

BE IT REMEMBERED THAT THERE WAS BEGUN AND HELD A REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE CITY OF PETAL, MISSISSIPPI ON SEPTEMBER 17, 2019 AT 6:00 P.M. IN THE BOARDROOM OF SAID CITY.

THOSE PRESENT	MAYOR HAL MARX
ALDERMEN	BRAD AMACKER CRAIG BULLOCK DAVID CLAYTON TONY DUCKER CLINT MOORE STEVE STRINGER
OTHERS	ADA MADISON TOMMYE CORLEY JANIE BRAMLETT 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.

WHEREAS, MAYOR MARX PRESENTED THE AGENDA WITH THE FOLLOWING THE AMENDMENTS

PROCLAMATIONS & RESOLUTIONS

Request to adopt Proclamation proclaiming Sept 17 – Sept 23, 2019 as Constitution Week.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Request to declare as surplus one (1) 1987 OSHKOSH Crash Rescue vehicle and donate the vehicle to Covington County Fire Services.

SEMINARS & TRAVEL

Request for Donald Wagers to attend Water Operator Training in Hattiesburg, MS on October 3, 2019 at no cost.

THEREUPON, ALDERMAN STRINGER MADE A MOTION TO ADOPT THE FOREGOING AGENDA WITH THE FOREGOING AMENDMENTS. ALDERMAN CLAYTON SECONDED THE MOTION.

THOSE PRESENT AND VOTING "AYE"

ALDERMAN BRAD AMACKER  
ALDERMAN CRAIG BULLOCK  
ALDERMAN DAVID CLAYTON  
ALDERMAN TONY DUCKER  
ALDERMAN CLINT MOORE  
ALDERMAN STEVE STRINGER

THOSE PRESENT AND VOTING "NAY"

NONE

WHEREAS, MAYOR MARX PRESENTED THE MINUTES FROM THE PUBLIC HEARING AND THE REGULAR MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 3, 2019 AND THE SPECIAL MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 10, 2019.

THEREUPON, ALDERMAN CLAYTON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC HEARING AND THE REGULAR MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 3, 2019 AND THE SPECIAL MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 10, 2019 AS WRITTEN. ALDERMAN DUCKER SECONDED THE MOTION.

THOSE PRESENT AND VOTING "AYE"

ALDERMAN BRAD AMACKER  
ALDERMAN CRAIG BULLOCK  
ALDERMAN DAVID CLAYTON  
ALDERMAN TONY DUCKER  
ALDERMAN CLINT MOORE  
ALDERMAN STEVE STRINGER

THOSE PRESENT AND VOTING "NAY"

NONE

WHEREAS, MAYOR MARX CALLED FOR PUBLIC COMMENT.

THERE WAS NONE.

WHEREAS, MAYOR MARX PRESENTED THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION AMENDING THE FY2018-2019 BUDGET

EXHIBIT "A"

RESOLUTION

THEREUPON, ALDERMAN STRINGER MADE A MOTION TO ADOPT THE FOREGOING RESOLUTION. ALDERMAN DUCKER SECONDED THE MOTION.

THOSE PRESENT AND VOTING "AYE"

ALDERMAN BRAD AMACKER  
ALDERMAN CRAIG BULLOCK  
ALDERMAN DAVID CLAYTON  
ALDERMAN TONY DUCKER  
ALDERMAN CLINT MOORE  
ALDERMAN STEVE STRINGER

THOSE PRESENT AND VOTING "NAY"

NONE

WHEREAS, MAYOR MARX PRESENTED THE FOLLOWING PROCLAMATION FOR CONSTITUTION WEEK

EXHIBIT "B"

PROCLAMATION

THEREUPON, ALDERMAN DUCKER MADE A MOTION TO ADOPT THE FOREGOING PROCLAMATION. ALDERMAN AMACKER SECONDED THE MOTION.

THOSE PRESENT AND VOTING "AYE"

ALDERMAN BRAD AMACKER  
ALDERMAN CRAIG BULLOCK  
ALDERMAN DAVID CLAYTON  
ALDERMAN TONY DUCKER  
ALDERMAN CLINT MOORE  
ALDERMAN STEVE STRINGER

THOSE PRESENT AND VOTING "NAY"

NONE

WHEREAS, MAYOR MARX PRESENTED A REQUEST TO ACCEPT THE PRIVILEGE LICENSE REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST 2019.

