

The Board of Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Waveland, Mississippi, met in special session at the Waveland City Hall Board Room 301 Coleman Avenue, Waveland, MS. on Thursday, June 19, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. to discuss the following matters of City business.

ROLL CALL

Mayor Garcia noted for the record the presence of Aldermen Stahler, Geoffrey, Lafontaine and Kidd, along with City Clerk Lisa Planchard and City Attorney Gary Yarborough.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Re: Mr. Jeremy Burke came forward to discuss the possibility of Jet Ski rentals and vendors on the beach; noting that he felt jet skis would be detrimental to property values and a boating safety issue. Mr. Burke also asked if Waveland would be the entity issuing privilege licenses and requesting that we do, so that Waveland can benefit from the tax revenue. City Attorney Yarborough said that the City of Bay St. Louis, the City of Waveland or the County would be the entities issuing the privilege licenses as the city/county limits dictate, whichever is applicable. Mr. Burke noted that whether a City employee or sub-contractor hired for economic development, someone be able to provide detailed information as to commercial properties in inventory. He also requested the Board allocate more budget money to take care of blighted property.

Re: Mr. Henry Ward requested the City try to “liven the beach” by allowing vendors on the Beach. Mr. Ward also asked about the Garfield Ladner Pier and progress with repairs. Mayor Garcia said that all of the information has been forwarded to FEMA Region IV, which has confirmed that the Project is ‘active’ and the amendment to the PW pending. Mr. Yarborough said he spoke with Mr. Eric Church of MEMA this morning; Mr. Robert Latham of MEMA is to contact FEMA to see what the delay is. Mr. Ward also touched on Tourism issues.

Re: Captain Chadwick Carbo discussed the building and development progress of Coleman Avenue up to this point and said it doesn’t make sense to stop it now. He understands the beachfront owner’s point of view, but all of the citizens are paying for the Coleman Avenue/Beach development and he wants to see a return on his money that he’s paid into taxes.

Re: Susan McGee said that she does live on the beach; she asked the Board to approach the future development with caution. Ms. McGee said this past weekend there was loud music coming from the volleyball courts and trash was left on the beach that she was left to clean up. She requested that beachgoers be monitored.

Re: Mr. John Chagnard stated his opposition to the volleyball courts on the beach. Mr. Chagnard said he can hear the noise from north of the railroad tracks where he lives. He also discussed his desire to see hotels and motels on the beach; he encouraged the Board to seek hotel/motel chains to come to Waveland.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Alderman Stahler said she hoped the Board would get together and form an immediate plan of what the Board wants to see regarding economic development. She noted that the City has hired an economic developer (Laurence Leyens) who was hired to serve at the pleasure of the Board so it’s important that the Board identify what it is that they want him to do. Alderman Lafontaine agreed and said that he had the same conversation with Mr. Leyens; until the Board gets together and decides which direction he should be steered, we would be wasting money. Alderman Stahler asked if Coleman Avenue and the Beach is the target for development; she reiterated that we are here tonight to establish the first step as to what can be done for economic development for the City. She added that we need to have a friendly environment to invest, all of our zoning in place, make it attractive, and have someone like Mr. Leyens to move forward to get us a hotel. Alderman Kidd recommended some possible re-zoning to allow for restaurants, condos, hotels, etc... anything to bring in big business, i.e. new money. He also recommended to amend the City’s Charter for the allowance of a casino. Mayor Garcia said that another thing needed is to define the City limits with new signage, but that is budgetary. Alderman Lafontaine asked about sandblasted signage. The Mayor felt a small digital sign placed at 603 and Hwy 90 would be good, but by the time we get through the Highway Department for permission the City could probably install one in front of the Central Fire Station, which would provide the citizens with useful information and keep the intersection at Highways 90 and 603 clear of signage clutter. Ms. Melinda Tucker, current Prosecutor and former casino regulator offered a professional contact, the Executive

Director of the MS. Gaming Commission (Alan Godfrey) to get information about the chances of Waveland having a casino.

The Board requested the City Clerk contact Mr. Lawrence Leyens and task him with the following as prioritized. Alderman LaFontaine reminded everyone that when we talk about tasks, we have to be mindful of budget; we only have a \$28,000+/- General Fund contingency projected at 09/30/2014.

- a. Beach from Coleman to Terrace, re-zone to commercial
- b. Highway 90 - Property that was commercial prior to annexation reverted to residential and should be changed back to commercial.
- c. Change name of Kiln-Waveland Cutoff to Waveland Avenue North
- d. Assistance with obtaining motel/hotel on Coleman Avenue/Beachfront
- e. Investigate necessities to open the door to Casino's

On another matter, Alderman Lafontaine asked if the noise problem on the beach (volleyball courts) could be taken care. Mayor Garcia said that he felt the lights could be turned off earlier and asked to have the timer go off at 10:00 pm.

Re: Mrs. Bernie Cullen asked if there was a timeline for giving Mr. Leyens direction. Alderman Lafontaine asked the City Clerk to ask Mr. Leyens about a timeline. Alderman Lafontaine thanked Mrs. Cullen and Fire Chief Smith for their work on the blighted properties.

ADJOURN

Re: Adjourn Meeting at 6:55 p.m.

Alderman Stahler moved, seconded by Alderman Kidd to adjourn the meeting at 6:55 p.m.

A vote was called for with the following results:

Voting Yea: Stahler, Geoffrey, Lafontaine and Kidd

Voting Nay: None

Absent: None

The foregoing minutes were presented to Mayor Garcia on Thursday July 3, 2014.

Lisa Planchard
City Clerk

The Minutes of June 19, 2014 have been read and approved by me on this day the 3rd day of July, 2014.

David A. Garcia
Mayor

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