

The Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the City of Hernando met in regular session at City Hall on Tuesday, August 3, 2021 at 6:00 P.M. with Mayor Chip Johnson presiding. Alderpersons present were: Alderman W.I. “Doc” Harris, Alderwoman Natalie Lynch, Alderman Andrew Miller, Alderman Bruce Robinson, Alderman Chad Wicker, Alderwoman Beth Ross and Alderman Ben Piper. Also present for the meeting were: City Clerk Pam Pyle, City Attorney Steve Pittman, City Engineer Joe Frank Lauderdale, Human Resources Director Julie Gates, Zoning Administrator Kristin Duggan, Police Chief Scott Worsham, Assistant Police Chief Shane Ellis, Fire Chief Marshal Berry, Deputy Fire Chief Sam Witt, Planning Consultant BJ Page, Sports Director Michael Carson, Parks Director Dwayne Williams, Nester Duran, Dunn McFarland, Carolyn Richards, Joe Engel, J. Darby, Susan Fernandez, Hudson Fernandez, Steve Pirtle, Jamey Pirtle, Austin Wilson, Kim Scott, Brian Doan, Kaycee McMullen, Pieter Zee, Harley Brown, Molly Coleman, Latoya James, Ashley Barnes, Darrell Dixon, Mitch Lemmon, Brandy Williams, Marquita Thurman.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Pledge of Allegiance by Jaidyn McMullen

INVOCATION

Alderman Harris gave the invocation.

AGENDA

Agenda
City of Hernando
Mayor and Board of Alderman
Regular Meeting

August 3, 2021

6:00pm

- 1) Call the meeting to order
- 2) Pledge of Allegiance by Jaidyn McMullen
- 3) Invocation
- 4) Approve Agenda
- 5) Approve Docket of Claims No.’s – 43469-43634
- 6) Approve Minutes from July 20, 2021, meeting of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen
- 7) Consent Agenda
 - a. Authorize Kristen Duggan to attend the Preservation Boot Camp, on August 26-27, 2021 in Jackson MS and authorize to pay registration and travel expenses.
 - b. Check request reimbursement form to reimburse Officer Tim Algee for fuel when cards were down.
 - c. Authorize to give Police Officer Alec Vaughn a step increase from a P2 at the rate of \$ 20.59 to P3 at the rate of \$ 22.18
 - d. Authorize Alex Moore and Thomas Vaughn to attend basic Law Enforcement Sniper School in Zachary, Louisiana October 17th -22nd and authorize to pay registration and travel expenses.
 - e. Authorize Steve Atkinson to attend Tactical Negotiator School at MS Delta Community Collage September 20th -24th and authorize to pay registration and travel expenses.

- f. Authorize Lynn Brown to attend Vaughn Lich Kennel K-9 Seminar in Peru Indiana August 8-13 and authorize travel only.
 - g. Authorize Police Officer, Kirk Thompson, to attend the refresher course August 17th through October 26th at MS Delta Community College and authorize to pay registration and travel expenses.
 - h. Request from Palmer Home to temporarily close streets (Panola) for the 2022 Mudbug Bash on April 22nd -23rd.
 - i. Request from Interfaith Council on Poverty to temporarily close streets for their 2022 5K Flock Around the Block on April 2nd.
 - j. Authorize two Park Department employees to attend the NRPA National convention on September 20-23 in Nashville, TN and authorize to pay registration and travel expenses.
- 8) Authorize HYFA to reserve the Milton Kuykendall Park track Saturday, August 7th from 7:30am – 12pm for HYFA evaluations.
- 9) Discussion of possible noise ordinance adoption.
- 10) Discussion of street repairs in St. Ives.
- 11) Request to relocate Winningham Estates Construction entrance.
- 12) Approve to hire Devin Northrip as a certified Firefighter to fill the open position.
- 13) Authorize to give Asst Public Works Director Curtis Bain a 90- day performance raise of \$2,160.00 (4%).
- 14) Order extending COVID pay to coincide Federal Government order.
- 15) Authorize a pay increase of \$0.50 per hour for Tabb Touchstone in the Public Works Department toward his transition to billing accountability supervisor.
- 16) Authorize a pay increase of \$1.00 per hour for Dalton Houser in the Public Works Department for his 90-day performance increase.
- 17) Approve Joe Frank Lauderdale, the City Engineer to advertise the bid for AWG road.
- 18) Authorize to accept the lowest and best quote for Baseball/Softball uniforms.
- 19) Authorize Mayor Johnson to sign the soccer agreement with Desoto FC.
- 20) Authorize the City of Hernando to engage Jarrell Group, PLLC to perform the 2019/2020 audit and authorize Mayor Johnson to sign an agreement.
- 21) Adjourn

