

BE IT REMEMBERED that an Emergency Special Meeting of the City Council of Jackson, Mississippi, was called by a majority of the City Council Members and notices having been placed by the Clerk of Council at 10:25 a.m. on Monday, January 10, 2022 in the Clerk's Office, electronic notifications to all Council Members, on the City's website and on the public bulletin board in City Hall, relative to: (1) Resolution of the City of Jackson, Mississippi, in support of legislative initiative that gave governing authorities of a municipality and/or public water and sewer utilities owned by a governmental entity the authority to enact rate structures and customer affordability programs to assist low income customers and to generally allow for the adjustment, release, or extinguishing of indebtedness from a customer's water and sewer and sanitation bill under certain circumstances and to extend sunset of that initiative for 24 months. (2) Resolution of the City Council of the City of Jackson, Mississippi, in support of a proposed request for funding for preparation of Thalia Mara Hall for USA IBC 2023 and for continued renovation of the Russell C. Davis Planetarium. (3) Resolution of the City of Jackson, Mississippi, in support of a proposed legislative request for funding for multi-purpose turf fields for VA Legion Field and Sykes Park. (4) Resolution of the City of Jackson, Mississippi, in support of proposed legislation that would give governing authorities of a municipality the authority to establish a land bank for the purpose of acquiring, managing, maintaining and facilitating the redevelopment of underutilized, vacant, blighted, and tax-delinquent properties. (5) Resolution of the City of Jackson, Mississippi, in support of a request for funds for the Jackson Police Department and Jackson Fire Department to increase public safety. (6) Resolution of the City of Jackson, MS requesting \$4 million for erosion repair and control of White Oak Creek from Old Canton Road to Adkins Blvd. The meeting was convened in the Council Chambers located at 219 S. President Street at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 11, 2022 being the second Tuesday of said month, when and where the following things were had and done to wit:

Present: Council Members: Virgi Lindsay, Council President, Ward 7; Ashby Foote, Ward 1; Angelique Lee, Council Vice President, Ward 2; Brian C. Grizzell, Ward 4 (via teleconference); Vernon Hartley, Ward 5; Aaron Banks, Ward 6. Directors: Chokwe Antar Lumumba, Mayor; Dr. Safiya Omari, Chief of Staff; Shanekia Mosley-Jordan, Clerk of Council, Constance White, Chief Deputy Clerk of the Council; and Catoria Martin, City Attorney.

Absent: Kenneth I. Stokes, Ward 3.

The meeting was called to order by **President Virgi Lindsay**.

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI, IN SUPPORT OF LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVE THAT GAVE GOVERNING AUTHORITIES OF A MUNICIPALITY AND/OR PUBLIC WATER AND SEWER UTILITIES OWNED BY A GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY THE AUTHORITY TO ENACT RATE STRUCTURES AND CUSTOMER AFFORDABILITY PROGRAMS TO ASSIST LOW-INCOME CUSTOMERS AND TO GENERALLY ALLOW FOR THE ADJUSTMENT, RELEASE, OR EXTINGUISHING OF INDEBTEDNESS FROM A CUSTOMER'S WATER AND SEWER AND SANITATION BILL UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES AND TO EXTEND SUNSET OF THAT INITIATIVE FOR 24 MONTHS.

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council of the City of Jackson, Mississippi (Governing Authorities) have met to consider support for certain proposed legislation during the 2022 Mississippi Legislative Session; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and the City Council resolve to support certain legislation deemed worthy by the City of Jackson; and

WHEREAS, the City of Jackson is currently under a Consent Decree with the United States of America and Mississippi for its sewer system that will require it to make substantial replacement and repair of components in the sewer system to greatly reduce, if not eliminate, sanitary sewer overflows; and

WHEREAS, the City is currently under an Emergency Consent Order with the U.S.E.P.A. and a Bilateral Consent Agreement with the Mississippi State Department of Health for its drinking water treatment system that will require it to make substantial improvements and repairs to components at its water treatment plants, well system, and water distribution system; and

