

Town of Taylor Minutes of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen
Emergency Called Meeting on May 9, 2020

1. Call to order.

The meeting of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the Town of Taylor, Mississippi, was called to order by Mayor Hardy at 1:00 pm on Saturday, the ninth day of May, 2020, with the following officers and members present, constituting a legal quorum to-wit:

Alderman Tim Bridges
Alderman Jimmie Willingham
Alderman Ellen Meacham
Clerk Cindy Conrad
Mayor Christy Hardy
Alderman Courtney Covington via telephone.
Alderman Lyn Roberts via telephone.

2. Adopt the agenda for the meeting

It was moved by Alderman Willingham, seconded by Alderman Meacham to adopt the agenda for the meeting. All the aldermen present voting aye, Mayor Hardy declared the motion carried.

3. New Business

Mayor Hardy stated to the Board of Aldermen that she and other aldermen had received many phone calls and messages regarding the re-opening of the restaurants in Taylor. Mayor Hardy stated that on Tuesday, May 5, 2020, it was voted unanimously that the Board of Aldermen continue to keep Taylor closed until the Board met again on Monday, May 11, 2020. Mayor Hardy reported that because of the messages and calls that the Board of Aldermen should reconsider opening Taylor restaurants. Mayor Hardy stated that she had not gotten any comments during the live meeting on May 5, 2020, and had not received any messages on the following two days but that on Friday, May 8, she had begun to receive many calls asking for her to allow the restaurants to re-open and supporting Lynn Hewlett, Taylor Grocery and Restaurant owner.

Mayor Hardy stated that she had received an email from Sarah Margaret Hewlett, (co-owner) of Taylor Grocery and Restaurant stating that she would be happy to meet with the Aldermen. Mayor Hardy stated that she had spoken with Lynn Hewlett and stated that she would try to meet with the Aldermen but by the time she had gotten home, she started receiving the calls to reopen and thus, she made the decision to have an emergency meeting. Mayor Hardy stated that many of the calls she had received were in support of the decision that the Board of Aldermen made at the regular Board Meeting of May 5, 2020. Mayor Hardy reported that the City of Oxford met the morning of May 9, 2020 and had chosen to re-open Oxford restaurants on Monday, May 11th by unanimous vote. Mayor Hardy reported that she had seen data that suggested that restaurants were number three in spreading the COVID-19 virus and that she had read several articles that expressed concern over restaurants re-opening during the pandemic. Mayor Hardy stated that the City of Oxford have guidelines and following those guidelines will help prevent the spread of the virus. Mayor Hardy then proposed that she believes the best thing for owners, employees and customers is to plan to re-open on Sunday morning, May 10, 2020, at 6 a.m. giving this time for the restaurants to become prepared, open the dining rooms, inform employees of the guidelines, sanitize and only operate at 50% capacity. Mayor Hardy also stated that people should not be allowed to congregate on the porch of Taylor Grocery and Restaurant. Mayor Hardy stated that customers should be advised, but not require, customers to wear masks.

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Alderman Bridges stated that these rules are not just for Taylor Grocery but for all businesses and this will clarify the restrictions for all businesses.

Alderman Meacham moved to adopt the Mayor's proposal but with stricter guidelines, specifying that customers should wait outside, in their cars, until their name is called to be seated.

There was detailed discussion between the Aldermen regarding if this 18 hours of down-time would make a difference in the outcome. Alderman Bridges stated that the businesses should follow the guidelines and open on Saturday evening, May 9th and stated that the burden of protecting the customers will fall on the restaurant owners. Alderman Bridges also stated that the governor had re-opened the State of Mississippi businesses and restaurants.

Alderman Meacham stated that the governor had set the lowest level of safety requirements so that businesses could open.

Alderman Willingham stated that he was in agreement with Alderman Bridges and stated that the time between Saturday evening and Sunday morning would probably not matter and stated that he had spoken to the owners and knew that they were ready to open and had followed the guidelines to reopen.

Each Alderman was asked their opinion of reopening Taylor Grocery and Restaurant. Alderman Bridges, Covington and Willingham stated that they had no issues with Taylor Grocery and Restaurant opening on May 9, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. Alderman Meacham stated that she preferred that the Restaurant open on Sunday morning at 6:00 a.m. Alderman Meacham reiterated that the state guidelines should be followed and customers should not be allowed to congregate on the porch.

Alderman Roberts declined to vote, as she was unable to follow the conversation via telephone, but her initial response was that the Town of Taylor should remain closed for another week.

Mayor Hardy stated that there was really no reason that this could not have waited until Monday, May 11th, but that she had made a proposal to re-open on Sunday, May 10th, at 6 a.m. and called for a vote on her proposal.

Alderman Bridges voted no – with comment to reopen May 9, 2020

Alderman Covington voted yes

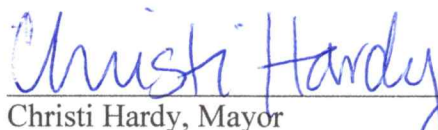
Alderman Meacham voted yes

Alderman Willingham voted yes

Alderman Roberts declined to vote

Adjourn.

There being no further business, Mayor Hardy adjourned the meeting at 1:45 p.m.


Christi Hardy, Mayor




Conrad, Clerk (Seal)