

Published Agenda



Monday, June 19, 2023	City Council	Council Chambers
4:00 PM	Monday Meeting Agenda	200 Forrest Street

- Call to Order
- Agenda Review
- Citizens' Forum
- Meeting Recess

Call to Order

BE IT REMEMBERED that the **Agenda Review meeting of the Hattiesburg City Council was held at 4:00 p.m. Monday, June 19, 2023**, in Council Chambers at City Hall; same being from an adjourned meeting held on June 6, 2023.

Those present included Mayor Toby Barker and members of the City Council Jeffrey George, Ward 1; Deborah Delgado, Ward 2 (via teleconference); Carter Carroll, Ward 3; Dave Ware, Ward 4; and Nicholas Brown, Ward 5. Others in attendance included Director of Administration/City Clerk, Kermas Eaton; City Attorney, Randy Pope; Clerk of Council, Ronda S. Kennedy; Deputy Clerk of Council, Lisa Luu Jolly; City staff members; media; and the public.

Council President George Called the meeting to order.

Agenda Review

Council President George proceeded with the Agenda Review.

Following discussion of agenda items, Council President George closed the Agenda Review.

Citizens' Forum

Council Vice President Ware proceeded with the Citizens' Forum.

He stated the procedures and invited members of the public to speak.

The following citizens addressed the Council:

- Fred Smith, 2012 Mamie Street
- Paige Jenkins, 211 S. 25th Avenue

Ms. Jenkins read aloud her statement for the record:

“Hi, I'm Paige Jenkins. I live directly behind Top Five Club. There is about 80- yards in between from where the shooting transpired to where I lay my head at night.

I have owned my home on 25th Ave. for thirteen years. Never, not once have I even not felt safe. Now, I feel like I live in the middle of a battlefield.

- Let's start with the noise - music on Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights vibrates the walls plus we don't go to bed until 2-3p.
- Trash - a minimum of 40 plus beer bottles will be chucked into my back yard within three nights.
- Drug Paraphernalia- is found every weekend.
- Urinating- in my back yard - men and women. The amount of people that are allowed in the nightclub clearly exceeds the amount of restrooms they have.
- Mailboxes - our mailbox have been destroyed not once but twice.
- Hub caps - Two hub caps have been stolen off my car.

In the last 10 months, between the hub caps and the two mailboxes we've spent \$400 plus replacing damages from Top Five patrons. I've had conversations with the owners. We been made promises the music would get better, they would handle the trash.

And finally, I would like to talk about the shooting night. 12:20- woke up to gun fire. Walked around my bed into the living room and gun fire was still going. Seventy plus, shot fired.

Tyler yelled for me to get on the ground. I called 911 at 12:28. The operator told me they already had people heading my way. We got up when we noticed the police light threw the window. I looked out the back window to see the police running threw my back yard with assault rifles drawn. People running and screaming out of Top Five. I have never in my life experienced something like that. The only time I've heard a gun fired is in the woods, hunting.

I also want to remind you that the club is within walking distance to an Elementary school where my neighbors' kids, who in fact heard the shooting, happen attend school.

Over the past 10-month property has been damaged/destroyed, property littered with endless trash, patrons of the bar urinating in our back yard, unable to sleep at 3 and 4 am in the morning because of music from the night club or cars in the parking lot. The June 3rd shooting was awful and tipped the scales. But the surrounding neighbor and businesses have been negatively impacted by Top Five since the doors opened and we've seen little to no concern or respect for our well-being, privacy, or our property.

Council, I beg you for help. I ask that you investigate this business. I ask that you take swift & immediate actions. This business opened 4-day after the shooting while someone is still fighting for their life in the hospital. This business does not belong in the Parkhaven neighborhood.

There were no other citizens present who wished to address the Council.

Council Vice President Ware closed the Citizen Forum.

Meeting Recess

Council President George declared the **meeting recessed at 4:30 p.m., this 19th day of June, 2023**, by unanimous consent, until the 20th day of June, 2023.

ATTEST:

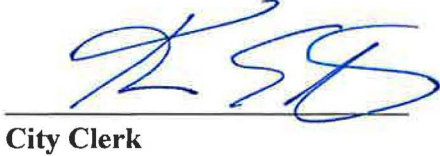
APPROVE:


Clerk of Council


Council President

ATTEST AND CERTIFY:

APPROVE:


City Clerk


Mayor