

**STATE OF MISSISSIPPI  
COUNTY OF PEARL RIVER  
CITY OF POPLARVILLE**

**Special Meeting: September 1, 2021**

**DUE TO THE COVID-19 EPIDEMIC, the City, while being cognizant and ever mindful of the Open Meetings Act, restricted public access to the meeting, while streaming the meeting over Facebook in real time. ZOOM™ Online Meetings software was utilized by the Mayor and Board of Aldermen. This was done in an attempt to balance social distancing recommendations from the Mississippi Department of Health and CDC. This was also done for the preservation of the public health, safety and welfare and the prevention of the spread of infectious disease. A media representative was invited to the meeting to report the proceedings in the local newspaper.**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that, pursuant to Mississippi Code Section 21-3-21, the called a Special Meeting of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen to be held on September 1, 2021, at 1:00 p.m., in the Board Room at the Poplarville City Hall, 200 Highway 26 East, Poplarville, Mississippi 39470, for the following purpose(s):

- To discuss the situation that occurred on August 31, 2021, at/near Mississippi State Highway 53 and US Interstate 59, at which time, some individuals were rerouted away from the City of Poplarville;
- To discuss personnel matters within the Fire Department as it relates to the situation described above;
- To discuss plans going forward to prevent/mitigate any problems regarding traffic flow from New Orleans through the local area.

A copy of this Notice is attached and made a part of the official minutes of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the City of Poplarville, Mississippi, pursuant to MISS. CODE ANN. § 25-41-13. A copy of this Notice was posted at the Poplarville City Hall within one hour after the notice was signed, pursuant to MISS. CODE ANN. § 25-41-13. A copy of the Notice was posted at City Hall, the Poplarville Library, on the City's Facebook page, and on the City's website. A copy of the Notice was also emailed to the *Picayune Item/Poplarville Democrat* newspapers.

A copy of this notice was emailed to the non-signing members of the Board of Alderman, at least three hours prior to the called Special Meeting, and the method of the provision of such Notice has been noted in the official minutes of the Mayor and Board of Alderman, pursuant to MISS. CODE ANN. § 21-3-21.

BE IT REMEMBERED that the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the City of Poplarville, Pearl River County, Mississippi, met in the Board Room at City Hall at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, the 1st day of September, 2021, with the following officials present in the Board Room: Mayor Louise Smith, Alderman Daniel H. Brown, Alderman Bobby Nestle, Alderwoman Anne Gendusa Smith, Alderman Kevin L. Tillman, Sr., and Alderman Byron L. Wells. City Attorney Gregory P. Holcomb were present in the Board Room. City Clerk Jane O'Neal participated in the meeting via cell phone and ZOOM™ Online Meetings.

Fire Chief Jason Bannister and Police Chief Daniel L. Collier were present in the Board Room. No other Department Heads were required to attend.

It being determined that a quorum was present, the Mayor then declared the meeting in official session.

**SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA ADOPTED AS PRESENTED**

Upon motion of Alderwoman Anne Gendusa Smith and second by Alderman Byron L. Wells, the Board voted to adopt the Special Meeting Agenda as presented. The vote was as follows:

Those Voting Aye: Alderman Daniel H. Brown, Alderman Bobby Nestle, Alderwoman Anne Gendusa Smith, Alderman Kevin L. Tillman, Sr., Alderman Byron L. Wells  
Those Voting Nay: None  
Those Not Voting: None

Those Absent: None

So Ordered on this 1st Day of September, 2021.

**AGENDA AMENDED TO CHANGE THE ORDER OF DISCUSSION**

Upon motion of Alderman Daniel H. Brown and second by Alderwoman Anne Gendusa Smith, the Board voted to allow the order of discussion of agenda items to be amended as follows:

- To discuss plans going forward to prevent/mitigate any problems regarding traffic flow from New Orleans through the local area.
- To discuss the situation that occurred on August 31, 2021, at/near Mississippi State Highway 53 and US Interstate 59, at which time, some individuals were rerouted away from the City of Poplarville;
- To discuss personnel matters within the Fire Department as it relates to the situation described above;

The vote was as follows:

Those Voting Aye: Alderman Daniel H. Brown, Alderman Bobby Nestle, Alderwoman Anne Gendusa Smith, Alderman Kevin L. Tillman, Sr., Alderman Byron L. Wells

Those Voting Nay: None

Those Not Voting: None

Those Absent: None

So Ordered on this 1st Day of September, 2021.

Ms. Tasha Johnson, a resident of Wiggins, Mississippi, and Ms. Mona Hall Seals, a resident of Pearl River County, appeared before the Mayor and Board of Alderman to convey their own personal experience regarding the situation that occurred on August 31, 2021, at/near Mississippi State Highway 53 and US Interstate 59, at which time, some individuals were rerouted away from the City of Poplarville.

**MOTION TO ENTER CLOSED SESSION  
TO CONSIDER THE NEED FOR AN EXECUTIVE SESSION  
RE: PERSONNEL MATTERS WITHIN THE FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Upon motion of Alderman Kevin L. Tillman, Sr. and second by Alderwoman Anne Gendusa Smith, at 1:58 p.m., the Board voted to enter into Closed Session to determine if an Executive Session was needed to discuss Personnel Matters within the Fire Department. The vote was as follows:

Those Voting Aye: Alderman Daniel H. Brown, Alderman Bobby Nestle, Alderwoman Anne Gendusa Smith, Alderman Kevin L. Tillman, Sr., Alderman Byron L. Wells

Those Voting Nay: None

Those Not Voting: None

Those Absent: None

So Ordered on this 1st Day of September, 2021.

