



City of Gulfport, Mississippi

Minutes City Council

2309 15th Street
Gulfport, MS 39501

Friday, September 25, 2020

4:00 PM

*Gulfport City Hall
Council Chambers*

4:00 P.M.

The Mayor and Members of Council met at City Hall at 4:00 P.M., on the above date, same being an adjourned meeting from a Regular Meeting on September 22, 2020 at 1:30 P.M.

Present: Mayor Billy Hewes, CAO Dr. John Kelly, General Counsel Hugh Keating, Clerk of Council Brittany Rodgers, **Councilmembers:** Kenneth Casey, Ron Roland, Ella Holmes-Hines (teleconference), Rusty Walker, Myles Sharp (teleconference), R.Lee Flowers (teleconference), and Cara Pucheu.

The President announced a quorum and called the meeting to order.

Declaration of Special Call Meeting

Motion to Declare a Special Call Meeting and to have the meeting notice thereof appended as Exhibit "A" to these minutes, Moved By Cara Pucheu, **Seconded by** Kenneth Casey

Vote: Motion Carried By Unanimous Roll Call Vote

Aye: Kenneth Casey, Ron Roland, Ella Holmes-Hines, Rusty Walker, Myles Sharp, R.Lee Flowers, Cara Pucheu

Policy Issues

- 1 Acceptance of Perpetual Maintenance - Gulfport Highlands Subdivision public improvements, release of Warranty Bond, and transfer of streetlight account to the City of Gulfport, and authorizing the release of the combined \$213,208.20 in Bonds - Case # 1706PC064 - Ward 6.

Motion to Accept Perpetual Maintenance, Moved By R.Lee Flowers, **Seconded by** Cara Pucheu

Vote: Motion Carried By Unanimous Roll Call Vote

Aye: Kenneth Casey, Ron Roland, Ella Holmes-Hines, Rusty Walker, Myles Sharp, R.Lee Flowers, Cara Pucheu

Attachment(s):

[Gulfport Highlands Development Phase 2; Warranty Inspection 14SEPT2020](#)
[GH Bond 2 - Seashore](#)
[Bond Extension](#)
[GH Bond](#)

- 2 Resolution - adopting the Budget for the City of Gulfport Fiscal Year 2021, and for related purposes.

Motion to Approve CTA (\$226,000) and Harrison County Library System (\$404,000), Moved By Cara Pucheu, **Seconded by** Kenneth Casey

Vote: Motion Carried By Unanimous Roll Call Vote

Aye: Kenneth Casey, Ron Roland, Ella Holmes-Hines, Rusty Walker, Myles Sharp, R.Lee Flowers, Cara Pucheu

Motion to Approve balance of Contribution List, Moved By Cara Pucheu, **Seconded by** Kenneth Casey

Vote: Motion Carried By Unanimous Roll Call Vote

Aye: Kenneth Casey, Ron Roland, Rusty Walker, Myles Sharp, R.Lee Flowers, Cara Pucheu

Nay: Ella Holmes-Hines

Amend Motion to balance at \$0, Moved By Ella Holmes-Hines

Motion failed for lack of a second.

Council President Walker stated an amended General Fund Budget (see Exhibit "B"), plus a 4.5% across the board base increase effective November 1st, not to include elected officials.

Motion to Approve General Fund Budget as restated, Moved By Cara Pucheu, **Seconded by** Kenneth Casey

Vote: Motion Carried By Unanimous Roll Call Vote

Aye: Kenneth Casey, Ron Roland, Rusty Walker, Myles Sharp, Cara Pucheu

Nay: Ella Holmes-Hines, R.Lee Flowers

Motion to Approve balance budget as presented by the Mayor, Moved By Cara Pucheu, **Seconded by** Ron Roland

Vote: Motion Carried By Unanimous Roll Call Vote

Aye: Kenneth Casey, Ron Roland, Rusty Walker, Myles Sharp, R.Lee Flowers, Cara Pucheu

Nay: Ella Holmes-Hines

Attachment(s):

[FY21 Final Draft – Annual Budget](#)
[Budget Summary 2021](#)
[Resolution - adopting budget FYE 2021- Signed](#)
[Exhibit "A" - Contribution List](#)
[Exhibit "B" - amended General Fund Budget](#)
[Exhibit "C" - FY21 Final Draft to be Adopted - Annual Budget](#)