WHEREAS, the work required under these agreements will require the City to increase its water and sewer rates in the coming years, thereby increasing the burden on low income customers, particularly low income customers who make up the lowest 20% of incomes; and

WHEREAS, based on the City's experience, particularly during the COVID-19 Pandemic, when low-income customers receive water bills, they are unable to pay in total, they are likely to make little to no payment on their water bills; and

WHEREAS, when low-income customers fail to pay their water bills, the funds the City needs to operate and maintain the water and sewer systems and to meet its legal obligations under its permits and various orders is further reduced; and

WHEREAS, this situation will lead to a self-perpetuating spiral of ever-increasing water and sewer rates as the City attempts to recover this loss in funding through those customers who are capable of paying, resulting in those customers paying rates higher than would be necessary, if the City were able to collect affordable payments for water and sewer services from its low income customers; and

WHEREAS, in order for these low-income customers to continue to be able to afford potable water, which is vital to public health and safety, the City will need the authority to craft rate structures and customer assistance programs that will result in rates of approximately 4% of household income, which is the affordability standard recognized by the U.S.E.P.A.; and

WHEREAS, there are also instances where the City needs the authority to address issues that arise for all customers; and

WHEREAS, there are instances of error on the part of the publicly owned water and sewer utilities, such as equipment failure or process failure, which may cause an increase in the customer's indebtedness; and

WHEREAS, also there are instances where the customer is faced with unforeseen damage, extreme weather-related events or mandatory evacuations, which may cause an increase in their lack of ability to pay; and

WHEREAS, legislation was passed in the 2021 legislative session giving the governing authorities of a municipality and/or public water and sewer utility owned by a governmental entity the authority to enact rate structures and customer affordability programs to assist low-income customers and to generally allow for the adjustment, release, or extinguishing of indebtedness from a customer's water and sewer bill under certain circumstances with a one-year sunset date; and

WHEREAS, the City is requesting that sanitation fees be included in the adjustment, release, or extinguishing of indebtedness under certain circumstances in the 2022 legislative session; and

WHEREAS, the City developed and successfully implemented a program according to the statute and due to the sheer volume of requests for adjustments is requesting an extension of the sunset for an additional 24 months.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council for the City of Jackson, Mississippi supports proposed legislative initiatives to be considered during the 2022 Session of the Mississippi Legislature that would give governing authorities of a municipality, and water and sewer utilities owned by a governmental entity the authority to enact rate structures and customer affordability programs to assist low-income customers.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council for the City of Jackson, Mississippi supports proposed legislative initiatives to be considered during the 2021 Session of the Mississippi Legislature that will give governing authorities of a municipality, and water and sewer utilities owned by a governmental entity the authority to adjust, release, or extinguish indebtedness from a customer's water and sewer and sanitation bills under certain circumstances, in particular those described above.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Clerk is directed to provide a certified copy of this Resolution to each committee of the Mississippi Legislature to which such proposed legislation has been assigned, as well as a copy to each member of the Hinds County delegation.

Vice President Lee moved adoption; **Council Member Banks** seconded.

Yeas – Banks, Foote, Grizzell, Hartley, Lee and Lindsay.

Nays – None.

Absent – Stokes.

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI, IN SUPPORT OF A PROPOSED REQUEST FOR FUNDING FOR PREPARATION OF THALIA MARA HALL FOR USA IBC 2023 AND FOR CONTINUED RENOVATION OF THE RUSSELL C. DAVIS PLANETARIUM.

