

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 APRIL 13, 2009 AT 4:00 P.M. IN THE BOARDROOM OF SAID CITY.

THOSE PRESENT	MAYOR CARL SCOTT
ALDERMEN	JAMES MOORE STEVE STRINGER LIESA WEAVER
OTHERS	DOUG KINIG TOMMYE CORLEY BEN PIPER EL/GAIL PORTER HAL MARX CYNTHIA HOLLAND PENNY LUCKEL TONY DUCKER BRUCE ROGERS AND MANY OTHERS

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

THE NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING WAS PRESENTED FOR FILING. THE NOTICE READS AS FOLLOWS:

SEE EXHIBIT "A"

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING

THEREUPON, THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN MEET WITH THE POLICE DEPARTMENT TO DISCUSS THEIR BUDGET AND HOLIDAY PAY. CHIEF LEE SHELBOURN MADE A STATEMENT TO VOICE HIS OPINION FOR THE DEPARTMENT.

SEE EXHIBIT "B"

STATEMENT OF CHIEF SHELBOURN

THEREUPON, ALDERMAN KAY FAIRLEY AND ALDERMAN DAVID CLAYTON ENTERED THE ROOM.

THEREUPON, AUDITOR DOUG KING ADDRESSED THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN TO TALK ABOUT THE CASH FLOW FOR THE CITY. MR KING TALKED ABOUT DIFFERENT ISSUES THAT THE BOARD COULD TAKE TO CUT THE EXPENDITURES, SO THE CITY COULD MAKE IT TO THE END OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2008-2009.

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

THOSE PRESENT AND VOTING "AYE"

ALDERMAN DAVID CLAYTON
ALDERMAN KAY FAIRLEY
ALDERMAN JAMES MOORE
ALDERMAN STEVE STRINGER
ALDERMAN LIESA WEAVER

THOSE PRESENT AND VOTING "NAY"

NONE

THEREBEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE CITY OF PETAL, MISSISSIPPI WAS ADJOURNED ON THIS THE 13TH DAY OF APRIL, 2009.


CARL L SCOTT, MAYOR

(SEAL)
ATTEST:

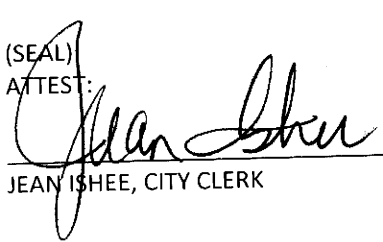
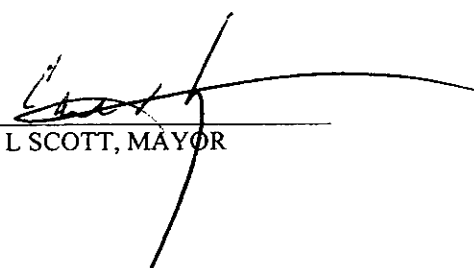

JEAN ISHEE, CITY CLERK

EXHIBIT "A"

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING

Please be advised that a special meeting of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the City of Petal, Mississippi, will be held, Monday, April 13, 2009 at 4:00 P.M. in the Boardroom of said City for the purpose of:

1. Benefits
2. Budget



CARL L SCOTT, MAYOR

I would like to ask the mayor to tell us what changes have been made with our time (sick, personal etc).

I first want to say that every person here representing the police department has the best interest of the city at heart. We are willing to do whatever is reasonable, that does not jeopardize the safety of the citizens, to help in pulling the city out of this financial crunch.

I apologize if I say anything that may sound offensive or negative but we are very concerned about some things we are hearing concerning the City of Petal and how it is affecting us as a department and our ability to provide the services, the people of petal have grown to expect. We like to have a good understanding to prevent a misunderstanding and in order to do this it is important to have an open line of communication. We just want honest, truthful answers for heartfelt questions.

In our recent meeting with the department heads you stated that it was necessary to cut the PD budget by approximately \$83,000.00. You are doing this by:

1. Absolutely no overtime
2. Hiring freeze
3. parking all vehicles
4. no purchase orders (unless approved by the mayor).

No-one should know more about their department than the department head. That is why you hired them, to over see their department. I feel it is underminding the department head when you cut their budget \$83,000.00 and don't have the professional courtesy to even ask their opinion as to how you can most effectively do it.

Reference no over-time; we can compensate employees with comp time. But if someone takes off and another gets sick or cannot come to work for some legitimate reason, we will have to pay someone to come to work to cover the shift. We have to have at least three officers working due to the increased number and nature of calls. More officers are killed each year on domestic calls and traffic stops than any other call. Officer safety is a true concern.

We have in place a very in-depth emergency plan concerning the gas plants on highway 11 north. This plan cannot be initiated without the availability of officers having vehicles to respond.

