

BE IT REMEMBERED THAT THERE WAS BEGUN AND HELD A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE CITY OF PETAL, MISSISSIPPI ON AUGUST 26, 2019 AT 5:30 P.M. IN THE BOARDROOM OF SAID CITY.

THOSE PRESENT                      MAYOR HAL MARX

ALDERMEN                              BRAD AMACKER  
    TONY DUCKER  
    WILLIAM KING  
    CLINT MOORE  
    STEVE STRINGER

OTHERS

MAYOR MARX DECLARED A QUORUM PRESENT AND DECLARED THE CITY COUNCIL IN SESSION.

THE INVOCATION WAS OFFERED BY TONY DUCKER

THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE WAS RECITED.

NOTICE OF THE SPECIAL MEETING WAS PRESENTED

EXHIBIT "A"

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING

WHEREAS, MAYOR MARX PRESENTED A REQUEST TO REJECT ALL SANITATION SERVICE PROPOSALS AND READVERTISE

THEREUPON, ALDERMAN STRINGER MADE A MOTION TO REJECT ALL SANITATION SERVICE PROPOSALS DUE TO THE NEWSPAPER FAILING TO PUBLISH THE NOTIFICATION AND AUTHORIZE THE CITY CLERK TO READVERTISE FOR PROPOSALS. ALDERMAN DUCKER SECONDED THE MOTION.

THOSE PRESENT AND VOTING "AYE"

ALDERMAN BRAD AMACKER  
ALDERMAN TONY DUCKER  
ALDERMAN WILLIAM KING  
ALDERMAN CLINT MOORE  
ALDERMAN STEVE STRINGER

THOSE PRESENT AND VOTING "NAY"

NONE

WHEREAS, MAYOR MARX PRESENTED A REQUEST TO DISCUSS THE PROPOSED FY2020 BUDGET AND WELCOMED PUBLIC INPUT

THEREUPON, ALDERMAN MOORE STATED THAT HE FELT THE PROPOSED BUDGET AT THIS TIME IS BALANCED AND WILL KEEP RECREATION IN TACT WITHOUT LOSING POLICE OR FIREFIGHTERS.

THEREUPON, MAYOR MARX STATED THAT HE BELIEVES WE NEED A MORE CONSERVATIVE BUDGET FOR FY2020 IN ORDER TO BUILD UP A CUSHION IN THE BANK IN CASE OF A NATURAL DISASTER OR OTHER EMERGENCY.

THEREUPON, JESSIE SANFORD, E 6<sup>TH</sup> AVE, ADDRESSED THE BOARD IN OPPOSITION OF ANY SORT OF TAX INCREASE. PETAL SPORTS ASSOCIATION DOES NOT PROMOTE LIFE SAFETY AND SHOULD NOT BE SUPPORTED BY TAX DOLLARS.

THEREUPON, DANIEL WARREN, BAKER ST, ADDRESSED THE BOARD WITH WISHES THAT ANY EXTRA MONEY FROM A TAX INCREASE BE PUT INTO INFRASTRUCTURE.

THEREUPON, MARK LYON ADDRESSED THE BOARD. MR. LYON LIVES OUTSIDE THE CITY LIMITS, BUT HAS A BUSINESS IN THE CITY LIMITS. HE HAS SPENT YEARS VOLUNTEERING FOR DIFFERENT SPORTS AND WAS PART OF THE TRANSITION TO PETAL SPORTS ASSOCIATION. HE DOESN'T BELIEVE A SALES TAX ON RESTAURANTS ALONE WOULD BE SUFFICIENT AND SUPPORTS A SALES TAX INCREASE ON ALL RETAIL IN THE CITY.

THEREUPON, WENDY CLAYTON ADDRESSED THE MAYOR AND ASKED THAT THE PEOPLE WHO ARE CONSIDERED "GRASS CUTTERS" NOT BE DISMISSED AS THEY ARE JUST AS IMPORTANT AS THE POLICE AND FIRE EMPLOYEES. MAYOR MARX STATED THAT HE SAID THEY DO AN HONORABLE JOB, BUT HE BELIEVES PUBLIC SAFETY TO BE THE MORE IMPORTANT SERVICE TO PROVIDED BY THE CITY.

THEREUPON, JEFF PITTMAN ADDRESSED THE BOARD. MR. PITTMAN ALSO LIVES OUTSIDE THE CITY BUT HAS A BUSINESS AND RENTAL PROPERTY INSIDE THE CITY. MR. PITTMAN STATED THAT THE SPORTS WERE OPERATING BEFORE THE CITY BECAME INVOLVED AND HE BELIEVES THEY WOULD CONTINUE WITHOUT THE CITY. IF IT CAME TO CUTTING POLICE OR IMPROVING INFRASTRUCTURE, THEN A TAX INCREASE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED. MR. PITTMAN THANKED THOSE ON THE BOARD THAT ARE OPPOSED TO A TAX INCREASE.

