

**MINUTES OF THE RECESS MEETING
OF THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN
The City of Starkville, Mississippi
June 18, 2024**

Be it remembered that the Mayor and Board of Alderman met in a Recess Meeting on June 18, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. in the Courtroom of City Hall, located at 110 West Main Street, Starkville, MS. Present were Mayor Lynn Spruill, Aldermen Kim Moreland, Sandra Sistrunk, Jeffrey Rupp, Hamp Beatty, Roy A'. Perkins and Henry Vaughn, Sr. as well as City Attorney Berk Huskison and City Clerk / CFO Lesa Hardin. Alderman Mike Brooks attended telephonically.

Mayor Lynn Spruill opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence.

REQUESTED REVISIONS TO THE OFFICIAL AGENDA:

Alderman Rupp asked that Board Business Item A (WWS Agreement), Engineering Item 1 (Reed Road Bridge) and Utilities Item 5 (Optical Ground Wire) be added to consent. There being no objections, Mayor D. Lynn Spruill asked for any additional revisions to the Official Agenda as presented. There being none, the Mayor called for a motion to approve the agenda with consent items as amended.

1. A MOTION TO APPROVE THE OFFICIAL AGENDA WITH CONSENT ITEMS.

Alderman Rupp offered a motion, duly seconded by Alderman Moreland, to approve the June 18, 2024 Official Agenda. The Board voted as follows:

Alderman Kim Moreland	Voted: Yea
Alderman Sandra Sistrunk	Voted: Yea
Alderman Jeffrey Rupp	Voted: Yea
Alderman Mike Brooks	Voted: Yea
Alderman Hamp Beatty	Voted: Yea
Alderman Roy A'. Perkins	Voted: Yea
Alderman Henry Vaughn, Sr.	Voted: Yea

Having received a majority affirmative vote, the Mayor declared the motion carried and then read the consented items.

**OFFICIAL AGENDA OF
THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN
OF THE CITY OF STARKVILLE, MISSISSIPPI
RECESS MEETING OF TUESDAY, JUNE 18, 2024
5:30 P.M., COURT ROOM, CITY HALL
110 WEST MAIN STREET**

- I. CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER**
- II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND A MOMENT OF SILENCE**
- III. APPROVAL OF THE OFFICIAL AGENDA INCLUDING CONSENTED ITEMS**
- IV. APPROVAL OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN MINUTES**

CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 31, 2024 WORK SESSION OF THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE CITY OF STARKVILLE.

CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 4, 2024 REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE CITY OF STARKVILLE.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMENTS

A. MAYOR’S COMMENTS:

B. BOARD OF ALDERMEN COMMENTS:

VI. CITIZEN COMMENTS

VII. PUBLIC APPEARANCE

MISSISSIPPI HORSE PARK UPDATE FROM BRICKLEE MILLER

VIII. PUBLIC HEARING

FIRST PUBLIC HEARING FOR AMENDING THE MUNICIPAL CODE AND UNIFIED DEVELOPMENT CODE

IX. MAYOR’S BUSINESS

THERE ARE NO ITEMS FOR THIS AGENDA

X. BOARD BUSINESS

A. APPROVAL OF THE ENGAGEMENT OF WATKINS, WARD & STAFFORD, PLLC FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2023 AUDIT FOR THE CITY OF STARKVILLE.

XI. DEPARTMENT BUSINESS

A. AIRPORT

THERE ARE NO ITEMS FOR THIS AGENDA

B. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING DEPARTMENT

THERE ARE NO ITEMS FOR THIS AGENDA

C. COURTS

THERE ARE NO ITEMS FOR THIS AGENDA

D. ENGINEERING

1. CONSIDERATION OF ACCEPTING THE LOW QUOTE FROM HELMS POLYFOAM, LLC IN THE AMOUNT OF \$11,050.00 TO PROVIDE BANK STABILIZATION FOR A BRIDGE LOCATED ON REED ROAD.

E. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

1. REQUEST APPROVAL OF THE CITY OF STARKVILLE CLAIMS DOCKET FOR ALL DEPARTMENTS INCLUDING STARKVILLE UTILITIES DEPARTMENT AS OF JUNE 10, 2024 FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING 9/30/24, ACKNOWLEDGING THAT THE CITY CLERK HAS ATTESTED AND CERTIFIED ON THE COVER OF THE CLAIMS DOCKET THAT ALL CLAIMS ON THE DOCKET ARE TRUE, ACCURATE, LAWFUL AND PROPER TO THE BEST OF HER KNOWLEDGE, FOR PAYMENT PURSUANT TO HER DUTIES UNDER MISS. CODE SECTIONS 21-39-5, 21-39-7, 21-39-9, 21-39-17 AND 21-15-21.

2. ACCEPTANCE OF MAY 2024 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS.

3. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION TO TRANSFER POLICE 2007 CROWN VIC VEHICLE #2FAFP71W17X132882 TO THE AIRPORT DEPARTMENT.

F. FIRE DEPARTMENT

1. REQUEST PERMISSION FOR LASHONDA R. MALONE TO ATTEND THE EMERGENCY SERVICES ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE ON SEPTEMBER 3 – 6, 2024 IN NATCHEZ, MS WITH ADVANCE TRAVEL NOT TO EXCEED \$850.00.

G. HUMAN RESOURCES

1. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION TO HIRE NALLELY VARGAS, ANGELO MIGLIORE, ASHER WADE AND SAMUEL ZAM AS POLICE OFFICERS.

2. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION TO HIRE QUINN HOLLAN AND JORDAN SLUSHER AS A NON-CERTIFIED FIREFIGHTERS IN THE STARKVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT.

3. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION TO HIRE BLAIN TENEYCK AS A TEMPORARY FULL TIME FIREFIGHTER IN THE STARKVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT.

4. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION TO HIRE JOHN RICKS AS AN WASTEWATER OPERATOR II.

H. INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

1. REQUEST APPROVAL OF PURCHASE OF A FIREWALL FROM NEXTSTEP FOR \$11,675.00, THE LOWEST QUOTE.

I. PARKS

1. CONSIDERATION OF APPROVING A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT WITH NEEL-SCHAFER, INC. FOR STORMWATER POLLUTION PREVENTION PLAN PERMITTING FOR THE MCKEE PARK IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,000.00.

J. POLICE DEPARTMENT

1. POLICE

THERE ARE NO ITEMS FOR THIS AGENDA

2. CODE ENFORCEMENT

a. CONSIDERATION OF CALLING FOR A PUBLIC HEARING UNDER MISS. CODE ANN. § 21-19-11 TO DETERMINE WHETHER THE STRUCTURES LOCATED AT 12850 MS HWY 182, STARKVILLE, MS 39759, WITH THE PARCEL NUMBER 159J-00-025.00 IS A MENACE TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY, AND WELFARE OF THE COMMUNITY.

- b. CONSIDERATION OF CALLING FOR A PUBLIC HEARING UNDER MISS. CODE ANN. § 21-19-11 TO DETERMINE WHETHER THE STRUCTURES LOCATED AT 200 PILCHER ST., STARKVILLE, MS 39759, WITH THE PARCEL NUMBER 118O-00-002.00 IS A MENACE TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY, AND WELFARE OF THE COMMUNITY.

K. SANITATION DEPARTMENT

THERE ARE NO ITEMS FOR THIS AGENDA

L. UTILITIES DEPARTMENT

1. CONSIDERATION OF ACCEPTING THE LOW BID OF \$216,000.00 FOR THE ELECTRICAL VEHICLE CHARGING STATION INSTALLATION - REBID FROM JMM FARM & COMPANY, LLC AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE A CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT.
2. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS FOR THE AERATION AND ELECTRICAL IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT AT THE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT.
3. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION TO ADVERTISE FOR REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS (RFQ) FROM QUALIFIED ENGINEERING FIRMS TO PROVIDE CONSULTANT SERVICES FOR PROJECTS RELATED TO WATER AND WASTEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE.
4. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION TO ACCEPT THE LOW QUOTE FROM BURNS DIRT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$9,000.00 FOR LABOR IN REPAIRING A RETAINING WALL THAT WAS REMOVED DUE TO A SEWER REHABILITATION PROJECT.
5. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION TO ACCEPT THE LOW QUOTE FROM GRESCO IN THE AMOUNT OF \$6,600.00 FOR OPTICAL GROUND WIRE FOR THE FIBER LOOP PROJECT.

XII. CLOSED DETERMINATION SESSION

XIII. OPEN SESSION

XIV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

XV. OPEN SESSION

XVI. ADJOURN UNTIL JULY 2, 2024 @ 5:30 IN THE COURT ROOM AT 110 WEST MAIN ST.

The City of Starkville is accessible to persons with disabilities. Please call the ADA Coordinator, Stein McMullen, at (662) 323-2525, ext. 3121 at least forty-eight (48) hours in advance for any services requested.

Consent items 2 – 21:

2. CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 31, 2024 WORK SESSION OF THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE CITY OF STARKVILLE.

Upon the motion of Alderman Rupp, duly seconded by Alderman Moreland, and adopted by the Board to approve the June 18, 2024 Official Agenda, and to accept items for consent, whereby the “approval of minutes of the May 31, 2024 work session of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen” is enumerated, this consent item is thereby approved.

3. CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 4, 2024 REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE CITY OF STARKVILLE.

Upon the motion of Alderman Rupp, duly seconded by Alderman Moreland, and adopted by the Board to approve the June 18, 2024 Official Agenda, and to accept items for consent, whereby the “approval of minutes of the June 4, 2024 meeting of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen” is enumerated, this consent item is thereby approved.

