

**STATE OF MISSISSIPPI  
COUNTY OF LEFLORE  
CITY OF GREENWOOD**

**BE IT REMEMBERED THAT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE GREENWOOD CITY COUNCIL** was held this Tuesday, December 15, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber of the Greenwood City Hall, it being the time and place for holding said meeting.

There were present at this meeting, Mayor Carolyn McAdams, Attorney Don Brock, Jr., Councilpersons Johnny Jennings, Lisa Cookston, Ronnie Stevenson, Charles E. McCoy, Sr., Andrew Powell, David Jordan, and Carl Palmer, City Clerk Kim Williams and Council Clerk Tamira Brown.

Also present were: Sandra Chase, Wendall Hinkle, Danielle Morgan, Lance Mohammed, Anjuan Brown, Doris Ware, Chris Williams, Taxpayers Channel and Gerard Edic, Commonwealth Newspaper.

Also present were: Community Development Director and Code Enforcement Officer Elizabeth Stigler, Special Prosecutor for Code Violations Don Brock, Public Works Director Susan Bailey, Fire Chief Marcus Banks, Police Chief Jody Bradley, and Police Sergeant Melvin Cook.

**IN RE: AGENDA**

Motion was made by Councilperson David Jordan, seconded by Councilperson Charles E. McCoy, Sr., to adopt the agenda. A vote was taken, Councilpersons Johnny Jennings, Lisa Cookston, Ronnie Stevenson, Charles E. McCoy Sr., Andrew Powell, David Jordan, and Carl Palmer all voted YEA. The President declared the motion passed and adopted.

**PAYMENT OF CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS**

**IT IS ORDERED** that claims and accounts appearing on the Docket of Claims be allowed and paid out of the funds as shown. That said Claims appearing in Claims Docket Book 66, and evidenced by Claims Numbers 385 through 528 inclusive, be paid by Check Numbers 14214 through 14227 and Check Numbers 14229 through 14356 inclusive, and said claims and accounts being made a part of the minutes as though fully copied herein.

**IN RE: MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor McAdams opened her report by saying she was happy to see everyone and hope everybody has a Merry Christmas. She introduced and invited Wendell Hinkle, the location manager for the Emmet Till documentary, to the podium to give a brief on how the movie was coming along.

Wendell Hinkle expressed his gratitude to the Council and said that he was happy to film the documentary here in Greenwood. He stated that usually, he would send out letters to residents where movies are being filmed to inform households on what is going on, however, the Mayor suggested he first get acquainted with the Council. He then opened the floor for questions.

Councilperson David Jordan asked if he was the gentleman from New York that he had been trying to contact.

Mr. Hinkle said that he was not the gentleman from New York.

Council President Ronnie Stevenson asked were there anymore questions for Mr. Hinkle.

Mayor McAdams said no and stated that she was happy that he and his team were here in Greenwood.

Mr. Hinkle said that he could give the Council a tentative schedule so they could follow along with the project progress. He said that they are currently working on something on Washington Street and they have also made arrangements to work with Dr. Lucas at the physician's building. He informed the Council that they are still in prep mode but they will shut down for two weeks to observe the holidays. They will return on January 4th, 2021 and take one week to finalize everything. From there, they will be ready to start officially filming.

Councilperson Johnny Jennings expressed how he appreciated the documentary being filmed here and how this project will help boost tourism. He also told Mr. Hinkle that the Council will do anything they can to make their visit here a pleasant one.

Mr. Hinkle said that the community was kind and welcoming and that he appreciates

everyone for that.

Councilperson David Jordan said that as an individual who attended the trial, and experienced the conditions of the situation, he did not want this story fabricated. He expressed his concern as to who is filming the story and emphasized how the story should be told truthfully.

Mr. Hinkle informed Councilperson David Jordan that they were using the book written by Devery Anderson as the base for their documentary.

Mayor McAdams thanked Mr. Hinkle for him and his team coming to Greenwood to film the documentary.

Councilperson Charles E. McCoy, Sr. asked Mr. Hinkle if he had any luck finding staff.

Mr. Hinkle stated they are still looking at resumes and there are plenty of positions to be filled.

Mayor McAdams thanked Danielle Morgan for working diligently on getting the project here and announced that her CVB earned the title of CVB of The Year.

Mayor McAdams thanked the Council and other city employees for all they have done over the year even with the pandemic strike. She also said the vaccine for COVID-19 is now in Mississippi and hopefully this will be some relief to everyone.

Mayor McAdams announced that the city will observe holidays and offices will be closed on December 24th and 25th and again on December 31st and January 1st. She also announced that the MML Mid- Winter Conference will be postponed until March 30th and 31st.

Councilperson David Jordan announced that the legislatures may not meet until the 5th of January and may not adjourn until March 1st and that session may last through March, April and May.

Mayor McAdams announced that Emily Elliot, with Delta Design Build, had given her a book that featured Ms. Elliot's work. The book is entitled Design with Love and is available country wide.

She ended her report by asking everyone to be safe and to have a Merry Christmas.

