

**WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

**MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 21, 2023**

**BOARD MEETING**

Tuesday, February 21, 2023 at 9:00 A.M., the Board of Supervisors of Washington County, Mississippi, met pursuant to recess, there being all members present, except Supervisor Tommy Benson and Supervisor Jerry Redmond. The meeting was called to order by President Carl McGee. The opening prayer was by Supervisor Carl McGee. All present said the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, and the meeting was officially opened by the Deputy Sheriff.

\*\*\*\*\*

**IN RE: ORDER TO CONSIDER AND ACCEPT AGENDA WITH ADDITIONS FOR FEBRUARY 21, 2023 MOTION BY SUPERVISOR GORDON, SECONDED BY SUPERVISOR BROOKS, THE VOTE: AYE-MCGEE, GORDON, BROOKS, ABSENT-BENSON, REDMOND (1)**

*Added: Samuel Odle, Resolution for 2% tax, Greenville Youth Soccer Association, ARPA Park Improvements donation, Sportsplex*

*APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING*

**IN RE: ORDER APPROVING MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 6, 2023 MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AND DIRECTING THE PRESIDENT TO SIGN SAME. MOTION BY SUPERVISOR GORDON, SECONDED BY SUPERVISOR BROOKS, THE VOTE: AYE-MCGEE, GORDON, ABSTAIN-BROOKS, ABSENT-BENSON, REDMOND (2)**

**IN RE: ORDER AUTHORIZING THE PRESIDENT AND CLERK OF THE BOARD TO SIGN EIGHTH AMENDMENT TO LEASE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ALLIANCE OF WASHINGTON COUNTY, WASHINGTON COUNTY AND MARS FOOD US, LLC MOTION BY SUPERVISOR GORDON, SECONDED BY SUPERVISOR BROOKS, THE VOTE: AYE-MCGEE, GORDON, BROOKS, ABSENT-BENSON, REDMOND (3)**

*BEVERLY COURTNEY*

**IN RE: ORDER ALLOWING USE OF THE WASHINGTON COUNTY CONVENTION CENTER BY WASHINGTON COUNTY OPPORTUNITIES HEADSTART, INC. MARCH 3, 2023-PARENT APPRECIATIONS, MAY 5, 2023-STAFF APPRECIATIONS, MAY 8-11, 2023-CLASS DAYS, AT NO FEE MOTION BY SUPERVISOR BROOKS, SECONDED BY SUPERVISOR GORDON, THE VOTE: AYE-MCGEE, GORDON, BROOKS, ABSENT-BENSON, REDMOND (4)**

*BE IT KNOWN: ROY MAY, EQUIPMENT SALESMAN APPEARED BEFORE THE BOARD TO INFORM THEM OF EQUIPMENT AVAILABILITY AND PURCHASE OPTIONS.*

**IN RE: ORDER POSTPONING ACTION REGARDING THE REQUEST OF REV. ROOSEVELT JOHNSON FOR EXEMPTION UNTIL NEXT BOARD MEETING, MARCH 6, 2023 MOTION BY SUPERVISOR BROOKS, SECONDED BY SUPERVISOR GORDON, THE VOTE: AYE-MCGEE, GORDON, BROOKS, ABSENT-BENSON, REDMOND (5)**

**IN RE: ORDER AUTHORIZING PRESIDENT AND CLERK OF THE BOARD TO SIGN RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE MISSISSIPPI LEGISLATURE TO ENACT LEGISLATION ENABLING WASHINGTON COUNTY TO LEVY A TWO (2) PERCENT TAX ON THE GROSS PROCEEDS OF SALES ON HOTEL AND MOTEL RENTALS AND EXTEND THE REPEALER DATE OF A CERTAIN LOCAL AND PRIVATE LEGISLATION CREATED UNDER HOUSE BILL NO. 1459 PASSED BY THE MISSISSIPPI LEGISLATURE DURING THE 2011 REGULAR SESSION AND EXTENDED UNDER SUBSEQUENT LEGISLATIVE ENACTMENTS MOTION BY SUPERVISOR GORDON, SECONDED BY SUPERVISOR BROOKS, THE VOTE: AYE-MCGEE, GORDON, BROOKS, ABSENT-BENSON, REDMOND (6)**

