

**CITY OF GAUTIER
Business Agenda Item #1
Fact Sheet**

Council Meeting: October 20, 2015
Title: Consideration of a Resolution urging and memorializing the Mississippi Legislature to appropriate funding to the Southern Mississippi Planning and Development District to assist with costs associated with attempts by the three coastal counties to mitigate the negative impacts of the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012 and for related purposes

Introduced by:
Contact Person/Telephone City Manager 497-8000 ext. 306

Summary Explanation: Consideration of a Resolution urging and memorializing the Mississippi Legislature to appropriate funding to the Southern Mississippi Planning and Development District to assist with costs associated with attempts by the three coastal counties to mitigate the negative impacts of the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012 and for related purposes.

EXHIBITS FOR REVIEW

Resolution	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Ordinance	<input type="checkbox"/>
Contract	<input type="checkbox"/>
Minutes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Plan Maps	<input type="checkbox"/>
Order	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>
Submittal Authorization	City Manager

Staff Recommendation:
Approval

Motion Made by:													
Gollott	<input type="checkbox"/>	Martin	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jones	<input type="checkbox"/>	Guillotte	<input type="checkbox"/>	Vaughan	<input type="checkbox"/>	Anderson	<input type="checkbox"/>	Colledge	<input type="checkbox"/>

Second Made by:													
Gollott	<input type="checkbox"/>	Martin	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jones	<input type="checkbox"/>	Guillotte	<input type="checkbox"/>	Vaughan	<input type="checkbox"/>	Anderson	<input type="checkbox"/>	Colledge	<input type="checkbox"/>

Voted as follows:		Ayes	Nays	Abstained	Absent
Mayor	Gollott	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
At Large	Martin	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ward 1	Jones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ward 2	Guillotte	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ward 3	Vaughan	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ward 4	Anderson	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ward 5	Colledge	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Action Taken:

There came on for consideration at a duly constituted meeting of the Mayor and Members of the City Council of the City of Gautier, Mississippi, held on the _____ day of _____, 2015, the following Resolution:

A RESOLUTION BY THE GAUTIER CITY COUNCIL TO URGE AND MEMORIALIZE THE MISSISSIPPI LEGISLATURE TO APPROPRIATE FUNDING TO THE SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT TO ASSIST WITH COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH ATTEMPTS BY THE THREE COASTAL COUNTIES TO MITIGATE THE NEGATIVE IMPACTS OF THE BIGGERT-WATERS FLOOD INSURANCE REFORM ACT OF 2012 AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES

WHEREAS, the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) was created by the United States Congress in 1968 with the passage of the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 (P.L. 90-448) to enable property owners in participating communities to purchase insurance protection from the government against losses from flooding; and

WHEREAS, the NFIP insures over 5 million homes in the United States, the large majority of which are along the Atlantic, Gulf, Pacific and Great Lakes shore lines of the United States; and

WHEREAS, the NFIP, historically, has provided insurance which, in an effort to create economic benefit, encouraged and incentivized coastal communities to develop their shore lines, including the concentration of economic production, population and infrastructure along the coast; and

WHEREAS, shoreline communities around the country, and certainly in the State of Mississippi, have become a stronghold for economic vitality by providing not only major economic engines (including transportation and access to trade corridors), but also for activities that are major contributors to the Mississippi Coast's historic economic success and strength: tourism, recreation, and cultural activities; and

WHEREAS, in recent years, the United States Congress passed the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012 (Biggert-Waters), which significantly overhauled the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP); and

WHEREAS, while ensuring the long term solvency and long-term sustainability of the NFIP are valid goals of the US Congress, those goals must take into account the negative side-effects associated with Biggert-Waters flood mapping efforts including, but not limited to, the increased difficulties to conduct business, trade, and live in these shoreline communities throughout the Country, including communities along the Mississippi Gulf Coast caused by such mapping; and

WHEREAS, shoreline communities that have undergone the FEMA and NFIP required process to revise their flood maps are discovering that the maps are flawed, inconsistent from one community to another and, effectively, have been improperly drawn; and