Motion was duly made by Alderman Wicker and seconded by Alderman Ross to approve the Agenda and add item #21 to Terminate Joe Engel, add item #22 to Terminate Dewayne Williams, and add #23 to Adjourn on the agenda. A vote was taken with the following results:

Those voting “Aye”: Alderman Harris, Alderwoman Lynch, Alderman Robinson, Alderman Wicker, Alderwoman Ross and Alderman Piper.

Those voting “Nay”: Alderman Miller.

ORDERED AND DONE this the 3rd day of August, 2021.

APPROVE DOCKET OF CLAIMS NO.’S 43469-43634

The Board of Aldermen were presented with a docket of claims No. 43469-43634, in the amount of \$756,291.49 for approval.

Motion was duly made by Alderman Wicker and seconded by Alderman Miller to approve the docket of claims for payment as presented. A vote was taken with the following results:

Those voting "Aye": Alderwoman Lynch, Alderman Miller, Alderman Robinson, Alderman Wicker, Alderwoman Ross, Alderman Piper and Alderman Harris.

Those voting "Nay": None.

ORDERED AND DONE this the 3rd day of August, 2021.

APPROVE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN MEETING ON JULY 20, 2021

Motion was duly made by Alderman Piper and seconded by Alderman Wicker to approve the minutes from the regular Mayor and Board of Aldermen Meeting on July 20, 2021, as presented, and add to Consent Agenda 7 B, Eva Ward will be attending class as required for her Masters Class certification. A vote was taken with the following results:

Those voting "Aye": Alderman Miller, Alderman Robinson, Alderman Wicker, Alderwoman Ross, Alderman Piper, Alderman Harris, and Alderwoman Lynch.

Those voting "Nay": None.

ORDERED AND DONE this the 3rd day of August, 2021.

CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Authorize Kristen Duggan to attend the Preservation Boot Camp, on August 26-27, 2021 in Jackson MS and authorize to pay registration and travel expenses.
- b. Check request reimbursement form to reimburse Officer Tim Algee for fuel when cards were down.
- c. Authorize to give Police Officer Alec Vaughn a step increase from a P2 at the rate of \$ 20.59 to P3 at the rate of \$ 22.18
- d. Authorize Alex Moore and Thomas Vaughn to attend basic Law Enforcement Sniper School in Zachary, Louisiana October 17th -22nd and authorize to pay registration and travel expenses.
- e. Authorize Steve Atkinson to attend Tactical Negotiator School at MS Delta Community Collage September 20th -24th and authorize to pay registration and travel expenses.
- f. Authorize Lynn Brown to attend Vaughn Lich Kennel K-9 Seminar in Peru Indiana August 8-13 and authorize travel only.
- g. Authorize Police Officer, Kirk Thompson, to attend the refresher course August 17th through October 26th at MS Delta Community College and authorize to pay registration and travel expenses.
- h. Request from Palmer Home to temporarily close streets (Panola) for the 2022 Mudbug Bash on April 22nd -23rd.
- i. Request from Interfaith Council on Poverty to temporarily close streets for their 2022 5K Flock Around the Block on April 2nd.
- j. Authorize two Park Department employees to attend the NRPA National convention on September 20-23 in Nashville, TN and authorize to pay registration and travel expenses.

