

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE BEAUTIFICATION COMMISSION FOR THE CITY OF CLEVELAND, MISSISSIPPI AND PROVIDING FOR THE COMPOSITION OF THE COMMISSION, FOR REGULAR MEETINGS, AND ESTABLISHING GENERAL POWERS AND DUTIES.

WHEREAS, the City of Cleveland seeks to improve the City's aesthetic appeal through planting and shrubbery, signage, maintenance of a robust tree canopy and other beautification measures in the City's parks, downtown area, and other public spaces; and

WHEREAS, in order to guide the City's campaign for improving aesthetics, the City desires to establish a "Beautification Commission" or hereinafter referred to as the "commission"; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of this ordinance is to establish the commission and provide guidelines on the commission's influence and input regarding aesthetic issues affecting the City; and

WHEREAS, by adopting this Ordinance, the City hereby repeals the formerly adopted "City Tree Advisory Board Ordinance."

WHEREAS, by adopting this Ordinance, the City hereby repeals the formerly adopted "Cleveland Beautification Ordinance."

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Board of Aldermen for the City of Cleveland, Mississippi as follows:

Section 1. – Commission Established.

A commission, to be known as the Cleveland Beautification Commission, is hereby created in and for the City of Cleveland, Mississippi.

Section 2. – Purpose.

The commission is created in order to improve the City's aesthetic appeal through planting and shrubbery, signage, maintenance of a robust tree canopy and other beautification measures in the City's parks, downtown area, and other public spaces.

Section 3. – Composition.

The commission shall consist of nine (9) members, appointed by the Mayor and Board of Aldermen. The City would encourage the inclusion of commissioners who are diverse, have an interest in horticulture and design and who are either City residents, own property or a business located in the City of Cleveland or who have established themselves as a supporter of the City of Cleveland through their non-profit efforts and volunteerism.

Section 4. – Advisory Members.

The Director of Community Development, Director of Public Works, and Street Superintendent shall serve as advisory, ex-officio non-voting members of the commission.

Section 5. – Terms.

The members of the commission shall be appointed by the Mayor and Board of Aldermen and shall serve at the will and pleasure of the City. The term of office of the commissioners to be appointed, shall be as follows:

Three commissioners shall serve until December 31, 2017.

Three commissioners shall serve until December 31, 2018.

Three commissioners shall serve until December 31, 2019.

Following the first expiration of term, commission positions will be filled to serve for a period of three (3) years. Each Commissioner shall be eligible for reappointment upon recommendation of the Commission to the Mayor and Board of Aldermen.

Section 6. – Filling of Vacancies.

Vacancies shall be filled by the Mayor and Board of Aldermen and appointments to fill vacancies shall be for unexpired terms only. The continued absence of any member of the commission from three (3) regularly scheduled meetings within one calendar year without excused absence of the commission shall be just cause for the removal of said member from the commission by the Mayor and Board of Aldermen upon receipt of written notice from the chairman of the Beautification Commission. The Mayor and Board of Aldermen may remove the absent member from the commission and appoint a new member to fill the vacancy.

Section 7. – Compensation.

All members of the Commission shall serve without compensation.

Section 8. – Officers.

The Commission shall, annually, elect a Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary. In lieu of electing a Secretary, the Commission may elect to appoint a City staff member to record the meeting minutes.

Section 9. – Meetings.

The commission shall regularly meet at 10:00 am on the second Thursday of each month in the Board Room at City Hall. Special meetings may be called by the Chair or Vice-Chair from time to time as needed.

Section 10. – Funding.

The Commission shall present project funding requests to the Mayor and Board of Aldermen during the City's annual budget planning sessions. Other funding sources may be through the Chamber of Commerce, private donations or donations from 501(c)(3) organizations.

Section 11. – Powers and Duties of the Commission Generally.

- (a) The Commission's primary function will be to implement programs of work and/or projects which improve the beauty of Cleveland through planting, signage, art, and other beautification measures in the City's parks, downtown area, and other public spaces.
- (b) The Commission shall assist the Public Works Department in the planning and implementation of the City's annual Earth Day event.
- (c) The Commission shall assist the Public Works Department with implementing the City's Tree City efforts. The Commission shall also work to preserve and improve the City's tree canopy.

- (d) The Commission may also assist other departments with aesthetic issues and offer guidance in particular on planting, signage, art and similar improvements to be placed throughout Cleveland under other departments' programs of work.
- (e) The Commission may engage in ongoing beautification projects throughout the year. Projects shall be deemed to be either small, medium or large in scale.
 - (1) For small projects (planting a single tree, changing out flowers in flower beds, adding hanging baskets or small scale signage/art installations) no pre-approval from the City shall be required.
 - (2) For medium and large scale projects, such as a major planting of trees or shrubs, multiple signs, large installations of art work or the like, the Commission shall obtain the approval of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen prior to commencing work.

Section 12. – Effective Date.

This Ordinance shall become effective thirty (30) days following its passage. The City Clerk shall cause the Ordinance to be published in a local newspaper with general circulation. All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

BE IT ORDAINED, ADOPTED, AND APPROVED this 7th day of February, 2017.

Billy Nowell, Mayor

(Seal)

ATTEST:

Dominique Green, City Clerk