THEREUPON, NIKI SHELBOURN ADDRESSED THE BOARD. SHE DOESN'T BELIEVE PUBLIC SAFETY SHOULD BE CUT, BUT MAYBE THE BOARD SHOULD CONSIDER SOME OTHER CUTS LIKE THEIR PAY, STATE RETIREMENT, HEALTH INSURANCE, SENIOR CENTER OR CIVIC CENTER.

THEREUPON, ASST. CHIEF SIMS ADDRESSED THE BOARD REGARDING THE FIRE DEPARTMENT. MR. SIMS PROVIDED THE BOARD WITH PACKETS OF INFORMATION THAT HAD BEEN REQUESTED. MR. SIMS ASKED THAT THE BOARD LOOK AT THE FIREFIGHTERS IN THE BACK OF THE ROOM AND DECIDE WHICH ONES THEY WANTED TO LET GO.

THEREUPON, REUBEN BROWN, PRESIDENT OF THE FIRE CHIEF'S ASSOCIATION, ADDRESSED THE BOARD. MR. BROWN STATED THAT GREENVILLE, MS HAD CLOSED ONE OF THEIR FIRE STATIONS AND IT HAS HAD A NEGATIVE IMPACT. STANDARDS STATE THAT A MINIMUM OF TEN TO TWELVE FIREFIGHTERS ARE NEEDED ON A FIRE CALL NOT INCLUDING COMMAND STAFF. REDUCTION OF STAFFING AFFECTS THE SAFETY OF THE COMMUNITY AND OTHER FIREFIGHTERS.

THEREUPON, TERRY WAGES, EXEC. DIRECTOR OF THE STATE FIRE ACADEMY, ADDRESSED THE BOARD. HE STATED THAT YOU NEED A MINIMUM OF FOUR FIREFIGHTERS ON EACH ENGINE. MR. WAGES STATED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE DRIVER SAFETY COURSE DUE TO NOT REQUIRING A COMMERCIAL DRIVER'S LICENSE TO DRIVE A FIRE ENGINE. MR. WAGES STATED THAT IT TAKES TWO TO THREE YEARS TO GET A FULLY EDUCATED FIREFIGHTER. FIREFIGHTERS RESPOND TO ALL CALLS THAT DON'T INVOLVE CRIME AND SOMETIMES RESPOND TO A CRIMINAL CALL IF THERE ARE INJURIES. HE BELIEVES WE SHOULD TAKE FULL ADVANTAGE OF THE FIREFIGHTER GRANT.

THEREUPON, DANIEL CROSS, STATE FIRE ACADEMY CHIEF INSTRUCTOR, ADDRESSED THE BOARD. MR. CROSS STATED THAT A LOT OF CITIES STRUGGLE TO FIND FIREFIGHTERS. THE CITY OF PETAL IS EXTREMELY FORTUNATE TO HAVE THE QUALITY OF FIREFIGHTERS WE HAVE.

THEREUPON, GEORGE STEVENS, LAMAR COUNTY FIRE COORDINATOR, ADDRESSED THE BOARD REGARDING FEMA'S RESPONSE TO GRANT FORFEITURE. HE REACHED OUT TO THE FEMA REPRESENTATIVE AND THEY ADVISED THERE WOULD BE POSSIBLE LOSS OF ANY FUTURE GRANTS INCLUDING GRANTS OTHER THAN POLICE OR FIRE.

THEREUPON, RICHARD WATKINS, INSURANCE RATING BUREAU, ADDRESSED THE BOARD. MR. WATKINS STATED THAT PETAL REACHED A CLASS 4 RATING IN FEBRUARY 2019. LOSING THE NINE FIREFIGHTERS UNDER THE GRANT WOULD LIKELY BE PETAL BACK AT A CLASS 5 WITHIN 12 MONTHS. THERE IS A 8-10% SAVINGS FOR COMMERCIAL INSURANCE BETWEEN A CLASS 5 AND A CLASS 4. LOSING THE FIREFIGHTERS WOULD ALSO AFFECT FIRE SAFETY PUTTING THE FIRE DEPT WITH TOO FEW MEN TO ATTEND TRAINING, ETC.

THEREUPON, JENNIFER LANGNES, ADDRESSED THE BOARD. SHE OWNS A BUSINESS IN THE CITY AND RESIDES IN THE CITY LIMITS. SHE STATED THAT THE MEETING SHE HELD ON SUNDAY NIGHT WAS JUST TO INFORM HERSELF AND A FEW OTHER CITIZENS ON THE ISSUES WITH THE BUDGET. NOONE WAS TALKING ABOUT GETTING RID OF FIREMEN OR POLICE.

