

ORDINANCE NO. 2020-01

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE OFFICIAL MEETING PLACE AND ALTERNATE MEETING PLACE FOR THE REGULAR MEETINGS OF THE BOARD OF MAYOR AND COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF CLARKSDALE, MISSISSIPPI.

WHEREAS, the Enabling Act fails to establish an official meeting place for the Board of Mayor and Commissioners; and

WHEREAS, there is a need to define a meeting place during times that the Board Room in City Hall is unavailable; and

WHEREAS, there is a need to define a meeting place during times that the Board Room is unsafe or inadequate in times of emergency or crisis.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Mayor and Commissioners of the City of Clarksdale, Mississippi as follows:

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* This ordinance shall be known and may be cited as the “Meeting Place Ordinance” or the “Meeting Location Ordinance.”

SECTION 2. *Purposes and Findings.* The Board of Mayor and Commissioners of the City of Clarksdale hereby:

(a) Readopts and reaffirms the statements and findings made in the preamble to this Meeting Place Ordinance;

(b) Finds and determines that special and extenuating circumstances presently exist within the City which call for an alternate meeting place for Regular Meetings of the Board of Mayor and Commissioners;

(c) Further finds that no previous Resolution or Ordinance establishing the process for holding meetings has designated an official location of said meetings; and

(e) Further finds and determines that the public convenience and necessity requires the adoption this Meeting Place Ordinance and this Ordinance should take effect immediately to preserve the public access to local government, health and safety.

SECTION 3. *Regular Meeting Place.* The regular meeting place of the Board and Mayor and Commissioners shall be the Board Room at City Hall located at 121 Sunflower Avenue Clarksdale, MS.

SECTION 4. *Alternate Meeting Place within City Hall.* If the Board Room at City Hall is unavailable due to renovation, infestation, fumigation, natural disaster, or other damage and/or safety

hazard the Board of Mayor and Commissioners shall meet in another suitable room or location at 121 Sunflower Avenue Clarksdale, MS by notice being placed at the entrances of the Board Room at least one (1) hour before such Regular Meeting.

SECTION 5. *Alternate Meeting Place within City Hall Unavailable.* If no suitable room or location is available at 121 Sunflower Avenue Clarksdale, MS then the regular meeting place of the Board of Mayor and Commissioners may be the same as during a declaration of an emergency..

SECTION 6. *Alternate Meeting Place During an Emergency Declaration.* Due to the declaration of an emergency for any reason, the Board of Mayor and Commissioners may hold a regular meeting, including a meeting in which an emergency is declared, at the following locations by notice in prominent places within the City of Clarksdale, MS:

(a) The Civic Auditorium, including an annex or part thereof, and also including the grounds whether covered or uncovered.

(b) Any other facility or location owned by the City of Clarksdale.

(c) The Coahoma County Courthouse as long as it is within the City limits of the City of Clarksdale.

(d) Any other place in compliance with the provisions of MISS. CODE ANN. §§17-7-1 *et seq.*

SECTION 7. *Alternate Meeting Place Beyond an Emergency Declaration.* If the Board Room is considered unsafe or unsuitable due to an emergency declaration for any reason, the Regular Meeting of the Board of Mayor and Commissioners may be held at an alternate location beyond the expiration of the related emergency declaration by posting notice as provided herein above and by law.

SECTION 8. *Specially Called Meetings.* A specially called meeting may be held in any place as long as the notice requirements of the law are followed and the location is accurately described.

SECTION 9. *Notice.* The City Clerk shall provide notice of the adoption of this Ordinance as required under the provisions of MISS. CODE ANN. §21-13-11 (Rev. 2015). Additionally, the City Clerk may give notice of the meeting place regulations established hereunder by having copies of the Meeting Place Ordinance or a summary thereof posted in, on or about such public or quasi-public places as may be determined by the Board of Mayor and Commissioners and/or the City Clerk in order that the public may be constantly informed of the existence of the Ordinance and its regulations. Additionally, the City may give further notice of this Ordinance by such other means as it deems necessary, including posters, handouts and similar dissemination of such information to the public.

SECTION 10. *Effective Date.* This Meeting Place Ordinance shall be in full force and effect immediately from the date of its enactment to protect the public health and safety as set forth

above.

SO ORDAINED and unanimously adopted by the Board of Mayor and Commissioners of the City of Clarksdale, Mississippi on this, the 26th day of May, 2020, by the following vote:

Commissioner Bo Plunk, Ward 1, voted "Aye."
Commissioner Ken Murphey, Ward 2, voted "Aye."
Commissioner Willie Turner, Ward 3, voted "Aye."
Commissioner Edward Seals, Ward 4, voted "Aye."

SO ORDAINED, APPROVED, PASSED AND ADOPTED on this, the 26th day of May, 2020.

CITY OF CLARKSDALE, MISSISSIPPI

BY:



CHUCK ESPY

Mayor

ATTEST:



CATHY CLARK

City Clerk




CERTIFICATE

I, Cathy Clark, Clerk of the City of Clarksdale, Coahoma County, Mississippi, do hereby certify that the attached and foregoing is a true and correct copy of that certain ordinance of like tenor and effect passed, approved and adopted by the Board of Mayor and Commissioners of the City of Clarksdale, Mississippi, on the 26th day of May, 2020, as the same now appears duly recorded in the minutes of the proceedings of the said Board of Mayor and Commissioners on file in the office of the City Clerk.

WITNESS MY SIGNATURE and the official seal of said City of Clarksdale, Mississippi, on this the 27th day of May, 2020.





CATHY CLARK, CLERK OF THE
CITY OF CLARKSDALE, MISSISSIPPI