

Vote Details					
Agenda Item Name: 1. Set the salary for the Mayor for the 2017-2021 term at \$110,000 per year, and set the salary for the members of the City Council for the 2017-2021 term at \$27,000 per year.					
Name	Yes/No	No/Yes	Abstain	Absent	Excused
Kim Bradley	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Deborah Delgado	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Carter Carroll	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mary Dryden	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Henry Naylor	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Council violated ordinances to pass pay raises for mayor and themselves. Will mayor veto? Will council rescind unlawful raises?

Under the leadership of former Council President Kim Bradley, the Hattiesburg City Council became very sloppy in maintaining its ordinances, and that sloppiness seems to be carrying over to Carter Carroll's administration. One such example involves the recent pay raises Council approved for themselves and the Mayor. In doing so, the Council unlawfully added the item as an emergency item to Tuesday's meeting, violating 22-2(A)

Sec. 2-22. Agenda, arrangement.

The agenda as presented by the President of the Council shall be arranged as follows:**Agenda Order:** The confirmation of the agenda order is the first matter of business for Council action. Any member of council may move to adjust the agenda. A majority vote of the council present will be necessary to change the agenda. The Mayor or Council President may request the council to add an item to the agenda (emergency item) that is essential for the administration of city government provided that the need for action on the matter arose after the 2:00 P.M. Thursday deadline, or that conditions beyond their control made it impossible to meet the deadline requirements. Emergency matters shall constitute those matters that threaten the immediate safety and/or well being of citizens of the community or employees of the city, would potentially disrupt the delivery of essential services, would result in substantial increased cost in the purchase of necessary items for the administration of city government or would, if delayed, result in the loss of opportunity for significant economic development in the city. (Ord. 2195, sec. 2.2 (1), 7-2-85; Ord. 2467, sec. 2-2 (A), 11-16-93)

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According to city ordinance Section 22-2(A) **Agenda, arrangement**, the order of the agenda is to be as follows;

A. Agenda Order – the confirmation of the agenda order is the first matter of business for council action. Any member of council may move to adjust the agenda. The Mayor or Council President may request the council to add an item to the agenda (emergency item) that is essential for the administration of the city government provided that the need for action on the matter arose after the 2:00 P.M. Thursday deadline, or that conditions beyond their control made it impossible to meet the deadline requirements. Emergency matters shall constitute those matters that threaten the well being and/or immediate safety of citizens of the community or employees of the city, would potentially disrupt the delivery of city services, would result in substantial increased cost in the purchase of necessary items for the administration of city government or would, if delayed, result in the loss of opportunity for significant economic development in the city.

According to legal experts advising the Hattiesburg Patriot, a pay raise for the Council and the Mayor is clearly not an emergency. Adding this item as an emergency item was a gross violation of municipal code 2-22(A) and a blatant thumb of the nose to citizens who pay their salaries. Council practically said, “we can do what we want, how we want, and forget the legal process.”

But Council’s violations didn’t end there. **2-22(D)(1) Citizens Forum** states that the citizen’s forum shall take place after emergency items are added in **2-22(A)** but before **22-2(E) Policy Agenda** and **22-2(F) Routine Agenda**. In the alphabet “D” clearly comes after “A” but before “E” and “F.” Section 2-22 was created and ordered in such a way to give citizens an

opportunity to comment on the agenda items, **including the emergency items**. However, Council moved the citizens forum to Monday from Tuesday without even voting on a move, There is no record of an official vote ever taking place to move 2-22(D)(1) to Monday’s Agenda Review meeting from its intended place during Tuesday’s meeting.

Because Council failed to properly move Tuesday’s citizens’ forum to Monday, they are technically in violation of 2-22(D) as well. The effect of moving Citizen’s forum to Monday from Tuesday clearly denies citizens their ability to comment on legitimate emergency items but also illegitimate “emergency items” like the recent pay raises. Agenda reviews are informal meetings, and council can add a comment period to that meeting for citizens, but they are still required to follow Chapter 2 Subsection 22 of the code of ordinances, until such a change in the ordinance is performed in a lawful manner. But, even so, citizens would still be denied opportunities to comment on newly added emergency items during Tuesday’s meetings.

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▼ Votes						
	Kim Bradley	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Deborah Delgado	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Carter Carroll	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Mary Dryden	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Henry Naylor	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

NOTE – This information was obtained from Ward 4 candidate Joseph Rawson’s letter to the mayor asking that he veto the

approved item. Council could also rescind the item during today's meeting or at a special called meeting. Rawson's letter is embedded below. His letter was reviewed by attorneys advising this site prior to the publication of this article.

Rawson's Letter is below

[mayor-veto-council-raise](#)

Chapter 2 of the Code of Ordinances is below

[chapter2administration](#)