THEREUPON, ALDERMAN BULLOCK MADE A MOTION TO ACCEPT THE PRIVILEGE LICENSE REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST 2019. ALDERMAN DUCKER SECONDED THE MOTION.

THOSE PRESENT AND VOTING "AYE"

ALDERMAN BRAD AMACKER  
ALDERMAN CRAIG BULLOCK  
ALDERMAN DAVID CLAYTON  
ALDERMAN TONY DUCKER  
ALDERMAN CLINT MOORE  
ALDERMAN STEVE STRINGER

THOSE PRESENT AND VOTING "NAY"

NONE

WHEREAS, MAYOR MARX PRESENTED THE RESIGNATION OF CHANISTY CROWELL IN THE RECREATION DEPT

THEREUPON, ALDERMAN STRINGER MADE A MOTION TO ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF CHANSITY CROWELL IN THE RECREATION DEPT EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 12, 2019. ALDERMAN AMACKER SECONDED THE MOTION.

THOSE PRESENT AND VOTING "AYE"

ALDERMAN BRAD AMACKER  
ALDERMAN CRAIG BULLOCK  
ALDERMAN DAVID CLAYTON  
ALDERMAN TONY DUCKER  
ALDERMAN CLINT MOORE  
ALDERMAN STEVE STRINGER

THOSE PRESENT AND VOTING "NAY"

NONE

WHEREAS, MAYOR MARX PRESENTED THE RESIGNATION OF DEREK HALL IN THE ATHLETIC DEPT

THEREUPON, ALDERMAN STRINGER MADE A MOTION TO ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF DEREK HALL IN THE ATHLETIC DEPT EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 24, 2019. ALDERMAN AMACKER SECONDED THE MOTION.

THOSE PRESENT AND VOTING "AYE"

ALDERMAN BRAD AMACKER  
ALDERMAN CRAIG BULLOCK  
ALDERMAN DAVID CLAYTON  
ALDERMAN TONY DUCKER  
ALDERMAN CLINT MOORE  
ALDERMAN STEVE STRINGER

THOSE PRESENT AND VOTING "NAY"

NONE

WHEREAS, MAYOR MARX PRESENTED A REQUEST TO TERMINATE THE POSITION OF PROSECUTOR PRO TEMP AND DEFENDER PRO TEMP IN THE JUDICIAL DEPT.

THEREUPON, ALDERMAN AMACKER MADE A MOTION TO TERMINATE THE POSITION OF PROSECUTOR PRO TEMP AND DEFENDER PRO TEMP IN THE JUDICIAL DEPT EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 24, 2019. ALDERMAN MOORE SECONDED THE MOTION.

THOSE PRESENT AND VOTING "AYE"

ALDERMAN BRAD AMACKER  
ALDERMAN CRAIG BULLOCK  
ALDERMAN DAVID CLAYTON  
ALDERMAN TONY DUCKER  
ALDERMAN CLINT MOORE  
ALDERMAN STEVE STRINGER

THOSE PRESENT AND VOTING "NAY"

NONE

WHEREAS, MAYOR MARX PRESENTED A REQUEST TO FIND THAT THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 120 & 122 S GEORGE ST IS SURPLUS PROPERTY

THEREUPON, ALDERMAN DUCKER MADE A MOTION TO FIND THAT THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 120 & 122 S GEORGE ST IS SURPLUS PROPERTY NOT USED BY THE CITY AND TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY CLERK TO OBTAIN TWO APPRAISALS TO DETERMINE THE FAIR MARKET VALUE FOR PURCHASE BY THE 3D SCHOOL. ALDERMAN AMACKER SECONDED THE MOTION.

THOSE PRESENT AND VOTING "AYE"

ALDERMAN BRAD AMACKER  
ALDERMAN CRAIG BULLOCK  
ALDERMAN DAVID CLAYTON  
ALDERMAN TONY DUCKER  
ALDERMAN CLINT MOORE  
ALDERMAN STEVE STRINGER

THOSE PRESENT AND VOTING "NAY"

NONE

WHEREAS, MAYOR MARX PRESENTED THE FOLLOWING PROOFS OF PUBLICATION.

