for over 30 years. His firm does this type work for mainly Cities, Counties and School Districts.

Mr. Slaughter presented information on Comprehensive Plans, Redistricting and Rezoning services.

Regarding Redistricting, we have to look at one man one vote and the protected minority voting strength. We would bring in the 2020 census, take the total population and divide by 4 to get the ideal population. You need to have 10% or less deviation. You really want the total less than 4 for each ward, ideally less than 5%. We would then do a benchmark plan. If the deviation happens to be less than 10% you of course wouldn't need to do anything. We will also look at voting age population, but the DOJ looks at total population. If you wanted to change the polling places, now would be the time to do that. No one has to have preclearance from the DOJ right now. After getting everything together, we would have public hearings / do public awareness and adopt the plan. After that the voter rolls would need to be updated.

Alderman Dear asked if there was a rush to do the redistricting.

Mike Slaughter answered no.

Mayor Graves stated we would have to do it before the next election.

Mike Slaughter answered yes.

Mayor Graves asked if it is better to do all 3 services together or not.

Mike Slaughter answered he would separate the redistricting from the comprehensive plan and rezoning. My recommendation would be to do the redistricting as soon as you can.

Alderman Simpson asked if the Board would have any input.

Mike Slaughter answered yes. I will work with the Mayor and the entire Board. I would take input for local issues and concerns.

Alderman Dear stated you said you wouldn't put us out of our ward, but in 2008 it did.

Mike Slaughter stated I wouldn't put two Aldermen in one ward. It could change a citizens Alderman though. We will minimize the change the best we can.

Regarding the Comprehensive Plan and Rezoning. Mr. Slaughter stated we would get the goals and objectives first. We interview the Mayor, Aldermen, Department Heads, Community Leaders, and Developers to get information on improving and keeping the quality of life for the City. We look 20 to 25 years in the future and think of things needed to improve, provide better services, good quality of life for the City. We also go a reasonable distance outside of city limits, for possible future growth. We would then have public meetings for citizens to have input. We would do a future land use plan. It is used to guide the growth of the community, for future development, transportation plan which would include roads, sidewalks, walking trails, bike paths, for growth, making the Highway larger, more traffic, more commercial, etc. Those would be all reasons to Rezone. You would also have to consider your community facilities, as in City Hall, Police and Fire Stations, etc. We would work with your engineer on the utilities. The Comprehensive Plan should be updated every 5 years. The Zoning Ordinance states what is allowed and what is not, in an area.

Alderman Moore stated in Desoto County, some can go to the counties website and find out all of the information about a house, using their GIS system.

Mike Slaughter stated that Desoto County has an elaborate one.

Alderman Moore asked Mr. Slaughter if they do that services also.

Mike Slaughter answered we do. You have to build it one step at a time.

Mayor Graves asked what would be your time table for these services.

Mike Slaughter answered for the Comprehensive Plan, 9 to 12 months. You have to have a lot of time to get a lot of input. I'd do the redistricting as soon as possible. If wards change, you would want the citizens to know you and what ward they are in.

Alderman Dear asked what would be the time frame for redistricting.

Mike Slaughter answered we could start as soon as you let us know.

Mayor Graves thanked Mr. Slaughter for coming out and presenting his information to us.

Mayor Graves advised the Board that he just found out the Public Service Commission pushed back the take over date for the New Image water / sewer customers and service for us to October 1, 2021.

Recess

Motion was made by Alderman Simpson and seconded by Alderman Tanksley to recess until September 14, 2021 at 5pm. All voting yea, motion carried.

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Greg Graves, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Katie Harbin –City Clerk