



## **SPECIAL CALLED MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE CITY OF GLUCKSTADT, MISSISSIPPI**

**Tuesday, October 03, 2023, at 5:00 PM**

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### **Minutes**

#### **1. Call Meeting to Order and Roll Call**

The notice and agenda of the Special Called Meeting of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen having been given, the Mayor called the October 3, 2023, Special Called Meeting of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen to order. The Mayor presented the Notice of Special Meeting of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the City of Gluckstadt, Mississippi acknowledged by all Aldermen. (Exhibit "A").

Board Members Present: Mayor Walter C. Morrison, Alderman John Taylor, Alderman Wesley Slay, Alderwoman Miya Warfield Bates, Alderman Jayce Powell, Alderwoman Lisa Williams.

Staff Members Present: City Clerk Lindsay Kellum, Executive Assistant Janet Brooks, Planning and Zoning Director Mike McCollum, Building Official William Hall, Public Works Director Chris Buckner, Executive Assistant Bridgette Smith, Chief of Police Wendell Watts, Assistant Chief of Police Barry Hale, Various Gluckstadt Police Officers, Court Clerk Stephanie Gerlach, Deputy Court Clerk Lauren Canoy, and City Attorney Zachary Giddy.

#### **2. Opening Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance**

*Ms. Janet Brooks opened the meeting with prayer.*

*Alderman Powell led the pledge of allegiance.*

No action taken.

#### **3. New Business**

##### **A) Request to Approve Quote and Purchase Public Works Director Vehicle**

The Mayor asked for a motion to approve the purchase of a new vehicle for the Public Works Director, as contemplated in the FY24 adopted budget. A motion was made by Alderman Taylor to approve the purchase of a new public works truck, finding the quote to be lowest and best, in the amount of \$42,719.50, and the motion was seconded by Alderwoman Bates.

Voting Yea: Alderman Slay, Alderman Powell, Alderman Taylor, Alderwoman Williams, Alderwoman Bates.

*October 03, 2023, Special Called Meeting of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen*

The Mayor declared the motion carried.

*The Mayor then requested to move some agenda items around, skipping items 3B and item 4A, taking up item 4B next.*

**4B) Request for Board Reconsideration, AutoZone Site Plan (Requested by: Alderman Jayce Powell)**

Alderman Powell addressed the board providing his reasoning for opposing the approval of the AutoZone site plan at a previous meeting of the board, as he wanted to research the subject further and meet with the representatives of AutoZone to gather more information. After his explanation, he requested a reconsideration to take up the item again for board vote.

Alderwoman Williams requested representatives from AutoZone come forward and respond to questions of the board. Alderwoman Williams and Alderwoman Bates had concerns related to the delivery schedule of delivery trucks; Alderwoman Williams asked AutoZone representatives to confirm that AutoZone has agreed to an after-hours delivery schedule (based on a 9:00 pm closure of the store) and there would be no deliveries in the daytime, subject to heavy traffic and road congestion. The AutoZone representatives stated it will be their policy to ensure the distribution center only allows deliveries of products after-hours.

The Mayor asked if there was a motion for approval of the AutoZone site plan. Alderman Powell made the motion, and the motion was seconded by Alderman Slay.

Voting Yea: Alderman Slay, Alderman Powell, Alderman Taylor.

Voting Nay: Alderwoman Williams, Alderwoman Bates.

The Mayor declared the motion carried 3-2.

**4. Old Business**

**A) Discussion of Gluckstadt Police Station Redesign & Explanation of Cost, Dean and Dean Architecture (Alan Grant) (Requested by: Alderman Jayce Powell)**

The Mayor requested Alan Grant (Dean and Dean Architecture) come to the podium to address the board and answer any questions or concerns related to the vast difference in the original cost estimate for the redesign and the latest cost estimate (after receiving the estimates from contractor and subcontractors); this item was previously discussed at the 9/19/23 Special Called meeting, where the board voted 4-1 (Alderman Powell voted in opposition) to approve the original design due to cost concerns.

Members of the Planning and Zoning Commission addressed the board (Chairman Melanie Greer, Kayce Saik and Sam McGaugh); their concerns are that an overlay district (German influences similar to Mountain Brook, AL) was discussed with Chris Watson (City Planner) in coming up with his design for the city's comprehensive plan and they believe as the first municipal building, the police station needs to set a precedent, have cohesiveness with the area, and to make sure that the city is conforming with its own zoning ordinances; additionally, they want to ensure the developers in the area are held to the same architectural standards.

