

**BOARD AGENDA**  
**June 14, 2021**  
**4:00 P.M.**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

MAYOR	CHUCK ESPY	[ ]
COMMISSIONERS:	BO PLUNK	[ ]
	KEN MURPHEY	[ ]
	WILLIE TURNER, JR.	[ ]
	EDWARD SEALS	[ ]

**DEPARTMENT HEADS AND LEGAL COUNSEL PRESENT:**

CITY CLERK CATHY CLARK	<b>Lynn Logan</b>	[ ]
POLICE CHIEF ROBBIE LINLEY		[ ]
FIRE CHIEF ROCKY NABORS		[ ]
PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR TODD JONES		[ ]
CITY ATTORNEY MELVIN MILLER		[ ]

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY MAYOR ESPY.**

**ROLL CALL**

**STAND FOR PRAYER AND THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - Jimmy Harris**

**HAVING PREVIOUSLY RECEIVED A COPY OF THE MINUTES FOR THE BOARD MEETING DATED MAY 24, 2021, JUNE 9, 2021 AND JUNE 10, 2021. THE BOARD HEREBY WAIVES THE READING AND ADOPTS THE MINUTES OF MAY 24, 2021, JUNE 9, 2021 AND JUNE 10, 2021 IN ITS PRESENT FORM;**

**Motion by Commissioner Plunk seconded by Commissioner Murphey**

**FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS:**

Department Head Comments:  
(2 minute time limit)

City Clerk -

Police -

Fire -

Public Works -

Personnel -

Grant Writer -

City Attorney -

**Commissioner's Comments:  
(5 minute time limit)**

**Ward 1 -**

**Ward 2 -**

**Ward 3 -**

**Ward 4 -**

**Mayor's Comments: -**

**COMMUNITY COMMENTS**

(Must have request to be on the agenda)  
5 minute time limit

Milton Gardner - 226 Yazoo Avenue  
-Gazebo were cleaned and mopped  
-Status of handicap ramps for Third Street and Delta Avenue

Chelesa Presley - 520 Ritchie Avenue  
Diaper Bank requesting funding from the City

Jecorry Miller - 352 Delta Avenue  
Hosting upcoming Birthplace of American Music Fest and the Juneteenth Invest Fest;  
requesting the street from Third Avenue to the Stage (Blues Alley) blocked from 12:00  
p.m. - 8 p.m.

**Motion by Commissioner Murphey seconded by Commissioner Turner to approve blocking the street from Third Avenue to the Stage (Hooker) on Saturday, June 19 from 12:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.**

Josh Britt - 1114 Maple Avenue  
Requesting to be considered for assisting the City with trimming/removing trees/stumps  
and demolition/removal of homes and foundations

George Hines - 147 Ritch  
Juneteenth celebration on his block

**Motion by Commissioner Turner seconded by Commissioner Seals to approve the Juneteenth celebration on Ritch Street**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**Go into Closed Session for discussion to determine whether to go into Executive Session**

**Motion by Commissioner Murphey seconded by Commissioner Turner**

**Return to open meeting to make the declaration of going into Executive Session**

**Motion by Commissioner Turner seconded by Commissioner Seals**

**Go into Executive Session**

**Motion by Commissioner Seals seconded by Commissioner Plunk**

**Personnel Issues - Land Acquisition**

Police Department - Resignation

**Motion by Commissioner Murphey seconded by Commissioner Turner to accept the resignation of Devail Anderson in the Clarksdale Police Department**

Police Department - Change in Status

**Motion by Commissioner Murphey seconded by Commissioner Turner to transfer Christopher Williams from full time Patrol Officer to Part-time Patrol Officer**

Fire Department - Offer Employment

**Motion by Commissioner Murphey seconded by Commissioner Turner to offer employment to Charles Jackson as Firefighter in the Clarksdale Fire Department**

**Motion by Commissioner Murphey seconded by Commissioner Turner to offer employment to Steve Gamble, Jr. as Firefighter in the Clarksdale Fire Department**

**Motion by Commissioner Murphey seconded by Commissioner Turner to offer employment to Terrance Clark as Firefighter in the Clarksdale Fire Department**

Fire Department - Resignation

**Motion by Commissioner Murphey seconded by Commissioner Turner to accept the resignation of Ronnie Williams in the Clarksdale Fire Department**

Public Works Department - Offer Employment

**Motion by Commissioner Murphey seconded by Commissioner Turner to offer employment to Xavier Cannon as Laborer in the Litter Control Department**