- INVITATION TO PROPOSE – SOLID WASTE SERVICES
- FINAL PAYMENT – WALKER CONSTRUCTION, SPRINGFIELD RD PIPE REPLACEMENT
- PUBLIC HEARING – NOTICE OF BUDGET AND TAX LEVY HEARING
- NOTICE OF AUDIT

THEREUPON, ALDERMAN STRINGER MADE A MOTION TO ACCEPT THE PROOFS OF PUBLICATION FOR FILING. ALDERMAN CLAYTON SECONDED THE MOTION.

THOSE PRESENT AND VOTING "AYE"

ALDERMAN BRAD AMACKER  
ALDERMAN CRAIG BULLOCK  
ALDERMAN DAVID CLAYTON  
ALDERMAN TONY DUCKER  
ALDERMAN CLINT MOORE  
ALDERMAN STEVE STRINGER

THOSE PRESENT AND VOTING "NAY"

NONE

WHEREAS, MAYOR MARX PRESENTED THE REVENUE & EXPENDITURES REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST 2019

THEREUPON, ALDERMAN STRINGER MADE A MOTION TO ACCEPT THE REVENUE & EXPENDITURES REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST 2019. ALDERMAN BULLOCK SECONDED THE MOTION.

THOSE PRESENT AND VOTING "AYE"

ALDERMAN BRAD AMACKER  
ALDERMAN CRAIG BULLOCK  
ALDERMAN DAVID CLAYTON  
ALDERMAN TONY DUCKER  
ALDERMAN CLINT MOORE  
ALDERMAN STEVE STRINGER

THOSE PRESENT AND VOTING "NAY"

NONE

WHEREAS, MAYOR MARX PRESENTED A REQUEST TO DECLARE ONE (1) 1987 OSHKOSH CRASH RESCUE VEHICLE AS SURPLUS AND DONATE IT TO COVINGTON COUNTY FIRE SERVICES

THEREUPON, ALDERMAN MOORE MADE A MOTION TO DECLARE ONE (1) 1987 OSHKOSH CRASH RESCUE VEHICLE, VIN# 10T9L5BE4H1029555, AS SURPLUS AND DONATE IT TO COVINGTON COUNTY FIRE SERVICES. ALDERMAN CLAYTON SECONDED THE MOTION.

THOSE PRESENT AND VOTING "AYE"

ALDERMAN BRAD AMACKER  
ALDERMAN CRAIG BULLOCK  
ALDERMAN DAVID CLAYTON  
ALDERMAN TONY DUCKER  
ALDERMAN CLINT MOORE  
ALDERMAN STEVE STRINGER

THOSE PRESENT AND VOTING "NAY"

NONE

WHEREAS, MAYOR MARX PRESENTED A REQUEST FOR THE FOLLOWING TO ATTEND FUNSAR TRAINING IN MERIDIAN, MS

- SETH COX
- DREW CRAFT
- ERIC VAN FOSSEN

THEREUPON, ALDERMAN AMACKER MADE A MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE FOREGOING TO ATTEND FUNSAR TRAINING IN MERIDAN, MS ON SEPT. 23-27, 2019 AT NO COST. ALDERMAN STRINGER SECONDED THE MOTION.

THOSE PRESENT AND VOTING "AYE"

ALDERMAN BRAD AMACKER  
ALDERMAN CRAIG BULLOCK  
ALDERMAN DAVID CLAYTON  
ALDERMAN TONY DUCKER  
ALDERMAN CLINT MOORE  
ALDERMAN STEVE STRINGER

THOSE PRESENT AND VOTING "NAY"

NONE

WHEREAS, MAYOR MARX PRESENTED A REQUEST FOR MIRANDA WILLIAMS TO ATTEND "MANAGING POLICE RECORDS" IN HATTIESBURG, MS

THEREUPON, ALDERMAN STRINGER MADE A MOTION TO AUTHORIZE MIRANDA WILLIAMS TO ATTEND "MANAGING POLICE RECORDS" IN HATTIESBURG, MS ON OCTOBER 22, 2019 AT A COST OF \$195.00. ALDERMAN BULLOCK SECONDED THE MOTION.