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council of the City of Jackson, Mississippi (Governing Authorities) have met to consider support for certain proposed legislation during the 2022 Mississippi Legislative Session; and

WHEREAS, the City Council resolves to support certain legislation deemed worthy by the City of Jackson; and

WHEREAS, the City of Jackson seeks to continue providing a sustainable quality of life, a vibrant tourist atmosphere, and authentic cultural experiences for its citizens; and;

WHEREAS, the City is a central place for visual arts, economic growth, entertainment, and family fun; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Authorities of the City of Jackson seek to improve the City's ability to foster a more vibrant, enjoyable, and inviting environment for industry groups and to improve the entertainment scene for citizens and tourists; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Human and Cultural Services has created a JXN 200 Project for renovation and upgrades to two downtown Jackson signature locations, which include the Russell C. Davis Planetarium and Thalia Mara Hall, Phase II; and

WHEREAS, these locations provide an entry into the world of astronomy, reading, ballet, and orchestras; and

WHEREAS, the City of Jackson is pleased to provide its citizens and visitors an atmosphere filled with education and entertainment through a variety of locally, nationally, and internationally known events; and

WHEREAS, as we look to prepare for the triumphant return of the USA IBC to Thalia Mara Hall in June 2023, we are looking to make some strategic investments in the facility to improve the visitor experience and quality of stage equipment within our 50+ year old landmark; and

WHEREAS, we are excited to move forward with continued renovations of the Russell C. Davis planetarium as a part of the City of Jackson's bicentennial celebration; and

WHEREAS, the City of Jackson has made many improvements, however, further renovations and upgrades are needed for improvements to the above stated facilities; and

WHEREAS, the facilities are not only important to the City of Jackson, but to the State of Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, the City is requesting Eight Million Dollars (\$8,000,000.00) in support of preparation of Thalia Mara Hall for the USA IBC 2023 and for continued renovation of the Russell C. Davis Planetarium for its JXN 200 Project.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Jackson, Mississippi supports the proposed request for Eight Million (\$8,000,000.00) in funding in support of its efforts to renovate and upgrade the facilities delineated herein.

IT IS FINALLY RESOLVED that the Municipal Clerk is directed to provide a certified copy of this Resolution to each committee of the Mississippi Legislature to which such proposed legislation has been assigned, as well as a copy to each member of the Hinds County delegation.

Vice President Lee moved adoption; **President Lindsay** seconded.

Yeas – Banks, Foote, Grizzell, Hartley, Lee and Lindsay.

Nays – None.

Absent – Stokes.

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI, IN SUPPORT OF A PROPOSED LEGISLATIVE REQUEST FOR FUNDING FOR MULTI-PURPOSE TURF FIELDS FOR VA LEGION FIELD AND SYKES PARK.

WHEREAS, the Mayor and the City Council of the City of Jackson, Mississippi ("City of Jackson"), have met to consider support for certain proposed legislation during the 2022 Mississippi Legislative Session; and

WHEREAS, the City Council resolves to support certain legislation deemed worthy by the City of Jackson; and

WHEREAS, the City of Jackson seeks to continue providing a sustainable and thriving quality of life for its citizens, while enhancing tourism attractions; and

WHEREAS, the City of Jackson is a central place for tourism, economic growth, and leisure activities; thus, generating a great desire to keep those environments lively and well maintained; and

WHEREAS, the City of Jackson provides recreational and sports activities for youth at its multiple parks which have played a pivotal role in youth and community engagement for many years; and

WHEREAS, through the aging of these fields and normal wear and tear; and

WHEREAS, the governing authorities for the City of Jackson believe that these fields are great assets to Jackson, and provide sports and youth development activities that contribute to the quality of life and public safety of our communities; and

WHEREAS, the City is requesting Two Million Dollars (\$2,000,000.00) for proposed improvements to the VA Legion Field and Sykes Park; and

WHEREAS, the governing authorities of the City of Jackson seek to improve the City's ability to foster more vibrant communities, and remedy the maintenance issues as it pertains to certain municipal property.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council for the City of Jackson, Mississippi supports proposed legislative initiatives to be considered during the 2022 Regular Session of the Mississippi Legislature that request funds in the amount of Two Million Dollars (\$2,000,000.00) to install multi-purpose turf fields at the VA Legion Field and Sykes Park, which will foster a more vibrant recreational experience for City of Jackson youth.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Clerk is directed to provide a certified copy of this Resolution to each committee of the Mississippi Legislature to which such proposed legislation has been assigned, as well as a copy to each member of the Hinds County delegation.

