

member of the Roland Weeks Leadership Hall of Fame, for being named in 2013 as one of the Top 10 Business Leaders Under 40 by The Journal of South Mississippi Business.

Neighborhood Services

Gautier's Neighborhood Services Division coordinates with all city departments, acting as a liaison between community needs and funding resources, volunteer efforts, and city resources. In 2013 Gautier saw the successful transition of Animal Control from the Police Department to Code Enforcement within the Neighborhood Services Division (May 2013). A Community Heritage Preservation grant totaling \$80,000 was awarded for the restoration of the West Pascagoula Black School House. A Safe Routes to School grant was awarded in the amount of \$100,000 and Gautier received \$25,000 to remove illegal trash dumps. In all \$771,324 in new grant funds was awarded in 2013 with direct benefits to city services and neighborhoods.

Administration

During Council's first three months in office, Council adopted an annual budget and held a Manager-Council Retreat, which will be followed by February's State of the City address at the Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College, and a subsequent Town Hall meeting. The City held its second annual Christmas employee appreciation dinner, coordinated a Youth in Government Week with a month-long Facebook campaign kick-off in partnership with the school district's gifted students program, and has planned the third annual employee appreciation picnic for Spring. The Human Resources Department created a brand new employee training program, starting with supervisors, to reduce risk and liability and increase productivity. The Finance Department continues to work with all city departments in a transparent and helpful manner for greater efficiency and innovation in problem-solving. The Economic Development & Planning Department continues to make improvements to processes and codes to make the department more "business friendly".

Economic Development

Along the Highway 57/I-10 Corridor, the City is redesigning the connector road to meet the expanding needs of a 16+-acre medical campus. A Master Plan has been developed for the area. Property owners, hotel and retail developers are working with the city for the planned growth and development of this area. City staff is working with MDOT and JCUA to ensure new roadway connections and utility relocations associated with the Highway 57 project align with the City's Master Plan.

Major projects on the horizon are the \$90 million mall demolition and redevelopment, development of the newly created Lowe's outparcels, and the development of the 32-acre town green.

Parks and Recreation

The Cultural Services Division and Recreation Advisory Committee were created in 2013. Gautier approved a Parks and Recreation Plan for improvements resulting from an anticipated 2% sales tax on prepared meals and hotel beds on a city referendum. The referendum failed by less than 50 votes, with low voter turnout. A second referendum for 2014 is planned.

The Cultural Services Division started a city run youth football and cheerleading league. The league had 140 participants in its first year. The Fire Department Association assisted with the league by operating concessions during the games.

The Fire Department Association and Cultural Services Division teamed up for the first annual Haunted Trails and Halloween Festival at Shepard State Park. More than 1000 people went through the haunted trails. The city opened up the festival area to school clubs for fund raising opportunities.

The Cultural Services Division continued throughout 2013 to provide support for sponsored events such as the Mullet Festival, Mardi Gras Parade, Christmas Parade, and 5k runs.

Public Safety

For public safety departments, the biggest challenge continues to be employee retention. Council approved a step increase for trained and qualified public safety employees this year, yet it isn't enough. The City of Gautier has not kept pace with its neighboring governments offering annual step increases. In future budget years, the city will explore merit-based step increases as a gap measure. It will take time, community support and economic development to restore our long-term fiscal health. Written exit interviews by departing employees have shown that employees are leaving almost exclusively due to low pay, yet a vast majority states their willingness to return to the city if wages were improved.

Fire

In 2013, Chief Robert Jones was promoted within the Fire Department. Fire Marshall Charles Thornburg

and Fire Chief Ray Frair both retired. The new Fire Station West is substantially complete, and the upcoming hiring of six new firefighters will result in maintaining low fire insurance ratings for citizens. Other milestones included the purchase of a new Command Vehicle for fire and rescue operations, increased efficiency through “out of the box” ideas, superlative teamwork and unity between members within the fire department as well as between all city employees (ex. Lip Dub, Central station roof repair, Haunted Trail, Youth football program).

