

MINUTES
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL
Diamondhead, Mississippi
Council Chambers, City Hall
April 11, 2018
6:00 pm CST

Mayor Schafer on April 6, 2018 called a Special Meeting of the City Council to be held April 11, 2018 from 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. for the purpose of conducting a workshop for discussion the 5 -year outlook as is relates to the Fire Department, Police Department, Diamondhead Water & Sewerage and Property Owner’s Association and further to discuss the impact of a municipal incorporation with and without a Resort, Gaming, Hotel, Convention development and discussion of HCR85 (2018) impact on the city.

I. Call to Order – Mayor Schafer called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. CST

1. Roll Call –

Present: Mayor Schafer, Councilmembers Depreo, Moran and Morgan; Koenenn and L’Ecuyer. Absent: None.

II. Council Workshop

Councilmember L’Ecuyer noted this series of workshops to analyze data and to come to conclusions as to what is best for the citizens. Using studies provided by other entities and forming a qualified team or committee to would help with the process. Councilmember Morgan stated that she felt it is appropriate to begin having the workshop since many of the matter would take to time to work on. Councilmember Koenenn agreeing that the numbers and statistics are vital and legal advice would be essential to the consolidation of services. He stressed the need for strong ideas with regard to each of the services and amenities provided to the citizens.

Mayor Schafer explained the workshop would be a brainstorming session and that no official action would be taken at tonight’s meeting.

City Manager Reso provided the presentation outlining the purpose of the meeting. Discussions were included as follows:

Fire Department

Options to Consider:

- 1) Maintain current stand- alone status
- 2) Consolidate with the City
- 3) Consolidate with the County

Notes:

- 1) PERS
- 2) Additional millage or fees
- 3) Fee for use

Police Department

Options to Consider:

- 1) Maintain existing Interlocal with County
- 2) Consolidate with the City

Notes:

- 1) Cost comparison
- 2) PERS
- 3) Additional departments and personnel may be needed

Water & Sewerage

Options to Consider:

- 1) Maintain current stand-alone status
- 2) Consolidate with the City
- 3) Relocate offices to City Hall for centralized services
 - o Efficiencies
 - o Cross-training
 - o Remain as two separate entities

Notes:

- 1) All revenues, expenses and fund balances would remain separate from city general fund (Enterprise Fund).

Property Owner’s Association

Options to consider:

- 1) POA remains at current status
- 2) City creates Parks & Recreation Department
- 3) Privatize amenities
- 4) Public Improvement District

Notes:

- 1) POA Impact on City
- 2) Preserve high quality amenities
- 3) Determine amenities operable by City
- 4) Open dialogue between POA, residents and city leaders
- 5) Risk of POA not being able to collect dues to maintain amenities after 2020
- 6) Fund amenities with Ad valorem and/or fees

Resort, Gaming, Hotel Entertainment & Convention Development / HCR 85

Mayor Schafer discussed points regarding the City with and without Resort, Gaming, Hotel Entertainment and Convention development. He also explained that HCR 85 (2018) was resolution.

III. Public Comments

Donald Crudeur – suggested the City hire a firm to evaluate all the matters discussed

Jerry Moreau – stated the City should have be working harder to develop a plan for assuming the amenities currently with provided by the POA

Marsha Daigle – Asked if the city had the attrition schedule for when POA dues would gradually end

Mr. Hightower- Thanked the Council for the informative meeting; asked the Council to study crime and prostitution statistics and treatment addiction associated with casinos and finally stated efforts should focus on high-tech industry to the City that would produce higher paying jobs

Ernie Knobloch – water & sewer district should move to City Hall; DWSD has list of property owner’s unlike the City; City should wait on any discussion/actions regarding the POA until after the associations elections; keep the interlocal for the police department; and final a casino was not taken into considered in the incorporation

Gordon Walker – Police Department – cost effectiveness; fire department related actions should consider any changes to the city’s current fire ratings and POA related matters should consider the current standard of amenities

Robert Redd – Fire Department is under-funded, should consider a per use fee

Councilmember L’Ecuyer suggested that studies and agenda advertisements moving forward be posted to the City’s website.

V. Adjourn.

At 7:15 p.m. CST and with no further business to come before the Council, Councilmember Depreo moved, seconded by Councilmember Morgan, to adjourn.

Ayes: Depreo, Moran, Morgan, Koenenn, L’Ecuyer and Mayor Schafer. Nays: None.
Absent: None.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Thomas E. Schafer, IV
Mayor

Jeannie Klein
City Clerk