Motion was duly made by Alderwoman Lynch and seconded by Alderman Robinson to approve the consent agenda as presented. A vote was taken with the following results:

Those voting "Aye": Alderman Robinson, Alderwoman Ross, Alderman Piper, Alderman Harris, Alderwoman Lynch, and Alderman Miller.

Those voting "Nay": Alderman Wicker

ORDERED AND DONE this the 3rd day of August, 2021.

AUTHORIZE HYFA TO RESERVE THE MILTON KUYKENDALL PARK TRACK SATURDAY, AUGUST 7, 2021 FOR 7:30 AM-12:00 PM FOR HYFA EVALUATIONS.

Motion was duly made by Alderman Miller and seconded by Alderman Piper to authorize HYFA to reserve the Milton Kuykendall Park track Saturday, August 7th from 7:30am – 12pm for HYFA evaluations.

Those voting “Aye”: Alderman Wicker, Alderwoman Ross, Alderman Piper, Alderman Harris, Alderwoman Lynch, Alderman Miller, and Alderman Robinson.

Those voting “Nay”: None.

ORDERED AND DONE this the 3rd day of August, 2021.

DISCUSSION OF POSSIBLE NOISE ORDINANCE ADOPTION

Austin Wilson, Russ Barnes, Steve Pirtle, and Jamey Pirtle, spoke on the problem of the loud music that is performed outdoors at Uncle Bubbas. They have no problem with any of the indoor music performances, but the outside performances are extremely loud and can be heard for at least a mile. The music is being performed late into the night and disrupting the residents.

Austin Wilson and Pieter Zee stated that they enjoy live outdoor music and it is a great draw to our community. They suggested that there be a decibel boundaries and specific time limits for outdoor music in place for the future, as more businesses will likely want to come to our city.

Alderman Wicker stated that approving an ordinance would be beneficial. Alderman Harris stated they had looked at a noise ordinance in the past, but only one person had complained at that time. Alderwoman Lynch stated this is more about a specific business and needs to be a more general noise ordinance. Alderman Piper stated he has received calls and we could look at something built around a time frame. We need to consider the best way to move forward because there may be more businesses coming in the future. Alderman Miller stated that we need to look into this and suggested that Attorney Steven Pittman do some research and Alderman Harris agreed. Attorney Steven Pittman stated he will do some research and see how we move forward.

Motion was duly made by Alderman Harris and seconded by Alderwoman Wicker for Attorney Steven Pittman to look and see what other cities are doing and present his findings at the 9/7/2021 meeting.

A vote was taken with the following results:

Those voting “Aye”: Alderwoman Ross, Alderman Piper, Alderman Harris, Alderwoman Lynch, Alderman Miller, Alderman Robinson, and Alderman Wicker.

Those voting “Nay”: None.

ORDERED AND DONE this the 3rd day of August, 2021.

DISCUSSION OF STREET REPAIRS ON ST. IVES.

Brian Hill, the developer of St. Ives Subdivision, got quotes to repair the streets where construction vehicles have destroyed them. Joe Frank Lauderdale and Mayor Johnson met with Brian Hill and he committed to pay half of the lowest quote of \$36,000.00 for repairs.

Alderman Miller stated that we have more streets in the city that are worse than St. Ives, and you want to advance St. Ives on the list above streets with a bigger need? People with deep pockets are jumping ahead of needs from our report. Repair other streets first.

Joe Frank Lauderdale stated that Brian Hill wants to pay half and we are not jumping ahead. This street is on the list and has been for 14 years. Some are going to get repaired quicker with our new machine.

Alderwoman Ross stated it was unfortunate that the developer was not required to open a 2nd entrance so all construction vehicles would not destroy the street. I understand Alderman Miller’s issue to jump ahead. Even if we pay half, my concern is the other missing entrance. I

think Mr. Hill should pay for all of it, because he runs his large construction vehicles through there. I don't believe it is a long-term solution and a waste of money.

Alderman Piper asked if the developer was bonded for what he is working on and if we are talking about filling pot holes or worse? Joe Frank Lauderdale stated that he will be bonded when he presents the Plat. He also stated that it is worse than pot holes, and the big places will have to be milled.