Police

In 2013, the Police Department established the Inter-local Narcotics Task Force (SMMET) with Pascagoula and Moss Point. The department also implemented the Police Rescue Dive Team to assist with operations that occur on our waterways, and joined the Inter-local S.W.A.T. Task Force with Pascagoula P.D. 2013 also garnered a trained and certified State Accredited Accident Reconstruction Officer. Other accomplishments this year included the awarding of grants for DUI Enforcement and Ballistic Vests, and the purchase of (7) new vehicles with new patrol car design.

Neighborhood safety programs continue to be a priority with goals in the 5-Year Strategic Plan. The Police Department is opening a College Park neighborhood police substation at Bacot Park. The department also engaged youth with a kick-off for a successful Explorer Program, and continues to hold monthly neighborhood watch meetings with the city’s crime prevention officer.

As you can see, the City of Gautier has had another successful year in large part due to the engagement of our volunteers who serve on boards and commissions. I encourage you to visit the city’s improved website and Facebook page. Take a look at the City’s Strategic Plan (www.gautier-ms.gov) for a complete description of services, programs, and projects that every City department is undertaking. As we look for creative ways to provide core services and new programs, we appreciate your feedback about how we are doing. We have a great challenge and opportunity in planning for the future. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Samantha D. Abell

City Manager

There came on for consideration of the Mayor and Members of the Council of the City of Gautier, Mississippi, the following:

**RESOLUTION NUMBER 003-2014
PROCLAMATION OF EXISTENCE OF LOCAL EMERGENCY
(BY MAYOR GORDON GOLLOTT)**

WHEREAS, Mayor, Gordon Gollott, of the City of Gautier, Mississippi does hereby find that conditions of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property have arisen within said City, caused by Winter Weather Event commencing on or about 12:00 pm on the 28th day of January 2014; and

WHEREAS, as of the time of the making of this proclamation, a severe winter storm is moving easterly along the Gulf Coast of the United States, bringing with it extremely cold temperatures and freezing precipitation; and

WHEREAS, the aforesaid conditions of extreme peril warrant and necessitate the proclamation of the existence of a local emergency in order to provide for the health and safety of the citizens and the protection of their property within the affected jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of Mississippi has issued a Disaster Declaration for the six counties along the Gulf Coast of Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, in view of the pending arrival of this winter storm, it is appropriate for the City of Gautier, Mississippi to likewise declare a state of emergency pursuant to the Mississippi Emergency Management Law, Section 33-15-17(d) of the Mississippi Code of 1972 as amended; and

WHEREAS, I find and determine that the public interest requires that I proclaim a state of local emergency as authorized by law;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MAYOR GORDON GOLLOTT, HEREBY PROCLAIM that a local emergency exists in the City of Gautier, Mississippi as of 12:00 pm on the 28th day of January 2014 and **HEREBY DECLARE** that the City shall exercise all powers and authority granted unto it under the laws of the State of Mississippi to address this emergency.

BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED, that this state of local emergency shall continue until the next regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Gautier, Mississippi, wherein the same may be ratified and extended, if necessary, as provided in the aforesaid statute.

Motion was made by **Councilman Vaughan**, seconded by **Councilwoman Martin** and the following vote was recorded:

AYES:	Gordon Gollott Mary Martin Johnny Jones Hurley Ray Guillotte Casey Vaughan Rusty Anderson Adam Colledge
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NAYS:	None
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MAYOR

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK

Passed and Adopted by Mayor and Members of the Council of the City of Gautier, Mississippi, at the meeting of February 4, 2014.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Martin to end the declaration of emergency for the Winter Weather Event that was signed January 28, 2014. Motion was seconded by Councilman Vaughan and unanimously carried.

