

**CITY OF OCEAN SPRINGS - MAYOR & BOARD OF ALDERMEN  
RECESS MEETING OF DECEMBER 16, 2025 - MINUTES**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Be it remembered that the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the City of Ocean Springs met in a Recess Meeting at City Hall at 6:00 p.m. on December 16, 2025. Mayor Cox presided, and Aldermen Stennis, Wade, Hinton, Pfeiffer, Blackman, and Messenger were present. Alderman Tillis was absent.

City Attorney David Harris, Jr., City Clerk/Finance Director Christine Millard, Deputy City Clerk Vicky Hupe, Deputy Police Chief Matthew Morvant, Fire Chief A.J. Fitch, Building Official Darrell Stringfellow, Public Works Director Allan Ladnier, Human Resources & Risk Management Director Mindy McDowell, Planning Office Administrator Sirrae Williams, Parks & Recreation Director Stephen Glorioso, and Executive Administrator & Public Affairs Officer Laurri Garcia were also present.

The Mayor called the meeting to order.

**INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Parks & Recreation Director gave the invocation and Alderman Wade led the Pledge of Allegiance.

A motion was made by Alderman Hinton, seconded by Alderman Pfeiffer, and unanimously carried to accept the agenda.

**PROCLAMATION**

- a. National Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists Week January 18-24, 2026

The Proclamation will be mailed to the recipient, as no representative was present at the meeting to receive it.

**AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Appeal of Short-Term Rental Permit Renewal Denial – 811 General Pershing Ave (STR Permit No. R-71)

Alderman Hinton recused himself from the discussion due to ownership of a short-term rental, and Alderman Stennis recused herself due to managing a short-term rental. Both left the boardroom at 6:03 p.m.

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The Planning Office Administrator explained the appeal filed by Ursula and Christopher Monroe regarding the Planning Director's denial of the renewal of Short-Term Rental Permit R-71 for the property located at 811 General Pershing Avenue. She stated that the permit expired on July 6, 2025, and although renewal attempts were made, the process was not completed due to failed inspections, lack of access for re-inspections, outstanding fees, and unresolved life-safety issues. After multiple notices and opportunities to comply, the Planning Department denied the renewal on November 24, 2025, and issued a Stop Order on November 25, 2025. The property continued to be advertised as a short-term rental after issuance of the Stop Order. The owners submitted a formal appeal on December 4, 2025.

Ursula Monroe stated that following issuance of the Stop Order, the property was advertised only for rentals exceeding 30 days. She explained that they do not reside locally and utilize a property manager to coordinate inspections, repairs, and communication with the City. She stated that issues cited during the July 9 inspection were addressed, including removal of the rear deck. She further stated that delays in re-inspection were believed to be related to staff transitions and that a medical issue prevented attendance at the November 24 re-inspection, which she believed would be rescheduled.

Following the owner's remarks, Alderman Pfeiffer asked about the notification process. The Planning Office Administrator responded that the short-term rental application requires the owner to designate a primary contact for communication. She stated that notification emails were sent to both the owner and the property manager and that all correspondence is included in the agenda packet.

A motion was made by Alderman Pfeiffer, seconded by Alderman Hinton, and unanimously carried to uphold the denial of the Short-Term Rental Permit renewal for 811 General Pershing Avenue.

Aldermen Stennis and Hinton returned to the boardroom at 6:18 p.m.

**b. Update to Official City Logo**

The Mayor stated that he requested the year "1699" be added back to the official City logo. To avoid a full redesign, a limited modification was proposed to add a bottom quadrant to the circular logo featuring two fleur-de-lis with "1699" centered between them.



Alderman Blackman stated that he did not support modifying the logo and felt no change was necessary. Alderman Pfeiffer stated that while she supports adding "1699," she does not favor the current design. Alderman Hinton stated that he supports adding "1699" back to the City logo.