City Employees - Salary Increases

**Motion by Commissioner Plunk seconded by Commissioner Murphey that the Board approved salary increases for city employees in the amount of \$2,600 annually**

**Motion by Commissioner Plunk seconded by Commissioner Murphey that the Board approved salary increases for the Department Heads in the amount of \$5,000 annually**

**Motion by Commissioner Plunk seconded by Commissioner Murphey that the Board approved an increase in the contract amount for Cornerstone, Grantwriter, in the amount**

of \$5,000 annually

**Motion by Commissioner Plunk seconded by Commissioner Murphey that the Board approved an increase for the Personnel Director, Tarra Slack in the amount of \$5,000 annually**

**Motion by Commissioner Plunk seconded by Commissioner Murphey that the Board approved an Ordinance increasing the salary of the Mayor to \$122,421.92 and the Commissioners to \$46,650.00**

#### **Property Acquisition -**

**Motion by Commissioner Turner seconded by Commissioner Seals authorizing the City Clerk to issue a warrant for an easement on Pearson Street**

**Motion by Commissioner Seals seconded by Commissioner Plunk to accept the easements from Global Ag**

**Motion by Commissioner Murphey seconded by Commissioner Turner to come out of executive session**

**In open meeting the City Attorney announced the actions of the Board in Executive Session**

#### **GENERAL SESSION**

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Resolution of Memorial for John Martin Harris

**Acknowledge the Resolution of Memoriam for John Martin Harris**

Renaming a portion of Ritchie Street or Bloom Street after Commissioner Ed Seals

**Motion by Commissioner Plunk seconded by Commissioner Murphey to approve the Ordinance renaming a portion of Ritchie Street as Ed Seals Avenue**

Placement of a commemorative marker at City Hall honoring Mayor Henry Espy

**Motion by Commissioner Murphey seconded by Commissioner Turner approving a commemorative marker honoring Mayor Henry Espy**

Renaming the riverbank walk after Commissioner Grady Palmer and placing a commemorative marker

**Motion by Commissioner Turner seconded by Commissioner Seals renaming the Sunflower River walk and placing a commemorative marker after the late Commissioner Grady Palmer**

Welcome Sign - naming after Nell Smith; placed at Highway 161, Highway 6, and MLK

**Motion by Commissioner Seals seconded by Commissioner Plunk to name the Welcome**

**Sign at Highway 161, Highway 6 and MLK intersection after Nell Smith**

**Motion by Commissioner Plunk seconded by Commissioner Murphey to amend the agenda**

**Motion by Commissioner Plunk seconded by Commissioner Murphey to approve a commemorative marker for Judge Kenneth Bush on Highway 49**

Hearing: Tire Store

Stationary and business cards for City employees

**Motion by Commissioner Turner seconded by Commissioner Seals to approve the City stationary and business cards**

Voting or discussing Workshop discussion items

**Motion by Commissioner Murphey seconded by Commissioner Turner to approve the alternate proposal that would begin the board meeting at 4:00, recess until 5:30 as a trial to see if there is a public interest in attending**

**Motion by Commissioner Turner seconded by Commissioner Seals authorizing the Personnel Director to proceed with the revision of the Personnel Manual for the City of Clarksdale**

**Motion by Commissioner Turner seconded by Commissioner Seals authorizing the Mayor's Administrative Assistant to check into a software program that would keep track of complaints and requests from the public and the Commissioners electronically**

**Motion by Commissioner Seals seconded by Commissioner Plunk to return back to City Hall for department head meetings and board meetings effective Monday, June 21<sup>st</sup>**

**Motion by Commissioner Plunk seconded by Commissioner Murphey that the Board agreed to the swearing in of the Mayor and Commissioners on Monday, June 28<sup>th</sup> by Judge Coleman**

**Motion by Commissioner Murphey seconded by Commissioner Turner that the Public Works Department is instructed to follow through with all the DEQ requirements for the Municipal Landfill, to prepare a road that would lead to the back cell and to begin the process for increasing the landfill charges**

**Motion by Commissioner Plunk seconded by Commissioner Murphey that the Board of Mayor and Commissioners approve the Order that would allow the Clarksdale Public Utilities Commission to set their compensation at an amount not to exceed \$1,000**

**Motion by Commissioner Seals seconded by Commissioner Turner that the City would consider budgeting for a parking lot at the MLK Stage**