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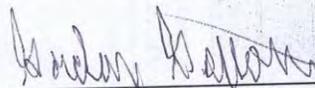
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Gordon Gollott
Mayor of Gautier, Mississippi



West's Annotated Mississippi Code [Currentness](#)

Title 33. Military Affairs

Chapter 15. Emergency Management and Civil Defense

Article 1. Emergency Management Law ([Refs & Annos](#))

§ 33-15-17. Emergency management local organization

(a) Each county and municipality, or counties and the municipalities therein acting jointly, or two (2) or more counties acting jointly, of this state are hereby authorized and directed to establish a local organization for emergency management in accordance with the state emergency management plan and program, if required and authorized so to do by such state emergency management plan. Each local organization for emergency management shall have a director who shall be appointed by the governing body of the political subdivision, or political subdivisions acting jointly, and who shall have direct responsibility for the organization, administration and operation of such local organization for emergency management, subject to the direction and control of such governing body. Each local organization for emergency management shall perform emergency management functions within the territorial limits of the political subdivision within which it is organized, and, in addition, shall conduct such functions outside of such territorial limits as may be required pursuant to the provisions of the state emergency management plan. Each county shall develop an emergency management plan and program that is coordinated and consistent with the State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan and program. Counties that are part of an interjurisdictional emergency management agreement entered into pursuant to this section shall cooperatively develop an emergency management plan and program that is coordinated and consistent with the state emergency management plan and program.

(b) In carrying out the provisions of this article each county and municipality, or the two (2) acting jointly, or two (2) or more counties acting jointly, where there is joint organization, in which any disaster as described in [Section 33-15-5](#) occurs, shall have the power to enter into contracts and incur obligations necessary to combat such disaster, protecting the health and safety of persons and property, and providing emergency assistance to the victims of such disaster. Each county and municipality is authorized to exercise the powers vested under this section in the light of the exigencies of the extreme emergency situation without regard to time-consuming procedures and formalities prescribed by law pertaining to the performance of public work, entering into contracts, the incurring of obligations, the employment of temporary workers, the rental of equipment, the purchase of supplies and materials, the levying of taxes and the appropriation and expenditure of public funds.

(c) Each county and each municipality, or two (2) or more counties acting jointly, shall have the power and authority:

(1) To appropriate and expend funds, make contracts, obtain and distribute equipment, materials, and supplies for emergency management purposes; provide for the health and safety of persons and property, including emergency

assistance to the victims of any enemy attack or man-made, technological or natural disasters; and to direct and coordinate the development of emergency management plans and programs in accordance with the policies and plans set by the federal and state emergency management agencies;

(2) To appoint, employ, remove, or provide, with or without compensation, air raid wardens, rescue teams, auxiliary fire and police personnel, and other emergency management workers;

(3) To establish, as necessary, a primary and one or more secondary emergency operating centers to provide continuity of government, and direction and control of emergency operation during an emergency;

(4) To donate public funds, supplies, labor and equipment to assist any governmental entity in a county or municipality in which a disaster as described in [Section 33-15-5](#) occurs;

(5) Subject to the order of the Governor, or the chief executive of the political subdivision, to assign and make available for duty, the employees, property or equipment of the subdivision relating to fire fighting, engineering, rescue, health, medical and related services, police, transportation, construction, and similar items or services for emergency management purposes either within or outside of the limits of the subdivision;

(6) Subject to the order of the chief executive of the county or municipality or the Governor to order the evacuation of any area subject to an impending or existing enemy attack or man-made, technological or natural disaster;

(7) Subject to the order of the chief executive of the county or municipality or the Governor, to control or restrict egress, ingress and movement within the disaster area to the degree necessary to facilitate the protection of life and property;

(8) To enter into mutual aid agreements in the manner authorized by [Section 33-15-19](#).

(d) A local emergency as defined in [Section 33-15-5](#) may be proclaimed by the mayor or governing body of a municipality or the governing body of a county. In the event a local emergency is proclaimed by the mayor of a municipality, the governing body of such municipality shall review and approve or disapprove the need for continuing the local emergency at its first regular meeting following such proclamation or at a special meeting legally called for such review. Thereafter, the governing body shall review the need for continuing the local emergency at least every thirty (30) days until such local emergency is terminated, and shall proclaim the termination of such local emergency at the earliest possible date that conditions warrant. During a local emergency, the governing body of a political subdivision may promulgate orders and regulations necessary to provide for the protection of life and property, including orders or regulations imposing a curfew within designated boundaries where necessary to preserve the public order and safety. Such orders and regulations and amendments and rescissions thereof shall be in writing and shall be given widespread notice and publicity. The authorization granted by this section to impose a curfew shall not be construed as restricting in any manner the existing authority to impose a curfew pursuant to police power for any other lawful purpose.