4. CONSIDERATION OF THE ENGAGEMENT OF WATKINS, WARD & STAFFORD, PLLC FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2023 AUDIT FOR THE CITY OF STARKVILLE.

Upon the motion of Alderman Rupp, duly seconded by Alderman Moreland, and adopted by the Board to approve the June 18, 2024 Official Agenda, and to accept items for consent, whereby the “approval of the engagement of Watkins, Ward & Stafford, PLLC for the Fiscal Year 2023 audit for the City of Starkville” is enumerated, this consent item is thereby approved. The agreement follows this page.

5. CONSIDERATION OF ACCEPTING THE LOW QUOTE FROM HELMS POLYFOAM, LLC IN THE AMOUNT OF \$11,050.00 TO PROVIDE BANK STABILIZATION FOR A BRIDGE LOCATED ON REED ROAD.

Upon the motion of Alderman Rupp, duly seconded by Alderman Moreland, and adopted by the Board to approve the June 18, 2024 Official Agenda, and to accept items for consent, whereby the “approval of accepting the low quote from Helms Polyfoam, LLC in the amount of \$11,050.00 to provide bank stabilization for a bridge located on Reed Road” is enumerated, this consent item is thereby approved.

Two quotes received: Helms Polyfoam, LLC - \$11,050.00 and Ground Consolidation Services - \$16,750.00

6. CONSIDERATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF MAY 2024 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS.

Upon the motion of Alderman Rupp, duly seconded by Alderman Moreland, and adopted by the Board to approve the June 18, 2024 Official Agenda, and to accept items for consent, whereby the “acceptance of the May 2024 financial statements” is enumerated, this consent item is thereby approved.

7. CONSIDERATION TO TRANSFER POLICE 2007 CROWN VIC VEHICLE #2FAFP71W17X132882 TO THE AIRPORT DEPARTMENT.

Upon the motion of Alderman Rupp, duly seconded by Alderman Moreland, and adopted by the Board to approve the June 18, 2024 Official Agenda, and to accept items for consent, whereby the “approval to transfer Police 2007 Crown Vic Vehicle #2FAFP71W17X132882 to the Airport department” is enumerated, this consent item is thereby approved.

8. CONSIDERATION FOR LASHONDA R. MALONE TO ATTEND THE EMERGENCY SERVICES ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE ON SEPTEMBER 3 – 6, 2024 IN NATCHEZ, MS WITH ADVANCE TRAVEL NOT TO EXCEED \$850.00.

Upon the motion of Alderman Rupp, duly seconded by Alderman Moreland, and adopted by the Board to approve the June 18, 2024 Official Agenda, and to accept items for consent, whereby the “approval for Lashonda R. Malone to attend the Emergency Services Administrative Professionals Association Conference September 3 – 6 in Natchez, MS with advance travel not to exceed \$850.00” is enumerated, this consent item is thereby approved.



WATKINS, WARD and STAFFORD
Professional Limited Liability Company
Certified Public Accountants

One Professional Plaza
39759
P.O. Box 1345
39760

Starkville, MS
Starkville, MS

James L. Stafford, CPA
Harry W. Stevens, CPA
S. Keith Winfield, CPA
William B. Staggers, CPA
Michael W. McCully, CPA
R. Steve Sinclair, CPA
Marsha L. McDonald, CPA
Wanda S. Holley, CPA
Robin Y. McCormick,
CPA/PFS
J. Randy Scrivner, CPA
Kimberly S. Caskey, CPA
Susan M. Lummus, CPA
Stephen D. Flake, CPA
John N. Russell, CPA

Anita L. Goodrum, CPA
Ricky D. Allen, CPA
Jason D. Brooks, CPA
Robert E. Cordle, Jr., CPA
Perry C. Rackley, Jr., CPA
Jerry L. Gammel, CPA
Michael C. Knox, CPA
Clifford P. Stewart, CPA
Edward A. Maxwell, CPA
Bradley L. Harrison, CPA
Justin H. Keller, CPA
Dana R. Estes, CPA
April W. Posey, CPA

June 10, 2024

To the Honorable Mayor and Board of Aldermen
Starkville Water Department
Starkville, Mississippi 39759

We are pleased to confirm our understanding of the services we are to provide for Starkville Water Department for the year ended September 30, 2023.

Audit Scope and Objectives

We will audit the financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information, including the disclosures, which collectively comprise the basic financial statements, of the Starkville Water Department as of and for the year ended September 30, 2023. Accounting standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP) provide for certain required supplementary information (RSI), such as management's discussion and analysis (MD&A), to supplement the Starkville Water Department's basic financial statements. Such information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. As part of our engagement, we will apply certain limited procedures to the Starkville Water Department's RSI in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS). These limited procedures will consist of inquiries of management regarding the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We will not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient appropriate evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance. The following RSI is required by GAAP and will be subjected to certain limited procedures, but will not be audited:

- 1) Management's Discussion and Analysis.
- 2) Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance- Budget and Actual (Non-GAAP Budgetary Basis).
- 3) The City's proportionate share of the net pension liability and contributions.
- 4) The Electric Department's proportionate share of the net pension liability and contributions.

We have also been engaged to report on supplementary information other than RSI that accompanies the Starkville Water Department's financial statements. We will subject the following supplementary information to the auditing procedures applied in our audit of the financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with GAAS, and we will provide an opinion on it in relation to the financial statements as a whole in a report combined with our auditors' report on the financial statements:

- 1) Schedule of expenditures of Federal Awards.
- 2) Schedule of Surety Bonds and Municipal Officials
- 3) Schedule of Bonded Indebtedness
- 4) Schedule of Long-Term Notes

The objectives of our audit are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and issue an auditors' report that includes our opinions about whether your financial statements are fairly presented, in all material respects, in conformity with

GAAP, and report on the fairness of the supplementary information referred to in the second paragraph when considered in relation to the financial statements as a whole. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards* will always detect a material misstatement when it exists.

Misstatements, including omissions, can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment of a reasonable user made based on the financial statements. The objectives also include reporting on:

- Internal control over financial reporting and compliance with provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and award agreements, noncompliance with which could have a material effect on the financial statements in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*.
- Internal control over compliance related to major programs and an opinion (or disclaimer of opinion) on compliance with federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of federal awards that could have a direct and material effect on each major program in accordance with the Single Audit Act Amendments of 1996 and Title 2 U.S. *Code of Federal Regulations* (CFR) Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (Uniform Guidance).

Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements and Single Audit

We will conduct our audit in accordance with GAAS; the standards for financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States; the Single Audit Act Amendments of 1996; and the provisions of the Uniform Guidance, and will include tests of accounting records, a determination of major program(s) in accordance with Uniform Guidance, and other procedures we consider necessary to enable us to express such opinions. As part of an audit in accordance with GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards*, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.

We will evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management. We will also evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and determine whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation. We will plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement, whether from (1) errors, (2) fraudulent financial reporting, (3) misappropriation of assets, or (4) violations of laws or governmental regulations that are attributable to the government or to acts by management or employees acting on behalf of the government. Because the determination of waste and abuse is subjective, *Government Auditing Standards* do not expect auditors to perform specific procedures to detect waste or abuse in financial audits nor do they expect auditors to provide reasonable assurance of detecting waste or abuse.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, combined with the inherent limitations of internal control, and because we will not perform a detailed examination of all transactions, there is an unavoidable risk that some material misstatements or noncompliance may not be detected by us, even though the audit is properly planned and performed in accordance with GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards*. In addition, an audit is not designed to detect immaterial misstatements or violations of laws or governmental regulations that do not have a direct and material effect on the financial statements or on major programs. However, we will inform the appropriate level of management of any material errors, any fraudulent financial reporting, or misappropriation of assets that come to our attention. We will also inform the appropriate level of management of any violations of laws or governmental regulations that come to our attention, unless clearly inconsequential. We will include such matters in the reports required for a Single Audit. Our responsibility as auditors is limited to the period covered by our audit and does not extend to any later periods for which we are not engaged as auditors.

We will also conclude, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the government's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

Our procedures will include tests of documentary evidence supporting the transactions recorded in the accounts, tests of the physical existence of inventories, and direct confirmation of receivables and certain assets and liabilities by correspondence with selected individuals, funding sources, creditors, and financial institutions. We will also request written representations from your attorneys as part of the engagement.

We have identified the following significant risk(s) of material misstatement as part of our audit planning:

- Improper revenue recognition due to fraud
- Management override of controls

- Misappropriation of assets

Our audit of financial statements does not relieve you of your responsibilities.

Audit Procedures—Internal Control

We will obtain an understanding of the government and its environment, including the system of internal control, sufficient to identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to error or fraud, and to design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks and obtain evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinions. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentation, or the override of internal control. Tests of controls may be performed to test the effectiveness of certain controls that we consider relevant to preventing and detecting errors and fraud that are material to the financial statements and to preventing and detecting misstatements resulting from illegal acts and other noncompliance matters that have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. Our tests, if performed, will be less in scope than would be necessary to render an opinion on internal control and, accordingly, no opinion will be expressed in our report on internal control issued pursuant to *Government Auditing Standards*.

As required by the Uniform Guidance, we will perform tests of controls over compliance to evaluate the effectiveness of the design and operation of controls that we consider relevant to preventing or detecting material noncompliance with compliance requirements applicable to each major federal award program. However, our tests will be less in scope than would be necessary to render an opinion on those controls and, accordingly, no opinion will be expressed in our report on internal control issued pursuant to the Uniform Guidance.

An audit is not designed to provide assurance on internal control or to identify significant deficiencies or material weaknesses. Accordingly, we will express no such opinion. However, during the audit, we will communicate to management and those charged with governance internal control related matters that are required to be communicated under AICPA professional standards, *Government Auditing Standards*, and the Uniform Guidance.