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A motion was made by Alderman Stennis and seconded by Alderman Wade to authorize modification of the City logo to include a bottom quadrant with two fleur-de-lis and "1699" centered between them. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Alderman Stennis, Alderman Wade, Alderman Pfeiffer, Alderman Messenger,  
Alderman Hinton  
Nay: Alderman Blackman  
Absent: Alderman Tillis

**CONSENT AGENDA**

A motion was made by Alderman Hinton, seconded by Alderman Pfeiffer, and unanimously carried to approve the consent agenda except item 6-k pulled by Alderman Pfeiffer and items 6-q and 6-s pulled by Alderman Stennis.

**Mayor/BOA:**

- a. Ratify the authorization and waiver of all associated costs for the Ocean Springs High School Football team to host their banquet on Monday, December 15, 2025, at the Ocean Springs Civic Center, to advertise the resources of the city
- b. Approve the rescheduling of the American Red Cross' Blood Drive at the Ocean Springs Civic Center to Friday, December 19, 2025, to accommodate a scheduling conflict; previously approved waiver of fees to advertise the resources of the city
- c. Approve the rescheduling of the Run Santa Run 5K on December 20, 2025, from 7:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. starting at Fort Maurepas along OS Bridge/Front Beach; no cost to the city; the applicant pays the associated event costs
- d. Approve the Special Event Permit Application for the Ball Drop and New Year's Eve Bash on Government Street on December 31, 2025, from 8:00 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. on January 1, 2026, Government Street closed from Washington Avenue to Kotzum Avenue beginning at 1:00 p.m.; there will be overtime costs to the City
- e. Approve the Special Event Permit Application for the Krewe of Unique Mardi Gras Parade on Saturday, January 31, 2026, from 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.; Regular Parade Route; Road Closures include: Porter Ave, Washington Ave and Government Street, there will be overtime costs to the City, and the applicant pays other associated event costs
- f. Approve the Run, Walk, Permit Application for the Junior Auxiliary of Biloxi - Ocean Springs Kickin It # for the Kids on February 21, 2026, from 3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., at Fort Maurepas-OS Bridge/Beach Front, at no cost to the City, the applicant pays the associated event costs
- g. Approve the Special Event Permit Application for the 33rd annual Spring Arts Festival from 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. March 28-29, 2026, in Downtown Ocean

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Springs; Authorize to waive special event permit fee; Authorize Street Closures: Washington Avenue (Railroad to Porter Avenue), Government Street (Washington Avenue to General Pershing), and Robinson Street (Church Ave to Cash Alley); City sponsorship; to advertise the resources of the City; there may be overtime costs to the City

- h. Authorize and waive all associated costs for Boy Scout Troop 271 to host a swearing-in ceremony at the Civic Center on January 3, 2026, for 4 young men who have earned the rank of Eagle Scout; to advertise the resources of the city

**City Clerk:**

- i. Approve Minutes: Work Session November 20, 2025
- j. Approve Minutes: Special Call Meeting November 24, 2025
- k. Approve payment for Academic Tech Inc invoice for Boardroom Hearing Assistance and authorize budget adjustment for prior year expense paid in the current year

Alderman Pfeiffer requested clarification on this item. The Finance Director/City Clerk explained that the invoice had just been received and that payment would be charged to the prior fiscal year's budget to ensure proper accounting. A motion was made by Alderman Pfeiffer, seconded by Alderman Stennis, and unanimously carried to approve payment of the Academic Tech, Inc. invoice for the Boardroom Hearing Assistance system and to authorize a budget adjustment to account for a prior-year expense paid in the current year.

