

# Moss Point aldermen moving forward with funds to repair, upgrade natural gas lines (http://www.gulfive.com/)

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MOSS POINT, Mississippi -- Moss Point city officials on Tuesday moved forward to use a \$2.5 million bond issued by the previous administration in May to repair and upgrade natural gas lines.

The Moss Point Board of Aldermen approved a request to advertise for proposal to replace natural gas lines.

However, during the meeting, Mayor Billy Broomfield removed for a discussion a request for a contract amendment to Neel-Schaffer Inc. for the Rose Drive drainage project.

"Some of the officials had questions about it," said Broomfield.

The gas line work is part of mandate from the Mississippi Public Service Commission to reduce the amount of unaccounted gas loss across the city, which had been at 42 percent a year ago in September and October during public hearings.

During April, former Mayor Aneice Liddell and consultant C.J. Arnold said the loss had dropped to 7.5 percent after months of locating and repairing leaks, changing out metal pipes for polyethylene lines and examining the gas system accounting.

Arnold said the 7.5 percent had to be weighed against actual purchases to sales figures over time.

The city had been reporting its progress to the PSC on a weekly basis.

Bethanne Dufour, public relations director with the PSC Southern District division, said Tuesday that she did not have exact figures on the city's progress

"We are still working directly with the city of Moss Point. They are not where they need to be but they are progressing daily with the replacing of piping where it needed and identifying any other needed repairs," she said.

The board also approved contract for Cardno TBE to provide engineering services or assessment of brownfields across the city. A firm has been selected to provide a list of sites.

The officials approved using the remaining \$1,500 of \$3,500 in mitigation funds from a telecommunications tower on McInnis street to repair the historic Boy Scout hut located on the grounds of the proposed Pascagoula River Audubon Center. AT&T had to provide the funds because of the tower's possible impact on the historic district in downtown Moss Point.

Two weeks ago, the board approved using \$2,000 of the money to provide signage for Moss Point's historic downtown district, which has been named to the National Register of Historic Places.



Alderman Houston Cunningham

After many years of substantial gas loss, Arnold assists Moss Point in reducing loss from 52% down to 7.5% in less than a year.

Alderman-at-large Houston Cunningham requested and other officials approved adding the old Kick-off Club on Jackson Avenue to the list of dilapidated structures set for demolition that will come before the board during a public hearing Sept. 17. Building official Andrew Beamon said Tuesday that the structures up for demolition number about six or seven.

They also approved a request to advertise for a warehouse clerk for Public Works.

On its consent agenda, the Moss Point Board of Aldermen:

- Accepted resignation letter of Officer Daniel Reyes.
- Approved request for Janiece Pasha to attend administrative assistant training in Gulfport at a cost of \$195 (to be paid out of local drug seizure funds).
- Approved request for Windell Ashford to attend the Professional Judicial Development Seminar in Jackson, Miss., at a cost of \$319.
- Approved for Officer Ben Williams to attend Roadside Interview Techniques and Detection Deception training in Pearl, Miss., on Aug. 21-23 at cost of \$103.
- Approved request for Stephanie Roberts to attend "Transportation Disaster Course for Dispatchers" training in Pascagoula on Aug. 26-27 at a cost of \$300.
- Approved estimate No. 11 for Neel-Schaffer in the amount of \$3,232.
- Approved request to apply for Safe Grant for fire department.
- Approved request to apply for AFG Grant to purchase equipment for the fire department.
- Approved request to apply for Safe Places to Play Grant - U.S. Soccer Foundation.

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I bet if they tried to account for all the meters, they'd see where some of the problem is. Many of the "leaks" are purposefully occurring in stoves, ovens, and heating units. The rate will rise once the cool weather arrives.

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