**MOTION TO ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION  
RE: PERSONNEL MATTERS WITHIN THE FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Upon motion by Alderman Daniel H. Brown and second by Alderman Kevin L. Tillman, Sr., at 2:03 p.m., the Board voted to enter into an Executive Session needed to discuss Personnel Matters within the Fire Department. The vote was as follows:

Those Voting Aye: Alderman Daniel H. Brown, Alderman Bobby Nestle, Alderwoman Anne Gendusa Smith, Alderman Kevin L. Tillman, Sr., Alderman Byron L. Wells

Those Voting Nay: None

Those Not Voting: None

Those Absent: None

So Ordered on this 1st Day of September, 2021.

**MOTION TO EXIT EXECUTIVE SESSION  
RE: PERSONNEL MATTERS WITHIN THE FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Upon motion of Alderman Bobby Nestle and second by Alderwoman Anne Gendusa Smith, at 3:00 p.m., the Board voted to exit the Executive Session needed to discuss Personnel Matters within the Fire Department. The vote was as follows:

Those Voting Aye: Alderman Daniel H. Brown, Alderman Bobby Nestle, Alderwoman Anne Gendusa Smith, Alderman Kevin L. Tillman, Sr., Alderman Byron L. Wells  
Those Voting Nay: None  
Those Not Voting: None  
Those Absent: None

So Ordered on this 1st Day of September, 2021.

No action was taken during the Executive Session. The following action(s) were taken following the Executive Session:

**RECESS**

With other business appearing before the Board today, and upon motion of Alderwoman Anne Gendusa Smith and second by Alderman Bobby Nestle, it is So Ordered that this Mayor and Board of Aldermen do now arise and recess this Special Meeting until 4:00 p.m. today, at which time the Mayor and Board of Aldermen will reconvene this Special Meeting. The vote was as follows:

Those Voting Aye: Alderman Daniel H. Brown, Alderman Bobby Nestle, Alderwoman Anne Gendusa Smith, Alderman Kevin L. Tillman, Sr., Alderman Byron L. Wells  
Those Voting Nay: None  
Those Not Voting: None  
Those Absent: None

So Ordered on this 1st Day of September, 2021.

**MOTION TO ENTER CLOSED SESSION  
TO CONSIDER THE NEED FOR AN EXECUTIVE SESSION  
RE: PERSONNEL MATTERS WITHIN THE FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Upon motion of Alderman Kevin L. Tillman, Sr. and second by Alderwoman Anne Gendusa Smith, at 4:02 p.m., the Board voted to enter into Closed Session to determine if an Executive Session was needed to discuss Personnel Matters within the Fire Department. The vote was as follows:

Those Voting Aye: Alderman Daniel H. Brown, Alderman Bobby Nestle, Alderwoman Anne Gendusa Smith, Alderman Kevin L. Tillman, Sr., Alderman Byron L. Wells  
Those Voting Nay: None  
Those Not Voting: None  
Those Absent: None

So Ordered on this 1st Day of September, 2021.

**MOTION TO ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION  
RE: PERSONNEL MATTERS WITHIN THE FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Upon motion by Alderman Daniel H. Brown and second by Alderman Kevin L. Tillman, Sr., at 4:03 p.m., the Board voted to enter into an Executive Session needed to discuss Personnel Matters within the Fire Department. The vote was as follows:

Those Voting Aye: Alderman Daniel H. Brown, Alderman Bobby Nestle, Alderwoman Anne Gendusa Smith, Alderman Kevin L. Tillman, Sr., Alderman Byron L. Wells  
Those Voting Nay: None  
Those Not Voting: None  
Those Absent: None

So Ordered on this 1st Day of September, 2021.

**MOTION TO EXIT EXECUTIVE SESSION  
RE: PERSONNEL MATTERS WITHIN THE FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Upon motion of Alderman Kevin L. Tillman, Sr. and second by Alderman Byron L. Wells, at 4:50 p.m., the Board voted to exit the Executive Session needed to discuss Personnel Matters within the Fire Department. The vote was as follows:

Those Voting Aye: Alderman Daniel H. Brown, Alderman Bobby Nestle, Alderwoman Anne Gendusa Smith, Alderman Kevin L. Tillman, Sr., Alderman Byron L. Wells  
Those Voting Nay: None  
Those Not Voting: None  
Those Absent: None

So Ordered on this 1st Day of September, 2021.

No action was taken during the Executive Session. The following action(s) were taken following the Executive Session:

**TERMINATION OF DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF MARK I. PALMER**

Upon motion of Alderman Kevin L. Tillman, Sr. and second by Alderman Byron L. Wells, the Board voted to terminate Deputy Fire Chief Mark I. Palmer, effective immediately.

The vote was as follows:

Those Voting Aye: Alderman Bobby Nestle, Alderman Kevin L. Tillman, Sr., Alderman Byron L. Wells  
Those Voting Nay: Alderman Daniel H. Brown, Alderwoman Anne Gendusa Smith  
Those Not Voting: None  
Those Absent: None

So Ordered on this 1st Day of September, 2021.

**ADJOURN**

With no further business appearing before the Board, and upon motion of Alderman Kevin L. Tillman, Sr. and second by Alderman Byron L. Wells, it is So Ordered that this Mayor and Board of Aldermen do now arise and adjourn this Special Meeting. The vote was as follows:

Those Voting Aye: Alderman Daniel H. Brown, Alderman Bobby Nestle, Alderwoman Anne Gendusa Smith, Alderman Kevin L. Tillman, Sr., Alderman Byron L. Wells  
Those Voting Nay: None  
Those Not Voting: None  
Those Absent: None


So Ordered on this 1st Day of September, 2021.

MINUTES APPROVED, ON THIS THE 7TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2021.

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LOUISE SMITH, MAYOR



ATTEST:

  
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JANE C. O'NEAL, CITY CLERK