

Received 1/11/16 (11:45am)
Lesa Hardin

HISTORIC
STARKVILLE

MISSISSIPPI'S COLLEGE TOWN

THE CITY OF STARKVILLE

Mayor's Office

CITY HALL,

101 EAST LAMPKIN STREET

STARKVILLE, MISSISSIPPI 39759

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Parker Wiseman,
Mayor

January 11, 2016

Mrs. Lesa Hardin, City Clerk
110 West Main Street
Starkville, MS 39759

Re: Motion Veto

VIA HAND DELIVERY

Dear Mrs. Hardin:

Be advised that pursuant to **MS Code section 21-3-15**, this is formal notice that I veto the Motion presented by Vice-Mayor and Alderman Roy'. Perkins and seconded by Alderwoman Lisa Wynn, which was passed at the January 5, 2016 Recess Meeting of the Starkville Board of Aldermen the motion being:

DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF STARKVILLE, MISSISSIPPI ESTABLISHING A POLICY FOR USE OF CITY HALL MEETING SPACE BY THIRD PARTIES.

After reading the following Resolution (Attached as "Appendix") establishing a policy for the use of City Hall meeting space by third parties, Alderman Perkins offered a motion to approve the Resolution of the City Of Starkville, Mississippi establishing a policy for use of city hall meeting space by third parties. The motion was duly seconded by Alderman Wynn and the Board voted as follows to approve the motion:

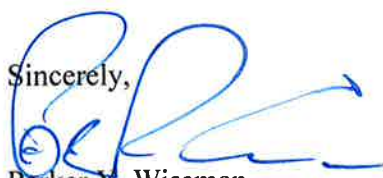
Alderman Ben Carver	Voted: Nay
Alderman Lisa Wynn	Voted: Yea
Alderman David Little	Voted: Nay
Alderman Jason Walker	Voted: Nay
Alderman Scott Maynard	Voted: Yea
Alderman Roy A'. Perkins	Voted: Yea
Alderman Henry Vaughn, Sr.	Voted: Yea

Having received a majority affirmative vote, the Mayor declared the motion carried.

The resolution passed by the Board of Aldermen on January 5, 2016 prohibits the use of City Hall meeting spaces by outside groups. While it is understandable that rules and regulations must govern the use of meeting spaces in City Hall, it is counterintuitive that the most public building in the City should be closed to use by the public it serves. Currently the Oktibbeha County Courthouse, the Greater Starkville Development Partnership office building, and the office buildings of three local banks are open to outside groups on a limited basis. If those public and private organizations are able to manage the security concerns associated with accommodating the public in their facilities, then I have no doubt that the City can as well.

City Hall is paid for by the public. It exists for the benefit of the public. Accordingly, our efforts should be spent in trying to maximize rather than eliminate public participation in the building. Therefore, I veto the motion to approve the resolution prohibiting third party use of City Hall meeting space.

Sincerely,



Parker Y. Wiseman
Mayor
City of Starkville, MS

APPENDIX: Resolution

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF STARKVILLE, MISSISSIPPI ESTABLISHING A POLICY REGARDING THE USE OF MEETING SPACE BY THIRD PARTIES AT THE NEW CITY HALL

WHEREAS, Starkville’s Mayor and Board of Aldermen find as follows:

- (1) that the new City Hall, located at 110 West Main Street, was constructed to contain various meeting spaces for City employees and representatives to conduct City business;
- (2) that the interior meeting spaces in City Hall were not constructed or intended to be used or rented out to third parties;
- (3) that the City Hall contains sensitive information and materials relating to the operation of the City Clerk’s office, the Municipal Court, the Mayor’s Office, and other City Departments;
- (4) that the use or renting of the interior meeting spaces in City Hall to third parties exposes the City to potential property damage and security breaches, and undercuts the City’s ability to safeguard its documents and materials; and
- (5) that the City provides other meeting spaces outside of City Hall that may be used or rented by third parties and that are appropriate for that use.

NOW, THEREFORE, the City of Starkville, through its Mayor and Board of Aldermen, hereby resolves that:

A. Interior meeting space in City Hall shall not be used solely by third parties. For the purposes of this Resolution, interior meeting space means any meeting space inside City Hall including, but not limited to, the lobby/foyer area.

B. The City may, however, conduct meetings involving third parties in City Hall but those meetings shall be organized by the City, participated in by the City, and for the specific furtherance of City business.

C. In addition, the City may allow only the exterior plaza area, located outside and in front of City Hall, to be used for meetings and gatherings by third parties. To use such meeting space, the third party shall file a written application with the City Clerk’s Office on a form provided by the City Clerk. The application must be filed with the City Clerk at least ten (10) business days before the scheduled event.

The City reserves the right to reject any application. The use of the exterior plaza space outside City Hall does not give the applicant, or anyone associated with the proposed meeting or gathering, the right to meet inside City Hall, including the lobby/foyer area.

Upon motion of Alderman _____, duly seconded by Alderman _____, at a public meeting of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen on January 5, 2016, wherein this Resolution was adopted, the Aldermen voted as follows:

- Ben Carver Voted: ___
- Lisa Wynn Voted: ___
- David Little Voted: ___
- Jason Walker Voted: ___
- Scott Maynard Voted: ___
- Roy A’ Perkins Voted: ___
- Henry Vaughn Voted: ___

SO RESOLVED this the 5th Day of January, 2016.