



Bobby Cox | Mayor
Matthew Hinton | Alderman at Large
Steve Tillis | Alderman Ward 1
Karen Stennis | Alderman Ward 2

Kevin Wade | Alderman Ward 3
Shannon Pfeiffer | Alderman Ward 4
Rob Blackman | Alderman Ward 5
Julie Messenger | Alderman Ward 6



OCEAN SPRINGS
MISSISSIPPI

228.875.4236 | www.oceansprings-ms.gov

Attorney General's Office
Opinion Division
P.O. Box 220
Jackson, MS 39205-0220

September 15, 2025

Re: Request for Attorney General's Opinion
Dear Sir or Madame:

The City of Ocean Springs began its new term of office on July 1, 2025. The former city attorney resigned effective June 30, 2025. Prior to the full resignation, the City appointed an attorney as "interim city attorney" on June 17, 2025.

Because the interim period was coming to an end on September 17, 2025, pursuant to Miss. Code 21-45-41, the City appointed the interim city attorney as the regular city attorney under a one-year contract

Does the appointment of the city attorney, who was formally serving as the interim city attorney, on an annual basis comply with Miss. Code 21-15-25?

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Mayor Bobby Cox
The City of Ocean Springs



REQUEST FOR ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OPINION

Attorney General's Office
Opinions Division
Post Office Box 220
Jackson, Mississippi 39205-0220

Telephone: 601-359-3680
www.ago.ms.gov

THIS OFFICE DOES NOT ADDRESS ISSUES ON MATTERS CURRENTLY IN LITIGATION

Is this issue in litigation? (YOU MUST CHECK ONE)

Yes [] No [x]

If no, do you anticipate that litigation will be filed? (YOU MUST CHECK ONE)

Yes [] No [x]

Requestor's Name: Robert "Bobby" Cox Date: 9/15/2025

City/County/Agency Name: City of Ocean Springs

Mailing Address: 1018 Porter Avenue

City: Ocean Springs State: MS Zip Code: 39564

Email address: bcox@oceansprings-ms.gov

Telephone Number: 228-875-6722 Alternate Number:

Specify public title or official public position that qualifies you to request an opinion:

Mayor

Specify the question which is the subject of your request for an official opinion (Attach additional sheets if required):

Question 1: If an attorney is appointed as interim city attorney, does the interim city attorney position terminate at the expiration of the ninety (90) day period pursuant to Miss. Code Sec. 21-15-41?

Question 2: Would the subsequent appointment of the same attorney who was serving at the interim need to be done on an annual basis pursuant to Miss. Code Sec. 21-15-25?

Set forth the facts relevant to the question which is the subject of your request for an official opinion (Attach additional sheets if required):

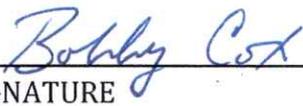
On June 17, 2025, an attorney was appointed to be the interim city attorney on a month-to-month basis because the prior city attorney was resigning when the new board of alderman took office on July 1, 2025.

On September 2, 2025, the interim city attorney was appointed the regular city attorney under an annual contract because the interim city attorney term was expected to expire on September 17, 2025.

After the appointment of the regular city attorney, questions have arisen regarding whether such appointment complied with the Miss. Code. Sec. 21-15-25

Please upload your written request for an opinion on your official letterhead here.

Signature and title of individual requesting opinion:



SIGNATURE

Mayor

TITLE