Alderwoman Ross asked about there only being one entrance, and is there another way to get another entrance to take the traffic off of St. Ives? Joe Frank Lauderdale said that they would connect to the East side of the development and there could be another connection.

BJ Page stated to keep in mind that we are talking construction traffic. Construction traffic will be going through Jefferson and possibilities for construction gravel road would eventually go away. Carolyn Richard stated that she believes that the past Board said there would be a second entrance. BJ Page said that Section B had Board approval in the past, and will check on Section A.

Jerry Darby stated that all construction traffic is on the main avenue. He does not see a reason to waste money on repairs. He feels that with development coming on the West side that an easement or gravel road would help. It would eliminate a lot of concerns and a 2nd alternate entrance is needed.

Alderman Miller asked BJ Page to see if he can get with the developers to reconcile this problem. Mayor Johnson stated that is a good idea.

Motion was duly made by Alderman Miller and seconded by Alderman Ross to table this until a report is presented.

A vote was taken with the following results:

Those voting "Aye": Alderman Piper, Alderman Harris, Alderwoman Lynch, Alderman Miller, Alderman Robinson, Alderman Wicker, and Alderwoman Ross.

Those voting "Nay": None.

ORDERED AND DONE this the 3rd day of August, 2021.

REQUEST TO RELOCATE WINNINGHAM ESTATES CONSTRUCTION ENTRANCE

Alderwoman Lynch stated that Barksdale Drive is now a construction road. The current construction entrance has a median with a real hard turn making it difficult for construction vehicles to get in, and tearing up the curb and yards. The HOA president and residents felt like it would be best to move it to Winningham Drive which is a much wider street with no median and better access to the current phase that is going on. Gwynn Road would be a good construction entrance and not go through the neighborhood. When they ask for the next phase, we will look at that.

Mayor Johnson asked BJ Page if this board could make a road a no construction route. BJ Page stated that we would need a comprehensive truck route ordinance. My concern would be taking an action to effect only one guy. Attorney Steven Pittman said he has not looked at this, but you would be treating construction people differently.

Resident Brian Doan stated that the developer had a sign on Barksdale saying "Construction Road" when they started "B". We are asking to protect what we have now and not destroy it. Treating a developer differently is unfair and maybe we can get with them to put signs up for construction entrances and used as such. Attorney Steven Pittman asked if there is a designated construction entrance, and is it being used correctly? BJ Page stated he will look and see if they are designated. Alderman Miller said to pull the minutes and see if we approved that road. The Board will have to approve any changes. Mayor Johnson said he, BJ Page, Joe Frank Lauderdale can meet on this matter.

There was no action taken.

APPROVE TO HIRE DEVIN NORTHRIP AS A CERTIFIED FIREFIGHTER TO FILL THE OPEN POSITION.

Motion was duly made by Alderman Piper and seconded by Alderman Robinson to approve to hire Devin Northrip as a certified Firefighter to fill the open position. A vote was taken with the following results:

Those voting "Aye": Alderwoman Lynch, Alderman Miller, Alderman Robinson, Alderman Wicker, Alderwoman Ross, Alderman Piper, and Alderman Harris.

Those voting "Nay": None.

ORDERED AND DONE this the 3rd day of August, 2021.

AUTHORIZE TO GIVE ASST PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR CURTIS BAIN A 90-DAY PERFORMANCE RAISE OF \$2,160.00 (4%).

Motion was duly made by Alderman Wicker and seconded by Alderman Miller to authorize to give Asst Public Works Director Curtis Bain a 90- day performance raise of \$2,160.00 (4%). Mayor Johnson stated that this performance raise was promised through the last administration and is budgeted.

A vote was taken with the following results:

Those voting "Aye": Alderman Miller, Alderman Robinson, Alderman Wicker, Alderwoman Ross, Alderman Piper, Alderman Harris, and Alderwoman Lynch.

Those voting "Nay": None.

ORDERED AND DONE this the 3rd day of August, 2021.

