

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 5, 2024

Veto Message No. 008

**CONCERNING THE MOTION MADE BY ALDERMAN RON HOLLOWAY
AND SECONDED BY ALDERMAN STEVE NEELY
IN RESPONSE TO THE ORDER:**

**"TO TERMINATE MAIN STREET DIRECTOR LOGAN GREENE
AND
DISSOLVE THE CITY OF QUITMAN MAIN STREET PROGRAM"**

RECEIVED
MAR 05 2024
CITY OF QUITMAN
2:00 pm

During the Special Called Mayor and Board of Aldermen meeting on February 26, 2024, in response to the February 22, 2024 legal situation of City of Quitman, Main Street Director Logan Greene::

ALDERMAN RON HOLLOWAY made a motion to terminate Main Street Director Logan Greene effective immediately and dissolve the Main Street Program for the City of Quitman.

ALDERMAN STEVE NEELY seconded the motion,

and a roll call vote was taken as follows:

Ward 1 Alderman Joe Brooks	(ABSTAINED FROM VOTING)
Ward 2 Alderwoman Bridgett Peters	Voted YES
Ward 3 Alderman Ron Holloway	Voted YES
Ward 4 Alderman Steve Neely	Voted YES

Alderman At Large Harry Wheat was not present.

Mayor Steve Watkins declared the motion passed.

VETO IN FULL

For the following reasons, 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.* do hereby VETO the above Order issued by the City of Quitman Board of Aldermen on February 26, 2024, which terminates the employment of Main Street Director Logan Greene, effective immediately, and dissolves the Main Street Program for the City of Quitman:

INFORMATION: The City of Quitman joined the Main Street Association by unanimous vote of the Board of Aldermen on April 6, 2021 during Mayor Eddie Fulton's administration just prior to Mayor Fulton's departure from office on June 30, 2021. It was further determined that the Main Street Director's position would be a part-time position paying a maximum of twenty (20) hours per week with no employment benefits other than the part-time salary.

I appointed Mr. Logan Greene to fill the vacancy of the City of Quitman Main Street Director's position following the resignation of Director Rev. Ben James. Rev. James resigned due to needing more time for the care of his ailing mother and his responsibilities as pastor of his church in Butler, Alabama. The Board of Aldermen unanimously confirmed my appointment of Mr. Logan Greene as City of Quitman Main Street Director on July 18, 2023.

PART 1 VETO: As previously stated, the Board of Aldermen terminated the employment of Mr. Logan Greene, effective immediately. However, I believe a better option, with less liability for the City of Quitman, would be placing Mr. Greene on Unpaid Administrative Leave until such time as he is afforded his day in court. The liability risk for the City of Quitman, following the option of immediate termination, is elevated in this situation should the employee later be acquitted or have the charges dismissed. Choosing the option of Unpaid Administrative Leave while refraining from considering the decision of termination until the legal process is complete, should lower the risk of liability for the City of Quitman.

PART 2 VETO: As previously stated, the Board of Aldermen dissolved the Main Street Program for the City of Quitman. Through the hard work of many and the investments made by the City in training, the City of Quitman Main Street Program is now reaching new levels of success in promoting our community businesses, as well as, working with our public school system, and other organizations, to expand community involvement. The circumstances surrounding this particular legal situation concerning the Main Street Director has no bearing on the Main Street Program itself and does not justify dissolving a successful program that strengthens our community.

CONCLUSION: In an effort to reduce the exposure of liability for the City of Quitman, I am compelled to ask the Board of Aldermen to allow this veto to stand as an undivided whole document, and immediately place Main Street Director Logan Greene on Unpaid Administrative Leave until further action is warranted. In addition, I ask the Board of Aldermen to reconsider the future of the Main Street program and allow it to continue as a branch of the City of Quitman for the benefit and advancement of our community.

This veto message was presented to the City Clerk for proper dissemination to the Board of Aldermen and Board Attorney on Tuesday, March 5, 2024 at 2:00 p.m..



Mayor Steve Watkins