

HISTORIC  
**STARKVILLE**

MISSISSIPPI'S COLLEGE TOWN

**THE CITY OF STARKVILLE**

*Mayor's Office*

CITY HALL,

101 EAST LAMPKIN STREET  
STARKVILLE, MISSISSIPPI 39759

**RECEIVED**

**JUL 09 2013**

**Starkville City Hall**

**2:06 PM**

*TR*

Phone: 662-323-4583, ext. 100

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Parker Wiseman,  
Mayor

July 9, 2013

Mr. Taylor Adams, City Clerk  
101 East Lampkin Street  
Starkville, MS 39759

Re: Motion Veto

VIA HAND DELIVERY

Dear Mr. Adams:

Be advised that pursuant to **MS Code section 21-3-15**, this is formal notice that I veto the Motion presented by Alderman Ben Carver, seconded by Alderman David Little, which was passed at the July 2, 2013 Regular Meeting of the Starkville Board of Aldermen the motion being:

**A MOTION NOT TO REAPPOINT D. LYNN SPRUILL TO HER POSITION OF CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER, AND THAT SHE BE REMOVED FROM HER POSITION EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY, PROVIDED THAT SHE HAS UNTIL 5:00 PM ON JULY 3, 2013 TO CLEAN OUT HER OFFICE AND EXIT THE PREMISES.**

**The motion made by Alderman Ben Carver duly seconded by Alderman David Little, was put to vote with the results as follows:**

<b>Alderman Ben Carver</b>	<b>voted: Yea</b>
<b>Alderman Lisa Wynn</b>	<b>voted: Yea</b>
<b>Alderman David Little</b>	<b>voted: Yea</b>
<b>Alderman Jason Walker</b>	<b>voted: Nay</b>
<b>Alderman Scott Maynard</b>	<b>voted: Nay</b>
<b>Alderman Roy A'. Perkins</b>	<b>voted: Yea</b>
<b>Alderman Henry Vaughn, Sr.</b>	<b>voted: Yea</b>

**After receiving a majority of the affirmative vote, the Mayor declared the motion carried on July 2, 2013.**

When I took office four years ago I didn't know Lynn Spruill. She had been appointed Chief Administrative Officer four years before my first election as mayor of Starkville. Prior to my initial term I received many questions and opinions from citizens on the subject of whether I would recommend

[www.cityofstarkville.org](http://www.cityofstarkville.org)

retaining Lynn as Chief Administrative Officer. Having had no prior experience with her, I had no basis for making a recommendation of any kind.

Accordingly, I requested time to evaluate Lynn and each of the other department heads. A brief evaluation period left no doubt in my mind that Lynn is an asset for the City of Starkville. Four years later, my opinion is unchanged. Furthermore, I would not have taken issue with the Board beginning this term with a 90 day evaluation period for department heads.

Lynn presents a unique blend of education, experience in government and the private sector, and passion for her hometown that make her an exceptional chief administrative officer. In addition to a high school education from the Starkville School District, she holds a bachelor's degree, a master's in public administration, and a juris doctorate. Her professional experience consists of: active military service, a full career as a commercial pilot for a fortune 100 company, serving as mayor of Addison, Texas, and owning/operating a property management and development company.

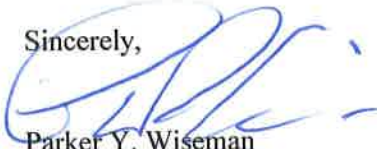
Lynn's unyielding desire to see the place where she was born and raised do well is perhaps her most important qualification to serve as chief administrative officer. Not only does she often work well into the night seven days a week, but she does so for a salary that is shockingly low. A recent salary survey revealed that the average salary for someone in Lynn's position in peer cities is \$72,296 higher than Lynn's current salary.

The benefits the City of Starkville has received from her talents and her devotion are readily apparent. Operationally, Starkville provides services that are among the highest quality in the state on tax rates that are among the lowest in the state. Additionally, Lynn has worked to make Starkville a leader in accessibility, accountability, and transparency. The following are among the initiatives she has successfully implemented: 1.) making available the first 311 hotline in Mississippi to provide 24 hour access to city services, 2.) organizing a performance measurement program to quantitatively measure the efficiency and effectiveness of city service provision, and 3.) compiling the once scattered laws and ordinances of the city into a modern "Code of Ordinances" that is easily searchable on paper and online.

While the reasons to retain Lynn are abundant, I have yet to hear a single reason to terminate her from a single member of the Board of Alderman. Nevertheless, a five member majority of the Board has voted to terminate her without a word of explanation. Conducting the business of the public in such a manner is a disservice to the citizens we serve. I believe strongly that Lynn has earned an opportunity to continue to serve the City. At a minimum, she deserves to be informed of why she is being fired. Therefore, I veto the Board order to terminate Lynn Spruill's employment as chief administrative officer.

Should you require assistance or further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Parker Y. Wiseman  
Mayor  
City of Starkville, MS