THOSE PRESENT AND VOTING "AYE"

ALDERMAN BRAD AMACKER  
ALDERMAN CRAIG BULLOCK  
ALDERMAN DAVID CLAYTON  
ALDERMAN TONY DUCKER  
ALDERMAN CLINT MOORE  
ALDERMAN STEVE STRINGER

THOSE PRESENT AND VOTING "NAY"

NONE

WHEREAS, MAYOR MARX PRESENTED A REQUEST FOR DONALD WAGERS TO ATTEND WATER OPERATOR TRAINING IN HATTIESBURG, MS

THEREUPON, ALDERMAN AMACKER MADE A MOTION TO AUTHORIZE DONALD WAGERS TO ATTEND WATER OPERATOR TRAINING IN HATTIESBURG, MS ON OCTOBER 3, 2019 AT NO COST. ALDERMAN STRINGER SECONDED THE MOTION.

THOSE PRESENT AND VOTING "AYE"

ALDERMAN BRAD AMACKER  
ALDERMAN CRAIG BULLOCK  
ALDERMAN DAVID CLAYTON  
ALDERMAN TONY DUCKER  
ALDERMAN CLINT MOORE  
ALDERMAN STEVE STRINGER

THOSE PRESENT AND VOTING "NAY"

NONE

WHEREAS, MAYOR MARX PRESENTED THE FOLLOWING ORDER PROMOTING SAMMY RAY TO LIEUTENANT OVER DETECTIVES

ORDER

WHEREAS THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN  
DEEM IT NECESSARY TO PROMOTE SAMMY RAY  
IN THE POLICE DEPT

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT SAMMY RAY BE  
PROMOTED TO LIEUTENANT IN THE DETECTIVE  
DIVISION AT A RATE OF \$20.54 PER HOUR EFFECTIVE  
SEPTEMBER 25, 2019

SO ORDERED THIS THE 17<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2019

THEREUPON, ALDERMAN STRINGER MADE A MOTION TO ADOPT THE FOREGOING ORDER. ALDERMAN DUCKER SECONDED THE MOTION.

THOSE PRESENT AND VOTING "AYE"

ALDERMAN BRAD AMACKER  
ALDERMAN CRAIG BULLOCK  
ALDERMAN DAVID CLAYTON  
ALDERMAN TONY DUCKER  
ALDERMAN CLINT MOORE  
ALDERMAN STEVE STRINGER

THOSE PRESENT AND VOTING "NAY"

NONE

THEREUPON, ALDERMAN KING JOINED THE MEETING VIA PHONE.

WHEREAS, MAYOR MARX PRESENTED THE PROPOSAL FOR SOLID WASTE SERVICES

EXHIBIT "C"

BID TAB

THEREUPON, ALDERMAN STRINGER MADE A MOTION TO ACCEPT THE PROPOSALS AND INITIATE A CONTRACT WITH WASTE PRO. ALDERMAN DUCKER SECONDED THE MOTION.

THOSE PRESENT AND VOTING "AYE"

ALDERMAN BRAD AMACKER  
ALDERMAN CRAIG BULLOCK  
ALDERMAN DAVID CLAYTON  
ALDERMAN TONY DUCKER  
ALDERMAN WILLIAM KING  
ALDERMAN CLINT MOORE  
ALDERMAN STEVE STRINGER

THOSE PRESENT AND VOTING "NAY"

NONE

WHEREAS, MAYOR MARX PRESENTED A LETTER OF VETO FOR ORDINANCE 2014 (132-A6) INCREASING WATER RATES

EXHIBIT "D"

VETO LETTER

WHEREAS, MAYOR MARX PRESENTED A LETTER OF VETO FOR THE 2019-2020 BUDGET ADOPTED ON SEPTEMBER 10, 2019

EXHIBIT "E"

VETO LETTER

THEREUPON, ALDERMAN MOORE MADE A MOTION TO SET A SPECIAL MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 23, 2019 AT 6:00 P.M. FOR THE PURPOSE OF OVERRIDING THE MAYOR'S VETO. ALDERMAN STRINGER SECONDED THE MOTION.