**IN RE: ORDER RESCINDING JANUARY 3, 2023 ORDER (#10) VOIDING 2020 TAX SALE OF 2019 TAXES FOR PROPERTY ASSESSED TO NICKEY CONWAY, 113 GREGORY DRIVE, PARCEL#17539200680, PPIN#7896 AND AUTHORIZE REFUND TO PURCHASER MUNICIPAL POINT CAPITAL, LP MOTION BY SUPERVISOR BROOKS, SECONDED BY SUPERVISOR GORDON, THE VOTE: AYE-MCGEE, GORDON, BROOKS, ABSENT-BENSON, REDMOND (7)**

*BE IT KNOWN: ATTORNEY WILLIE GRIFFIN INFORMED THE BOARD THAT IN ORDER TO DONATE ARPA FUNDS FOR THE PARK IMPROVEMENTS, THE MUNICIPALITIES WILL NEED TO SEND LETTER TO THE BOARD*

*BE IT KNOWN: SUPERVISOR MALA BROOKS INFORMED THE BOARD THAT THE GREENVILLE YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION WOULD LIKE TO CONTINUE USE OF THE SPORTSPLEX FIELD*

*JEREMY SMITH, BUILDING AND GROUNDS DIRECTOR- MULTIPLEX BATHROOMS AND SIGNAGE, SPEEDWAY ADVERTISING*

**IN RE: ORDER ADDING THE RACE TRACK LEASE ADVERTISEMENT TO THE AGENDA MOTION BY SUPERVISOR GORDON, SECONDED BY SUPERVISOR BROOKS, THE VOTE: AYE-MCGEE, GORDON, BROOKS, ABSENT-BENSON, REDMOND (8)**

**IN RE: ORDER AUTHORIZING NOTICE TO BIDDERS FOR THE RACE TRACK LEASE MOTION BY SUPERVISOR GORDON, SECONDED BY SUPERVISOR BROOKS, THE VOTE: AYE-MCGEE, GORDON, BROOKS, ABSENT-BENSON, REDMOND (9)**

**IN RE: ORDER ACCEPTING COMMISSIONS AND FEES FROM TAX COLLECTOR, PATRICIA LEE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$8,049,537.08 FOR JANUARY 2023 MOTION BY SUPERVISOR GORDON, SECONDED BY SUPERVISOR BROOKS, THE VOTE: AYE-MCGEE, GORDON, BROOKS, ABSENT-BENSON, REDMOND (10)**

*ANDREW SMITH, ARPA CONSULTANT*

**IN RE: ORDER AUTHORIZING ANDREW SMITH, ASSIST THE WASHINGTON COUNTY DRUG COURT WITH THEIR APPLICATION FOR THE SAHA GRANT TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE MOTION BY SUPERVISOR BROOKS, SECONDED BY SUPERVISOR GORDON, THE VOTE: MCGEE, GORDON, BROOKS, ABSENT-BENSON, REDMOND (11)**

**IN RE: ORDER AUTHORIZING REVISION/UPDATE OF RESOLUTION TO APPLY FOR THE MISSISSIPPI MUNICIPAL AND COUNTY WATER INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT PROGRAM WITH THE MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY IDENTIFYING AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVES AND AUTHORIZING THE PRESIDENT AND CLERK OF THE BOARD TO SIGN SAME *MOTION BY SUPERVISOR BROOKS, SECONDED BY SUPERVISOR GORDON, THE VOTE: AYE-MCGEE, GORDON, BROOKS, ABSENT-BENSON, REDMOND (12)***

**IN RE: ORDER AUTHORIZING THE PRESIDENT AND CLERK OF THE BOARD TO SIGN CONTRACT WITH MISSISSIPPI HOME CORPORATION COMMITTING \$200,000 OF ARPA FUNDS FOR THE DOWNPAYMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AND STIPULATING \$2,500 PER HOMEBUYER *MOTION BY SUPERVISOR BROOKS, SECONDED BY SUPERVISOR GORDON, THE VOTE: AYE-MCGEE, GORDON, BROOKS, ABSENT-BENSON, REDMOND (13)***

**IN RE: ORDER AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO TRANSFER PAYMENT TO METCALFE AND LELAND, UPON RECEIPT OF CONTRACT DOCUMENTS FOR THE MDEQ MUNICIPALITIES AND COUNTY WATER INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS *MOTION BY SUPERVISOR BROOKS, SECONDED BY SUPERVISOR GORDON, THE VOTE: AYE-MCGEE, GORDON, BROOKS, ABSENT-BENSON, REDMOND (14)***

BE IT KNOWN: GINGER CHAFFINCH, CEO, YMCA DISCUSSED THE YMCA TAKING OVER THE SPORTSPLEX. THE MOTION DIED DUE TO LACK OF SECOND. THE BOARD WILL CONSIDER GIVING THE YMCA \$170,000 FOR OPERATING COST.