Vice President Lee moved adoption; **Council Member Banks** seconded.

Yeas – Banks, Foote, Grizzell, Hartley, Lee and Lindsay.

Nays – None.

Absent – Stokes.

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI, IN SUPPORT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION THAT WOULD GIVE GOVERNING AUTHORITIES OF A MUNICIPALITY THE AUTHORITY TO ESTABLISH A LAND BANK FOR THE PURPOSE OF ACQUIRING, MANAGING, MAINTAINING AND FACILITATING THE REDEVELOPMENT OF UNDERUTILIZED, VACANT, BLIGHTED, AND TAX-DELINQUENT PROPERTIES.

WHEREAS, the Mayor and the City Council of the City of Jackson, Mississippi (Governing Authorities), have met to consider support for certain proposed legislation during the 2022 Mississippi Legislative Session; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Authorities support certain legislation deemed worthy by the City of Jackson; and

WHEREAS, Jackson has roughly one hundred and six (106) square miles of land, with pockets of land varying in sizes, dedicated to industrial, commercial, and residential use; and

WHEREAS, many of these pockets of land contain brownfields, superfunds, vacated or abandoned industrial facilities, dilapidated, and blighted properties; and

WHEREAS, these troublesome areas have become targets for illegal dumping and breeding grounds for criminal activities; and

WHEREAS, the City of Jackson’s inability to adequately address these problems has led to some residents and businesses struggling to maintain their presence in the City or altogether leaving the City of Jackson, resulting in a loss to the City of Jackson’s tax base; and

WHEREAS, “Land Banks” are public authorities or non-profit organizations created to acquire, hold, manage, and redevelop property in order to return the properties to productive use to meet community goals such as increasing affordable housing or stabilizing property values; and

WHEREAS, Land Banks often provide marketable title to properties that were previously impossible to develop due to complicated liens and confusing ownership histories; and

WHEREAS, the governing authorities of the City of Jackson seek to improve the City’s ability to foster more vibrant communities and remedy blight by establishing a Land Bank to acquire, manage, maintain, and facilitate the redevelopment of underutilized, vacant, blighted and tax-delinquent properties.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council for the City of Jackson, Mississippi accepts the recommendation of the Legislative Committee of the City Council and supports proposed legislative initiatives to be considered during the 2021 Session of the Mississippi Legislature that will give governing authorities of a municipality the authority to establish Land Banks for the purpose of acquiring, managing, maintaining and facilitating the redevelopment of underutilized, vacant, blighted, and tax-delinquent properties.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Clerk is directed to provide a certified copy of this Resolution to each committee of the Mississippi Legislature to which such proposed legislation has been assigned, as well as a copy to each member of the Hinds County delegation.

Vice President Lee moved adoption; President Lindsay seconded.

Yeas – Banks, Foote, Grizzell, Hartley, Lee and Lindsay.

Nays – None.

Absent – Stokes.

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI, IN SUPPORT OF A REQUEST FOR FUNDS FOR THE JACKSON POLICE DEPARTMENT AND JACKSON FIRE DEPARTMENT TO INCREASE PUBLIC SAFETY.