THOSE PRESENT AND VOTING "AYE"

ALDERMAN CRAIG BULLOCK  
ALDERMAN DAVID CLAYTON  
ALDERMAN WILLIAM KING  
ALDERMAN CLINT MOORE  
ALDERMAN STEVE STRINGER

THOSE PRESENT AND VOTING "NAY"

ALDERMAN BRAD AMACKER  
ALDERMAN TONY DUCKER

WHEREAS, MAYOR MARX CALLED FOR FURTHER PUBLIC COMMENT

THEREUPON, MR. WARREN STATED THAT LIMB PICKUP NEEDS TO IMPROVE

THEREUPON, CAROLYN JORDAN ASKED WHAT THE PROCEDURE WAS FOR LIMB PICKUP. MS. JORDAN WAS ADVISED TO CALL ALDERMAN DUCKER OR WASTE PRO OR CITY HALL.

THEREUPON, ALDERMAN STRINGER MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN THE REGULAR MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 17, 2019. ALDERMAN MOORE SECONDED THE MOTION.

THOSE PRESENT AND VOTING "AYE"

ALDERMAN BRAD AMACKER  
ALDERMAN CRAIG BULLOCK  
ALDERMAN DAVID CLAYTON  
ALDERMAN TONY DUCKER  
ALDERMAN WILLIAM KING  
ALDERMAN CLINT MOORE  
ALDERMAN STEVE STRINGER

THOSE PRESENT AND VOTING "NAY"

NONE

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE CITY OF PETAL, MISSISSIPPI WAS ADJOURNED.



  
MAYOR MARX

Exhibit "A"

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED AND ORDERED, by the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the City of Petal, Mississippi as follows:

That pursuant to Section 21-35-25 of the Mississippi Code of 1972, annotated and amended, the year commencing October 1, 2018 and ending September 30, 2019 requires amending and,

WHEREAS, by Section 21-35-25, the Mayor and Board of Aldermen do hereby amend the 2018-2019 fiscal budget as follows:

WHEREAS, the foregoing Resolution was duly passed, adopted and approved on this the 17<sup>TH</sup> day of September, A. D., 2019.

CITY OF PETAL, MISSISSIPPI

*Hal Marx*  
HAL MARX, MAYOR

(SEAL)

ATTEST:

*Melissa Martin*  
MELISSA MARTIN, CITY CLERK

FUND	INCREASE (DECREASE) BUDGET	REASON
<b>EXPENSES - GENERAL FUND</b>		
Police Dept Personnel	(1560.00)	Insurance, Work Comp
Police Dept Services	1560.00	Repair & Maintenance
Aldermen Personnel	(1,416.00)	Insurance
Aldermen Service	1,416.00	Advertising
Street Dept Supplies	(10,000.00)	Chemical Supplies
Street Dept Services	20,000.00	Equipment Repair & Maintenance
Street Personnel	(10,000.00)	Salary, Work Comp
Building Personnel	3,920.00	Wages
Building Service	(3,920.00)	Professional Services
Financial Services	(6,500.00)	Professional Services
Financial Supplies	(1,010.00)	Office Supplies
Executive Personnel	1010.00	Wages, Overtime
Civic Center Personnel	500.00	Overtime
Civic Center Supplies	500.00	Janitorial
Civic Center Services	5,500.00	Repair/Maintenance
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	
<b>State Rebate Fund Expenses</b>		
Services	(1700.00)	
Equipment	1700.00	
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	
<b>Law Enforcement Fund</b>		
Services	2000.00	
Equipment	(2000.00)	
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	

WHEREAS, upon adoption, the City Clerk will cause this Resolution to be published as required by Section 21-35-25.

Those present and voting "AYE" and in favor of the Passage, adoption and approval of the Foregoing Resolution:

Alderman Brad Amacker  
Alderman Craig Bullock  
Alderman David Clayton  
Alderman Tony Ducker  
Alderman Clint Moore  
Alderman Steve Stringer

Those present and voting "NAY" or against the adoption of the Resolution.

