



**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI**

March 16, 2020

AGENDA

3:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER BY THE PRESIDENT

- 1 **ORDER TEMPORARILY SUSPENDING SECTIONS OF THE JACKSON CITY COUNCIL'S REGULAR MEETING AGENDA CONCERNING PUBLIC COMMENTS AND THE PROCLAMATIONS, SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS, COMMENDATIONS, AND RESOLUTIONS HONORING INDIVIDUALS, BUSINESSES, GROUPS OR ORGANIZATIONS.**

REPORTS FROM MEMBERS OR DEPARTMENT DIRECTORS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

ORDER TEMPORARILY SUSPENDING SECTIONS OF THE JACKSON CITY COUNCIL'S REGULAR MEETING AGENDA CONCERNING PUBLIC COMMENTS AND THE PROCLAMATIONS, SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS, COMMENDATIONS, AND RESOLUTIONS HONORING INDIVIDUALS, BUSINESSES, GROUPS OR ORGANIZATIONS.

WHEREAS, the Jackson City Council adopted an ordinance which governs the order of its business, which is codified at Section 2-64 of the City of Jackson Code of Ordinances; and

WHEREAS, the Jackson City Council also adopted an ordinance which governs public comments, which is codified at Section 2-71(c) of the City of Jackson Code of Ordinance; and

WHEREAS, both the Mississippi Department of Health, and the United States White House have urged that certain emergency measures be implemented in the wake of the COVID-19 spread; and

WHEREAS, the emergency measures recommended include, but are not limited to, social distancing; and

WHEREAS, the Jackson City Council recognizes that part of ordinances codified at Section 2-64 and Section 2-71 (c) of the City of Jackson Code of Ordinances are not compatible with the implementation of the recommended measures; and

WHEREAS, in *Gannett River States Pub. Corp., Inc. v. City of Jackson*, the Mississippi Supreme Court opined that a municipality is not required to allow public comment (*See 866 So. 2d 462, 469 (Miss. 2004)*); and

WHEREAS, the Jackson City Council desires to strike a balance between carrying on the public's business while minimizing risk and exposure to COVID-19 for all.

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that public comments, proclamations, special presentations, commendations, and resolutions honoring individuals, businesses, groups, or organizations shall be *temporarily suspended* from the Council's order of business on the agenda until further action of the Council.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the provisions of this order shall remain effective until passage of an order eliminating the suspension.

IT IS FINALLY ORDERED, that the provisions of this order shall become effective immediately upon passage so that the public health, safety, and welfare is not jeopardize by the spread of COVID-19.