BE IT KNOWN: JAY KNIGHT EXPRESSED CONCERNS ABOUT THE YMCA AND IS IN SUPPORT OF THE COUNTY AND THE YMCA PARTNERING

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR, CHELESA CARTER PRESENTED HER BI-WEEKLY REPORT

**IN RE: ORDER ALLOWING CLAIMS 230126-230260 IN AMOUNT OF \$794,888.94 *MOTION BY SUPERVISOR GORDON, SECONDED BY SUPERVISOR BROOKS, THE VOTE: AYE-MCGEE, GORDON, BROOKS, ABSENT-BENSON, REDMOND (15)***

**IN RE: ORDER AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF INVOICES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$4,275.00 TO LAMAR COMPANIES (6); \$799.00-BELZONI BANNERS; \$2,300.00-DELTA PRESS PUBLISHING; \$2,396.00-ENTERPRISE-TOCSIN; \$3,376.20-DELTA DEMOCRAT TIMES; \$1,008.00-DELTA RADIO NETWORK(2); \$1,150.00-BOLIVAR BULLETT; \$2,425.00-IMAGICOMM GREENWOOD; \$2,268.00-THE QUITMAN COUNTYDEMOCRAT, LLC; \$2,518.00-TATE RECORD; \$4,387.40-THE GREENWOOD COMMONWEALTH FOR ADVERTISING FOR THE DELTA THRIVE PROJECT REIMBURSED THROUGH THE DELTA HEALTH LITERACY GRANT *MOTION BY SUPERVISOR GORDON, SECONDED BY SUPERVISOR BROOKS, THE VOTE: AYE-MCGEE, GORDON, BROOKS, ABSENT-BENSON, REDMOND (16)***

**IN RE: ORDER AUTHORIZING PAYMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,179.00 TO MOUNT ZION BAPTIST CHURCH FOR BEING SITE HOST AND PROVIDING FOOD FOR AN EVENT HELD FOR THE DELTA THRIVE PROJECT REIMBURSED THROUGH THE DELTA HEALTH LITERACY GRANT *MOTION BY SUPERVISOR GORDON, SECONDED BY SUPERVISOR BROOKS, THE VOTE: AYE-MCGEE, GORDON, BROOKS, ABSENT-BENSON, REDMOND (17)***

**IN RE: ORDER AUTHORIZING PAYMENT TO MS VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,335.41 FOR EVALUATION SERVICES FOR THE DELTA THRIVE PROJECT REIMBURSED THROUGH THE DELTA HEALTH LITERACY GRANT *MOTION BY SUPERVISOR GORDON, SECONDED BY SUPERVISOR BROOKS, THE VOTE: AYE-MCGEE, GORDON, BROOKS, ABSENT-BENSON, REDMOND (18)***

**IN RE: ORDER AUTHORIZING PAYMENT TO SHAMOON ADVERTISING IN THE AMOUNT OF \$3,422.38 FOR 1,000 CUSTOMIZED PENS, 3,000 BANADAGE HOLDERS AND 1,000 ¾ FULL COLOR LANYARDS FOR THE DELTA THRIVE PROJECT REIMBURSED THROUGH THE DELTA HEALTH LITERACY GRANT *MOTION BY SUPERVISOR GORDON, SECONDED BY SUPERVISOR BROOKS, THE VOTE: AYE-MCGEE, GORDON, BROOKS, ABSENT-BENSON, REDMOND (19)***

**IN RE: ORDER AUTHORIZING PAYMENT TO BOSE PUBLIC AFFAIRS GROUP IN THE AMOUNT OF \$20,000 FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES RENDERED FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY 2023 FOR DELTA HEALTH SYSTEM *MOTION BY SUPERVISOR GORDON, SECONDED BY SUPERVISOR BROOKS, THE VOTE: AYE-MCGEE, GORDON, BROOKS, ABSENT-BENSON, REDMOND (20)***

**IN RE: ORDER AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF INVOICE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$56,925.00 TO MILLS & MILLS ARCHITECTS, PC FOR PROJECT DESIGN FEES DONE FOR THE CHAMBERS MIDDLE SCHOOL PROJECT TO BE DEDUCTED FROM THE ALLOCATION OF \$1 MILLION FOR DISTRICT 2 *MOTION BY SUPERVISOR GORDON, SECONDED BY SUPERVISOR BROOKS, THE VOTE: AYE-MCGEE, GORDON, BROOKS, ABSENT-BENSON, REDMOND (21)***