Audit Procedures—Compliance

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement, we will perform tests of the Starkville Water Department's compliance with provisions of applicable laws, regulations, contracts, and agreements, including grant agreements. However, the objective of those procedures will not be to provide an opinion on overall compliance, and we will not express such an opinion in our report on compliance issued pursuant to *Government Auditing Standards*.

The Uniform Guidance requires that we also plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the auditee has complied with federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of federal awards applicable to major programs. Our procedures will consist of tests of transactions and other applicable procedures described in the *OMB Compliance Supplement* for the types of compliance requirements that could have a direct and material effect on each of the Starkville Water Department's major programs. For federal programs that are included in the Compliance Supplement, our compliance and internal control procedures will relate to the compliance requirements that the Compliance Supplement identifies as being subject to audit. The purpose of these procedures will be to express an opinion on the Starkville Water Department's compliance with requirements applicable to each of its major programs in our report on compliance issued pursuant to the Uniform Guidance.

Other Services

We will also assist in preparing the financial statements, schedule of expenditures of federal awards, and related notes of the Starkville Water Department in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America and the Uniform Guidance based on information provided by you. These nonaudit services do not constitute an audit under *Government Auditing Standards* and such services will not be conducted in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*. We will perform the services in accordance with applicable professional standards. The other services are limited to the financial statements, schedule of expenditures of federal awards, and related notes services previously defined. We, in our sole professional judgment, reserve the right to refuse to perform any procedure or take any action that could be construed as assuming management responsibilities.

You agree to assume all management responsibilities for the financial statements, schedule of expenditures of federal awards, and related notes, and any other nonaudit services we provide. You will be required to acknowledge in the management representation letter our assistance with preparation of the financial statements, the schedule of expenditures of federal awards, and related notes and that you have reviewed and approved the financial statements, the schedule of expenditures of federal awards, and related notes prior to their issuance and have

accepted responsibility for them. Further, you agree to oversee the nonaudit services by designating an individual, preferably from senior management, with suitable skill, knowledge, or experience; evaluate the adequacy and results of those services; and accept responsibility for them.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements and Single Audit

Our audit will be conducted on the basis that you acknowledge and understand your responsibility for (1) designing, implementing, establishing, and maintaining effective internal controls relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, including internal controls over federal awards, and for evaluating and monitoring ongoing activities to help ensure that appropriate goals and objectives are met; (2) following laws and regulations; (3) ensuring that there is reasonable assurance that government programs are administered in compliance with compliance requirements; and (4) ensuring that management and financial information is reliable and properly reported. Management is also responsible for implementing systems designed to achieve compliance with applicable laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements. You are also responsible for the selection and application of accounting principles; for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements, schedule of expenditures of federal awards, and all accompanying information in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; and for compliance with applicable laws and regulations (including federal statutes), rules, and the provisions of contracts and grant agreements (including award agreements). Your responsibilities also include identifying significant contractor relationships in which the contractor has responsibility for program compliance and for the accuracy and completeness of that information.

You are also responsible for making drafts of financial statements, schedule of expenditures of federal awards, all financial records, and related information available to us and for the accuracy and completeness of that information (including information from outside of the general and subsidiary ledgers). You are also responsible for providing us with (1) access to all information of which you are aware that is relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements, such as records, documentation, identification of all related parties and all related-party relationships and transactions, and other matters; (2) access to personnel, accounts, books, records, supporting documentation, and other information as needed to perform an audit under the Uniform Guidance; (3) additional information that we may request for the purpose of the audit; and (4) unrestricted access to persons within the government from whom we determine it necessary to obtain audit evidence. At the conclusion of our audit, we will require certain written representations from you about the financial statements; schedule of expenditures of federal awards; federal award programs; compliance with laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements; and related matters.

Your responsibilities include adjusting the financial statements to correct material misstatements and confirming to us in the management representation letter that the effects of any uncorrected misstatements aggregated by us during the current engagement and pertaining to the latest period presented are immaterial, both individually and in the aggregate, to the financial statements of each opinion unit taken as a whole.

You are responsible for the design and implementation of programs and controls to prevent and detect fraud, and for informing us about all known or suspected fraud affecting the government involving (1) management, (2) employees who have significant roles in internal control, and (3) others where the fraud could have a material effect on the financial statements. Your responsibilities include informing us of your knowledge of any allegations of fraud or suspected fraud affecting the government received in communications from employees, former employees, grantors, regulators, or others. In addition, you are responsible for identifying and ensuring that the government complies with applicable laws, regulations, contracts, agreements, and grants. You are also responsible for taking timely and appropriate steps to remedy fraud and noncompliance with provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements that we report. Additionally, as required by the Uniform Guidance, it is management's responsibility to evaluate and monitor noncompliance with federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of federal awards; take prompt action when instances of noncompliance are identified including noncompliance identified in audit findings; promptly follow up and take corrective action on reported audit findings; and prepare a summary schedule of prior audit findings and a separate corrective action plan.

You are responsible for identifying all federal awards received and understanding and complying with the compliance requirements and for the preparation of the schedule of expenditures of federal awards (including notes and noncash assistance received, and COVID-19-related concepts, such as lost revenues, if applicable) in conformity with the Uniform Guidance. You agree to include our report on the schedule of expenditures of federal awards in any document that contains, and indicates that we have reported on, the schedule of expenditures of federal awards. You also agree to include the audited financial statements with any presentation of the schedule of expenditures of federal awards that includes our report thereon. Your responsibilities include acknowledging to us in the written representation letter that (1) you are responsible for presentation of the schedule of expenditures of

federal awards in accordance with the Uniform Guidance; (2) you believe the schedule of expenditures of federal awards, including its form and content, is stated fairly in accordance with the Uniform Guidance; (3) the methods of measurement or presentation have not changed from those used in the prior period (or, if they have changed, the reasons for such changes); and (4) you have disclosed to us any significant assumptions or interpretations underlying the measurement or presentation of the schedule of expenditures of federal awards.

You are also responsible for the preparation of the other supplementary information, which we have been engaged to report on, in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP). You agree to include our report on the supplementary information in any document that contains, and indicates that we have reported on, the supplementary information. You also agree to [include the audited financial statements with any presentation of the supplementary information that includes our report thereon. Your responsibilities include acknowledging to us in the written representation letter that (1) you are responsible for presentation of the supplementary information in accordance with GAAP; (2) you believe the supplementary information, including its form and content, is fairly presented in accordance with GAAP; (3) the methods of measurement or presentation have not changed from those used in the prior period (or, if they have changed, the reasons for such changes); and (4) you have disclosed to us any significant assumptions or interpretations underlying the measurement or presentation of the supplementary information.

Management is responsible for establishing and maintaining a process for tracking the status of audit findings and recommendations. Management is also responsible for identifying and providing report copies of previous financial audits, attestation engagements, performance audits, or other studies related to the objectives discussed in the Audit Scope and Objectives section of this letter. This responsibility includes relaying to us corrective actions taken to address significant findings and recommendations resulting from those audits, attestation engagements, performance audits, or studies. You are also responsible for providing management's views on our current findings, conclusions, and recommendations, as well as your planned corrective actions for the report, and for the timing and format for providing that information.

Engagement Administration, Fees, and Other

We understand that your employees will prepare all cash, accounts receivable, or other confirmations we request and will locate any documents selected by us for testing.

At the conclusion of the engagement, we will complete the appropriate sections of the Data Collection Form that summarizes our audit findings. It is management's responsibility to electronically submit the reporting package (including financial statements, schedule of expenditures of federal awards, summary schedule of prior audit findings, auditors' reports, and corrective action plan) along with the Data Collection Form to the Federal Audit Clearinghouse. We will coordinate with you the electronic submission and certification. The Data Collection Form and the reporting package must be submitted within the earlier of 30 calendar days after receipt of the auditors' reports or nine months after the end of the audit period.

We will provide copies of our reports to the mayor and board of aldermen; however, management is responsible for distribution of the reports and the financial statements. Unless restricted by law or regulation, or containing privileged and confidential information, copies of our reports are to be made available for public inspection.

The audit documentation for this engagement is the property of Watkins, Ward and Stafford, PLLC and constitutes confidential information. However, subject to applicable laws and regulations, audit documentation and appropriate individuals will be made available upon request and in a timely manner to a federal agency providing direct or indirect funding, or the U.S. Government Accountability Office for purposes of a quality review of the audit, to resolve audit findings, or to carry out oversight responsibilities. We will notify you of any such request. If requested, access to such audit documentation will be provided under the supervision of Watkins, Ward and Stafford, PLLC personnel. Furthermore, upon request, we may provide copies of selected audit documentation to the aforementioned parties. These parties may intend, or decide, to distribute the copies or information contained therein to others, including other governmental agencies.

The audit documentation for this engagement will be retained for a minimum of five years after the report release date or for any additional period requested by the Cognizant Agency, Oversight Agency for Audit, or Pass-through Entity. If we are aware that a federal awarding agency, pass-through entity, or auditee is contesting an audit finding, we will contact the party(ies) contesting the audit finding for guidance prior to destroying the audit documentation.

J. Randy Scrivner, CPA is the engagement partner and is responsible for supervising the engagement and signing the reports or authorizing another individual to sign them. We expect to begin our audit on approximately July 8, 2024, and complete the audit before October 31, 2024.