ORDER EXTENDING COVID PAY TO COINCIDE WITH THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ORDER.

Mayor Johnson stated that with the COVID pay extension, and there will be federal dollars reimbursed.

Motion was duly made by Alderman Miller and seconded by Alderman Harris to extend the COVID pay order to coincide with the Federal Government order.

A vote was taken with the following results:

Those voting "Aye": Alderman Robinson, Alderman Wicker, Alderwoman Ross, Alderman Piper, Alderman Harris, Alderwoman Lynch, and Alderman Miller.

Those voting "Nay": None.

ORDERED AND DONE this the 3rd day of August, 2021.

AUTHORIZE A PAY INCREASE OF \$0.50 PER HOUR FOR TABB TOUCHSTONE IN THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT TOWARD HIS TRANSITION TO BILLING ACCOUNTABILITY SUPERVISOR.

Motion was duly made by Alderman Harris and seconded by Alderman Wicker to authorize a pay increase of \$0.50 per hour for Tabb Touchstone in the Public Works Department toward his transition to Billing Accountability Supervisor.

A vote was taken with the following results:

Those voting "Aye": Alderman Wicker, Alderwoman Ross, Alderman Piper, Alderman Harris, Alderwoman Lynch, Alderman Miller, and Alderman Robinson.

Those voting "Nay": None.

ORDERED AND DONE this the 3rd day, August 2021.

AUTHORIZE A PAY INCREASE OF \$1.00 PER HOUR FOR DALTON HOUSER IN THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT FOR HIS 90-DAY PERFORMANCE INCREASE.

Motion was duly made by Alderman Miller and seconded by Alderman Harris to authorize a pay increase of \$1.00 per hour for Dalton Houser in the Public Works Department for his 90- day performance increase.

A vote was taken with the following results:

Those voting "Aye": Alderwoman Ross, Alderman Piper, Alderman Harris, Alderwoman Lynch, Alderman Miller, Alderman Robinson, and Alderman Wicker.

Those voting "Nay": None.

ORDERED AND DONE this the 3rd day of August, 2021.

**APPROVE JOE FRANK LAUDERDALE, THE CITY ENGINEER TO ADVERTISE
THE BID FOR THE AWG ROAD.**

Mayor Johnson stated that this will be a concrete road and will be a city street.

Motion was duly made by Alderman Harris and seconded by Alderman Robinson to approve Joe Frank Lauderdale, the City Engineer to advertise the bid for AWG road.

A vote was taken with the following results:

Those voting "Aye": Alderman Piper, Alderman Harris, Alderwoman Lynch, Alderman Miller, Alderman Robinson, Alderman Wicker, and Alderwoman Ross.

Those voting "Nay": None.

ORDERED AND DONE this the 3rd day of August, 2021.

**AUTHORIZE TO ACCEPT THE LOWEST AND BEST QUOTE FOR
BASEBALL/SOFTBALL UNIFORMS.**

The lowest quote was Adstarr, but shipping is not included, and shipping costs are an unknown amount. The lowest best quote is Sports of All Sorts with no shipping charges as they are local.

Motion was duly made by Alderman Miller and seconded by Alderwoman Robinson to accept the lowest best quote from Sports of All Sorts, as Adstarr has unknown transportation costs.

A vote was taken with the following results:

Those voting "Aye": Alderman Harris, Alderwoman Lynch, Alderman Miller, Alderman Robinson, Alderman Wicker, Alderwoman Ross, and Alderman Piper.

Those voting "Nay": None.

ORDERED AND DONE this the 3rd day of August, 2021.

**AUTHORIZE MAYOR JOHNSON TO SIGN THE SOCCER AGREEMENT WITH
DESOTO FC.**

Motion was duly made by Alderman Wicker and seconded by Alderman Piper to authorize Mayor Johnson to sign the soccer agreement with Desoto FC.

A vote was taken with the following results:

Those voting "Aye": Alderwoman Lynch, Alderman Miller, Alderman Robinson, Alderman Wicker, Alderwoman Ross, Alderman Piper, and Alderman Harris.

