

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

Council Meeting: January 5, 2016

Title: Consideration of a Resolution requesting the Mississippi legislature appropriate at least 80% of BP settlement funds from the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill to the local governments of the three Coast Counties for strategic economic development projects as endorsed by the One Coast Mayors Forum

Introduced by:

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

Summary Explanation: Consideration of a Resolution requesting the Mississippi legislature appropriate at least 80% of BP settlement funds from the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill to the local governments of the three Coast Counties for strategic economic development projects as endorsed by the One Coast Mayors Forum.

EXHIBITS FOR REVIEW

Resolution	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Ordinance	<input type="checkbox"/>
Contract/Agreement	<input type="checkbox"/>
Minutes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Plan Maps	<input type="checkbox"/>
Order	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other/Discussion	<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 for consideration of the Mayor and Members of the Council of the City of Gautier, Mississippi, the following:

RESOLUTION NUMBER 000-2016

RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF GAUTIER, MISSISSIPPI, TO JOIN WITH COAST CITIES AND COUNTIES IN REQUESTING THE LEGISLATURE TO APPROPRIATE AT LEAST 80% OF THE \$750 MILLION IN ECONOMIC DAMAGES FROM THE DEEPWATER HORIZON OIL SPILL TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENTS OF THE THREE COAST COUNTIES TO BE USED FOR STRATEGIC, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AS DETERMINED BY A CONSENSUS OF THOSE LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, TO CREATE NEW JOBS AND PERMANENTLY EXPAND THE STATE'S TAX BASE FROM SALES, INCOME AND GAMING TAXES GENERATED FROM MISSISSIPPI COAST BUSINESSES

WHEREAS, on April 20, 2010, the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill in the Gulf of Mexico began an unprecedented environmental and economic assault on the three Coastal counties in the State of Mississippi, as well as coastal counties in other Gulf States; and

WHEREAS, the Oil Spill caused severe, immediate and potentially ongoing environmental damages that first brought to a complete halt, and to this day continues to hamper, the historic seafood harvesting, packaging, wholesaling and retailing businesses that have helped sustain the economies of the Coast and the State for hundreds of years; and

WHEREAS, the same concerns caused an immediate cessation, and to this day continuing reduction, of the charter fishing industry that has for decades helped draw tourists from across the country to the Mississippi Coast; and

WHEREAS, the Oil Spill robbed citizens of the Mississippi Coast of an indigenous quality of life in the areas of fishing, boating, shrimping, crabbing, floundering, skiing, sailing, swimming and other water-, beach- and outdoor-related recreational activities; and

WHEREAS, the actual and perceived damages from the Oil Spill caused a severe drop in tourism across the Mississippi Coast, which at the time was on its way to recovery from the effects of 2005's Hurricane Katrina and the national recession of 2008-2009; and

WHEREAS, this negative impact on tourism was especially hard on the Coast casino business, which once generated more than \$1 billion in annual gross gaming revenues; and

WHEREAS, quality of life concerns caused by the Oil Spill have for years negatively impacted the Mississippi Coast's efforts to attract new businesses, development and residents; and

WHEREAS, now, five years later, the three counties of the Mississippi Coast are still struggling in many areas to restore to full vigor its fishing, tourism, manufacturing and service industries, its economic development recruitment, and its quality of life; and

WHEREAS, the Mississippi Coast has historically been the State's leading tourism destination and contributor to the State treasury across all economic models; and

WHEREAS, it is important to the Treasury of the State of Mississippi that the Mississippi Coast return to full economic vitality in order to re-establish its leadership position in State tourism and significantly expand its financial contributions to the State budget through state collections of sales, gaming and income taxes generated by businesses and residents of the Coast; and

WHEREAS, local government financial settlements from the Oil Spill only partially compensated the governments within the three Coastal counties of Mississippi for the overwhelming economic losses incurred and are not any way near sufficient to stimulate the recovery of the Coast economy in order to generate the growth in revenue to the State Treasury that a fully recovered and robust Coast economy would produce perpetually; and

WHEREAS, the local governments of the Mississippi Coast accepted their settlements with the clear understanding, and promise of additional compensation coming from anticipated State settlements; and

WHEREAS, the local governments of the Mississippi Coast were so encouraged by various State officials, including Governor Phil Bryant, who publicly stated that the anticipated State settlements should go to the areas most affected by the Oil Spill; and

WHEREAS, the State of Mississippi has subsequently agreed to a substantial settlement, including \$750 million for economic damages; and

WHEREAS, any significant redirection of economic damages money away from the Coastal counties is in obvious contradiction to the stated and implied intent of the economic damages settlement, which was to return the affected areas to their previous state of economic health;

WHEREAS, it is in the best interests of the State of Mississippi that the overwhelming majority of the economic damages money be allotted to stimulate a more rapid and vigorous economic recovery across the Mississippi Coast; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interests of the State of Mississippi that the Coastal counties utilize those monies to reinvigorate their fishing, tourism, manufacturing, and service industries in order to generate more revenues for the State now and for decades to come;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GAUTIER, MISSISSIPPI, THAT:

Section 1: We join with the governments of coast cities and counties in requesting the Mississippi legislature to appropriate no less than 80% of the \$750 million in economic damages to the exclusive use of the local governments within Hancock, Harrison and Jackson counties, for strategic, economic development as determined by a consensus of those local governments, with the remaining 20% of economic damages to be appropriated for statewide, strategic economic development.

Section 2: We will work quickly and in good faith with all of the Coast local governments to evaluate all specific economic development projects that will be proposed by Coast local governments for funding through Deepwater Horizon settlement funds during the 2016 Legislative Session and to communicate as soon as reasonably possible to the Legislature and State officials a consensus list of projects and priorities that the Coast local governments consider to be essential to strategic, regional, economic recovery and expansion.

Section 3: The Mayor and Municipal Clerk are directed to present this resolution to the Governor, Lt. Governor, Speaker of the House and all members of the Mississippi Senate and House of Representatives, and to publish this resolution to the general public.

Section 4: This resolution shall take effect and be in force from and after adoption.

Motion was made by **Council Member** _____, seconded by **Council Member** _____ and the following vote was recorded:

AYES:

NAYS:

WHEREUPON, the Mayor and Members of the Council of the City of Gautier, Mississippi, declared the motion carried and the Resolution adopted this the **5th** day of **January**, 2016.

(SEAL)

ATTEST:

ADOPTED: January 5, 2016

CITY CLERK

**GORDON GOLLOTT
MAYOR**

The above and foregoing Resolution was submitted to and approved by the Mayor, this the **5th** day of **January**, 2016.