



For More Information, Contact:

Lauri-Ellen Smith, APR
Director, Community Relations
City of Pascagoula
Office: 228-938-6651 Mobile: 228-217-2824
Email: lsmith@cityofpascagoula.com

Council Votes to Remove 1% Local Option Tax from Legislative Agenda

January 16, 2019 – (Pascagoula, MS) - At its January 15, 2019 meeting, the Pascagoula City Council voted 5-0 to remove the Municipal Option Sales Tax from its 2019 Legislative requests.

As previously stated and discussed by the Council, had the state Legislature approved and the Governor signed the legislation, the Municipal Option Sales Tax would have allowed the City Council to put forward a project for public necessity for a public vote by the citizens. Sixty percent (60%) of those voting would have had to cast their ballot in favor of the project and the funding for a specified period of time, after which time the special tax would end.

In making the motion to remove the item, Mayor Dane Maxwell stated, "I guess there is a misunderstanding of exactly how that's supposed to work... We opted for the (option) where we bring it back to you guys and you vote on it, not us," motioning to the public in the Council Chambers.

"However, since everybody got in an uproar, we're going to pull it off and take the 1% tax off of our legislative discussion," Maxwell added. "That was just an option to have in our toolbox where you guys would have to vote on that and it wouldn't just be anything we passed."

Councilwoman-at-Large Jennifer Colmer seconded the motion.

Colmer noted the need to retain the option of the reinstatement of the Hotel/Motel Tax for the benefit of the City's financial health, as the funds generated through this special tax, largely derived from those not residing in the City of Pascagoula, would help the Council overtime reduce its millage rate which affects every taxpayer in the City.

-30-