Those voting "Nay": None.

ORDERED AND DONE this the 3rd day of August, 2021.

**AUTHORIZE THE CITY OF HERNANDO TO ENGAGE JARRELL GROUP, PLLC TO
PERFORM THE 2019/2020 AUDIT AND AUTHORIZE MAYOR JOHNSON TO SIGN
AN AGREEMENT.**

Motion to was duly made by Alderman Harris and seconded by Alderman Piper to authorize the City of Hernando to engage Jarrell Group, PLLC to perform the 2019/2020 audit at a proposed cost of \$24,500.00 and authorize Mayor Johnson to sign an agreement.

A vote was taken with the following results:

Those voting "Aye": Alderman Miller, Alderman Robinson, Alderman Wicker, Alderwoman Ross, Alderman Piper, Alderman Harris, and Alderwoman Lynch.

Those voting "Nay": None

ORDERED AND DONE this the 3rd day of August, 2021.

**APPROVE THE TERMINATION OF BUILDING DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEE JOE
ENGLE**

Alderman Miller stated that this is drastic action with no due process. I am not aware of a bad job performance. Have there been meetings on this for due process? We have 160 employees and 4 people can get together and fire folks.

Attorney Steven Pittman said he received a copy of the employee handbook. It is City Policy that anyone without a written contract can be termed at will. The City Policy in the past though has been a process of write up, 2nd write up and chain of command for employees with no contract. But, the handbook policy, despite anything said or otherwise, they can be fired at will. City Policy is very clear, and I have not been a part of any meetings. Alderman Harris stated that Mississippi is an at will state, as our policy is.

Mr. Engle stated that some don't like me, but I am a strong individual and consistent. I have inspected over 700 homes in my career. I worked for Senatobia for 8 years and it is a smaller city, about half the size of Hernando. I did planning, zoning, code enforcement, building official, inspections, and building maintenance. They felt like I was too strict or too strong and felt like I was holding the community back, so they elected to terminate me. It was their choice because I refused to quit because I am not a quitter, I feel like I'm doing my job. I was asked by Mayor Johnson if I wanted to resign, but chose to be terminated. I appeal to the Board to reconsider.

Motion was duly made by Alderman Wicker and seconded by Alderman Robinson to terminate Building Inspector Joe Engle.

A vote was taken with the following results:

Those voting "Aye": Alderman Wicker, Alderwoman Ross, Alderman Piper, Alderwoman Lynch, and Alderman Robinson

Those voting "Nay": Alderman Harris, and Alderman Miller

ORDERED AND DONE this the 3rd day of August, 2021.

APPROVE THE TERMINATION OF PARKS DIRECTOR DEWAYNE WILLIAMS

Alderman Miller stated that the Board had received notice that they would terminate both employees at the meeting tonight with no prior knowledge or prior information as an elected Official of the City of Hernando. It is totally unjustified without due process even in regard to the State law and based upon historical track record and data for the City of Hernando since the existence on employees. I feel sorry for the 160 employees that could be terminated tomorrow if they upset somebody.

Michelle McFarland:

She had worked in the Parks Department and saw it grow. DeWayne Williams has been here 15 years. If I worked here now, I would be upset if I was termed in this way. I understand at will by the State, but it also states as long as it is not an illegal reason. Mayor Johnson and DeWayne Williams can do great things together and I don't understand reason why he is being taken away.

English Professor:

Consider what you are opening up to with meetings when those get together to conspire. When people can get together to fire 2 people without anyone knowing. It could go on and on.

Tommy McFarland:

I have owned grocery stores and never fired without due process. I have never seen anything like this and it is unfair.

Marquita Thurman:

I have owned a business in Hernando and best practices are not being done here. We are still in a pandemic where jobs are a concern. It is negligent to fire someone without a performance improvement plan. I am a problem solver and can say this from a rational statement. The witch hunt that has gone into him through the years are horrible. Hernando Happenings has it all over this. You do not see the merit and work ethic of DeWayne and his amazing programs. A leader can only do what he can do with the resources that are provided to him. You think Hernando can compete with Southaven, Olive Branch and not keep our small-town feel? That is not rational. Give them time to find another job. They had no warning. You could develop resources to empower what you have. Just because you can fire at will, does not mean that is our best practice. Our best practice is behind the City of Hernando. Who asked for this to be on the Board Agenda? I want to know who and why this is done. I think both need a severance package.

Brandy Williams:

No matter hearsay on Hernando Happenings, when they say he is not doing a good job. In the same sentence they say so and so in the Parks Department is doing a good job. How do you think they are doing a good job? Because he is supervising them. After 16 years, overnight they want to terminate, and he is doing his job with little resources. Mayor Johnson did not want him gone. Mayor Johnson did you recommend? Mayor Johnson stated that he did not. We want to know who this is coming from. Something seems fishy when Alderman Miller does not know something, because he's part of you right? You're a board that works together for the city. Why did he not know? You have to give 2 weeks' notice when you leave a job, but he can leave overnight? Do we want to be that type of city? I am very disappointed. I sent a message to my Alderwoman and she never responded. That's just a shame. I am asking help save my husband's job and get him the resources he needs. Parks was not even on the map when he came. 16 years of service and we are going to make him leave overnight with no warning.

DeWayne Williams:

I appreciate those who spoke. When I started there was no Parks Program. We now have 23 programs and 10 Parks. To properly fund the department has not been done. I cannot meet the high expectations without proper resources. Most of my budget goes to repairs, spray, mulch, etc. I love this job that does not pay a lot, and I am not in it for the money. I have been in this community 46 years and serving my community. Why am I being treated differently? I know what the normal practice is. In 2017 I was to be given goals and objectives. In May 2019 I was finally given them because I asked for them. People looking me in the face and say they are going to help me. If you knew you didn't want me, all you had to do was let me now and give me a month or 2 and I could have found something else. I need a job and make money for my family. Why am I being treated differently? Treat me like a person. It's not any of your job to put the time in to help me, it is Mayor Johnson job. He is the Chief Administrator and would be the one to set goals, not you. What am I doing wrong? Why the hatred? I have done nothing to anyone. I sent Mayor Johnson a list of my accomplishments for the past 4 years. Under a hostile administration. Mayor Tom Ferguson hated me and did everything in his power to tear me down.

Alderman Wicker -Point of Order

Mayor:

DeWayne, are you gonna wrap up?

DeWayne;

Yes, I am almost done.

Why am I being treated differently and what is the reason why. I Want to continue to do my job, and why are you want to take this course of action.

Mitch Lemmon:

Is there not a form of progressive discipline in the city policy?

Mayor Johnson: We do have some processes in the handbook.

Mr. Lemmon: Why is he not given an answer as to what he did wrong? Where did this start?

Were there meetings, secret meetings? Are there Minutes? If people don't like you, they can term you? This is ridiculous. The citizens need to know why. People have rights and people just deserve an answer.

Citizen:

I am sorry to be late, but I was watching the live feed and had to come in. Hernando is better than this. The board is a wonderful team and Mayor Johnson is one of the reasons I moved here from DC. It has a great Parks Department, and I don't see where there is cause to get rid of our Parks Director. Why are they asking him to leave? I texted some people and they said some people do not like him because he won't let them manipulate the system to put their kids on certain teams or come in late. He has high moral standards. You people are good people and you are better than this.

Steven Pittman:

On the Handbook. I reviewed it and that provision is in there as an overriding provision and you do have authority to take action without cause. If you want to have progressive discipline then you can take that provision out.

Motion was duly made by Alderman Wicker to terminate DeWayne Williams, Parks Director. There was no second.

Motion dies for lack of second.

ADJOURN

There being no further business at this time a motion was duly made by Alderman Piper, seconded by Alderman Wicker to adjourn.

Motion passed with a unanimous vote of "Aye".

RESOLVED AND DONE, This 3rd day of August, 2021

MAYOR CHIP JOHNSON

ATTEST:

PAM PYLE, CITY CLERK