

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: May 8, 2025

Veto Message No. 010

**A VETO CONCERNING
THE MOTION MADE BY ALDERMAN RON HOLLOWAY
AND SECONDED BY ALDERWOMAN BRIDGETT PETERS**

**IN RESPONSE TO:
THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN'S ORDER TO ALLOW
THE SALE OF BEER ON SUNDAY**

Received By
City of Quitman
Municipal Clerk
Date: 5/8/25
8:11 A.M.

During the Regular Board of Aldermen meeting on May 6, 2025, in response to the mayor's call for items needing to be added to the agenda, Alderman Ron Holloway added New Business Item Number 10.k. which he identified as "Beer Sales on Sunday." The agenda was subsequently confirmed with all additions included. At the appropriate time of discussion for agenda Item Number 10.k. (Beer Sales on Sunday), Alderman Ron Holloway announced to the Mayor and Board of Aldermen that he was seeking to legalize the sale of beer all day long on Sunday.

ALDERMAN RON HOLLOWAY then made the following motion:

"To allow beer sales on Sunday, anytime they are open."

ALDERWOMAN BRIDGETT PETERS seconded the motion.

Following discussion, Mayor Steve Watkins called for a roll-call vote. The results are as follows:

Ward 1 Alderman Joe Brooks	Voted	YES
Ward 2 Alderwoman Bridgett Peters	Voted	YES
Ward 3 Alderman Ron Holloway	Voted	YES
Ward 4 Alderman Steve Neely	Voted	NO
Alderman At Large Harry Wheat	Voted	YES

Mayor Steve Watkins declared the motion passed.

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MAYOR STEVE WATKINS

VETO

**Office of the Mayor
City of Quitman, Mississippi
Veto Message No. 010**

Date: May 8, 2025

To the Honorable Members of the Quitman Board of Aldermen:

Pursuant to the authority vested in the Office of the Mayor in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 21-3-15 *et seq.*, I hereby **veto** the recent action taken by the Board of Aldermen approving the sale of beer within the city limits of Quitman on Sunday.

This decision is not made lightly. While I recognize and respect the views of those who support Sunday sales as a matter of economic opportunity and individual freedom, I must also weigh the broader implications such a change may have on our community's values, public safety, and quality of life.

Quitman is a town rooted in tradition, and Sunday has long been observed as a day of rest, worship, and family. Permitting the sale of alcohol on this day alters a long-standing cultural norm and potentially invites unintended consequences. Law enforcement officials have also raised concerns about the potential increase in impaired driving and public disturbances tied to expanded alcohol availability.

Furthermore, I believe that such a shift in policy—one that affects the moral and social fabric of our community—deserves broader public input. I have not seen sufficient evidence of a strong or widespread mandate from the citizens of Quitman to justify overturning this tradition.

For these reasons, I must respectfully return this measure to the Board of Aldermen without my approval.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Steve Watkins". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Steve" and last name "Watkins" clearly legible.

Mayor Steve Watkins
City of Quitman, Mississippi

This veto message was formally submitted to the City Clerk for dissemination on Thursday, May 8, 2025. According to the Attorney General of Mississippi, this veto is considered a public document the moment it was written as explained in the Official Written Opinion rendered to Mayor Steve Watkins on July 20, 2023.