The original cost estimate was in the range of \$50,000-\$75,000 and now it is estimated at \$347,000 (after subcontractor quotes were returned).

Mr. Grant offered to go back to the drawing board and try to cut costs to be within the budget of the city and attempt to conform with the overlay district; he said they could have some new numbers to the board by late next week.

The Mayor requested a motion to authorize Alan Grant to provide a new design and an accurate cost estimate back to the board within two and a half (2 ½) weeks. Alderman Slay made the motion, and the motion was seconded by Alderman Powell.

Voting Yea: Alderman Slay, Alderman Powell, Alderman Taylor, Alderwoman Williams, Alderwoman Bates.

The Mayor declared the motion carried.

### **B) Request to Approve Change Order #1: Gluckstadt Police Department and Municipal Court Project (Benchmark Construction)**

The Mayor asked for a motion to approve the change order (adding thirty-three additional days to the project at the end). Alderman Slay made the motion, and the motion was seconded by Alderwoman Bates.

Voting Yea: Alderman Slay, Alderman Powell, Alderman Taylor, Alderwoman Williams, Alderwoman Bates.

The Mayor declared the motion carried.

### **5. Public Comment**

All members of the public who signed up for public comment were able to address the board during the AutoZone section of the agenda. No additional members of the public came forward.

No action taken.

### **6. Closed Session to Determine Need for Executive Session**

The Board considered entering closed session to determine whether to go into Executive Session.

The Mayor requested a motion to enter closed determination. A motion was made by Alderman Powell and seconded by Alderman Slay.

Voting Yea: Alderman Powell, Alderman Taylor, Alderwoman Williams, Alderwoman Bates, Alderman Slay.

The Mayor declared the motion carried.

The Board then considered entering executive session. Alderman Slay made a motion to enter executive session to discuss the recent resignation of the Chief of Police, as well as other items related to the job performance of certain employees holding specific positions in the Police Department; the motion was seconded by Alderman Powell.

Voting Yea: Alderman Powell, Alderman Taylor, Alderwoman Williams, Alderwoman Bates, Alderman Slay.

The Mayor declared the motion carried.

*The Board entered executive session. A public announcement was made by Ms. Kellum that the Board had entered executive session for discussion of personnel matters related to the recent resignation of the Chief of Police, review of candidate qualifications for open positions within the department and the consideration of a new pay scale.*

**A) Acceptance of the Resignation of Wendell Watts, Gluckstadt Chief of Police**

Alderwoman Williams made a motion to request all Officers be allowed to sit in on executive session, and the motion was seconded by Alderwoman Bates.

Voting Yea: Alderwoman Williams, Alderwoman Bates.

Voting Nay: Alderman Powell, Alderman Taylor, Alderman Slay.

The Mayor declared the motion failed 3-2.

*The Mayor and Board of Aldermen conducted a departure interview with Chief Watts. The Mayor then formally accepted the resignation of Chief Watts, citing his last day of employment with the city would be Monday, October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023. The Mayor asked Chief Watts to meet with the Human Resources Department (City Clerk's Office) to sign any necessary paperwork, addressing items such as leave, continuation of insurance coverage, transfer of duties and to formally close out employment with the city.*

*The Mayor then thanked Chief Watts for his service to the city and wished him the best.*

**B) Promotion and Appointment of Assistant Chief Barry Hale to the Position of Police Chief for the City of Gluckstadt**

The Mayor requested a motion to appoint Assistant Chief Barry Hale to the position of Chief of Police, effective Tuesday, October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at a starting salary of \$80,000 + benefits, including health insurance, PERS retirement, etc. Alderman Powell made the motion, and it was seconded by Alderwoman Williams.

Voting Yea: Alderman Powell, Alderman Taylor, Alderwoman Williams, Alderwoman Bates, Alderman Slay.

The Mayor declared the motion carried.