WHEREAS, communities that have recently had FEMA flood map changes, like communities all along the Mississippi Gulf Coast, will pay higher rates due to Biggert-Waters than communities in other areas of the Country that, though built at similar flood elevations, have not had recent flood map studies, or have had studies that are inconsistent with the findings in other but related areas; and, as a result of incomplete flood map studies and changes, communities like those along the Mississippi Gulf Coast will likely bear a larger burden of the NFIP program and thus suffer competitive trade and other disadvantages; and

WHEREAS, now, after receipt of a September of 2015 notice from FEMA to coastal cities, it appears that FEMA has remapped the Mississippi Gulf Coast yet again, even though there are large areas of the entire country that have yet to be mapped once, and that preliminary

data shows this re-mapping is placing new areas of Mississippi in FEMA-created flood zones; and

WHEREAS, in an effort to achieve reasonable and deserved relief, certain communities have undertaken the arduous and expensive task of challenging the revised and amended flood maps, and are winning their challenges in cases where the communities can present well-prepared and drafted engineering studies in support of their position that the flood maps for their communities are not properly created; and

WHEREAS, individually, no Mississippi coastal community, city or county has the financial resources or wherewithal to undertake the required engineering studies, but together, the communities of the Mississippi Gulf Coast, with financial assistance from the state to fund the aforementioned studies, can work together to ensure that a consistent map for the entire Mississippi Gulf Coast and, indeed, our coastal region, is prepared and submitted to NFIP and FEMA as part of a regional challenge to the post-Katrina (i.e., current) flood maps currently governing the Mississippi Gulf Coast; and

WHEREAS, in an effort to mitigate the effects of Biggert-Watters, the full impact of which will likely now be triggered upon property owners in Coastal Mississippi due to the previously referenced remapping, and to ensure that flood maps governing the City of Gautier and other Mississippi Coastal communities are accurate, the governing authority of the City of Gautier hereby memorializes the legislature of the State of Mississippi to appropriate funds to the Southern Mississippi Planning and Development District to help offset and fund the costs of engaging an expert engineer or engineers to remap the flood zones and flood elevations in the three coast counties (Harrison, Hancock, and Jackson) in order to facilitate and support a comprehensive challenge to the flood zones and elevations put in place by FEMA.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GAUTIER, MISSISSIPPI, AS FOLLOWS, TO WIT:

Section 1. That the matters, facts and things recited in the Preamble hereto are hereby adopted as the official findings of the Governing Authority.

Section 2. That the Governing Authority of the City of Gautier, Mississippi, hereby urges and memorializes the Coast's state legislative delegation to actively pursue an appropriation in the amount of \$1,500,000.00 to the Southern Mississippi Planning and Development District to offset and fund the costs of engaging an expert engineer or engineers to study and remap the flood zones and flood elevations in the three coastal counties (Harrison, Hancock, and Jackson) in order to support and create a challenge to the flood zones and elevations as have been determined by FEMA to be applicable in the three coast counties.

Section 3. That this Resolution is hereby ordered to be spread on the minutes of the Governing Authority, and to be in full force and effect immediately upon its passage and enactment according to law.

Section 4. That a copy of this resolution shall be provided to each member of the Coast Legislative Delegation, as follows: Representatives and Senators representing districts comprised, in whole or in part, of Hancock County, Harrison County and Jackson County, all located on the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

The above and foregoing Resolution, after having been first reduced to writing and ready by the Clerk, was introduced by _____, seconded by _____, and was adopted by the following roll call vote:

AYES

NAYS

ABSENT

WHEREUPON, the President declared the motion carried and the Resolution adopted
this the _____ day of _____, 2015.

(SEAL)

ATTEST:

ADOPTED:

CITY CLERK

**GORDON GOLLOTT
MAYOR**

The above and foregoing Resolution was submitted to and approved by the Mayor, this
the _____ day of _____, 2015.