None

Exhibit "B"

# Proclamation

## CONSTITUTION WEEK 2019

*WHEREAS: The Constitution of the United States of America, the guardian of our liberties, embodies the principles of limited government in a Republic dedicated to rule by law; and*

*WHEREAS: September 17, 2019, marks the two hundred and thirty-second anniversary of the drafting of the Constitution of the United States of America by the Constitutional Convention; and*

*WHEREAS: It is fitting and proper to accord official recognition to this magnificent document and its memorable anniversary; and to the patriotic celebrations which will commemorate the occasion; and*

*WHEREAS: Public Law 915 guarantees the issuing of a proclamation each year by the President of the United States of America designating September 17 through 23 as Constitution Week,*

*NOW, THEREFORE I, Hal Marx by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Petal in the state of Mississippi do hereby proclaim the week of September 17 through 23, 2019 as*

### CONSTITUTION WEEK

*AND ask our citizens to reaffirm the ideals of the Framers of the constitution had in 1787 by vigilantly protecting the freedoms guaranteed to us through this guardian of our liberties, remembering that lost rights may never be regained.*

*IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of th  
City to be affixed this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ of the year of our  
Lord two thousand \_\_\_\_\_*

*Signed \_\_\_\_\_*

SEAL Attest

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

Exhibit "C"

**City of Petal RFP Proposals Received 8/13/2019 by 5:00 p.m.**

**APPROVED**  
SEP 17 2019

<b>Waste Pro</b>				
<b>Service Area</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Approx. Units</b>	<b>Equipment</b>	<b>Price per month</b>
City of Petal	One time/week	4,000	95 gal carts	\$17.97
Parks & Rec	One time/week	1	8 yd FL	\$0.00
Street Department	Three times/week	1	8 yd FL	\$0.00
Civic Center	One time/week	1	8 yd FL	\$0.00
Extra Can	One time/week	1	95-gal cart	\$7.00
<b>Santek</b>				
<b>Service Area</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Approx. Units</b>	<b>Equipment</b>	<b>Price per month</b>
City of Petal	One time/week	4,000	95 gal carts	\$18.78
Parks & Rec	One time/week	1	8 yd FL	\$104.00
Street Department	Three times/week	1	8 yd FL	\$312.00
Civic Center	One time/week	1	8 yd FL	\$104.00
Extra Can	One time/week	1	95-gal cart	\$2.75 add to base
<b>Waste Management</b>				
<b>Service Area</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Approx. Units</b>	<b>Equipment</b>	<b>Price per month</b>
City of Petal	One time/week	4,000	95 gal carts	\$22.75
Parks & Rec	One time/week	1	8 yd FL	\$125.00
Street Department	Three times/week	1	8 yd FL	\$350.00
Civic Center	One time/week	1	8 yd FL	\$125.00
Extra Can	One time/week	1	95-gal cart	\$75.00 1x charge

Exhibit "D"

September 17, 2019

TO: Board of Aldermen

FROM: Mayor Hal Marx

RE: Veto of Ordinance 2014 (132-A6)

Gentlemen, pursuant to state statute, I am using my veto authority and returning this ordinance to you for reconsideration.

I am vetoing this ordinance due to the arbitrary way this increase on water rates was decided. There was no discussion, nor any real study as to the impact the rate increase will have on water revenue. A figure was simply tossed out by one board member, with the others nodding in agreement.

The 25-cent increase will not generate enough revenue to be of substantial benefit to the City of Petal. It will only serve to take more money from our citizens, who were hit with a larger increase in overall water and sewer rates just one year ago.

I urge you to forego a rate increase this year, given our larger increase last year.

Thank you.

Exhibit "E"

September 17, 2019

TO: Board of Aldermen

FROM: Mayor Hal Marx

RE: Veto of Municipal Budget for FY 2020

Gentlemen, pursuant to state statute, I am using my veto authority and returning this budget resolution to you for reconsideration.

Let me give some background as to how this budget came about. This board held its first budget meeting with four aldermen present. Those four aldermen – King, Moore, Amacker, and Ducker, were briefed by our financial consultant, Doug King. Doug told those board members that he felt we needed to have a budget of about \$8 million in revenue and expenses to get us where we need to be. After we discussed options, it was agreed upon by everyone at that meeting that we must trim the number of employees to achieve this goal. It was agreed by all that those employee cuts should come from the Recreation Department and that I should notify our Recreation Director and the Petal Sports Association, so that they would have plenty of time to make necessary adjustments and notify affected employees.

The Aldermen also instructed Doug King and City Clerk Melissa Martin to go through our budget and make it balance, looking "outside the box" if necessary. They did just that, finding \$300,000 in revenue from a bond fund that could be used in this upcoming year only, to help shore up the budget. It was made clear this was one-time money and could not be counted on for the 2021 fiscal year, unless property tax millage was increased.