*Ms. Kellum stated this change would be reflected in the payroll system on the following pay period (pay date of October 27) due to already being in the middle of the current pay period.*

**C) Promotion and Appointment of Sergeant Jeremy Slaven to the Position of Assistant Chief of Police for the City of Gluckstadt**

The Mayor requested a motion to appoint Sergeant Jeremy Slaven to the position of Assistant Chief of Police, effective Tuesday, October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at a starting salary of \$65,000 + benefits, including health insurance, PERS retirement, etc. Alderman Slay made the motion, and it was seconded by Alderwoman Williams.

Voting Yea: Alderman Powell, Alderman Taylor, Alderwoman Williams, Alderwoman Bates, Alderman Slay.

The Mayor declared the motion carried.

*Ms. Kellum stated this change would be reflected in the payroll system on the following pay period (pay date of October 27) due to already being in the middle of the current pay period.*

**D) Promotion and Appointment of Sergeant Stephen Tucker to the Position of Lieutenant for the City of Gluckstadt**

The Mayor requested a motion to appoint Sergeant Stephen Tucker to the position of Lieutenant, effective Tuesday, October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at a starting salary of \$60,000 + benefits, including health insurance, PERS retirement, etc. Alderman Slay made the motion, and it was seconded by Alderwoman Bates.

Voting Yea: Alderman Powell, Alderman Taylor, Alderwoman Williams, Alderwoman Bates, Alderman Slay.

The Mayor declared the motion carried.

*Ms. Kellum stated this change would be reflected in the payroll system on the following pay period (pay date of October 27) due to already being in the middle of the current pay period.*

**E) Promotion and Appointment of Reserve Officers Angela Harper and Jessie Smith, Jr. to the Positions of Part-time Officers for the City of Gluckstadt**

The Mayor requested a motion to appoint Reserve Officers Angela Harper and Jessie Smith, Jr. to the positions of Part Time Officers, effective Tuesday, October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at a starting hourly rate of \$17.00 an hour. and not to include health insurance or retirement benefits. Alderwoman Williams made the motion, and it was seconded by Alderman Powell.

Voting Yea: Alderman Powell, Alderman Taylor, Alderwoman Williams, Alderwoman Bates, Alderman Slay.

The Mayor declared the motion carried.

*Ms. Kellum stated this change would be reflected in the payroll system on the following pay period (pay date of October 27) due to already being in the middle of the current pay period.*

**F) Promotion and Appointment of Part Time Officer Kyrie Lucas to the Position of Sergeant for the City of Gluckstadt**

The Mayor requested a motion to appoint Part Time Officer Kyrie Lucas to the position of Sergeant, effective Tuesday, October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at a starting salary of \$52,000 + benefits,

*October 03, 2023, Special Called Meeting of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen*

including health insurance, PERS retirement, etc. Alderman Powell made the motion, and it was seconded by Alderwoman Bates.

Voting Yea: Alderman Powell, Alderman Taylor, Alderwoman Williams, Alderwoman Bates, Alderman Slay.

The Mayor declared the motion carried.

*Ms. Kellum stated this change would be reflected in the payroll system on the following pay period (pay date of October 27) due to already being in the middle of the current pay period.*

Motion to leave executive session:

The Mayor then asked for a motion to leave executive session.

Within the executive session, Alderwoman Bates made a motion to leave executive session and re-enter open session, Seconded by Alderman Powell.

Voting Yea: Alderman Powell, Alderman Taylor, Alderwoman Williams, Alderwoman Bates, Alderman Slay.

The Mayor declared the motion carried and the board re-entered open session.

*A public announcement was made by Ms. Kellum that the Board voted in executive session to accept the resignation of Chief Wendell Watts, to appoint Barry Hale as the new Police Chief at \$80,000 + benefits, appoint Jeremy Slaven as the new Assistant Chief of Police at \$65,000 + benefits, appoint Stephen Tucker as a new Lieutenant at \$60,000 + benefits, appoint Kyrie Lucas as Sergeant at \$52,000 + benefits, and appoint Angela Harper and Jessie Smith, Jr. as Part Time Officers at \$17.00 hourly, not to include benefits.*

## 7. Adjourn

There being no further business before the board, the Mayor asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Alderman Slay made the motion, and the motion was seconded by Alderwoman Bates.

Voting Yea: Alderman Slay, Alderman Powell, Alderman Taylor, Alderwoman Williams, Alderwoman Bates.

The Mayor declared the motion carried.



WALTER C. MORRISON, IV  
MAYOR

ATTEST:



DATE:

