



MINUTES
SPECIAL CALL MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL
 Diamondhead, Mississippi
 Council Chambers, City Hall
 January 11, 2014
 10:00 a.m. CST

- I. Call to Order** – Mayor Schafer called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. CST
1. **Invocation** – Councilmember Lopez
 2. **Pledge of Allegiance** – Councilmember Rech
 3. **Roll Call** – All Councilmembers were present.
 4. **Confirmation or Adjustment of the Agenda Order** – Councilmember Lopez motioned, seconded by Councilmember LaFontaine, to accept the Agenda Order as presented. Ayes: Mayor Schafer, Lopez, LaFontaine, Knobloch, Sislow and Rech. Nay's none.

II. Presentation Agenda

1. **Public Comments on Agenda Items limited to 3 minutes per person** – NONE

III. Policy Agenda

1. **Discussion regarding State support for Diamondhead Economic Development projects**

The City Attorney was recognized to address the Council for the need to go into Executive Session to discuss the expansion of industry and business within Diamondhead.

IV. Public Comments on Non Agenda Items limited to 3 minutes per person – NONE

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Councilmember Sislow moved, seconded by Councilmember Lopez, to go into closed session to discuss the need to go into Executive Session. The motion carried unanimously to go into Closed Session at 10:08 a.m. CST.

Councilmember Rech moved, seconded by Councilmember Lopez, to go into Executive Session to discuss the expansion of industry and business within Diamondhead. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilmember Sislow moved, seconded by Councilmember Rech, to come out of Executive Session. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilmember Sislow moved, seconded by Councilmember Rech, to return to the Regular meeting. The motion carried unanimously to return to the Regular meeting at 10:50 a.m. CST.

RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION

The City Attorney announced the expansion of industry and business within Diamondhead was discussed in Executive Session and no official action was taken.

Councilmember Knobloch motioned, seconded by Councilmember LaFontaine, to allow the City Manager to hire a Consultant to help Industry and Business Expansion in Diamondhead.

Councilmember Knobloch stated Diamondhead is a small community. It would be advantageous to hire a Consultant that is familiar with the Legislature and know how it works to help with the City's Economic Development initiatives. An advocate is necessary.

Councilmember Sislow stated moving forward with hiring a Consultant to assist the City in its Economic Development efforts is a good idea. It is within budget.

Councilmember Rech stated he agrees with hiring a Consultant for the betterment of the community. Rech experienced working with the Legislature while attempting to have the Golf Cart Bill passed. It was more difficult for them because they did not know the right people and proper procedure.

Mayor Schafer stated he agreed with Councilmembers Knobloch, Sislow, Rech and LaFontaine's statements regarding hiring a Consultant.

Councilmember LaFontaine stated six months ago, he believed there were other ways to achieve the City's Economic Goal. Today, hiring a Consultant is the realistic approach for achieving this goal.

Councilmember Lopez requested the name of the frontrunner for the Consultant Position. The City Manager replied, "Levenway is the first choice at this time." Councilmember Lopez stated he is not opposed to hiring a Consultant, however, if the City engages in a contract with Levenway, then the City will harm Economic Development in this avenue and enter into cronyism.

Councilmember Knobloch stated he is in favor of hiring the "best" person for the position in this situation for the Consultant Position.

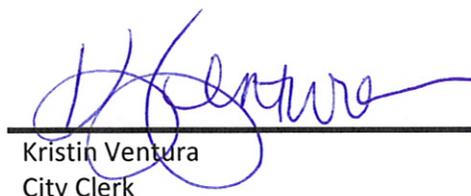
Councilmember LaFontaine stated most Consultants would not want to "touch" the City of Diamondhead due to its size. Therefore, the City is fortunate to have a Consultant that is willing to provide his/her services to the City.

Ayes: Mayor Schafer, LaFontaine, Knobloch, Sislow and Rech. Nay's: Councilmember Lopez.

- V. **Adjourn** - Councilmember Rech motioned, seconded by Councilmember Sislow, to adjourn the meeting at 10:59 a.m. CST. The motion carried.



Thomas E. Schafer, IV
Mayor



Kristin Ventura
City Clerk

