

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
HELD TUESDAY, JANUARY 8, 2008**

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This is a regular called meeting of the Board of Mayor and Selectmen of the City of West Point, Mississippi, held the 8<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2008, at 5:30 p.m. at the City Hall, 204 Commerce Street, West Point, Mississippi. Those members present were Mayor Scott Ross, Selectman Keith McBrayer, Selectman Marion “Bubba” Wilkerson, Selectman James Watson, Selectman John Cummings, and Selectman Linda Hannah.

Mayor Ross called the meeting to order. City Attorney, Orlando Richmond began the meeting with prayer, followed by the pledge of allegiance, which was led by City Clerk, Randy Jones.

Selectman James Watson made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2008, Regular Meeting of the Board of Mayor and Selectmen. The motion received a second by Selectman John Cummings.

Motion carried.

Selectman Keith McBrayer made a motion to approve the December 2007 claims docket, and that the persons or firms be paid in the amount set forth. The motion received a second from Selectman John Cummings.

Motion carried. The claims having been examined and found correct are hereby approved, and it is directed that warrants be issued in payment thereof.

The Mayor opened the floor for any individual wishing to publicly address the Board. Those doing so were:

Charles Wyatt requested the Board consider a City wide smoking ban. Mayor Ross acknowledged the request and told Mr. Wyatt there would have to be a recommendation from any selectman and solicited comments from the other board members. No action was taken at this time.

Lakiesha Bradshaw addressed the Board, and asked for forgiveness of her electric bill because of issues she identified with the billing. George Hinnant of the West Point Water & Light Department explained the total billing and late fees could not be written off for legal reasons, but that an equitable resolution of the account could be made forgiving late fees and the total bill could be apportioned instead of having to pay one large lump sum. Mayor Ross

acknowledged both sides of the issue and asked the City Attorney to look into options the City has with respect to the situation and suggested we should have resolution before if not by the time the Board reconvened for their next regular meeting.

Carolyn Poston appeared before the Board to ask for more to be done with lighting in the Zuber Park area.

Joey Olson appeared before the Board and requested improvements to our existing tennis courts and adding new ones so we might have suitable facilities for various competitive and personal practice.

Mayor Ross addressed the appearances of Ms. Poston and Mr. Olson by informing the citizens that we have a comprehensive plan to make quantum improvements in the recreation department that will ultimately address both of their concerns and many others as well.

Mayor Ross then called for reports from those department heads present. Those presenting written reports were George Hinnant (Water & Light Department), Johnny Littlefield (Fire Department), Steve “Butch” Bingham (Police Department), Mike St. Louis (Building Department), City Attorney Orlando Richmond, and Randy Jones (Deputy Chief Administrative Officer/City Clerk).

There being no questions or comments to the department head reports, Mayor Ross proceeded with items of new business.

Mayor Ross asked for a motion to authorize the legal advertisement for architectural services for the renovation of the Fisher Marine building, which was donated to the City by American Sportsman Holdings, in anticipation of being leased to two or more commercial prospects.

Selectman Marion Wilkerson made motion to authorize the advertisement. Selectman James Watson made second to the motion.

Motion carried.

Mayor Ross asked for a motion to authorize the legal advertisement for consulting engineering services for the 2008 Airport Improvement Plan (AIP) for McCharen Field.

Selectman Keith McBrayer made motion to approve the legal advertisement for consulting engineer services for the 2008 AIP. Selectman Marion Wilkerson seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

Mayor Ross then opened the floor for conduct of the public hearing for the request from Cleveland Sunshine Properties for a major conditional use of residential property located at 919 East Main Street. Both parties (requestor and opponents) previously agreed in writing to forego any further verbal presentation of their positions and have the Board of Mayor and Selectmen use previous official court recorder presentations from the public hearing conducted by the City of West Point Planning Commission as precursory information in rendering their vote for each of the seven standards of review outlined in Section 5.4.7 of the City of West Point Development Code Subdivision Regulations Zoning Ordinance.

Mayor Ross then closed the public hearing from additional comments and asked for the vote by each Selectman for each Standard of Review.

The Board of Mayor and Selectmen Board voted as follows:

| <u>Standard #</u> | <u>Hannah</u> | <u>Wilkerson</u> | <u>Watson</u> | <u>Cummings</u> | <u>McBrayer</u> | <u>*Ross</u> |
|-------------------|---------------|------------------|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------|
| 1.                | NO            | Abstain          | YES           | YES             | YES             | *            |
| 2.                | NO            | Abstain          | YES           | NO              | NO              | *            |
| 3.                | YES           | Abstain          | YES           | NO              | NO              | NO           |
| 4.                | YES           | Abstain          | YES           | YES             | YES             | *            |
| 5.                | YES           | Abstain          | YES           | YES             | YES             | *            |
| 6.                | YES           | Abstain          | YES           | YES             | YES             | *            |
| 7.                | NO            | Abstain          | NO            | YES             | YES             | YES*         |

\* Mayor Ross votes in the event of tie-break.

The major conditional use request was denied for lack of collective majority vote for all standards, specifically standards #3. and #7.

Mayor Ross then announced that all parties mutually agreed to postpone the next item of new business, to advertise for public hearing for the request to rezone “residential” property located on South Eshman Avenue to “commercial” until the next regular meeting of the Board of Mayor and Selectmen.

Mayor Ross then asked for a motion to allow re-negotiation of the easement to B. Byran Farms approved in the December 2007 regular meeting since the property donated by American Sportsman Holdings could offer more mutually beneficial arrangements.

Selectman Marion Wilkerson made motion to allow the re-negotiation. Selectman James Watson seconded the motion

Motion carried.

Selectman Keith McBrayer made a motion to appoint Keith Holton to the Planning Commission. Selectman Marion Wilkerson seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

Selectman Marion Wilkerson made a motion to support the Martin Luther King Day with a \$325.00 donation. Selectman Linda Hannah seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

Selectman Linda Hannah made a motion to appoint Selectman Marion Wilkerson to serve on the WPCCCGA Board. Selectman Keith McBrayer seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

Selectman James Watson made motion to close the meeting to determine the need for an executive session. Selectman Linda Hannah seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

Selectman Marion Wilkerson made a motion to remain in executive session. Selectman James Watson seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

Motion was made by Selectman Marion Wilkerson to come out of executive session. Selectman John Cummings seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

Report of activities and decision from executive session determined not for public dissemination due to nature of on-going litigation protected by attorney client privilege.

After determining there was no need for further business, Mayor Ross asked for a motion to stand in recess.

Selectman James Watson made motion to stand in recess.

Selectman Marion Wilkerson seconded the motion.

Motion Carried

(SEAL)

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H. Scott Ross, Mayor

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Randolph W. Jones, City Clerk