#### **IN RE: PUBLIC AGENDA**

Lance Mohammed, Fred T. Neely & Company, presented a summary of the 2018-2019 Audit to the Council. He first thanked the Council for their support when his father passed away. He then stated that as far as audit, he has a clean audit opinion to give and it is like the one he gives year after year. He stated that the General Fund ended with a year over year loss. Initially we had \$10,087,000.00 but we spent \$100,090.00 over the budget. However, this does not reflect a deficiency, due to depreciation.

Mr. Mohammed called the Council's attention to page eight (8) which reflected an overall review of the city's finances. Through sewer, solid waste, and Greenwood Utilities we totaled in \$34,000,000.00 for 2019. For our General Fund the overall revenue was \$5,217,000.00 and other taxes were 4.8 million dollars. Expenses were also shown and broken down on this page. General government is 1.9 million dollars, public safety is 7.8 million dollars, public works is 2.8 million dollars, sewer 5.5 million dollars, solid waste 2.3 million dollars, and electric and water is 35 million dollars. Mr. Mohammed stated that our cost for electric and water was 29 million dollars last year but 35 million this year and the reason for that is that there are some assets that are no longer buyable. The depreciation was written off as a onetime charge. Overall there were not a lot of changes year over year.

Mr. Mohammed also informed the Council that starting February, 2021 our payment due to MDEQ was changed from a twenty (20) year term to a thirty (30) year term. Although we will be paying the loan back ten (10) years longer, the year over year review will show we saved \$1,000,000.00. This will essentially help our cash position.

Sandra Chase, Operation Peace Treaty – Vice President, addressed the Council to present a proposal for Operation Peace Treaty, a non – profit, 501(c)(3) organization. She had given the Council packets including information that detailed the organization's mission, vision, and goal, a tentative schedule outlining upcoming events, and a survey that gathered information on what the citizens in the community felt they needed most. She stated that Operation Peace Treaty's purpose is to slowdown and stop gang violence. At the beginning of their mission, they set out to feed different communities, and took up 527 surveys on what concern families in these particular areas had. She stated that she would like for the Police Department to get involved with Operation Peace Treaty and hopefully this will help build the

community's relationship.

Councilperson Andrew Powell asked Ms. Chase if she had already raised any donations and how long has Operation Peace Treaty been established.

Ms. Chase stated that the organization has been around since July, 2020 and that they have received donations.

Mayor McAdams asked why haven't like organizations joined together to join forces and resources because their goals are the same.

Ms. Chase said that she had already tried reaching out to other organizations but hasn't received a call back.

Councilperson Lisa Cookston asked who is the organization targeting?

Ms. Chase explained that the organization is not targeted toward a specific age group because it is family oriented.

Councilperson Lisa Cookston asked for clarification on what happens when they feed the community.

Ms. Chase explained that this event allows the community to voice what they feel needs to change in the Community.

Councilperson David Jordan asked if this organization reached out to the Public School District.

Ms. Chase said that they have not due to the pandemic.

Councilperson Johnny Jennings suggested that the officers from each organization like Operation Peace Treaty should come together to focus their goals, in which, they should ask the Chamber of Commerce to sponsor this meeting.

Councilperson Charles E. McCoy, Sr., asked about the specific times and dates that this organization meets.

Ms. Chase said that due to the pandemic there is no particular date and time that they meet.

Council President Ronnie Stevenson explained that most times donations are budgeted and at this time the Council can give \$250.00.

Motion was made by Councilperson David Jordan, seconded by Councilperson Charles E. McCoy, Sr., to donate \$250.00 to Operation Peace Treaty. A vote was taken, Councilpersons Johnny Jennings, Lisa Cookston, Ronnie Stevenson, Charles E. McCoy Sr., Andrew Powell, David Jordan, and Carl Palmer all voted YEA. The President declared the motion passed and adopted.

Doris Ware addressed the council to express her concern about animal control. She asked if there is a city ordinance on vicious dogs being properly caged and if the ordinance is being enforced.

The Council answered by saying yes there is an ordinance but, no it is not being fully enforced.

Ms. Ware said that carriers are having problems delivering mail because dogs are not being properly caged. She stated that in 2018 she suffered severe injuries from an animal attack, in which, she could not work for ten (10) months. She also informed the council that a carrier was attack two weeks ago.

Council President Ronnie Stevenson questioned what she did to get the Police Department involved.

Ms. Ware stated that she called the Police and that they did not respond until thirty (30) minutes later.

Council President Ronnie Stevenson reminded Ms. Ware that she has the right to take legal action and asked Community Development Director, Betty Stigler, what exactly are the rules for vicious dogs.

Betty Stigler explained that the ordinance is about pit bulls. It says that the pit bull must be on a leash, in a closed fence with concrete flooring.

Council President reminded Ms. Ware that she can call the Councilperson of that ward to report issues like this and said that she could get Chief Jody Bradley number so that this problem can get fixed.