Executive Session

Upon the advice of General Counsel, Motion to Enter Closed Session to make a preliminary determination of the necessity for Executive Session at 5:23 P.M., Moved By Cara Pucheu, **Seconded by** Kenneth Casey

Vote: Motion Carried By Unanimous Roll Call Vote

Aye: Kenneth Casey, Ron Roland, Ella Holmes-Hines, Rusty Walker, Myles Sharp, R.Lee Flowers, Cara Pucheu

The Council entered Closed Session at 5:24 P.M. In attendance: Councilmembers: Kenneth Casey, Ron Roland (in at 5:25 P.M.), Ella Holmes-Hines (teleconference), Rusty Walker, Myles Sharp (teleconference), R.Lee Flowers (teleconference), and Cara Pucheu, Mayor Billy Hewes, CAO Dr. John Kelly, General Counsel Hugh Keating, City Attorney Jeff Bruni and Clerk of Council Brittany Rodgers.

Motion to Exit Closed Session at 5:26 P.M., Moved By Cara Pucheu, **Seconded by** Myles Sharp

Vote: Motion Carried By Unanimous Roll Call Vote

Aye: Kenneth Casey, Ron Roland, Ella Holmes-Hines, Rusty Walker, Myles Sharp, R.Lee Flowers, Cara Pucheu

No official action was taken during Closed Session.

Upon hearing from General Counsel regarding the nature of the request for Executive Session, Motion to Enter Executive Session at 5:26 P.M. for (1) strategy discussion involving active/ongoing litigation against the City and its employees filed by Lashun Rew, Moved By Cara Pucheu, **Seconded by** Kenneth Casey

Vote: Motion Carried By Unanimous Roll Call Vote

Aye: Kenneth Casey, Ron Roland, Ella Holmes-Hines, Rusty Walker, Myles Sharp, R.Lee Flowers, Cara Pucheu

The Council entered Executive Session at 5:27 P.M. In attendance: Councilmembers: Kenneth Casey, Ron Roland, Ella Holmes-Hines (teleconference), Rusty Walker, Myles Sharp (teleconference), R.Lee Flowers (teleconference), and Cara Pucheu, Mayor Billy Hewes, CAO Dr. John Kelly, General Counsel Hugh Keating, City Attorney Jeff Bruni and Clerk of Council Brittany Rodgers.

Motion to Exit Executive Session at 5:32 P.M., Moved By Kenneth Casey, Seconded by Rusty Walker

Vote: Motion Carried By Unanimous Roll Call Vote

Aye: Kenneth Casey, Ron Roland, Ella Holmes-Hines, Rusty Walker, Myles Sharp, R.Lee Flowers, Cara Pucheu

No official action was taken during Executive Session.

Upon reconvening in an open meeting, the following actions were taken:

Motion to retain the services of William E. Whitfield, III, Esq. and the law firm of Copeland, Cook, Taylor & Bush, P.A. to serve as counsel for and to represent the interests of the employees in their individual capacities remaining at this point as defendants in the pending lawsuit filed against them by Lashun Rew in the United States District Court (No. 19-000010) at hourly rates not to exceed \$165.00 for partners, \$145.00 for associates, and \$80.00 for paralegals, Moved By Kenneth Casey, Seconded by Rusty Walker

Vote: Motion Carried By Unanimous Roll Call Vote

Aye: Kenneth Casey, Ron Roland, Ella Holmes-Hines, Rusty Walker, Myles Sharp, R.Lee Flowers, Cara Pucheu

Setting of Next Meeting and Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Council at this time, Motion to Adjourn until October 6, 2020 at 1:30 P.M. for a Regular Council Meeting, Moved By Kenneth Casey, Seconded by Cara Pucheu

Vote: Motion Carried By Unanimous Roll Call Vote

Aye: Kenneth Casey, Ron Roland, Ella Holmes-Hines, Rusty Walker, Myles Sharp, R.Lee Flowers, Cara Pucheu

City Clerk

Mayor



City of Gulfport, Mississippi

Agenda City Council

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Executive Session

Setting of Next Meeting and Adjournment

Exhibit "A"