**Police Department:**

- l. Accept OSPD Monthly Report for November 2025
- m. **ADDED:** Authorize the Police Chief to execute a Memorandum of Understanding between the Ocean Springs Police Department and the Ocean Springs School District Police Department regarding shared access to the PTS CAD and RMS software system

**Fire Department:**

- n. Accept OSFD Monthly Report for November 2025
- o. Authorize to declare all Interspiro SCBA air packs, associated face masks, and parts as surplus, no use to the City, remove from City assets inventory, and send to the City's online auction

**Human Resources/Risk Management:**

- p. Authorize rehire of Ronnie Ryan, Animal Control Officer, effective December 17, 2025; \$16.00 hourly rate; one year probationary status, pending successful completion of all pre-employment requirements

**Building Department:**

- q. Approve the Building Official's recommendations for the tree applications

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received through December 10, 2025

Alderman Stennis asked for clarification regarding the tree removal request at 285 Holcomb Boulevard, stating that the insurance report noted the tree was overhanging the roofline but did not specifically require removal. The Building Official responded that the majority of the tree is leaning over the garage roof. Alderman Pfeiffer requested that pruning be considered before removal. Alderman Blackman expressed concern that the homeowner's insurance coverage could be canceled if the tree is not removed.

A motion was made by Alderman Blackman to approve the Building Official's recommendation for the tree applications received through December 10, 2025. The motion failed for lack of a second.

A motion was then made by Alderman Hinton and seconded by Alderman Stennis to allow the Building Official to seek clarification from Rural Insurance Agency in D'Iberville regarding whether the tree in question may be trimmed rather than removed. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Alderman Stennis, Alderman Wade, Alderman Pfeiffer, Alderman Messenger,  
Alderman Hinton  
Nay: Alderman Blackman  
Absent: Alderman Tillis

- r. Accept the Building Department Permit Report for November 2025
- s. Accept Code Enforcement Report through December 16, 2025

Alderman Stennis asked about the property located at 1209 Lola Road, stating that she had been contacted by a neighbor regarding several alleged violations, including the presence of a dumpster on the property and the operation of a business in a residential zone. The Building Official responded that staff is aware of the property; however, it was not included in the current report.

A motion was made by Alderman Stennis, seconded by Alderman Wade, and unanimously carried to accept the Code Enforcement Report through December 16, 2025.

**Parks & Recreation Department:**

- t. Approve the attached facility use agreements for Mississippi Gulf Coast YMCA use of Freedom Field for Kickball, T-Ball, and Soccer January 2026 - May 2026

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

- a. City Clerk: Approve payment: Docket of Claims, all expenditures are appropriate and authorized by law, and spread the summary on the Minutes **ADDED:** Additional invoices for 12/16/2025 Docket of Claims

A motion was made by Alderman Wade, seconded by Alderman Hinton, and unanimously carried to approve the Docket of Claims, finding that all expenditures are

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appropriate and authorized by law, and to spread the summary on the minutes.

- b. City Clerk: Authorize the adjustment of water/sewer accounts due to a finding that the customers did not receive the benefit of the utility and the excess usage was due to unforeseen circumstances**

A motion was made by Alderman Pfeiffer, seconded by Alderman Stennis, and unanimously carried to adjust the water/sewer accounts listed, with the finding that the customers did not receive the benefit of the utility and excess usage was due to unforeseen circumstances.

- c. Fire: Request for Approval – Junior Fire Hounds Fire Safety Camp**

Chief Fitch requested approval to establish a new community outreach initiative for the Fire Department known as the Junior Fire Hounds Fire Safety Camp. He stated that approval of the program would allow the Fire Department to seek donations and community support to assist with program materials and activities and that the Fire Department would work in coordination with the Police Department during the camp. He explained that although the initial costs are high, the program would be funded through donated proceeds. He stated that participation would be limited to 20 children per week, with the camp operating four days per week, serving children ages 7–9 during Week 1 and 10–12 during Week 2.

A motion was made by Alderman Blackman, seconded by Alderman Messenger, and unanimously carried to authorize the establishment of the Junior Fire Hounds Fire Safety Camp as a new community outreach program of the Ocean Springs Fire Department.

