

City of Hattiesburg, MS

*200 Forrest St.
P.O. Box 1898
Hattiesburg, MS 39401*



Minutes Report

Friday, January 20, 2017

12:15 PM

Council Chambers

City Council

BE IT REMEMBERED that a special called meeting of the Hattiesburg City Council was held at 12:15 p.m. Friday, January 20, 2017, in Council Chambers at City Hall.

Those present included members of the City Council Kim Bradley, Ward 1; Deborah Delgado, Ward 2; Carter Carroll, Ward 3; and Mary Dryden, Ward 4. Others in attendance included Director of Administration/City Clerk, Kermas Eaton; Assistant Police Chief, Frank Misenhelter; Director of Urban Development, Pattie Brantley; Clerk of Council, Debbie Bernardo; Deputy Clerk of Council, Lisa Luu; media; and the public.

The MEETING was called to order by Council President Carroll.

1. **2017-171** Consider suspending a portion of Ordinance Number 3207, adopted September 20, 2016, to amend Ordinance Number 3198, adopted May 3, 2016, regulating parades, rallies and other similar uses of public places; authorizing the chief of police to receive applications and issue permits and providing standards for issuance thereof; establishing procedures for appeal upon rejection of application; requiring indemnification and comprehensive general liability insurance; establishing and/or revising certain parade regulations; and making it unlawful to violate the provisions of this ordinance.

1. Ordinance 3207

Council President Carroll called on Council member Bradley.

Council member Bradley discussed calls he has received related to the parade ordinance; he said businesses planning to take part in the Mardi Gras parade expressed concern about the . Council member Bradley said he called Chief Parker who, according to Council member Bradley, said he understood the concerns and felt that they could be handled .

Council member Bradley said he attended a meeting of all interested parties the next day at the Police and Fire Academy and learned that previous issues with barricades have been resolved; he said the City of Jackson will loan its barricades and that L & A Contracting will pick them up, and that USM has bought additional barricades. Council member Bradley said he talked with Chief Parker the following day, and that Chief Parker stated that the ordinance needed to be enforced . Council member Bradley said that Melissa Davis, a parade organizer, indicated that registration is down but that some people are waiting for a decision on .

In response to a question from Council President Carroll, Council member Bradley stated that USM has additional barricades and that their barricades and the borrowed barricades from Jackson will be used in the turns and in congested areas.

Council Vice President Dryden read aloud Section 5 B3 of the parade ordinance.

Council member Bradley stated that Ms. Davis reported that following the Mardi Gras parade last year, a post-parade

meeting was held and she verified then that there were no safety issues and that the parade marshals were able to keep people from getting too close to the floats.

Council Vice President Dryden commented that there were walkers at the Halloween parade.

Council President Carroll said it is his understanding that no parade this year has enforced use of the pipes. He asked Assistant Chief Misenhelter if he were the Council to suspend portions of the ordinance for now; he said he would like to meet later with Assistant Chief Misenhelter about this issue and about an exception to allow the Clydesdale horses for the Veterans' Day parade.

Council member Delgado said she can foresee being a challenge for the African American History Month parade in February and the Euro parade this summer.

Council member Bradley noted that a child was killed during a parade in Louisiana recently; he said government is trying to make things safe, but that the encumbrances on the make events almost not possible. He suggested having marshals on either side of the floats and everyone using common sense.

Council President Carroll stated that the ordinance needs to be suspended for the Mardi Gras parade and also for the African American History Month parade. He said he expects revisions to be made before the Euro parade during the summer.

Assistant Chief Misenhelter asked if the Council still wants marshals; several Council members responded in the affirmative. Assistant Chief Misenhelter asked if they should be 15 feet apart; Council member Bradley said that Chief Parker had discussed with him having a parade marshal in front and one on either side of each float. Council President Carroll stated that the African American History Month parade will not have floats as large as those in the Mardi Gras parade. Subsequent discussion related to the future purchase by the city of additional barricades for use along parade routes.

A MOTION was made by Council member Bradley and seconded by Council member Delgado to suspend the requirement in Section 5 B2 of Ordinance 3207 that parade marshals be 15 feet apart, and instead require one parade marshal on each side of each float, and to suspend Section 5 B3 entirely, for the 2017 Mardi Gras parade and the 2017 African American History Month parade.

There being no discussion, the Motion received the affirmative vote of the Council as follows:

Yeas: 4 - Bradley, Delgado, Carroll and Dryden

Nays: 0

Absent: 1 - Naylor

By unanimous consent, Council President Carroll declared the meeting recessed at 12:33 p.m., this the 20th day of January, A.D., 2017