

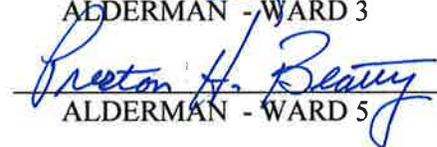


IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 21-3-21 OF THE MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, AS AMENDED,
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN FOR

A SPECIAL CALLED MEETING TO BE HELD
FRIDAY, JUNE 25, 2021 At 1:00 pm
IN THE COURTROOM OF
STARKVILLE CITY HALL
LOCATED AT 110 WEST MAIN STREET
OF
THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN
OF THE CITY OF STARKVILLE, MISSISSIPPI

The specific purpose of the meeting is as follows:

**DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF MAYOR LYNN SPRUILL'S
JUNE 22, 2021 VETO OF A MOTION PASSED JUNE 15, 2021 TO BAN
AND PROHIBIT BIRD SCOOTERS, AND ANY OTHER UPRIGHT,
MOTORIZED, PUBLIC COMMERCIAL SCOOTER DEVICES WHERE
INDIVIDUALS STAND TO RIDE, FROM THE CITY'S STREETS,
SIDEWALKS, RIGHT-OF-WAY, AND ANY OTHER PUBLIC PLACES,
EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY.**


ALDERMAN - WARD 3

ALDERMAN - WARD 5

Date / Time Signed: JUNE 23, 2021, 9:00 A.M.



THE CITY OF STARKVILLE

Mayor's Office

CITY HALL,

101 EAST LAMPKIN STREET
STARKVILLE, MISSISSIPPI 39759

Phone: 662-323-4583, ext. 100

Fax 662-324-4015

D. Lynn Spruill,
Mayor

June 22, 2021

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

Re: Motion Veto

VIA HAND DELIVERY

Dear Ms. Hardin:

Be advised that pursuant to **MS Code section 21-3-15**, this is formal notice that I veto the Motion presented by Alderman David Little, seconded by Alderman Hamp Beatty, which was passed at the June 15, 2021 Recess Meeting of the Starkville Board of Aldermen the motion being:

A MOTION TO BAN AND PROHIBIT BIRD SCOOTERS, AND ANY OTHER UPRIGHT, MOTORIZED, PUBLIC COMMERCIAL SCOOTER DEVICES WHERE INDIVIDUALS STAND TO RIDE, FROM THE CITY'S STREETS, SIDEWALKS, RIGHT-OF-WAY, AND ANY OTHER PUBLIC PLACES, EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY.

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

Alderman Ben Carver	voted: Yea
Alderman Sandra Sistrunk	voted: Nay
Alderman David Little	voted: Yea
Alderman Jason Walker	voted: Nay
Alderman Hamp Beatty	voted: Yea
Alderman Roy A'. Perkins	voted: Yea
Alderman Henry Vaughn, Sr.	voted: Nay

After receiving a majority of the affirmative vote, the Mayor declared the motion carried on June 15, 2021.

I believe that the Board's action on this date was an immoderate response to issues that a new, commercialized mode of transportation has brought to our community. While I acknowledge the concerns related in the fact finding are valid, I do not believe that an outright ban is the measured approach to this business's efforts to establish a presence in Starkville. This business and numerous others of the same nature are operating in multiple other communities throughout the country and with appropriate restrictions tailored to the community impacted I believe they should be allowed to continue to operate in the city limits of the City of Starkville.

The Board had previously expressed concerns over the use of the scooters in locations that were inherently dangerous such as MDOT Highway 12. The company has responded by geofencing off the ability of the scooters to access Highway 12. They have likewise geofenced off the ability of the scooters to access the campus of Mississippi State University.

The speed of the scooters was also considered a concern and the scooters are regulated at 15 mph. The company has also created slow zones in areas designated as congested so that the scooters will be reduced further in their speed.

The studies that have been conducted by independent agencies have determined the accident/incident rate for scooters is the equivalent to that of bicycles and results in less than .001% of trips taken. There will never be an absolute for safety no matter the form of transit and it is relevant that this is no different than bicycles which are welcomed on our streets and multi-use paths. There is a local and statewide program for sharing the road with bicycles which can easily be an awareness for the same sharing concept with scooters in an urban environment.

We as a city have worked to offer many options for transportation to our citizens and this is one of those methods. Recognizing that there is an inherent element of danger in the later hours when scooters are harder to see, the company in question has the ability to shut them down at a given time and so will implement a scooter curfew. I will note that we have no such curfew on bicycles which are even harder to detect at night.

There has also been expressed concern for the random nature of the locations where the scooters are being placed and the haphazard way they are left around town. The company has a method by which they can encourage those using the scooters to return them to the "nests" to reduce the frequency of clutter in leaving them scattered around town.

While there are many ways that I concur in our alignment approach to policies shared by Mississippi State University, there are others that while they do not necessarily fit the university, they are quite acceptable for the city. This is one of those that will not create any issues for either entity since the University is geofenced from the operation of the scooters.

Scooter company statistics since the arrival of the company:

There have been over 8,900 rides taken.

There are two small business owners who are working to manage these scooters.

They have enabled 484 regular commuters to get to and from work/school.

Had users travel 19,190 miles on scooters, reducing traffic and offsetting CO2 emissions.

Had 3,070 unique users (roughly 12% of the resident population of the city).

Had roughly 60% of trips end in front of a small business, driving additional spending and traffic within them.

It is for these reasons that I believe it is in the best interest of our overall community to allow the commercial use of scooters to continue in the city limits and to continue to work with the company to regulate their use to enhance the safety and allow for alternative transit uses as well as recreational ones.

I will be bringing forward a draft ordinance to address the matter of scooters and will work with the company to craft a contract or memorandum of understanding for their operation within our city limits designed to maintain the health, safety and welfare of our traveling public. There is a local and statewide program for sharing the road with bicycles despite the similarities in the use and rates of accident or incidents.

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

Sincerely,

D. Lynn Spruill
Mayor
City of Starkville, MS