**IN RE: ORDER AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF INVOICE FROM A SURE SIGN IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,134.00 FOR REFLECTIVE DECALS FOR THE WASHINGTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT *MOTION BY SUPERVISOR GORDON, SECONDED BY SUPERVISOR BROOKS, THE VOTE: AYE-MCGEE, GORDON, BROOKS, ABSENT-BENSON, REDMOND (22)***

**IN RE: ORDER RATIFYING AGREEMENT WITH THE MS STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO PLACE A KIOSK AT THE WASHINGTON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT TO DISPENSE COVID TEST *MOTION BY SUPERVISOR GORDON, SECONDED BY SUPERVISOR BROOKS, THE VOTE: AYE-MCGEE, GORDON, BROOKS, ABSENT-BENSON, REDMOND (23)***

**IN RE: ORDER REAPPOINTING SAMUEL PATTERSON AND SKEET SANDERS TO THE GREENVILLE PORT COMMISSION FOR A FOUR (4) YEAR TERM BEGINNING APRIL 2023 *MOTION BY SUPERVISOR BROOKS, SECONDED BY SUPERVISOR GORDON, THE VOTE: AYE-MCGEE, GORDON, BROOKS, ABSENT-BENSON, REDMOND (24)***

**IN RE: ORDER ACCEPTING SCOPE OF CHANGE FOR BUDGET REVISION FOR THE DELTA THRIVE GRANT APPLICATION TO ALLOW FOR THE PURCHASE OF MOBILE UNIT, HIRING OF AN OUTREACH COORDINATOR AND ADMINISTRATIVE FEES FOR COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR AS PRESENTED BY STEPHANIE PATTON *MOTION BY SUPERVISOR BROOKS, SECONDED BY SUPERVISOR GORDON, THE VOTE: AYE-MCGEE, GORDON, BROOKS, ABSENT-BENSON, REDMOND (25)***

*CLERK OF THE BOARD PRESENTED HER BIWEEKLY REPORT*

**IN RE: ORDER AUTHORIZING COPYING CERTAIN DOCUMENTS INTO THE MINUTES OF THE WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS *MOTION BY SUPERVISOR GORDON, SECONDED BY SUPERVISOR BROOKS, THE VOTE: AYE-MCGEE, GORDON, BROOKS, ABSENT-BENSON, REDMOND (26)***

**IN RE: ORDER ACCEPTING COUNTY OFFICIALS REPORTS *MOTION BY SUPERVISOR GORDON, SECONDED BY SUPERVISOR BROOKS, THE VOTE: AYE-MCGEE, GORDON, BROOKS, ABSENT-BENSON, REDMOND (27)***

*BE IT KNOWN: SAMUEL ODLE OF BOSE PUBLIC AFFAIRS GROUP PRESENTED THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AN UPDATE ON THE DELTA HEALTH SYSTEM. HE REPORTED THAT THE HOSPITAL IS DOING GOOD AND ARE GENERATING A CASH FLOW. HE ALSO STATED THAT STAFF IS BEING SELECTIVELY ADDED MAINLY IN THE IT AND FINANCE.*

*SHERIFF MILTON GASTON, WASHINGTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT REQUESTING APPROVAL FOR THE PURCHASE OF VEHICLES AND THE NEED FOR AT LEAST FORTY (40) HANDHELD RADIOS*

**IN RE: ORDER APPROVING THE REQUEST OF SHERIFF MILTON GASTON TO PURCHASE FIVE (5) VEHICLES FOR THE WASHINGTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT UNDER STATE CONTRACT *MOTION BY SUPERVISOR GORDON, SECONDED BY SUPERVISOR BROOKS, THE VOTE: AYE-MCGEE, GORDON, BROOKS, ABSENT-BENSON, REDMOND (28)***

*BE IT KNOWN: SUPERVISOR MALA BROOKS QUESTIONED THE STATUS OF THE INMATE CLEANUP. THE SHERIFF HAS COMMUNICATED WITH THE COMMISSIONER AND WAITING ON THE COMMISSIONER TO GET BACK WITH HIM.*