WHEREAS, the Municipal Legislative Committee (“Legislative Committee”) of the City of Jackson, Mississippi (“City of Jackson”), has met to consider support for certain proposed legislation during the 2022 Mississippi Legislative Session; and

WHEREAS, the Legislative Committee has recommended that the City Council resolve to support certain legislation deemed worthy by the City of Jackson; and

WHEREAS, cities are charged to monitor, assess, and utilized data to ensure safety; not the invasion of privacy; and

WHEREAS, many cities utilize technology to assist understaffed police departments in their crime reduction efforts; and

WHEREAS, the City of Jackson and its governing authorities seek to enhance its policing capabilities, response time, and case solving rate by providing its police department with the most current and effective crime reduction technology; and

WHEREAS, the investment for this technology will deter crime in both residential and businesses communities within the City, as well as the metro area; and

WHEREAS, the City of Jackson and its governing authorities seek to enhance the effectiveness of its fire department and provide increased fire protection for its residents and businesses; and

WHEREAS, Fire Station #5 serves an area that is home to the State’s largest medical complex and a vibrant educational community; and

WHEREAS, Fire Station #5 is outdated and not sufficiently outfitted to house the essential equipment needed to effectively fight fires in the multiple-storied facilities it serves; and

WHEREAS, the Fire Department is also in dire need of another 100 ft. ladder truck to increase its capacity to fight fires in the City of Jackson.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council for the City of Jackson, Mississippi accepts the recommendation of the Legislative Committee and supports proposed legislative initiatives to be considered during the 2022 Session of the Mississippi Legislature requesting funds seeking to improve public safety in the City of Jackson through the purchase of crime reduction technology for the Jackson Police Department and the building of a new Fire Station #5 and acquisition of a 100 ft. ladder truck for the Jackson Fire Department.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Clerk is directed to provide a certified copy of this Resolution to each committee of the Mississippi Legislature to which such proposed legislation has been assigned, as well as a copy to each member of the Hinds County delegation.

Vice President Lee moved adoption; President Lindsay seconded.

Yeas – Banks, Foote, Grizzell, Hartley, Lee and Lindsay.

Nays – None.

Absent – Stokes.

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF JACKSON, MS REQUESTING \$4 MILLION FOR EROSION REPAIR AND CONTROL OF WHITE OAK CREEK FROM OLD CANTON ROAD TO ADKINS BLVD.

WHEREAS, City Council has met to consider this request; and

WHEREAS, drainage and flash floods have a serious impact on Jacksonians who live adjacent to fast-running creeks that drain through Jackson on the way to the Pearl River; and

WHEREAS, there is no dedicated revenue stream to meet the ongoing drainage issues that impact the quality of life across Jackson; and

WHEREAS, Public Works has limited funds to address the many streams and flooding situations that occur during the calendar year; and

WHEREAS, the continued buildout of rooftops, roads, parking lots and other hard surfaces in North Jackson, Madison and Ridgeland over the past 30 years has increased flash flood events in the White Oak Creek drainage basin; and

WHEREAS, many homes that back up to White Oak Creek have lost many trees and feet of their backyards to erosion over the past twenty yards which impacts the quality of life and property values; and

WHEREAS, the City of Jackson supports erosion and flash flood controls and abatement in the City as a way to improve and stabilize neighborhoods.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council request \$4 million in funding from the State Legislature to address the erosion and flash floods that have undermined the quality of life alongside White Oak Creek; and

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Clerk is directed to provide a certified copy of this resolution to each committee of the Mississippi Legislature to which such request has been assigned, as well as a copy to each member of the Hinds County delegation.

Council Member Foote moved adoption; **Vice President Lee** seconded.

Yeas – Banks, Foote, Grizzell, Hartley, Lee and Lindsay.

Nays – None.

Absent – Stokes.

There were no reports/announcements provided during the meeting.

There being no further business to come before the City Council, it was unanimously voted to adjourn until the Special Council Meeting at 10:00 a.m. on January 18, 2022. At 12:12 p.m., the Council stood adjourned.

PREPARED BY:

Shanika Mayberry-Borden
CLERK OF COUNCIL

APPROVED:

Charles L. ..., 4/5/22
MAYOR DATE

ATTEST:

Angela Harris
CITY CLERK