



# FROM THE DESK OF THE MAYOR

## May 5, 2026 Board of Aldermen Meeting Recap

The Mayor and Board of Aldermen held their regular meeting on Tuesday, May 5, with all aldermen present.

The meeting began with a proclamation recognizing May 18–22, 2026, as Mississippi Gulf Coast Innovation Week in Ocean Springs. This week highlights the importance of entrepreneurship, technology, workforce development, and regional collaboration as the Gulf Coast continues to grow its knowledge-based economy.

The Board also received a legislative funding update from Haley Martin with The Capital Group. Ocean Springs had a strong year at the Capitol, securing approximately \$9.25 million in newly appropriated funding for several important projects, including Highway 90 utility relocation, GIS mapping, infrastructure near the new middle school, artificial turf at the Highway 57 Sports Complex, downtown lighting, wayfinding, sidewalks, beautification, and Front Beach improvements. The City also had approximately \$10.6 million in reappropriated funds preserved for ongoing projects.

Following a public hearing, the Board approved a conditional use permit allowing the existing cottage at 801 Porter Avenue to be used as an art house and retail space for the Ocean Springs Art Association. The space is intended to provide local artists a place to display and sell their work, with minimal traffic impact and operations consistent with the neighborhood.

The Board discussed a proposed ordinance addressing designated parking for motor vehicles, golf carts, and low-speed vehicles in a portion of downtown. Discussion included parking safety, signage, fee schedules, and ADA accessibility. The ordinance will be revised and brought back for further consideration.

The Board appointed Jim Thompson to the Civil Service Commission to complete an unexpired term ending Sept. 30, 2029.

Several transportation-related resolutions were also on the agenda, including applications for FY27–30 Transportation Improvement Program funding for Greyhound Way widening, Old CCC Camp Road improvements, and Government Street sidewalk improvements.

The consent agenda included approval of several upcoming community events, including Taco Fest, the Singing River Health System Hospital Week Volleyball Tournament, Fridays at the Fort, the Wesson Memorial 2 Mile Run/Walk, Cruisin' the Coast, the Peter Anderson Arts & Crafts Festival, and future bridge run and marathon events. The Board also approved routine personnel, planning, grants, parks, public works, and departmental items.

The complete agenda is available on the City's website, and the meeting video and transcript are available on the City's YouTube channel for anyone who would like to review the full discussion.

**The complete agenda is available on the City's website here:**

<https://oceanspringsms.portal.civicclerk.com/event/452/files/agenda/1487>

**The meeting video and transcript are available on YouTube here:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T1cAkTz9aZM&t=623s>

As always, we appreciate the residents, staff, community partners, and Board members who continue to stay engaged in the work of moving Ocean Springs forward.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bobby Cox".

Bobby Cox  
Mayor

Source: May 5, 2026 agenda and transcript.