

Call to Order

BE IT REMEMBERED that the Hattiesburg City Council held a **Public Hearing on unsafe properties at 4:00 p.m. Monday, March 16, 2020**, in Council Chambers at City Hall, pursuant to order adopted , February 18, 2020, at Minute Book 2020 Page 41 , to determine if the following properties are in such a state of uncleanliness so as to be a menace to the health and safety of the community.

Those present included Mayor Toby Barker and members of the City Council Jeffrey George, Ward 1; Deborah Delgado, Ward 2; Carter Carroll, Ward 3; Mary Dryden, 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. Cole; Deputy Clerk of Council, Lisa Luu; City staff members; media; and the public.

Council President Carroll called the meeting to order and explained the procedures.

Public Hearing

1. **2020-199** Hold Public Hearing to determine if certain properties are in such a state of uncleanliness so as to be a menace to the health and safety of the community, according to the provision of MS Code 1972, Section 21-19-11.

Attachments: [Memorandum](#)
[1400 Penton CC](#)
[108 Independence CC](#)
[123 E. Florence CC](#)
[217 W. 7th Street CC](#)
[131 W 8th CC](#)
[121 Taylor CC](#)
[45 South Hills CC](#)
[6563 Hwy 49 cc](#)
[250 Dauphine CC](#)
[312 Dixie CC](#)
[1504 Main CC](#)
[1013 Edwards CC](#)
[725 Atlanta St.](#)
[Certified Mail Tags](#)

Code Enforcement Division Manager Wiley Quinn presented the properties to be considered. Mr. Quinn recommended that the Council adopt resolutions determining the properties are in such a state of uncleanliness so as to be a menace to the health and safety of the community, providing a specified period of time to remove the violations, and declaring the City's intent to take action to clear violations and charge the cost plus penalty against the property if the violations are not resolved in the specified period of time.

Council President Carroll called out each unsafe property listed and asked if there were any citizens who wished to speak on behalf of the property called.

Ms. Stephanie Fox appeared before the Council to address concerns regarding property **1504 1/2 North Main**. Ms. Fox explained that the property belonged to her deceased mother. Council President Carroll asked Ms. Fox if the property was hers and what were her plans for the property. Ms. Fox responded that she paid taxes on it, and that she would get a permit to fix and maintain the property's standards. Council member Delgado advised Ms. Fox to get in contact with Mr. Quinn on what she would be required to do. Mr. Quinn told Ms. Fox that the permit will be good for six months. With the property being located in the Historic Neighborhoods, Mr. Quinn explained to Ms. Fox that she would need to work with Mr. Russell Archer also.

Council President Carroll asked the property **1504 1/2 North Main** be removed from Tuesday's meeting agenda.

Mr. Clarence Jones appeared before the Council to address concerns regarding property **1013 Edwards Street**. Mr. Quinn provided an overview of the property and advised the Council to go forward on condemning the inhabitable property due to structure being dangerous. Mr. Jones provided the Council updated exterior photos of the property. Mr. Jones also stated that he had a contractor, David Mitchell, who he had spoken with recently to help him fix the property where it needed to be. He also mentioned that the Council could contact Mr. Mitchell to reset the hearing or let him provide the Council the contract he had with Mr. Mitchell. Council member Delgado asked Mr. Jones would Mr. Mitchell work on the property's interior and asked whether he had a permit or not. Council member George also asked Mr. Quinn when did the notice get sent out. Mr. Quinn responded that the notice was sent out February 12, 2020. Council member Delgado and Council President Carroll advised Mr. Jones several times to get in contact with Mr. Quinn and reminded him that he would have 15 days to resolve the issue. Council President Carroll also explained to Mr. Jones if he does not take action within 15 days, the property will proceed to get demolished. Council member Delgado also explained to Mr. Jones that not only he would need to get a permit, but he would also need to work on getting the property maintained right away. Council President Carroll advised Mr. Jones to make sure he informed Mr. Quinn on any progress done to the property. Mr. Jones agreed with everything the Council was advising him to do, and he said he wanted to be cooperative. He also said he would get in contact with Mr. Quinn during this week.

Mr. Quinn recommended the resolutions allowing homeowners 15 days to resolve violations with the exceptions of the following properties to be effective immediately: 217 W. 7th Street, 250 Dauphine Street and 6563 Hwy 49.

Council President Carroll asked whether the following listed properties would need to be voted on separately for Tuesday's meeting. City Attorney Pope advised in the affirmative.

There were no other citizens present who wished to address the Council regarding properties listed for the public hearing.

By unanimous consent, Council President Carroll **closed the public hearing at 4:22 p.m. and proceeded with the Agenda Adjustments.**

Agenda Adjustments

The Clerk of Council read aloud amendments to the agenda as follows:

Add Policy Item #24 and Routine Item #15 at the request of the Administration as follows:

Policy#

24. 2020-209 Acknowledge declaration of a local emergency caused by a Pandemic Event (COVID-19) that occurred on or about March 13, 2020.

Attachments: COVID-19 Declaration

Routine#

15. 2020-210 Acknowledge the City of Hattiesburg's participation in the Forrest County Public Health and Medical Services Pandemic Influenza Annex Plan.

Agenda Review

Council President Carroll proceeded with the Agenda Review.

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

Citizens' Forum

Council Vice President Dryden proceeded with the Citizens' Forum.

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

The following citizens addressed the Council:

- Joel Case, 119 North 35th Ave., Apt. B
- Joseph Rawson, 701 Dearborne Road

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

Council Vice President Dryden closed the Citizen Forum.

Meeting Recess

By unanimous consent, Council President Carroll declared the **meeting recessed at 4:51 p.m., this the 16th day of March, 2020.**

ATTEST:

APPROVE:


Clerk of Council


Council President

ATTEST AND CERTIFY:

APPROVE:


City Clerk


Mayor

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