Our fee for these services will be at our standard hourly rates plus out-of-pocket costs (such as report reproduction, word processing, postage, travel, copies, telephone, confirmation service provider fees, etc.) except that we agree that our gross fee, including expenses, will not exceed \$14,000. Our standard hourly rates vary according to the degree of responsibility involved and the experience level of the personnel assigned to your audit. Our invoices for these fees will be rendered each month as work progresses and are payable on presentation. In accordance with our firm policies, work may be suspended if your account is not paid within the time required by Miss Code Section 31-7-301, et sequential, and may not be resumed until your account is paid in full. If we elect to terminate our services for nonpayment, our engagement will be deemed to have been completed upon written notification of termination, even if we have not completed our report(s). You will be obligated to compensate us for all time expended and to reimburse us for all out-of-pocket costs through the date of termination. The above fee is based on anticipated cooperation from your personnel and the assumption that unexpected circumstances will not be encountered during the engagement. If significant additional time is necessary, we will keep you informed of any problems we encounter and our fees will be adjusted accordingly.

Reporting

We will issue written reports upon completion of our Single Audit. Our reports will be addressed to the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the City of Starkville. Circumstances may arise in which our report may differ from its expected form and content based on the results of our audit. Depending on the nature of these circumstances, it may be necessary for us to modify our opinions, add a separate section, or add an emphasis-of-matter or other-matter paragraph to our auditors' report, or if necessary, withdraw from this engagement. If our opinions are other than unmodified, we will discuss the reasons with you in advance. If, for any reason, we are unable to complete the audit or are unable to form or have not formed opinions, we may decline to express opinions or issue reports, or we may withdraw from this engagement.

The *Government Auditing Standards* report on internal control over financial reporting and on compliance and other matters will state that (1) the purpose of the report is solely to describe the scope of testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control or on compliance, and (2) the report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the entity's internal control and compliance. The Uniform Guidance report on internal control over compliance will state that the purpose of the report on internal control over compliance is solely to describe the scope of testing of internal control over compliance and the results of that testing based on the requirements of the Uniform Guidance. Both reports will state that the report is not suitable for any other purpose.

We appreciate the opportunity to be of service to the Starkville Water Department and believe this letter accurately summarizes the significant terms of our engagement. If you have any questions, please let us know. If you agree with the terms of our engagement as described in this letter, please sign the attached copy and return it to us.

Very truly yours,

Watkins, Ward and Stafford, PLLC

 CPA
J. Randy Scrivner, CPA

RESPONSE:

This letter correctly sets forth the understanding of the Starkville Water Department.

Management signature: 
Title: City Clerk - CFO
Date: 6-18-2024

Governance signature: 
Title: Mayor
Date: 6-18-2024



WATKINS, WARD and STAFFORD
Professional Limited Liability Company
Certified Public Accountants

One Professional Plaza
39759
P.O. Box 1345
39760

Starkville, MS
Starkville, MS

James L. Stafford, CPA
Harry W. Stevens, CPA
S. Keith Winfield, CPA
William B. Staggars, CPA
Michael W. McCully, CPA
R. Steve Sinclair, CPA
Marsha L. McDonald, CPA
Wanda S. Holley, CPA
Robin Y. McCormick, CPA/PFS
J. Randy Scrivner, CPA
Kimberly S. Caskey, CPA
Susan M. Lummus, CPA
Stephen D. Flake, CPA
John N. Russell, CPA

Anita L. Goodrum, CPA
Ricky D. Allen, CPA
Jason D. Brooks, CPA
Robert E. Cordle, Jr., CPA
Perry C. Rackley, Jr., CPA
Jerry L. Gammel, CPA
Michael C. Knox, CPA
Clifford P. Stewart, CPA
Edward A. Maxwell, CPA
Bradley L. Harrison, CPA
Justin H. Keller, CPA
Dana R. Estes, CPA
April W. Posey, CPA

June 10, 2024

To the Honorable Mayor and Board of Aldermen
City of Starkville
Starkville, Mississippi 39759

We are pleased to confirm our understanding of the services we are to provide for the City of Starkville for the year ended September 30, 2023.

Audit Scope and Objectives

We will audit the financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information, including the disclosures, which collectively comprise the basic financial statements, of the City of Starkville as of and for the year ended September 30, 2023. Accounting standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP) provide for certain required supplementary information (RSI), such as management's discussion and analysis (MD&A), to supplement the City of Starkville's basic financial statements. Such information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. As part of our engagement, we will apply certain limited procedures to the City of Starkville's RSI in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS). These limited procedures will consist of inquiries of management regarding the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We will not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient appropriate evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance. The following RSI is required by GAAP and will be subjected to certain limited procedures, but will not be audited:

- 1) Management's Discussion and Analysis.
- 2) Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance- Budget and Actual (Non-GAAP Budgetary Basis).
- 3) The City's proportionate share of the net pension liability and contributions.
- 4) The Electric Department's proportionate share of the net pension liability and contributions.

We have also been engaged to report on supplementary information other than RSI that accompanies the City of Starkville's financial statements. We will subject the following supplementary information to the auditing procedures applied in our audit of the financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with GAAS, and we will provide an opinion on it in relation to the financial statements as a whole in a report combined with our auditors' report on the financial statements:

- 1) Schedule of expenditures of Federal Awards.
- 2) Schedule of Surety Bonds and Municipal Officials
- 3) Schedule of Bonded Indebtedness
- 4) Schedule of Long-Term Notes

The objectives of our audit are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and issue an auditors' report that includes our opinions about whether your financial statements are fairly presented, in all material respects, in conformity with

GAAP, and report on the fairness of the supplementary information referred to in the second paragraph when considered in relation to the financial statements as a whole. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards* will always detect a material misstatement when it exists.

Misstatements, including omissions, can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment of a reasonable user made based on the financial statements. The objectives also include reporting on:

- Internal control over financial reporting and compliance with provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and award agreements, noncompliance with which could have a material effect on the financial statements in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*.
- Internal control over compliance related to major programs and an opinion (or disclaimer of opinion) on compliance with federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of federal awards that could have a direct and material effect on each major program in accordance with the Single Audit Act Amendments of 1996 and Title 2 U.S. *Code of Federal Regulations* (CFR) Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (Uniform Guidance).

Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements and Single Audit

We will conduct our audit in accordance with GAAS; the standards for financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States; the Single Audit Act Amendments of 1996; and the provisions of the Uniform Guidance, and will include tests of accounting records, a determination of major program(s) in accordance with Uniform Guidance, and other procedures we consider necessary to enable us to express such opinions. As part of an audit in accordance with GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards*, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.

We will evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management. We will also evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and determine whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation. We will plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement, whether from (1) errors, (2) fraudulent financial reporting, (3) misappropriation of assets, or (4) violations of laws or governmental regulations that are attributable to the government or to acts by management or employees acting on behalf of the government. Because the determination of waste and abuse is subjective, *Government Auditing Standards* do not expect auditors to perform specific procedures to detect waste or abuse in financial audits nor do they expect auditors to provide reasonable assurance of detecting waste or abuse.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, combined with the inherent limitations of internal control, and because we will not perform a detailed examination of all transactions, there is an unavoidable risk that some material misstatements or noncompliance may not be detected by us, even though the audit is properly planned and performed in accordance with GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards*. In addition, an audit is not designed to detect immaterial misstatements or violations of laws or governmental regulations that do not have a direct and material effect on the financial statements or on major programs. However, we will inform the appropriate level of management of any material errors, any fraudulent financial reporting, or misappropriation of assets that come to our attention. We will also inform the appropriate level of management of any violations of laws or governmental regulations that come to our attention, unless clearly inconsequential. We will include such matters in the reports required for a Single Audit. Our responsibility as auditors is limited to the period covered by our audit and does not extend to any later periods for which we are not engaged as auditors.

We will also conclude, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the government's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

Our procedures will include tests of documentary evidence supporting the transactions recorded in the accounts, tests of the physical existence of inventories, and direct confirmation of receivables and certain assets and liabilities by correspondence with selected individuals, funding sources, creditors, and financial institutions. We will also request written representations from your attorneys as part of the engagement.

We have identified the following significant risk(s) of material misstatement as part of our audit planning:

- Improper revenue recognition due to fraud
- Management override of controls

- Misappropriation of assets

Our audit of financial statements does not relieve you of your responsibilities.

Audit Procedures—Internal Control

We will obtain an understanding of the government and its environment, including the system of internal control, sufficient to identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to error or fraud, and to design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks and obtain evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinions. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentation, or the override of internal control. Tests of controls may be performed to test the effectiveness of certain controls that we consider relevant to preventing and detecting errors and fraud that are material to the financial statements and to preventing and detecting misstatements resulting from illegal acts and other noncompliance matters that have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. Our tests, if performed, will be less in scope than would be necessary to render an opinion on internal control and, accordingly, no opinion will be expressed in our report on internal control issued pursuant to *Government Auditing Standards*.

As required by the Uniform Guidance, we will perform tests of controls over compliance to evaluate the effectiveness of the design and operation of controls that we consider relevant to preventing or detecting material noncompliance with compliance requirements applicable to each major federal award program. However, our tests will be less in scope than would be necessary to render an opinion on those controls and, accordingly, no opinion will be expressed in our report on internal control issued pursuant to the Uniform Guidance.

An audit is not designed to provide assurance on internal control or to identify significant deficiencies or material weaknesses. Accordingly, we will express no such opinion. However, during the audit, we will communicate to management and those charged with governance internal control related matters that are required to be communicated under AICPA professional standards, *Government Auditing Standards*, and the Uniform Guidance.

Audit Procedures—Compliance

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement, we will perform tests of the City of Starkville's compliance with provisions of applicable laws, regulations, contracts, and agreements, including grant agreements. However, the objective of those procedures will not be to provide an opinion on overall compliance, and we will not express such an opinion in our report on compliance issued pursuant to *Government Auditing Standards*.

