

**City of Ridgeland
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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City-Wide Master Planning Project to Commence in Ridgeland

The City of Ridgeland's Board of Aldermen recently approved a Proposal to conduct a Master Planning project for the City. The proposed Master Plan will become the planning tool which the City of Ridgeland can use to prioritize projects, leverage its financial resources, and encourage and control quality growth. One of the most important aspects of this planning process is that it will include the citizens of the City of Ridgeland in crafting a collective vision of the community. This Master Plan will be a quality tool that will help lead the City of Ridgeland to an even healthier place to grow families and businesses.

The Madison County Economic Development Authority Board (MCEDA), a partner in the Master Plan project with the City of Ridgeland, is providing funding support in the amount of \$200,000 to be allocated over two fiscal years. Tim Coursey, Executive Director of MCEDA, says, "The MCEDA Board wants to congratulate the City leaders and all involved for taking this proactive initiative to help ensure the vitality and continued development of Ridgeland. We are excited about the partnership with Ridgeland and look forward to the many good things that will emanate from this planning exercise." MCEDA will maintain involvement in the project, providing a representative to serve on the Master Plan Steering Committee.

The City of Ridgeland Chamber of Commerce has also partnered with the City of Ridgeland through funding support. Linda Bynum, Executive Director, says, ".... "

The approval by the Board to move forward with the Master Plan reveals the Board's dedication to fostering growth in Ridgeland for a more sustainable community. Integral to a sustainable community is a commitment to education, economic development, quality of life, and infrastructure. Mayor Gene F. McGee says, "Now, more than ever, the City of Ridgeland is exhibiting its dedication to a quality of life that nurtures families and supports business. With a Master Plan, the City will be able to plan for a future that maintains and enhances its high-quality schools, neighborhoods, commercial development, trail and park system, retail offerings, and a community that is uniquely Ridgeland."

Alan Hart, Community Development Director for the City of Ridgeland says, "The strength of the Master Plan lies in the core values of the citizens of

Ridgeland.” Citizen participation will come in the form of a Master Plan Steering Committee and through Town Hall Meetings. The Steering Committee will include representatives from the Board of Aldermen, the Madison County Economic Development Authority, the City of Ridgeland Chamber of Commerce, and representatives from the areas of education, religion, and recreation. Town Hall Meetings will be scheduled to gather input and discussion from parents, business owners, coaches, teachers, youth, and any citizen that wants a say in the future of their community.

Moore Planning Group has been hired to prepare the Master Plan. It is anticipated that their contract with the City of Ridgeland will span two fiscal years. Patrick Moore,.... Of Moore Planning Group, says, “ *Insert Moore’s quote here....*”

The Master Plan will offer the following benefits: knowledge of where capital expenditures will have the greatest positive impact, direction for new development that benefits the entire community, increased ability to demand quality from all new development, and guidance for the decision making process that includes a vision for the future and choices that will maintain quality growth. Prospective developers and funding agencies will be confident that their project is part of a community-wide supported plan that enhances community and economic development prospects for all citizens of Ridgeland as well as for the region.

Bordering the Capital, yet located in Madison County, Ridgeland has grown from a small town to an integral part of one of the most economically-viable regions of the State of Mississippi. Ridgeland continues to be well-known as a gateway to the Natchez Trace Parkway and a major access point to the Ross Barnett Reservoir with extensive trails and parks associated with both the Parkway and the Reservoir. Ridgeland continues to be known as a convenient place to live, within short driving distance of downtown Jackson, and containing premiere shops and exclusive restaurants. With the development of a Master Plan for Ridgeland, the City will determine a path for its future that emphasizes sustainable growth and a high quality of life.

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