THEREUPON, OSCAR WALLEY, RUSSETT LANE, ADDRESSED THE BOARD. MR. WALLEY THANKED THE POLICE DEPT FOR THEIR RESPONSE TO WALMART. MR. WALLEY LOST HIS WIFE AND TWO CHILDREN IN A MOBILE HOME FIRE IN 2008. HE STATED THAT THE FIRE DEPT DOES A GREAT JOB. PETAL SPORTS ASSOCIATION IS NOT GETTING UP IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT TO SAVE CITIZENS.

THEREUPON, DALLAS COLLETT, HICKORY DR, ADDRESSED THE BOARD. MR. COLLETT SAID HE IS PROUD OF THE OPPORTUNITY FOR THE CITIZENS TO HELP WITH THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT. HE BELIEVES EVERYONE SHOULD BE RESPECTED FOR THE JOB THEY DO AS PUBLIC SERVANTS. HE ASKED IF FEES WOULD BE RAISED TO MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR PETAL SPORTS ASSOCIATION TO COVER EXPENSES OF THE SPORTS. HE BELIEVES PARENTS SHOULD BE VOLUNTEERING AND PSA SHOULD MAKE AN EFFORT TO HELP COVER THEIR NEEDS WITHOUT THE CITY'S HELP.

THEREUPON, ALLEN FLYNT ADDRESSED THE BOARD. MR. FLYNT LIVES OUTSIDE THE CITY, BUT OWNS A BUSINESS AND COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENTS INSIDE THE CITY LIMITS. HE REMEMBERED WHEN JENNY KING CAME TO HIM YEARS AGO ASKING FOR DONATIONS FOR THE POLICE DEPT. HE WANTS THE POLICE AND FIRE TO HAVE ALL THE BEST EQUIPMENT AND TRAINING POSSIBLE. HE BELIEVES IT MAY BE TIME FOR A TAX INCREASE, BUT IT NEEDS TO SPECIFICALLY MEET THE NEEDS OF POLICE AND FIRE. THE CITY OF PETAL HAS MADE IT EASY ON THE PARENTS BY NOT REQUIRING THEM TO DO THE WORK FOR THEIR KIDS TO PLAY SPORTS.

THEREUPON, MARK MAGEE ADDRESSED THE BOARD. HE LIVES OUTSIDE THE CITY LIMITS BUT DOES SPEND MONEY IN THE CITY OF PETAL. HE WOULD BE IN SUPPORT OF A 1% SALES TAX INCREASE TO BE SPREAD OUT AMONG ALL DEPARTMENTS AND FOR ROAD/INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS.

THEREUPON, BRIAN HALL, RECREATION DIRECTOR, ADDRESSED THE BOARD. MR. HALL STATED THAT PSA WILL BRING IN \$190,000 IN REVENUE THIS YEAR. HE STATED HE WOULD NEVER ASK FOR NINE FIREFIGHTERS TO LOSE THEIR JOBS AND HE WISHED THEY WOULD STOP ACTING LIKE RECREATION IS THE PROBLEM.

THEREUPON, ADA MADISON, SPRINGFIELD RD, ADDRESSED THE BOARD. MS. MADISON BELIEVES THE YOUNG PEOPLE NEED SPORTS TO STAY OUT OF TROUBLE. PETAL IS A NICE PLACE TO LIVE AND RAISE A FAMILY AND SHE WOULD LIKE THE CITY TO ALL WORK TOGETHER NO MATTER WHAT IS DECIDED.

THEREUPON, ALDERMAN STRINGER MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN THE SPECIAL MEETING. ALDERMAN KING SECONDED THE MOTION.

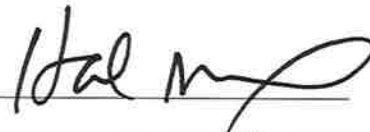
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ALDERMAN STEVE STRINGER

THOSE PRESENT AND VOTING "NAY"

NONE

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN  
OF THE CITY OF PETAL, MISSISSIPPI WAS ADJOURNED ON AUGUST 26, 2019.



MAYOR HAL MARX



  
MELISSA MARTIN, CITY CLERK

Exhibit "A"

August 26, 2019

There will be a special meeting of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen today at 5:30 p.m. at the Petal Civic Center. The purpose of the meeting is as follows:

1. To award contract for sanitation services to Waste Pro, Inc.
2. To hear from various officials regarding the Petal Fire Department and the SAFER grant.
3. To discuss the general fund budget for FY 2020.
4. To discuss long-range budget planning for the City of Petal.
5. To receive public input on the various issues and topics discussed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Hal Marx", written over a horizontal line.

Mayor Hal Marx