The Uniform Guidance requires that we also plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the auditee has complied with federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of federal awards applicable to major programs. Our procedures will consist of tests of transactions and other applicable procedures described in the *OMB Compliance Supplement* for the types of compliance requirements that could have a direct and material effect on each of the City of Starkville's major programs. For federal programs that are included in the Compliance Supplement, our compliance and internal control procedures will relate to the compliance requirements that the Compliance Supplement identifies as being subject to audit. The purpose of these procedures will be to express an opinion on the City of Starkville's compliance with requirements applicable to each of its major programs in our report on compliance issued pursuant to the Uniform Guidance.

Other Services

We will also assist in preparing the financial statements, schedule of expenditures of federal awards, and related notes of the City of Starkville in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America and the Uniform Guidance based on information provided by you. These nonaudit services do not constitute an audit under *Government Auditing Standards* and such services will not be conducted in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*. We will perform the services in accordance with applicable professional standards. The other services are limited to the financial statements, schedule of expenditures of federal awards, and related notes services previously defined. We, in our sole professional judgment, reserve the right to refuse to perform any procedure or take any action that could be construed as assuming management responsibilities.

You agree to assume all management responsibilities for the financial statements, schedule of expenditures of federal awards, and related notes, and any other nonaudit services we provide. You will be required to acknowledge in the management representation letter our assistance with preparation of the financial statements, the schedule of expenditures of federal awards, and related notes and that you have reviewed and approved the financial statements, the schedule of expenditures of federal awards, and related notes prior to their issuance and have accepted responsibility for them. Further, you agree to oversee the nonaudit services by designating an individual,

preferably from senior management, with suitable skill, knowledge, or experience; evaluate the adequacy and results of those services; and accept responsibility for them.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements and Single Audit

Our audit will be conducted on the basis that you acknowledge and understand your responsibility for (1) designing, implementing, establishing, and maintaining effective internal controls relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, including internal controls over federal awards, and for evaluating and monitoring ongoing activities to help ensure that appropriate goals and objectives are met; (2) following laws and regulations; (3) ensuring that there is reasonable assurance that government programs are administered in compliance with compliance requirements; and (4) ensuring that management and financial information is reliable and properly reported. Management is also responsible for implementing systems designed to achieve compliance with applicable laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements. You are also responsible for the selection and application of accounting principles; for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements, schedule of expenditures of federal awards, and all accompanying information in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; and for compliance with applicable laws and regulations (including federal statutes), rules, and the provisions of contracts and grant agreements (including award agreements). Your responsibilities also include identifying significant contractor relationships in which the contractor has responsibility for program compliance and for the accuracy and completeness of that information.

You are also responsible for making drafts of financial statements, schedule of expenditures of federal awards, all financial records, and related information available to us and for the accuracy and completeness of that information (including information from outside of the general and subsidiary ledgers). You are also responsible for providing us with (1) access to all information of which you are aware that is relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements, such as records, documentation, identification of all related parties and all related-party relationships and transactions, and other matters; (2) access to personnel, accounts, books, records, supporting documentation, and other information as needed to perform an audit under the Uniform Guidance; (3) additional information that we may request for the purpose of the audit; and (4) unrestricted access to persons within the government from whom we determine it necessary to obtain audit evidence. At the conclusion of our audit, we will require certain written representations from you about the financial statements; schedule of expenditures of federal awards; federal award programs; compliance with laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements; and related matters.

Your responsibilities include adjusting the financial statements to correct material misstatements and confirming to us in the management representation letter that the effects of any uncorrected misstatements aggregated by us during the current engagement and pertaining to the latest period presented are immaterial, both individually and in the aggregate, to the financial statements of each opinion unit taken as a whole.

You are responsible for the design and implementation of programs and controls to prevent and detect fraud, and for informing us about all known or suspected fraud affecting the government involving (1) management, (2) employees who have significant roles in internal control, and (3) others where the fraud could have a material effect on the financial statements. Your responsibilities include informing us of your knowledge of any allegations of fraud or suspected fraud affecting the government received in communications from employees, former employees, grantors, regulators, or others. In addition, you are responsible for identifying and ensuring that the government complies with applicable laws, regulations, contracts, agreements, and grants. You are also responsible for taking timely and appropriate steps to remedy fraud and noncompliance with provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements that we report. Additionally, as required by the Uniform Guidance, it is management's responsibility to evaluate and monitor noncompliance with federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of federal awards; take prompt action when instances of noncompliance are identified including noncompliance identified in audit findings; promptly follow up and take corrective action on reported audit findings; and prepare a summary schedule of prior audit findings and a separate corrective action plan.

You are responsible for identifying all federal awards received and understanding and complying with the compliance requirements and for the preparation of the schedule of expenditures of federal awards (including notes and noncash assistance received, and COVID-19-related concepts, such as lost revenues, if applicable) in conformity with the Uniform Guidance. You agree to include our report on the schedule of expenditures of federal awards in any document that contains, and indicates that we have reported on, the schedule of expenditures of federal awards. You also agree to include the audited financial statements with any presentation of the schedule of expenditures of federal awards that includes our report thereon. Your responsibilities include acknowledging to us in the written representation letter that (1) you are responsible for presentation of the schedule of expenditures of federal awards in accordance with the Uniform Guidance; (2) you believe the schedule of expenditures of federal

awards, including its form and content, is stated fairly in accordance with the Uniform Guidance; (3) the methods of measurement or presentation have not changed from those used in the prior period (or, if they have changed, the reasons for such changes); and (4) you have disclosed to us any significant assumptions or interpretations underlying the measurement or presentation of the schedule of expenditures of federal awards.

You are also responsible for the preparation of the other supplementary information, which we have been engaged to report on, in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP). You agree to include our report on the supplementary information in any document that contains, and indicates that we have reported on, the supplementary information. You also agree to [include the audited financial statements with any presentation of the supplementary information that includes our report thereon. Your responsibilities include acknowledging to us in the written representation letter that (1) you are responsible for presentation of the supplementary information in accordance with GAAP; (2) you believe the supplementary information, including its form and content, is fairly presented in accordance with GAAP; (3) the methods of measurement or presentation have not changed from those used in the prior period (or, if they have changed, the reasons for such changes); and (4) you have disclosed to us any significant assumptions or interpretations underlying the measurement or presentation of the supplementary information.

Management is responsible for establishing and maintaining a process for tracking the status of audit findings and recommendations. Management is also responsible for identifying and providing report copies of previous financial audits, attestation engagements, performance audits, or other studies related to the objectives discussed in the Audit Scope and Objectives section of this letter. This responsibility includes relaying to us corrective actions taken to address significant findings and recommendations resulting from those audits, attestation engagements, performance audits, or studies. You are also responsible for providing management's views on our current findings, conclusions, and recommendations, as well as your planned corrective actions for the report, and for the timing and format for providing that information.

Engagement Administration, Fees, and Other

We understand that your employees will prepare all cash, accounts receivable, or other confirmations we request and will locate any documents selected by us for testing.

At the conclusion of the engagement, we will complete the appropriate sections of the Data Collection Form that summarizes our audit findings. It is management's responsibility to electronically submit the reporting package (including financial statements, schedule of expenditures of federal awards, summary schedule of prior audit findings, auditors' reports, and corrective action plan) along with the Data Collection Form to the Federal Audit Clearinghouse. We will coordinate with you the electronic submission and certification. The Data Collection Form and the reporting package must be submitted within the earlier of 30 calendar days after receipt of the auditors' reports or nine months after the end of the audit period.

We will provide copies of our reports to the mayor and board of aldermen; however, management is responsible for distribution of the reports and the financial statements. Unless restricted by law or regulation, or containing privileged and confidential information, copies of our reports are to be made available for public inspection.

The audit documentation for this engagement is the property of Watkins, Ward and Stafford, PLLC and constitutes confidential information. However, subject to applicable laws and regulations, audit documentation and appropriate individuals will be made available upon request and in a timely manner to a federal agency providing direct or indirect funding, or the U.S. Government Accountability Office for purposes of a quality review of the audit, to resolve audit findings, or to carry out oversight responsibilities. We will notify you of any such request. If requested, access to such audit documentation will be provided under the supervision of Watkins, Ward and Stafford, PLLC personnel. Furthermore, upon request, we may provide copies of selected audit documentation to the aforementioned parties. These parties may intend, or decide, to distribute the copies or information contained therein to others, including other governmental agencies.

The audit documentation for this engagement will be retained for a minimum of five years after the report release date or for any additional period requested by the Cognizant Agency, Oversight Agency for Audit, or Pass-through Entity. If we are aware that a federal awarding agency, pass-through entity, or auditee is contesting an audit finding, we will contact the party(ies) contesting the audit finding for guidance prior to destroying the audit documentation.

J. Randy Scrivner, CPA is the engagement partner and is responsible for supervising the engagement and signing the reports or authorizing another individual to sign them. We expect to begin our audit on approximately July 8, 2024, and complete the audit before October 31, 2024.

Our fee for these services will be at our standard hourly rates plus out-of-pocket costs (such as report reproduction, word processing, postage, travel, copies, telephone, confirmation service provider fees, etc.) except that we agree

that our gross fee, including expenses, will not exceed \$72,000. Our standard hourly rates vary according to the degree of responsibility involved and the experience level of the personnel assigned to your audit. Our invoices for these fees will be rendered each month as work progresses and are payable on presentation. In accordance with our firm policies, work may be suspended if your account is not paid within the time required by Miss Code Section 31-7-301, et sequential, and may not be resumed until your account is paid in full. If we elect to terminate our services for nonpayment, our engagement will be deemed to have been completed upon written notification of termination, even if we have not completed our report(s). You will be obligated to compensate us for all time expended and to reimburse us for all out-of-pocket costs through the date of termination. The above fee is based on anticipated cooperation from your personnel and the assumption that unexpected circumstances will not be encountered during the engagement. If significant additional time is necessary, we will keep you informed of any problems we encounter and our fees will be adjusted accordingly.