**Motion by Commissioner Turner seconded by Commissioner Seals that the Board of Mayor and Commissioners approve the Order modifying the internal bid rating system to increase the number of reliable vendors and contractors**

**Motion by Commissioner Turner seconded by Commissioner Seals that the Board of Mayor and Commissioners approve the Order authorizing advertisement to minority and women owned businesses and minority set-aside for the purchase of commodities from minority businesses**

**Motion by Commissioner Seals seconded by Commissioner Plunk that the City could consider budgeting for an upgrade to the surveillance system at City Hall**

**Motion by Commissioner Plunk seconded by Commissioner Murphey to approve the request from the Police Chief to use the National Police Officer Selection Test from Stanard and Associates for entry level written exam for Patrol Officers**

**Motion by Commissioner Turner seconded by Commissioner Seals to approve the request from the Police Chief to use the National Dispatcher Selection Test from Stanard and Associates for Dispatchers**

**Motion by Commissioner Plunk seconded by Commissioner Murphey that the City would consider budgeting a GPS tracking system for the Police Department**

**Motion by Commissioner Murphey seconded by Commissioner Turner that the City would consider budgeting for a training software program that would allow the Police Department to track and maintain their training program**

**Motion by Commissioner Turner seconded by Commissioner Seals that the City would consider budgeting for a training facility for the Fire Department and other municipalities**

**Motion by Commissioner Seals seconded by Commissioner Plunk that the Board approves additional training in the Fire Department and to consider the Academy coming to Clarksdale to train our men and other municipalities**

**Motion by Commissioner Turner seconded by Commissioner Seals that the Board approved the idea of the Police Department and the Fire Department working together to train the candidates that are preparing for the Academy**

**Motion by Commissioner Plunk seconded by Commissioner Turner that the City would consider budgeting three additional Firefighters that would provide a better service for fighting fires**

**Motion by Commissioner Turner seconded by Commissioner Seals that the City would consider budgeting one pickup truck within the Fire Department**

**Motion by Commissioner Seals seconded by Commissioner Plunk that the Board liked the idea of the Fire Chief to provide EMT training for his department**

**Motion by Commissioner Plunk seconded by Commissioner Turner that the City consider budgeting for counseling, additional printing costs, inhouse training and outside training**

**Motion by Commissioner Turner seconded by Commissioner Seals that the City consider budgeting to allow networking that would allow interfacing with other departments**

**Motion by Commissioner Plunk seconded by Commissioner Turner that the City adopt a festival protocol that would make sure that everything is in order for the festivals and that invitations go out to dignitaries inviting them to the festivals**

**Motion by Commissioner Turners seconded by Commissioner Seals that the Board agreed that anytime dignitaries are in any surrounding towns the Grant Writer and the City Clerk should attend these meetings, which would allow the City more opportunities with grants**

**Motion by Commissioner Plunk seconded by Commissioner Turner that the Board agreed that more effort needed to be provided to inform the citizens of Clarksdale about unclaimed property**

**Motion by Commissioner Turner seconded by Commissioner Seals that a protocol needed to be adopted to allow for the training of disasters such as flooding, winter storm, severe weather**

**Motion by Commissioner Plunk seconded by Commissioner Turner to provide a 1<sup>st</sup> responder training course for the Delta area**

**Motion by Commissioner Turner seconded by Commissioner Seals to amend the agenda**

**Motion by Commissioner Plunk seconded by Commissioner Turner that the Board agreed a protocol needs to be established to assist in small businesses thriving**

**Motion by Commissioner Plunk seconded by Commissioner Turner that the City would consider budgeting for manpower, equipment, contracting for a tree cutter, trackhoe and a leaf vacuum system in the Public Works Department**

Enforcing habitation standards for rental property/landlords

Before being occupied by renters property must be inspected by Public Works with the exclusion of affordable housing communities that have received federal or state housing tax credits

**Motion by Commissioner Plunk seconded by Commissioner Murphey that the Board would look at adopting a policy that would require inspection of rental property before being occupied**

For discussion to reduce the disparate impact of misdemeanor marijuana charges which would include expungements for those offenses present and past (Young adults ages 17 to 30)

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**CITY CLERK CATHY CLARK:**

Authorization for the Mayor to execute the EWP Agreement for the Elm Street Project

**Motion by Commissioner Turner seconded by Commissioner Seals authorizing the Mayor to execute the EWP Agreement for the Elm Street Project**