**IN RE: DILAPIDATED HOUSING  
RESOLUTION ADJUDGING  
PROPERTY TO BE A MENACE  
TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND  
SAFETY**

Mary Jenkins and Debra Brock  
315 Henderson Street

- Tabled Unanimously

**IN RE: POLICY ISSUES AGENDA – NONE**

**IN RE: ROUTINE AGENDA  
IN RE: CONSENT AGENDA  
IN RE: MINUTES**

Motion was made by Councilperson Charles E. McCoy, Sr., seconded by Councilperson Carl Palmer, to adopt the minutes of the December 01, 2020 Council Meeting. A vote was taken, Councilpersons Johnny Jennings, Lisa Cookston, Ronnie Stevenson, Charles E. McCoy, Sr., Andrew Powell, David Jordan, and Carl Palmer all voted YEA. The President declared the motion passed and adopted.

**IN RE: MINUTES**

Motion was made by Councilperson Charles E. McCoy, Sr., seconded by Councilperson Carl Palmer, to adopt the minutes of the December 10, 2020 Council Meeting. A vote was taken, Councilpersons Johnny Jennings, Lisa Cookston, Ronnie Stevenson, Charles E. McCoy, Sr., Andrew Powell, David Jordan, and Carl Palmer all voted YEA. The President declared the motion passed and adopted.

**ORDER OF THE CITY COUNCIL  
RECEIVING THE PRIVILEGE  
LICENSES REPORT OF THE  
CITY CLERK FOR THE  
MONTH OF NOVEMBER, 2020**

- Adopted Unanimously

**A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL  
OF THE CITY OF GREENWOOD  
TO RECEIVE THE REPORT OF  
THE CITY AUDITOR**

- Adopted Unanimously

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR  
AND CITY CLERK TO DO ALL THINGS  
REASONABLE AND NECESSARY TO PAY  
ALL OBLIGATIONS ON THE DOCKET OF  
CLAIMS**

**WHEREAS**, the City from time to time incurs necessary reasonable expenses;  
and,

**WHEREAS**, all lawful obligations should be timely paid.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY  
OF GREENWOOD, LEFLORE COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI:**

**SECTION 1:** The Mayor and the City Clerk should be and they are hereby authorized to do all things reasonable and necessary to pay all those obligations listed in the **“DOCKET OF CLAIMS,” BOOK 66, CITY OF GREENWOOD, DECEMBER 15, 2020 CITY COUNCIL MEETING.**

The above and foregoing resolution, after having been first reduced to writing and read by the Clerk of the Council, was introduced by Councilperson Charles E. McCoy, Sr., seconded by Councilperson Carl Palmer, and was adopted by the following roll call to-wit:

YEAS

NAYS

Johnny Jennings  
Lisa Cookston  
Ronnie Stevenson  
Charles E. McCoy, Sr.  
Andrew Powell  
David Jordan  
Carl Palmer

**IN RE: STUDY AGENDA** – December 3, 2020 Planning Commission Minutes

Council President Ronnie Stevenson advised Council that they each have a copy of the Planning Commission Minutes for their review.

Motion was made by Councilperson David Jordan, seconded by Councilperson Andrew Powell, to go into a closed session to determine whether or not to go into executive session. A vote was taken, Councilpersons Johnny Jennings, Lisa Cookston, Ronnie Stevenson, Charles E. McCoy, Sr., Andrew Powell, David Jordan and Carl Palmer all voted YEA. The President declared the motion passed and adopted.

**IN RE: EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Motion was made by Councilperson Charles E. McCoy Sr., seconded by Councilperson David Jordan, to vote to go into executive session. A vote was taken, Councilpersons Johnny Jennings, Lisa Cookston, Ronnie Stevenson, Charles E. McCoy, Sr., Andrew Powell, David Jordan and Carl Palmer all voted YEA. The President declared the motion passed and adopted.

Motion was made by Councilperson Charles E. McCoy Sr., seconded by Councilperson David Jordan, to go into executive session to discuss personnel matters relating to the Police Department and the CARES Act. A vote was taken, Councilpersons Johnny Jennings, Lisa Cookston, Ronnie Stevenson, Charles E. McCoy, Sr., Andrew Powell, David Jordan and Carl Palmer all voted YEA. The President declared the motion passed and adopted.

Mayor, Council, and City Attorney discussed personnel matters relating to the Police Department and the CARES Act.

No action was taken.

Motion was made by Councilperson Charles E. McCoy Sr., seconded by Councilperson David Jordan, to end the executive session. A vote was taken, Councilpersons Johnny Jennings, Ronnie Stevenson, Charles E. McCoy, Sr., Andrew Powell, David Jordan and Carl Palmer all voted YEA. The President declared the motion passed and adopted.

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, THIS MEETING WAS  
ADJOURNED**

**RONNIE STEVENSON, PRESIDENT**

**JOHNNY JENNINGS, VICE PRESIDENT**

**LISA COOKSTON**

**CHARLES E. MCCOY, SR.**

**ANDREW POWELL**

**DAVID JORDAN**

**CARL PALMER**

**CERTIFIED BY:**

**KIM Y. WILLIAMS,  
CITY CLERK**

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