

**RECESSED REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL  
TUESDAY, APRIL 26, 2016 AT 5:00 P. M.**

The City Council of the City of Pascagoula, Mississippi, met in a recessed regular meeting on Tuesday April 26, 2016, at 5:00 p.m. Mayor Blevins called the meeting to order with the following officials present:

Mayor Harry J. Blevins  
Councilman Burt Hill  
Councilman Freddy Jackson  
Councilwoman Brenda Simkins (absent)  
Councilman David Tadlock (teleconference)  
Councilman Marvin Pickett  
Councilman Scott Tipton

City Manager Joe Huffman  
City Attorney Eddie Williams  
City Clerk/Comptroller Bobby Parker  
Chief Deputy City Clerk Carol Groen

Mayor Blevins welcomed everyone to the meeting. The invocation was given by Councilman Jackson. The pledge of allegiance was led by Councilman Tipton.

Mayor Blevins stated that the purpose of this meeting was to discuss several items of concern and receive input from Council.

**The following items were discussed:**

1. Public Defender
2. Public Works Contract
3. Market Street
4. TIGER Grant

**Public Defender**

Eddie Williams, City Attorney, stated that Judge Fondren was here to give insight on the law with indigent defendants and the need for a Public Defender.

After a discussion regarding this issue, the consensus of the Council was for Mr. Williams to draft an Ordinance for the next regular meeting, Tuesday, May 3, 2016, for approval to begin the process of hiring a Public Defender. Once the ordinance has passed, Mr. Williams and Valarie Moore, Human Resources Director, will work up a job description and salary for the Public Defender.

No formal action was taken.

**Public Works Contract**

Joe Huffman, City Manager, stated to Council that he, Eddie Williams, City Attorney, and Jaci Turner, City Engineer, had come up with some options and recommendations concerning Public Works contract.

After a lengthy discussion, the consensus of the Council was to bring Council a one-year extension proposal for approval.

No formal action was taken.

### **TIGER Grant**

Jen Dearman, Community and Economic Development Director, stated that the TIGER Grant is funded by the Federal DOT and awarded to municipalities and other groups via State DOTs. For Mississippi, the State DOT is MDOT. The proposed grant scope of work for this year's application included sidewalks and bike lanes along Highway 90, train depot improvements, Quiet Zone improvements, and a walking and biking path across the Highway 90 Bridge. While developing the application, Council requested time to consider adding Market Street improvements to the scope. The minimum grant request amount is \$5 million with a local funds match of \$1.25 million.

After a discussion regarding the timeline and other complicating requirements of a TIGER Grant, the consensus of the Council is to develop an application for next year's granting cycle without the Market Street improvements.

No formal action was taken.

### **Market Street**

Jaci Turner, City Engineer, explained that first phase of construction would be Ingalls to Polk and could begin in December. Second phase of construction is Beach to Parsley which that construction schedule would follow the first.

Donovan Scruggs, City Planner, gave input on the advantage of moving forward with the project.

Jen Dearman, Community and Economic Development Director, stated she was meeting with several merchants on Market Street in the following two weeks to explain the plan for Market Street. She wants the merchants' input on how this plan will affect their businesses and the things they would need for their businesses to help with the project.

After a lengthy discussion, the consensus of the Council is to delay the project to get input from business owners and the public through public meetings on the conceptual design for Market Street. Freddy Jackson, Councilman Ward 2, wants to move forward with the project.

No formal action was taken.

### **Public Comment**

BJ with the Carnival Association stated she was concerned about the roundabouts at the intersections due to the parade floats. She was informed that the floats would not be an issue and that roundabouts could handle such traffic.

Clarification from the Council concerning Market Street was to push the plan back to June and Councilman Jackson wants to go forward in May. Mayor stated to go ahead with the plan to meet with merchants to gather their opinions in preparation of public meetings in June.

There being no further business to come before the Council at this time, Councilman Hill made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilman Tipton and received the following vote: Mayor Blevins "AYE". Councilmen Hill "AYE", Jackson "AYE", Pickett "AYE", Simkins "ABSENT", Tadlock "AYE", and Tipton "AYE".

The meeting ended at 7:02 p.m.

APPROVED:

---

Harry J. Blevins, Mayor

ATTEST:

---

Carol Groen, Chief Deputy City Clerk