- d. Fire: New Fire Smart Dashboard System**

Chief Fitch requested approval to implement a new Smart Dashboard System for the Ocean Springs Fire Department through First Arriving. The system will consist of display monitors installed at each fire station to provide real-time operational and situational awareness information. The Smart Dashboard System will broadcast critical information including emergency call details, maps to incident scenes, Google Street View images of response locations, weather conditions and alerts, scheduling information, and other operational data needed to support emergency response and internal communication. According to the attached order form dated December 2, 2025, the cost includes a one-time setup fee of \$995.00 and an annual subscription totaling \$3,096.00, for a combined first-year cost of \$4,091.00. The subscription renews annually and includes hardware, software licensing, ongoing support, and system updates. All costs associated with this system have been budgeted within the Fire Department's existing budget.

A motion was made by Alderman Blackman, seconded by Alderman Pfeiffer, and unanimously carried to authorize the Mayor to execute an agreement with First Arriving for the Fire Department Smart Dashboard System, including a one-time setup fee of \$995.00 and an annual subscription cost of \$3,096.00, for a total first-year cost of \$4,091.00, as budgeted.

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**GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

James Lewis thanked the Ocean Springs Police Department and Ocean Springs Fire Department for their professionalism and assistance during a recent emergency call involving the passing of his brother-in-law.

Dan Mobley reminded the public of the New Year's Eve ball drop event and thanked the Board for approving the event as part of the consent agenda.

**MAYOR AND ALDERMEN'S FORUM**

Alderman Stennis requested an update on the paving of Rayburn Avenue. The Public Works Director stated that the work is expected to be completed by the middle of the following week. She then asked about Russell Avenue, and the Public Works Director responded that bids are currently out and work is expected to begin at the start of the year. Alderman Stennis also requested that the Historic Renaissance Survey completed earlier this year be provided to the Historic Preservation Committee so the committee may begin making recommendations.

Alderman Wade asked about repairs to the entryway sidewalk at the Upper Elementary School. The Public Works Director stated that the repair is scheduled to occur during the Christmas break.

Alderman Pfeiffer requested copies of the drainage, water, and sewer studies previously discussed. She also requested that the revised Chamber MOU be placed on the January agenda and asked about Covington Environmental testing of the Leica property. The Mayor responded that testing is underway. He added that the Chamber MOU has been reviewed and stated his opinion that the City should follow the practice of other municipalities and not enter into a formal agreement. Alderman Pfeiffer disagreed, stating that an agreement should be in place to clearly account for event costs and identify which events are covered by City funding.

Alderman Blackman stated that the existing drainage, water, and sewer studies date from 2008, 2017, and 2018, but could serve as a baseline for a new citywide infrastructure study. He requested that, at the beginning of the year, the City begin selecting a consultant to perform the study in phases. He also stated that the Heron Bayou Pedestrian Bridge deck boards need repair and that material pricing has been obtained so the repairs can proceed.

Alderman Messenger stated that she believes an infrastructure study supports her previously proposed development moratorium. She also stated that she is excited about the Junior Fire Hounds Summer Camp.

A motion was made by Alderman Hinton, seconded by Alderman Blackman, and

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unanimously carried to authorize the Mayor to execute an agreement with the Cornerstone Group to utilize their parking lot for crane setup associated with the New Year's Eve ball drop event, contingent upon approval by the Cornerstone Group.

Alderman Hinton asked about the process for adding streetlights. The Mayor explained that the process requires identification of the pole number, the applicable power company, and an estimate for installation and any increase to the power bill, which must be approved by the Board.

The Mayor read an end-of-year statement wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

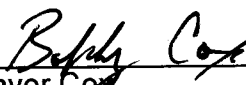
**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

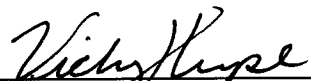
None.

**ADJOURN UNTIL 6:00 P.M. on JANUARY 6, 2026**

A motion was made by Alderman Pfeiffer, seconded by Alderman Hinton, and unanimously carried to adjourn.

The meeting ended at 6:56 p.m.

  
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Mayor Cox

  
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City Clerk Christine Millard  
Deputy City Clerk Vicky Hupe