Reporting

We will issue written reports upon completion of our Single Audit. Our reports will be addressed to the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the City of Starkville. Circumstances may arise in which our report may differ from its expected form and content based on the results of our audit. Depending on the nature of these circumstances, it may be necessary for us to modify our opinions, add a separate section, or add an emphasis-of-matter or other-matter paragraph to our auditors' report, or if necessary, withdraw from this engagement. If our opinions are other than unmodified, we will discuss the reasons with you in advance. If, for any reason, we are unable to complete the audit or are unable to form or have not formed opinions, we may decline to express opinions or issue reports, or we may withdraw from this engagement.

The *Government Auditing Standards* report on internal control over financial reporting and on compliance and other matters will state that (1) the purpose of the report is solely to describe the scope of testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control or on compliance, and (2) the report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the entity's internal control and compliance. The Uniform Guidance report on internal control over compliance will state that the purpose of the report on internal control over compliance is solely to describe the scope of testing of internal control over compliance and the results of that testing based on the requirements of the Uniform Guidance. Both reports will state that the report is not suitable for any other purpose.

We appreciate the opportunity to be of service to the City of Starkville and believe this letter accurately summarizes the significant terms of our engagement. If you have any questions, please let us know. If you agree with the terms of our engagement as described in this letter, please sign the attached copy and return it to us.

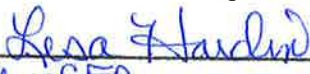
Very truly yours,

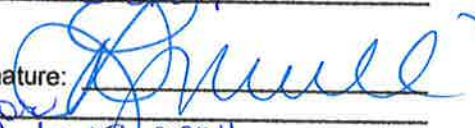
Watkins, Ward and Stafford, PLLC


J. Randy Scrivner, CPA

RESPONSE:

This letter correctly sets forth the understanding of the City of Starkville.

Management signature: 
Title: City Clerk - CFO
Date: 6-18-2024

Governance signature: 
Title: Mayor
Date: 6-18-2024

9. CONSIDERATION TO HIRE NALLELY VARGAS, ANGELO MIGLIORE, ASHER WADE AND SAMUEL ZAM AS POLICE OFFICERS.

Upon the motion of Alderman Rupp, duly seconded by Alderman Moreland, and adopted by the Board to approve the June 18, 2024 Official Agenda, and to accept items for consent, whereby the “approval to hire Nallely Vargas, Angelo Migliore, Asher Wade and Samuel Zarn as Police Officers” is enumerated, this consent item is thereby approved.

10. CONSIDERATION TO HIRE QUINN HOLLAN AND JORDAN SLUSHER AS A NON-CERTIFIED FIREFIGHTERS IN THE STARKVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT.

Upon the motion of Alderman Rupp, duly seconded by Alderman Moreland, and adopted by the Board to approve the June 18, 2024 Official Agenda, and to accept items for consent, whereby the “approval to hire Quinn Hollan and Jordan Slusher as a Non-Certified Firefighters” is enumerated, this consent item is thereby approved.

11. CONSIDERATION TO HIRE BLAIN TENEYCK AS A TEMPORARY FULL TIME FIREFIGHTER IN THE STARKVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT.

Upon the motion of Alderman Rupp, duly seconded by Alderman Moreland, and adopted by the Board to approve the June 18, 2024 Official Agenda, and to accept items for consent, whereby the “approval to hire Blain Teneyck as a Temporary Full Time Firefighter” is enumerated, this consent item is thereby approved.

12. CONSIDERATION TO HIRE JOHN RICKS AS A WASTEWATER OPERATOR II.

Upon the motion of Alderman Rupp, duly seconded by Alderman Moreland, and adopted by the Board to approve the June 18, 2024 Official Agenda, and to accept items for consent, whereby the “approval to hire John Ricks as a Wastewater Operator II” is enumerated, this consent item is thereby approved.

13. APPROVAL OF PURCHASE OF A FIREWALL FROM NEXTSTEP FOR \$11,675.00, THE LOWEST QUOTE.

Upon the motion of Alderman Rupp, duly seconded by Alderman Moreland, and adopted by the Board to approve the June 18, 2024 Official Agenda, and to accept items for consent, whereby the “approval of the purchase of a firewall from NextStep for \$11,675.00, the lowest quote” is enumerated, this consent item is thereby approved.

Two quotes received: NextStep - \$11,675.00 and C’Spire - \$12,010.00.

14. APPROVAL OF A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT WITH NEEL-SCHAFER, INC. FOR STORMWATER POLLUTION PREVENTION PLAN PERMITTING FOR THE MCKEE PARK IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,000.00.

Upon the motion of Alderman Rupp, duly seconded by Alderman Moreland, and adopted by the Board to approve the June 18, 2024 Official Agenda, and to accept items for consent, whereby the “approval of a professional services contract with Neel-Schaffer, Inc. for Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan Permitting for the McKee Park Improvements Project in the amount of \$2,000.00” is enumerated, this consent item is thereby approved.

The contract follows this page.

15. CONSIDERATION OF CALLING FOR A PUBLIC HEARING UNDER MISS. CODE ANN. § 21-19-11 TO DETERMINE WHETHER THE STRUCTURES LOCATED AT 12850 MS HWY 182, STARKVILLE, MS 39759, WITH PARCEL NUMBER 159J-00-025.00 IS A MENACE TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY, AND WELFARE OF THE COMMUNITY.

Upon the motion of Alderman Rupp, duly seconded by Alderman Moreland, and adopted by the Board to approve the June 18, 2024 Official Agenda, and to accept items for consent, whereby the “approval of calling for a Public Hearing under Miss. Code Ann. § 21-19-11 to determine whether the structures located at 12850 MS Hwy 182, with parcel number 159J-00-025.00 is a menace to the public health, safety, and welfare of the community” is enumerated, this consent item is thereby approved.



June 7, 2024

City of Starkville
ATTN: Mayor Lynn Spruill
110 West Main Street
Starkville, MS 39759

RE: MCKEE PARK STORMWATER POLLUTION PREVENTION PLAN PERMITTING

Dear Mayor Spruill:

Neel-Schaffer, Inc. (NSI) is pleased to offer professional services as defined in Exhibit A, Scope of Services, for the above referenced project. NSI proposes to perform these services hourly, not to exceed \$2,000.

All services proposed herein will be performed in accordance with the General Terms and Conditions in Exhibit B, and our hourly rates will utilize our raw wage rates times a 2.9 labor mark-up (LMU). NSI will bill you monthly based on the amount of work completed, and upon receipt of your acceptance, we will proceed with the services.

This Letter Agreement, consisting of one page; Exhibit A, consisting of one page; and Exhibit B, consisting of three pages represent the entire agreement between the City of Starkville and Neel-Schaffer, Inc. This Letter Agreement and the exhibits may only be modified or amended by a duly executed written document.

If the terms of this Agreement are acceptable, please execute the original and return a copy to us. We appreciate the opportunity to provide services to you and look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

NEEL-SCHAFFER, INC.

Kevin Stafford, P.E.
Vice President

ACCEPTED: CITY OF STARKVILLE

BY:

DATE:

6-18-2024

P: 662.268.7966 | F: 662.268.7961

1115 Stark Road
Starkville, MS 39760

www.neel-schaffer.com



EXHIBIT A

SCOPE OF SERVICES

Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) Permitting – Produce and submit construction SWPPP permitting documents to the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality to obtain a Large Construction General Permit (LCGP).

The fee for this SOW assumes that NSI will be provided with all erosion control plans and details by the Owner. NSI currently has draft plans and details completed by Kimley-Horn, sheets C3-00 through C3-02.



EXHIBIT B
GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

1. **Relationship between Consultant and Client.** Neel-Schaffer, Inc. ("Consultant") shall serve as the Client's professional consultant in those phases of the Project to which this Agreement applies. The relationship is that of a buyer and seller of professional services and it is understood that the parties have not entered into any joint venture or partnership with the other. Consultant shall not be considered to be the agent or fiduciary of the Client.

2. **Responsibility of Consultant.** Consultant will perform services under this Agreement in a manner consistent with that standard of care and skill ordinarily exercised by members of the profession currently practicing in the same locality under similar conditions (the "Standard of Care"). No other representation, warranty or guarantee, express or implied, is included or intended in this Agreement or in any report, opinion, document, or otherwise.

3. **Responsibility of the Client.** Client shall provide all information and criteria as to its requirements for the Project, including budgetary limitations. Client shall arrange for Consultant to enter upon public and private property and obtain all necessary approvals required from all governmental authorities having jurisdiction over the Project. Client shall give prompt written notice to Consultant whenever Client observes or otherwise becomes aware of any development that affects the scope or timing of Consultant's services.

The Client shall promptly report to the Consultant any defects or suspected defects in the Consultant's services of which the Client becomes aware, so that Consultant may take measures to minimize the consequences of such a defect. Should legal liability for the defects exist, failure by the Client to notify the Consultant shall relieve the Consultant of any liability for costs of remedying the defects above the sum such remedy would have cost had prompt notification been given when such defects were first discovered.

