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September 7, 2025

Attorney General Lynn Fitch
Office of the Attorney General
P.O. Box 220
Jackson, MS 39205

Re: Request for Attorney General's Opinion – City Attorney Appointment in Ocean Springs

Dear Attorney General Fitch,

On behalf of the Ocean Springs Board of Aldermen, I respectfully submit the attached request for an official Attorney General's Opinion regarding the applicability of Mississippi Code § 21-15-41 to the position of City Attorney, and the permissible structure of City Attorney appointments or contracts under Mississippi law.

Recently, questions have arisen as to whether § 21-15-41, which limits compensation and validity of service in an interim or hold-over capacity for more than 90 days, applies to City Attorneys. Additionally, there is uncertainty about whether municipalities are permitted to engage a City Attorney on a temporary, project-based, or month-to-month basis as opposed to an annual contract.

To ensure proper adherence to state law and avoid potential misapplication, we respectfully seek clarity on these two legal points. The following attachments are enclosed for your review:

- Attorney General Opinion Request Form
- Attachment A –Relevant Factual Background

We would appreciate an expedited review if possible, as this matter directly affects current municipal operations and governance. Please feel free to contact me should any clarification be needed.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Alderman Shannon Grace Pfeiffer
Ward 4, City of Ocean Springs
spfeiffer@oceansprings-ms.gov
(228) 327-7094