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Special Meeting of The Board of Mayor & Aldermen
Thursday, September 07, 2023
6:00 pm.

The Board of Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Waveland, Mississippi, met in Special Session at the Waveland City Hall Boardroom, 301 Coleman Avenue, Waveland, MS. on Thursday, September 07, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. to take action on the following matters of City business.

ROLL CALL

Mayor Trapani noted for the record the presence of Aldermen Gamble, Richardson (via telephone), and Lafontaine along with City Clerk, Lisa Planchard and City Attorney, Ronnie Artigues. Alderman Clark was absent from the meeting.

BOARD BUSINESS

- a) Public Hearing for Fiscal Year 2024 Budget and Proposed Tax Levy (**Exhibit A**)

MAYOR'S COMMENTS:

The Mayor said that we're here this evening for the Public Hearing portion of the meeting, which is what this whole night is about. We have a draft budget for you; last night we had a workshop where the Aldermen questioned items on the budget. He said that tonight is the opportunity for the general public to ask questions so the Mayor opened the floor to questions or comments.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

1. Mr. Chadwick Carbo, 705 Birch Street, came forward and discussed the proposed millage increase and he realized it was based on assessed property value. He mentioned he is on a fixed income and realizes costs are going up. He asked the Board that if they vote for this millage increase, they spend it wisely.
2. Ms. Kim Stewart, 126 Bienville Drive, a new resident came forward. She said she assumed that Waveland's leadership is making these increases as a result of need. We all have budgets and the city has a budget they must live by as well. She said that it seems that most of the revenue has to come from the citizens because there's not a whole lot of business and is as a result of Hurricane Katrina, as far as she is aware. She asked where does she go for a strategic plan to increase the revenue from commercial properties because it appears the majority is coming from the residents. She fears that if costs keep increasing, people will be priced out of living here.

Mayor Trapani said that with most municipalities, the majority of revenue comes from ad valorem taxes. We do have a good bit of revenue we get from Wal-Mart. He also mentioned that we get tax revenue from online internet sales and actually revenues in the court/police department have decreased from the 'Defund the police' movement; the young policemen are hesitant to stop anyone. The mayor explained we are working on a strategic plan and we'll be having a project workshop probably in early October to discuss those. We have some projects on hold because interest rates are hindering the developers from proceeding. We're dealing with a lot of things and we're working on all of these to bring businesses to Waveland; the interest rate has slowed all the proposed developments down. He said, "We're working hard to bring businesses here." Alderman Lafontaine read the budgeted revenue for ad valorem and sales tax for FY24 to Ms. Stewart and noted that we do rely heavily on those two sources of revenue. Ms. Stewart thanked the Board for the opportunity to speak. Alderman Lafontaine said that the biggest expense item with the budget is the insurance increases, which is up as much as 55% for health alone. Mayor Trapani added that we had a 45% increase in property insurance last year and another 15% this year, along with the statewide retirement program match went up 2%. Alderman Gamble said that building insurance over the past 2 years has increased 118% over a 2-year period, which represents over a \$200,000 increase in 2 years. She added that on

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the health insurance for the employees, it's another \$208,000 increase this year. That's over \$400,000 in just those 2 items in 2 years, and with the 3.60 proposed mills increase, we're only talking about raising \$302,000. This Board is new, but over the past 7 years, the Board had not gone up on the millage at all. Alderman Lafontaine said the City has absorbed the increases in costs each year for seven years, but just can't absorb any more; then it comes down to services vs. taxes. He said he did get with City Clerk Planchard and the salary amount for the Aldermen is not \$77,000 indicated on the proposed budget, but is actually \$72,800, which will be corrected.

ADJOURN

Re: Adjourn the meeting at 6:18 p.m.

Alderman Lafontaine moved, seconded by Alderman Gamble to adjourn this meeting at 6:18 p.m.

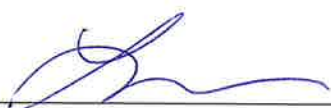
A vote was called for with the following results:

Voting Yea: Gamble, Richardson, and Lafontaine

Voting Nay: None

Absent: Clark

The foregoing minutes were presented to Mayor Trapani on October 4, 2023.



Lisa Planchard,
City Clerk

The Minutes of September 7, 2023 have been read and approved by me on this day the 4th day of October, 2023



Jay Trapani,
Mayor