CREDIT(S)

Laws 1942, Ch. 206, § 7; Laws 1952, Ch. 312, § 9; Laws 1980, Ch. 491, § 9; Laws 1983, Ch. 420, § 4; Laws 1995, Ch. 333, § 9, eff. July 1, 1995. Amended by Laws 2005, 5th Ex.Sess., Ch. 20, § 1, eff. from and after passage (approved October 24, 2005); Laws 2010, Ch. 347, § 1, eff. July 1, 2010. Amended by Laws 2012, Ch. 359, § 2, eff. July 1, 2012.

HISTORICAL AND STATUTORY NOTES

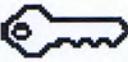
Derivation:

Code 1942, § 8610-09.

CROSS REFERENCES

Disaster Assistance Act, definitions, see § 33-15-305.

LIBRARY REFERENCES

War and National Emergency  61 to 65.
WESTLAW Topic No. 402.
C.J.S. War and National Defense §§ 62 to 66.

JUDICIAL DECISIONS

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1. In general

County, rather than town, was liable to creditor for purchases made on county's charge account on behalf of town during a declared state of emergency, even though the purchases were not spread upon the county board of supervisor's minutes; the statute governing public purchases when an emergency exists in regard to the purchase of any commodities or repair contracts and requiring a report in the minutes did not apply, but the Emergency Management Law

applied. *Bolivar County v. Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.* (Miss. 1999) 797 So.2d 790, rehearing denied. Counties



116; Public Contracts



123

An emergency management agency may purchase with funds appropriated to it by the county and distribute to the general public within its jurisdiction such written or printed information regarding emergency actions and emergency assistance as it finds, consistent with fact, and encompasses such findings of fact in an order finding the necessity for such purpose, are necessary and proper for emergency management purposes and are neither inconsistent nor in conflict with the policies and plans set by the federal and state emergency management agencies, but if such purchases are made during a period of time when there is no emergency, such purchases must be made pursuant to the public purchasing laws set forth in [Sections 31-7-1, et seq.](#), and in no event may such purchases be made for political purposes in violation of [Section 33-15-33](#). Op.Atty.Gen. No. 99-0251, Souderes, May 21, 1999.

The position of director of emergency management under § 33-15-17 is not a position to which appointment of a relation is prohibited by § 25-1-53, the Nepotism Statute. Op.Atty.Gen. Langston, Nov. 9, 1989.

The procedure of notification for a special meeting must be reasonably calculated to insure that a person could find out when and where a special meeting will be held. In an emergency the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency and local emergency management organizations may call a special meeting provided the required notice is posted within one hour and the procedure of notification is reasonably calculated to insure that a person could find out when and where the special meeting will be held. Op.Atty.Gen. Maher, Feb. 19, 1992.

While the Mississippi Emergency Management agency has the authority to set up a statewide emergency management response program that is coordinated with local programs, since the legislature left [section 33-15-49](#) intact, a county may engage in debris clean-up and removal from private property only upon an emergency proclamation by the governor or president. Op.Atty.Gen. No. 96-0338, Holliman, July 8, 1996.

2. Powers of board of supervisors

A county may enter into a contract without regard to purchasing laws provided that the contract is entered into while there is a declaration of emergency properly in effect. Where there is debris which has collected as a result of a disaster, the county can enter into contracts which cover the clean-up and removal of that debris and the county can pay the amount in question if the board of supervisors finds, consistent with fact, that: a declaration of emergency was in effect at the time the contract was entered into; that the quantity of work claimed was actually performed; and, that the work was necessary "to combat such disaster ..." Op.Atty.Gen. No. 2002-0393, Bailey, August 9, 2002.

If the County Board of Supervisors finds, as a matter of fact, that training expenses are necessary and reasonable in relation to the benefit gained by the county, and not for individual benefit, then the expenses may be authorized; however, the payment of any certification fee charged by the certifying body would be a prohibited donation, since the certificate would be in the name of the individual and not the county. Op.Atty.Gen. Scott, Jan. 29, 1992.