4. **Construction Phase Services.** If Consultant's scope of services includes the observation and monitoring of work performed by Client's separate contractors, Consultant shall provide personnel to observe and monitor the work in accordance with the Standard of Care in order to ascertain that it is being performed, in general, in accordance with the plans and specifications. Consultant shall not supervise, direct, or have control over the contractor's work. Consultant shall not have authority over or responsibility for construction means, methods, techniques, sequences or procedures or for safety precautions and programs in connection with the work of the contractor. Consultant does not guarantee the performance of the construction contract by the contractor and does not assume responsibility for the

contractor's failure to furnish and perform its work in accordance with the plans and specifications.

In the event Consultant's scope of services does not include the observation and monitoring of work performed by Client's separate contractors, the Client assumes all responsibility for construction observation, and Client waives any claims against Consultant arising therefrom.

5. **Designation of Authorized Representatives.** Each party shall designate one or more persons to act with authority on its behalf with respect to appropriate aspects of the Project. The persons designated shall review and respond promptly to all communications received from the party.

6. **Ownership of Documents.** All reports, notes, drawings, specifications, data, calculations, and other documents, including those in electronic form prepared by Consultant are instruments of Consultant's service that shall remain Consultant's property. The Client agrees not to use Consultant generated documents for projects other than the project for which the documents were prepared by Consultant, or for future modifications to the Project, without Consultant's express written permission. Any reuse or distribution to third parties without such express written permission or project-specific adaptation by Consultant will be at the Client's sole risk and without liability to Consultant or its employees, subsidiaries, and subconsultants.

7. **Opinion of Costs.** When required as a part of its scope of services, Consultant will furnish opinions or estimates of construction cost on the basis of Consultant's experience and qualifications, but Consultant does not guarantee the accuracy of such estimates. The parties recognize that Consultant has no control over the cost of labor, material, equipment, or services furnished by others or over market conditions or contractors' methods of determining prices.

8. **Changes or Delays.** In the event new developments or circumstances beyond the control of Consultant require a change in the scope of services or schedule, Consultant shall be entitled to an equitable adjustment to the fee and/or schedule. Such events include, but are not limited to, unreasonable delays caused by Client's failure to provide specified direction or information, delays caused by Client's other contractors or consultants, or if Consultant's failure to perform is due to any act of God, labor shortage, fire, inclement weather, act of governmental authority, failure of transportation, accident, power failure, or interruption or any other cause beyond the reasonable control of Consultant.

EXHIBIT B
GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

9. **Suspension of Services.** Client may, at any time, by written notice, suspend further services by Consultant. Upon receipt of such notice, Consultant shall take all reasonable steps to mitigate costs allocable to the suspended services. Client, however, shall pay all reasonable and necessary costs associated with such suspension including the cost of assembling documents, personnel and equipment, rescheduling or reassignment costs necessary to maintain continuity and the staff required to resume the services upon expiration of the suspension. Consultant will not be obligated to provide the same personnel in the event the period of any suspension exceeds 30 days.
10. **Termination.** This Agreement may be terminated by either party upon 30 days' written to the other party. Upon such termination, Client shall pay Consultant for all services performed up to the date of termination. If Client is the terminating party, Client shall pay Consultant all reasonable cost and expenses incurred by Consultant in effecting the termination, including but not limited to non-cancellable commitments and demobilization costs, if any.
11. **Indemnification.** Consultant shall indemnify and hold harmless Client from and against those damages and costs (including reasonable attorneys' fees) that Client incurs as a result of third party claims for personal injury or property damage to the extent caused by the negligent acts, errors or omissions of Consultant.
12. **Legal Proceedings.** In the event Consultant or its employees are required by Client to provide testimony, answer interrogatories, produce documents or otherwise provide information in relation to any litigation, arbitration, proceeding or other inquiry arising out of Consultant's services, where Consultant is not a party to such proceeding, Client will compensate Consultant for its services and reimburse Consultant for all related direct costs incurred in connection with providing such testimony or information. This provision shall not apply in the event Client engages Consultant to provide expert testimony or litigation support, which services shall be the subject of a separate agreement or an amendment to this Agreement.
13. **Successors and Assigns.** The terms of this Agreement shall be binding upon and inure to the benefit of the parties and their respective successors and assigns; provided however, that neither party shall assign this Agreement in whole or in part without the prior written consent of the other party.
14. **Insurance.** Consultant agrees to maintain the following insurance coverage with the following limits of insurance during the performance of Consultant's work hereunder:
- (a) Commercial General Liability insurance with standard ISO coverage and available limits of \$1,000,000 per occurrence and \$2,000,000 general aggregate;
 - (b) Automobile Liability insurance with standard ISO coverage and available combined single limits of \$1,000,000 per accident;
 - (c) Worker's Compensation insurance with limits as required by statute and Employer's Liability insurance with limits of \$1,000,000 per employee for bodily injury by accident/\$1,000,000 per employee for bodily injury by disease/\$1,000,000 policy limit for disease; and
 - (d) Professional Liability insurance covering Consultant's negligent acts, errors, or omissions in the performance of professional services with available limits of \$1,000,000 per claim and annual aggregate.
- Consultant shall provide evidence of procuring the above insurance coverages by delivering a certificate of insurance to Client prior to the start of Consultant's work and annually upon renewal of coverage. Consultant shall cause Client to be named as an additional insured on Consultant's commercial general liability policy, which shall be primary and noncontributory.
15. **Information Provided by the Client.** Consultant shall be entitled to rely upon, without liability, the accuracy and completeness of any and all information provided by Client, without the obligation of independent verification.
16. **Omitted.**
17. **Payment.** Unless agreed to otherwise, Consultant shall submit monthly invoices to the Client. Payment in full shall be due upon receipt of the invoice. Payment of any invoices by the Client shall be taken to mean that the Client is satisfied with the Consultant's services to the date of the payment and is not aware of any deficiencies in those services. If payments are delinquent after 45 days from invoice date, the Client agrees to pay interest on the unpaid balance at the rate of one percent (1%) per month. If the Client fails to make payments; then Consultant, after giving seven (7) days written notice to the Client, may suspend services until the Client has paid in full all amounts due for services, expenses, and other related charges without recourse to the Client for loss or damage caused by such suspension. The Client waives any and all claims against the Consultant for any such suspension. Payment for Consultant's services is not contingent on any factor, except the Consultant's ability to provide services in a manner consistent with

EXHIBIT B
GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

- that Standard of Care. Payment of invoices shall not be subject to any discounts, set-offs or back-charges unless agreed to in writing by both parties. If the Client contests an invoice, the Client may withhold only that portion so contested and shall pay the undisputed portion, after the Client has notified Consultant in writing within 30 days of receiving the invoice and shall identify the specific cause of the disagreement and the amount in dispute.
18. **Force Majeure.** Neither Client nor Consultant shall be liable for any fault or delay caused by any contingency beyond their control, including but not limited to, acts of God, wars, strikes, walkouts, fires, natural calamities, or demands or requirements of governmental agencies.
19. **Compliance with Laws.** To the extent they apply to its employees or its services, Consultant shall exercise due professional care to comply with all applicable laws, including ordinances of any political subdivisions or governing agencies.
20. **Invalid Terms.** If any provisions of this Agreement are held to be invalid or unenforceable, the remaining provisions shall be valid and binding as if the unenforceable provisions were never included in the Agreement.
21. **Governing Law.** This Agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the state where the services are performed.
22. **Dispute Resolution.** All disputes, controversies or claims, of whatever kind or character, between the Parties, their agents and/or principals, arising out of or in connection with the subject matter of this Agreement shall be litigated in a court of competent jurisdiction.
23. **Additional Services.** Consultant shall be entitled to an equitable adjustment of its fee for services resulting from significant changes in the general scope, extent or character of the Project or its design including, but not limited to, changes in size, complexity, Client's schedule, construction schedule, character of construction or method of financing; and revising previously accepted studies, reports, design documents or other documents when such revisions are required by changes in laws, rules, regulations, ordinances, codes or orders enacted subsequent to the preparation of such studies, reports or documents, or are due to any other causes beyond Consultant's control.
24. **Amendment.** This Agreement may only be amended in writing and where such amendment is executed by a duly authorized representatives of each party.
25. **Entire Understanding of Agreement.** This Agreement represents and incorporates the entire understanding of the parties hereto, and each party acknowledges that there are no warranties, representations, covenants or understandings of any kind, matter or description whatsoever, made by either party to the other except as expressly set forth herein. Client and Consultant hereby agree that any purchase orders, invoices, confirmations, acknowledgments or other similar documents executed or delivered with respect to the subject matter hereof that conflict with the terms of this Agreement shall be null, void and without effect to the extent they conflict with the terms of this Agreement.
26. **Survival of Provisions.** The provisions of this Agreement shall continue to be binding upon the parties hereto notwithstanding termination of this Agreement for any reason.
27. **Nonwaiver.** No waiver by a party of any provision of this Agreement shall be deemed to have been made unless in writing and signed by such party.
28. **Identity of Project Owner.** Within ten (10) days of the entry of this Agreement, Client, if Client is not the Project Owner, shall provide to Consultant the Project Owner's full legal name; Project Owner's physical address; Project Owner's mailing address; and the name, physical address and mailing address of the Client's point of contact with the Owner for the Project.
29. **Conflicting Terms.** In the event that there are multiple agreements with varying or conflicting terms and conditions between Client and Consultant, the terms and conditions contained in this Agreement shall supersede and have precedence over any other conflicting terms and conditions contained in any other written or oral agreement.
30. **Course of Dealing.** Client and Consultant agree that these General Terms and Conditions establish a course of dealing between them and shall apply to this and all other services, projects, agreements or dealings between the them, unless Client or Consultant gives the other written notice of objection to any term or condition before commencement of performance in connection with any other provision of services or projects involving the two of them.
31. **Omitted.**

16. CONSIDERATION OF CALLING FOR A PUBLIC HEARING UNDER MISS. CODE ANN. § 21-19-11 TO DETERMINE WHETHER THE STRUCTURES LOCATED AT 200 PILCHER ST., STARKVILLE, MS 39759, WITH THE PARCEL NUMBER 118O-00-002.00 IS A MENACE TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY, AND WELFARE OF THE COMMUNITY.