After PSA was informed, a concerted effort by the PSA board of directors to get parents involved in protesting this change was begun. It should be noted that no one ever said or suggested that the cuts to Recreation would mean kids could no longer play ball in the city, it was simply understood that the city could no longer provide the level of field preparation and maintenance as in the previous years. We even heard from a group that has experience organizing a youth softball league that they could come in and operate youth baseball and softball without the city's help in prepping the fields. The Aldermen turned them down without giving them a chance.

Needless to say, once public criticism of the proposed cuts began, the opinion of two of the Aldermen, King and Moore, was reversed. We now had a majority of aldermen who were determined to save the Recreation and Athletics Departments.

To make the numbers work, the majority of the aldermen favored bumping up revenue projections to fit the needs of the budget, rather than going with the original, more conservative estimates used by Doug

King and Melissa Martin. Instead of cutting our spending estimates to match our revenue, the majority of the board increased revenue estimates to match the spending necessary to continue the field prep and maintenance desired by the PSA. No effort was made to sit down and decide how a new arrangement could work, perhaps by using fewer fields, or by PSA paying for groundskeepers from the \$100,000 they usually pay the city. It was an all or nothing approach.

It has been stated in the news media by a member of this board that this budget is the first since he has been on the board that the budget actually balances, because no rainy-day funds were used. This is misleading, because this budget is based on using about \$400,000 in one-time monies that we know will not be available next year, unless this board passes a tax increase on property owners, or is successful in getting a sales tax referendum through the Legislature, then approved by the voters. In other words, this budget uses funds to balance in the same manner as the previous budgets.

I am firmly against any tax increase on the property owners of this city. I know that several aldermen are blaming my no-tax pledge for the budget situation we now face. It has been said by at least one board member that we should raise property taxes each year to keep up with rising cost. This approach will be a disaster for our city. For as long as I can remember, Petal has been criticized for having high property taxes. That reputation has no doubt kept many from opening a business or building a new home within the city limits. After 14 years of not raising the millage rates, we are seeing growth like never before and we can boast that we are one of the few cities or governmental entities of any kind in our area not to ask our citizens to pay more for local services.

Even without a millage increase we have seen a steady increase in our revenue each year for the past 10 years. Indeed, our revenue is averaging an increase of around \$200,000 per year since 2009. The only way I will support a referendum on a special sales tax option is if this board specifies that any revenue generated from that sales tax goes toward our two Public Safety departments and for resurfacing our streets. If the money is to go toward any other purpose, I will not support this effort. I believe it will be impossible to pass the necessary legislation through the Legislature without unanimous support from the Mayor and Aldermen.

By approving this budget, I believe the majority of the Board of Aldermen are sacrificing our ability next year to give any raises to any of our employees, even to our police officers. In fact, this board refused to even remove \$20,000 in overtime from the Recreation Department budget in order to give our police officers a very modest raise in this coming fiscal year. This budget also cuts dental insurance from our employees, but keeps money for a trip to the MML conference on the Coast next summer. I believe we can all do without attending MML in the coming year and bank that money.

I also believe that the majority of this board will be pressured by some board members in the next fiscal year to make personnel cuts from the Fire Department in order to continue funding field prep for the ball fields. Contrary to what has been said publicly, it is a fact that cutting firefighters has been discussed and is a favored move by at least some of the aldermen, if they had been present this past Friday for the

fire at the Dixie Avenue Apartments, I believe they would have seen the importance of having as many firefighters available on shift as possible.

In closing, I believe that by passing this budget, the majority of aldermen are setting our city up for failure in FY '21 and beyond. Instead of the \$8 million budget our financial expert told us we needed, we now have a budget of \$8.6 million. We need to make the tough cuts this year in order to have a better chance to balance our budget in 2021, without a tax increase. The budget prepared by Doug King and Melissa Martin is not perfect, but it is more conservative and closer to reality than the one before you today.

For the best opportunity to grow our city and maintain our needed services without having to ask even more from our taxpayers, I urge you to sustain this veto and adopt the original budget presented by Doug and Melissa. Public safety and infrastructure should be our priorities, not services for which there are legitimate alternatives.

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