

STEVE WATKINS, MAYOR
NAOMI SHEPHERD, CITY CLERK



ALDERMAN:
JOE BROOKS, WARD 1
BRIDGETT M. PETERS, WARD 2
RONALD HOLLOWAY, WARD 3
STEVE NEELY, WARD 4
HARRY WHEAT III, AT-LARGE

Veto Message from the Mayor to the City of Quitman Board of Aldermen

Date Issued: March 10, 2023

Veto Message No. 001

At the start of the Regular Board of Aldermen meeting on March 7, 2023, and without any prior communication with the Mayor, Alderman Steve Neely added the following issue to the agenda. Thereafter, the following action was brought before the Board by Alderman Neely, with a subsequent Order being issued by the Board in the presence of Mrs. Debora Reese, President of Historic Clarke County (HCC), while in attendance at the meeting. While being questioned by Alderman Neely, Mrs. Reese informed the Board that the GM&O Boxcar located adjacent to the Quitman Depot, and permanently secured to the ground in concrete, is in fact owned by Historic Clarke County with HCC being given approval to place the GM&O Boxcar at its present location in 1999 by the City of Quitman.

After discussion, Alderman Steve Neely subsequently made the following motion: "That if the rail car belongs to Historic Clarke County, notify Historic Clarke County by certified letter informing them that they have thirty (30) days to have the rail car removed from the City of Quitman Property, if it is not removed within the thirty day period, there will be a \$25.00 penalty, per day, that will incur until it is removed."

Alderman Harry Wheat seconded the motion and a roll call vote was taken as follows:

Ward 1 Alderman Joe Brooks		Not Present
Ward 2 Alderwoman Bridgett Peters	Voted	YES
Ward 3 Alderman Ronald Holloway	Voted	NO
Ward 4 Alderman Steve Neely	Voted	YES
Alderman At Large Harry Wheat	Voted	YES

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CITY OF QUITMAN *na*

Therefore, I, Steve Watkins, Mayor of the City of Quitman, Mississippi operating under the authority and in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 21-3-15 *et seq.* and having received verification from the Mississippi Department of Archives & History (MDAH), do hereby VETO the above Order issued by the City of Quitman Board of Aldermen on March 7, 2023. The motion made by Alderman Neely, seconded by Alderman Wheat and approved by majority vote is deemed an **Unlawful Order** and will not be acted on by myself or my staff by sending any such notification of the Order via certified mail to Historic Clarke County for the following reason:

The GM&O Railroad Depot property in Quitman is designated as a Mississippi Landmark under the Antiquities Law of Mississippi, Miss. Code Ann. § 39-7-1 *et seq.* In accordance with the Antiquities Law, any proposed changes to the building, the railcar, and/or the property require MDAH review and approval and a Mississippi Landmark Permit authorized by the MDAH Board of Trustees prior to beginning work.

As Mayor of the City of Quitman, I will uphold and enforce the Antiquities Law of Mississippi and will not allow any such action involving the removal of the GM&O Boxcar from City of Quitman property by the Board of Alderman issuing the afore mentioned Order. Govern yourselves accordingly.

Steve Watkins

Mayor Steve Watkins

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