The police are the first line of defense of our city and should not be placed into the same category of other departments. Without police protection their becomes chaos. There is a reason our city has a very low crime rate. It is because our officers are very pro-active and not reactive.

Since January 2, 2001, we have spent countless hours working to build a police department that the citizens would be proud of. A department that provides a true police service. We strived to recruit quality personnel, provide equipment and training. We have that in place.

It has been said that no services have been compromised due to this economic problem. If the department is required to park their vehicles, that statement will simply be false.

Questions frequently ask:

There are two things that have been blamed for the money crunch;

1. The economy
2. lack of collections of our court system.

1 Their has not been a decline in the productivity of the police department but has been lack of collections from our court. The city CPA (Doug King) I was told found one of the major problems. Myself and the court clerk, Michelle Strebeck on more than one occasion approached the board with what we believed as a major problem. No action has ever been taken. The month of March the warrants officers collected \$46,690.50. Only \$18,627.50 was actual cash.

2 We had two Lt. slots that we were not allowed to fill when officers left those positions. We understand that we agreed to that but wander where the \$72,000.00 went that had previously been allocated for those slots.

EXHIBIT "B"

Hiring freeze; we have no problem with that until officers start resigning. This may very well occur due to the order to park the vehicles. For example; Officer Kelly lives in Seminary. He pays mileage each month for the privilege to have a carry home vehicle. He carries home \$718.94 every two weeks. He has a wife and two children. He can't afford to purchase another vehicle. He will have to resign if he is made to park his patrol vehicle. This is just one of many. Let's talk about saving money. It will cost the city approximately \$33,857.89 to replace Officer Kelly with an uncertified officer. It takes approximately one year before a new officer becomes effective and able to work on his own. There are many reasons that this will be detrimental to the department and to the quality of service provided to the public. No one outside the 25 mile area are carrying vehicles home. Officers living within the 25 mile area pay for mileage each month. Vehicles parked at homes within the city are great crime deterrence. When a burglar is canvassing an area and he sees a police vehicle, they go somewhere else. God forbid that we have a school shooting, church shooting or any other columbine type incident but we must train for such a situation. We have a ten person emergency response unit that is specially trained for such a catastrophe. Without these officers having the availability of their vehicles to respond, their will be no response with the capability of neutralizing such an incident. Their blood will be on our hands because we tried to save a little on gas. Our investigators have a duty to investigate every crime against persons and property in the city. This will be impossible to do without them remaining on "On call status", with the capability of responding any time anywhere. There is a reason we have an 84% clearance rate. It is due to the fact that these investigators are now able to call other investigators to assist with crime scenes, gather evidence, recover stolen property and prosecute persons for that crime. Recently we have had an armed robbery, a home invasion and two missing children which have all had positive outcomes due to the fact that officers were able to respond immediately. The armed robbery at the Texaco station, the subject was apprehended shortly after the crime due to the fact that an officer was enroute to work in a patrol vehicle, heard the call and spotted the subject and made the arrest. Since October 2008 the investigative division has had fifty (50) call outs, fifteen (15) of which required at least two investigators.

Narcotics officers cannot work a set schedule. They have to work when the violators are preparing their drugs and information comes in through informants. They must act immediately to effectively fight narcotics within the city.

3 It has been stated that the city as a whole is approximately \$850,000.00 in the red. We don't know if that is a true statement or not. It is in today's "Petal Today" paper that according to the Ms. State Tax Commission we are \$39,000.00 behind on sales tax revenue since July 1, compared to last year. We all understand that the economy is in a downward spiral but if we are even a couple of hundred thousand down that is still a long way from \$850,000.00. It was also in the paper that since the mayor was our contractor for the city these four years, it has saved the city approximately 1 million. If that be true, that is \$1,850,000.00. Where did that money go?

4 We haven't had a code enforcement officer for some time now. His salary was approximately \$32,000.00 per year. What is that money being used for?

5 We haven't had a fire chief for sometime. His salary was \$40,000.00. What has that money been used for?

6 Line item #001-100-578 is the Uniform line item. It was approved for the total sum of \$25,000.00. As of today (4/13/09) we have spent \$6,975.44 and were told that we just did not have money to purchase but one uniform for officers and no clothing allowance for plain clothes officers. Alderman David Clayton told two of the investigators that a \$500.00 clothing had been approved and did not understand why they have not received it but would check into it. They never heard anything back from him. They just wanted a truthful answer, even if it was No.

RESPONSIBILITY WITHOUT ACCOUNTABILITY, SUCCESS IS A MATTER OF LUCK.

The only thing the police department is requesting is that they be allowed to continue to carry their vehicles home to ensure the immediate response to any critical situation that may occur.

THIS

PAGE

LEFT

BLANK

INTENTIONALLY