*CHIEF DEPUTY BILLY BARBER*

**IN RE: ORDER AUTHORIZING THE WASHINGTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT TO APPLY FOR AN OCCUPANT PROTECTION GRANT *MOTION BY SUPERVISOR BROOKS, SECONDED BY SUPERVISOR GORDON, THE VOTE: AYE-MCGEE, GORDON, BROOKS, ABSENT-BENSON, REDMOND (29)***

**IN RE: ORDER AUTHORIZING THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD TO CONTACT TWIN COUNTY ELECTRIC REGARDING LIGHTING INSTALLATION ON STOKES-KING ROAD LEADING TO THE WASHINGTON COUNTY REGIONAL CORRECTIONAL FACILITY *MOTION BY SUPERVISOR GORDON, SECONDED BY SUPERVISOR BROOKS THE VOTE: AYE-MCGEE, GORDON, BROOKS, ABSENT-BENSON, REDMOND (30)***

**IN RE: ORDER ALLOWING TRAVEL FOR TWO (2) DEPUTIES TO ATTEND GRANT WRITING CLASS IN HINDS COUNTY MARCH 23-24, 2023 AT ESTIMATED COST OF \$465.00 MOTION BY SUPERVISOR GORDON, SECONDED BY SUPERVISOR BROOKS THE VOTE: AYE-MCGEE, GORDON, BROOKS, ABSENT-BENSON, REDMOND (31)**

SUPERVISOR LEE GORDON WANTS EMPLOYEES AT THE ROAD DEPARTMENT TO BE TRAINED ON THE OPERATION OF THE CRANE. BOARD ATTORNEY RECOMMENDS THAT THE TRAINER BE PLACED ON CONTRACT.

SUPERVISOR CARL MCGEE DISCUSSED TWO (2) SUNKEN VESSELS ON THE GREENVILLE LAKEFRONT

**IN RE: ORDER APPROVING FUNDING FOR REMOVAL OF TWO (2) SUNKEN VESSELS ON THE GREENVILLE LAKEFRONT MOTION BY SUPERVISOR BROOKS, SECONDED BY SUPERVISOR GORDON, THE VOTE: AYE-MCGEE, GORDON, BROOKS, ABSENT-BENSON, REDMOND. (32)**

BE IT KNOWN: ANNUAL ROAD INSPECTION POSTPONED UNTIL MARCH 20, 2023

**IN RE: ORDER GOING INTO CLOSED DETERMINATION TO CONSIDER GOING INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION. MOTION BY SUPERVISOR BROOKS, SECONDED BY SUPERVISOR GORDON, THE VOTE: AYE-MCGEE, GORDON, BROOKS, ABSENT-BENSON, REDMOND (33)**

**IN RE: ORDER TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS A PERSONNEL MATTER MOTION BY SUPERVISOR BROOKS, SECONDED BY SUPERVISOR GORDON, THE VOTE: AYE-MCGEE, GORDON, BROOKS, ABSENT-BENSON, REDMOND (34)**

**IN RE: ORDER TO LEAVE EXECUTIVE SESSION, WITH NO ACTION TAKEN. MOTION BY SUPERVISOR GORDON, SECONDED BY SUPERVISOR BROOKS, THE VOTE: AYE-MCGEE, GORDON, BROOKS, ABSENT-BENSON, REDMOND (35)**

BE IT KNOWN: CONCERNS REGARDING CAMPAIGNING IN COUNTY OFFICES WAS DISCUSSED. TAX ASSESSOR, MARK SEARD HAS CAMPAIGN SIGNS UP IN HIS OFFICE. BOARD ATTORNEY STATES THAT WITHIN 45 DAYS OF AN ELECTION, NO ONE IS SUPPOSED TO CAMPAIGN NEAR A VOTING PRECINCT. SUPERVISOR MALA BROOKS STATED THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO CAMPAIGNING AT THE COURTHOUSE. BOARD ATTORNEY WILL READ THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINION ON CAMPAIGNING IN OFFICES AND THE BOARD PRESIDENT WILL SEND THE INFORMATION TO THE ELECTED OFFICIALS.

**IN RE: ORDER TO ADJOURN UNTIL NEXT MEETING, MARCH 6, 2023 AT 9:00 A.M. MOTION BY SUPERVISOR GORDON, SECONDED BY SUPERVISOR BROOKS, THE VOTE: AYE-MCGEE, GORDON, BROOKS, ABSENT-BENSON, REDMOND (36)**

CARL MCGEE, PRESIDENT

ATTEST:  
MARILYN HANSELL, CLERK