Permission for the Mayor to execute the Memorandum of Understanding to allow the Memphis Vet Center to use the City Auditorium

**Motion by Commissioner Seals seconded by Commissioner Plunk authorizing the Mayor to execute the Memorandum of Understanding to allow the Memphis Vet Center to use the City Auditorium**

Authorization to reimburse Incidental Expense Account in the Amount of \$2,363.43 for the month of May, 2021

**Motion by Commissioner Plunk seconded by Commissioner Turner authorizing the City Clerk to reimburse Incidental Expense Account of the month of May**

Authorization to pay May, 2021 Accounts Payable invoices in the amount of \$281,723.33 in which \$168,761.80 is General Fund

**Motion by Commissioner Turner seconded by Commissioner Seals authorizing the City Clerk to pay May Accounts Payables**

Request from Creative Children Child Care Center to block 419,423 and 427 Mississippi Avenue during the hours of 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. on July 9th

**Motion by Commissioner Seals seconded by Commissioner Plunk to approve the request of Creative Children Child Care Center to block a portion of Mississippi Avenue on July 9th**

Permission to pay the following miscellaneous claims:

Cornerstone	\$ 3,375.00
Cornerstone	\$ 2,000.00
Cornerstone	\$ 310.50
Election Poll Workers	\$ 4,555.00
Amanda Dear Moton	\$ 1,000.00
City of Clarksdale	\$ 1,858.09
MDA	\$ 1,858.09
Neel-Schaffer	\$ 5,133.81
John Deere	\$ 10,451.21
Coahoma County Road Dept	\$ 54,617.59



Thaddeus Miller	\$ 2,379.00
Tommy Williams	\$ 75.00
Cornelius Moore	\$ 109.28
Walton Construction, LLC	\$12,827.07
Chuck Espy (May)	\$ 224.00

**seconded by Commissioner Turner to approve the above miscellaneous claims and authorize the City Clerk to issue checks**

ending the emergency declaration for COVID

**seconded by Commissioner Seals approving the 28<sup>th</sup> order extending the emergency declaration and acknowledging that this would be the last one**

use the old animal shelter on Anderson Blvd

that would enter into an agreement with Butler Snow (Bond Counsel), Government Consultants, Inc. (Municipal Advisor), Crews & Associates to refinance the 2011 GO bond issue (1.6 Million Bond Issue)

**seconded by Commissioner Seals to approve the Resolution that would enter into an agreement with Butler Snow (Bond Counsel), Government Consultants, Inc. (Municipal Advisor), Crews and Associates to refinance the 2011 GO bond issue**

in July

June 28th

Resigned 02-08-2021

At Large

Ward 2

purchase her service revolver in the amount of \$1.00

**seconded by Commissioner Turner to approve the Police Chief purchasing her weapon for a \$1.00**

attend the Basic Animal Control Concepts & Investigations Class in Grenada, Mississippi on July 28<sup>th</sup>

**seconded by Commissioner Seals approving Brandon Amerson attending the Basic Animal Control Concepts & Investigations Class in Grenada, Mississippi on July 28<sup>th</sup>; said motion further authorizes the City Clerk to issue warrants for registration and meals**

re to allow for one Assistant Chief and two Deputy Chiefs

**seconded by Commissioner Plunk approving the change in the rank structure in the Police Department to allow for an Assistant Chief and two Deputy Chiefs**

er for the purpose of training supervisory personnel in identifying drug and alcohol use among employees  
**seconded by Commissioner Turner authorizing the Personnel Director to secure Cherrelle Shorter for the purpose of training supervisory personnel in identifying drug and alcohol use among employees**

**seconded by Commissioner Turner to amend the agenda**

**seconded by Commissioner Turner authorizing the Mayor to execute the U. S. Department of the Treasury Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds agreement and the Assurances of Compliance with Civil Rights Requirements**

**seconded by Commissioner Seals authorizing the Mayor to execute the Hazard Mitigation grant for the City Hall generator**

**CLERK**

**21 at 12:00 p.m. at City Hall**

**seconded by Commissioner Plunk**

**THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS NEW OR OLD TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD THIS MEETING IS RECESSED.**

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

1 - Resignation

Williams - Resignation effective June 12, 2021 and transferred to Part time

Resignation

- Charles Jackson

- Steve Gamble, Jr.

discussed

from Ronald and Joyce Bennett (Pearson) \$2,500

from Global Ag and perform any necessary consideration