Upon the motion of Alderman Rupp, duly seconded by Alderman Moreland, and adopted by the Board to approve the June 18, 2024 Official Agenda, and to accept items for consent, whereby the “approval of calling for a Public Hearing under Miss. Code Ann. § 21-19-11 to determine whether the structures located at 200 Pilcher St., Starkville, MS 39759, with the parcel number 118O-00-002.00 is a menace to the public health, safety, and welfare of the community” is enumerated, this consent item is thereby approved.

17. CONSIDERATION OF ACCEPTING THE LOW BID OF \$216,000.00 FOR THE ELECTRICAL VEHICLE CHARGING STATION INSTALLATION - REBID FROM JMM FARM & COMPANY, LLC AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE A CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT.

Upon the motion of Alderman Rupp, duly seconded by Alderman Moreland, and adopted by the Board to approve the June 18, 2024 Official Agenda, and to accept items for consent, whereby the “approval of the low bid for the Electrical Vehicle Charging Station Installation - Rebid from JMM Farm & Company, LLC and authorizing the Mayor to execute a construction contract” is enumerated, this consent item is thereby approved.

Two bids received: JMM Farm & Co., LLC - \$216,000.00 and McInnis Systems, Inc. - \$284,781.00

Funding sources: MDEQ Grant - \$48,060.00, TVA Grant - \$150,000.00 and Capital Funds - \$17,940.00

18. CONSIDERATION TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS FOR THE AERATION AND ELECTRICAL IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT AT THE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT.

Upon the motion of Alderman Rupp, duly seconded by Alderman Moreland, and adopted by the Board to approve the June 18, 2024 Official Agenda, and to accept items for consent, whereby the “approval to advertise for bids for the Aeration and Electrical Improvements project at the wastewater treatment plant” is enumerated, this consent item is thereby approved.

19. CONSIDERATION TO ADVERTISE FOR REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS (RFQ) FROM QUALIFIED ENGINEERING FIRMS TO PROVIDE CONSULTANT SERVICES FOR PROJECTS RELATED TO WATER AND WASTEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE.

Upon the motion of Alderman Rupp, duly seconded by Alderman Moreland, and adopted by the Board to approve the June 18, 2024 Official Agenda, and to accept items for consent, whereby the “approval to advertise for Request for Qualifications (RFQ) from qualified engineering firms to provide consultant services for projects related to water and wastewater infrastructure” is enumerated, this consent item is thereby approved.

20. CONSIDERATION TO ACCEPT THE LOW QUOTE FROM BURNS DIRT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$9,000.00 FOR LABOR IN REPAIRING A RETAINING WALL THAT WAS REMOVED DUE TO A SEWER REHABILITATION PROJECT.

Upon the motion of Alderman Rupp, duly seconded by Alderman Moreland, and adopted by the Board to approve the June 18, 2024 Official Agenda, and to accept items for consent, whereby the “approval of the low quote from Burns Dirt for labor of repairing a retaining wall that was removed due to a sewer rehabilitation project” is enumerated, this consent item is thereby approved.

Two quotes received: Burns Dirt- \$9,000 and Groundstone Construction- \$14,700

21. CONSIDERATION TO ACCEPT THE LOW QUOTE FROM GRESCO IN THE AMOUNT OF \$6,600.00 FOR OPTICAL GROUND WIRE FOR THE FIBER LOOP PROJECT.

Upon the motion of Alderman Rupp, duly seconded by Alderman Moreland, and adopted by the Board to approve the June 18, 2024 Official Agenda, and to accept items for consent, whereby the “approval of the low quote from Gresco in the amount of \$6,600.00 for Optical Ground Wire for the Fiber loop project” is enumerated, this consent item is thereby approved.

Two quotes received: Gresco - \$6,600.00 and Irby - \$6,680.00

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMENTS:

MAYOR’S COMMENTS:

Mayor Spruill congratulated Alvin Turner on his recent receipt of a NAACP award. She also noted many businesses had experienced a positive impact from the recent Dizzy Dean Tournament which brought many out-of-town customers.

BOARD OF ALDERMEN COMMENTS:

Vice-Mayor Perkins recognized former Oktibbeha County Supervisor Bricklee Miller and her service to the County as well as her service to the Mississippi Horse Park. He noted she had served with professionalism and passion and noted growth of the Mississippi Horse Park has been seen under her direction. He wished her well in her future endeavors upon her retirement.

CITIZEN COMMENTS:

Alvin Turner, Ward 7, thanked the City for their support of the NAACP and Assistant Police Chief Henry Stewart for his recent assistance.

PUBLIC APPEARANCE: MISSISSIPPI HORSE PARK UPDATE FROM BRICKLEE MILLER

Ms. Miller thanked the City for their years of support to the Mississippi Horse Park. She presented a slideshow overview of her 24 years of service at the Mississippi Horse Park. She highlighted the approximate sixty-three-million-dollar impact to the local economy during these 24 years. She then presented the Mississippi Horse Park staff that were present and noted the venue is set to grow and thrive in the years to come. She then requested \$50,000 in budgetary assistance for the upcoming fiscal year.

PUBLIC HEARING:

FIRST PUBLIC HEARING FOR AMENDING THE MUNICIPAL CODE AND UNIFIED DEVELOPMENT CODE

City Planner Daniel Havelin presented the recommended amendments to the Municipal Code and Unified Development Code.

Proposed Revisions to the Municipal Code July 2024		
Amendment Number	Section Number	Description of Revision
1	9.3	Repeal Automatic Fire Suppression System Requirements. This section was moved to the UDC in its entirety.
Proposed Revisions to the Unified Development Code July 2024		

Amendment Number	Section Number	Description of Revision
2	14.6.2.1.1	Amended the Development Chart to permit, with additional standards, Projecting Signs, Suspending Signs, Awning Signs, Marquee Signs, Window Signs, and Nameplate Signs in Special Institutional and Special Educational zoning districts.
3	16.11	Repealing and replacing the entire "Public Right-of-Way Protection" section. Adopting: -"Purpose" section- New section -"Damage to Public Infrastructure" section- Similar to previous section 16.11 -"Permits" section- New section establishing permit requirements, processes, and conditions -"Requirements" Section- The new section establishes requirements for various construction activities that typically occur within the right-of-way. This includes tree trimming, culvert installation, excavation, erosion control, debris removal, equipment storage, and restoration, among other things.
4	18	Amended definition of "ANSI" Added definition of "Scope" Added definition of "Work Zone" Added definition of "ISA Certified Utility Specialist"

Mayor Spruill opened the Public Hearing. There being no comments, the Mayor closed the Public Hearing. The second public hearing and consideration are scheduled to be held on July 2, 2024.

22. CONSIDERATION OF THE CITY OF STARKVILLE CLAIMS DOCKET

Upon the motion of Alderman Sistrunk, duly seconded by Alderman Beatty, to approve the City of Starkville Claims Docket for all departments including Starkville Utilities, as of June 10, 2024 for fiscal year ending 9/30/24, acknowledging that the City Clerk has attested and certified on the cover of the claims docket that all claims on the docket are true, accurate, lawful and proper to the best of her knowledge, for payment pursuant to her duties under Miss. Code Sections 21-39-5, 21-39-7, 21-39-9, 21-39-17 and 21-15-21. The Board voted as follows:

Alderman Kim Moreland	Voted: Yea
Alderman Sandra Sistrunk	Voted: Yea
Alderman Jeffrey Rupp	Voted: Yea
Alderman Mike Brooks	Voted: Yea
Alderman Hamp Beatty	Voted: Yea
Alderman Roy A'. Perkins	Voted: Nay
Alderman Henry Vaughn, Sr.	Voted: Nay

Having received a majority affirmative vote, Mayor Spruill declared the motion passed.

General Fund	001	\$ 416,378.54
Airport Fund	015	78,335.78
Sanitation / Environ Services	022	58,126.07
Capital Projects Fund	300	27,940.58
2022 GO Bonds	305	25,363.79
Parks Capital Project Fund (2023)	312	1,905.00
Spring St/Hwy 12 Linkage TAP	313	2,500.00
Park and Rec	375	94,640.96
BUILD Grant MS 182	377	353.09
Payroll	681	6,573.35
Sub Total Before Utilities		\$ 712,117.16
Utilities Dept.	SED	611,672.76
Total Claims	Total	\$ 1,323,857.47

23. MOTION TO ADJOURN UNTIL JULY 2, 2024 @ 5:30 P.M. IN THE COURT ROOM AT 110 WEST MAIN STREET.

Upon the motion of Alderman Vaughn, duly seconded by Alderman Moreland, for the Board of Aldermen to recess the meeting until July 2, 2024 @ 5:30 at 110 West Main Street in the Court Room of City Hall, the Board voted as follows:

Alderman Kim Moreland	Voted: Yea
Alderman Sandra Sistrunk	Voted: Yea
Alderman Jeffrey Rupp	Voted: Yea
Alderman Mike Brooks	Voted: Yea
Alderman Hamp Beatty	Voted: Yea
Alderman Roy A'. Perkins	Voted: Yea
Alderman Henry Vaughn, Sr.	Voted: Yea

Having received a majority affirmative vote, Mayor Spruill declared the motion passed.

SIGNED AND SEALED THIS THE 16th DAY OF JULY, 2024.

Attest:

D. LYNN SPRUILL, MAYOR

LESA HARDIN, CITY CLERK