



GEORGE FLAGGS, JR.  
MAYOR

## **State of the City of Vicksburg from Mayor Flaggs:**

**Mayor Flaggs has championed a transparent city government in Vicksburg committed to growth and service at the least cost to the taxpayer. Under Mayor Flaggs' leadership, taxpayers have seen groundbreaking quality-of-life improvements, the creation of innovative economic development policies, and an unprecedented pro-business environment that will benefit Vicksburg for generations to come.**

- Brought in millions of dollars from State and Federal Government for projects:
  - Fisher Ferry Bridge Repair – \$4 million
  - Vicksburg Animal Shelter – \$1.5 million
  - Water Treatment Plant Improvement Project – \$1.6 million
  - Street Paving inside city limits – \$3.5 million
  - Iowa Blvd Emergency Repair/Stabilization Project – \$800,000
  - Washington Street Park Improvements – \$173,000
  - Levee Street Pedestrian Safety Circulation Project (for bus parking, sidewalks, lighting, railroad safety railing) – \$700,000
  - Riverfront Development – \$3.5 million
  - Brownfield Community-wide Assessment – \$300,000
  - Brownfield Cleanup (Rubber Plant Property) – \$900,000
  - Constitution Firehouse Galley Building renovations – \$200,000
- Moody's reinstated an A2 Bond Rating for City Government
- Balanced the City budget for 10 years without raising taxes
- Maintained \$3 million in a reserve fund
- Received a consistently clear independent audit of City finances

### **Economic Development**

- 780 permits were issued since January of 2023, collecting \$59,307.50 in fees.
- 3,012 inspections were completed with an additional 417 open cases.
- 1,040 privilege licenses were issued.
- Five-year housing plan adopted by board on October 10, 2023.
- Launched a Housing Revitalization Initiative with the NAACP to provide safe and stable housing for city residents
- NPS approved new Riverfront Park conversion, now city and county can proceed with accepting the Golding's donation of the property and move forward with the transition.
- Progress on the Civil Rights Park on the site of the former Kuhn Memorial Hospital

- Remodeled Robert M. Walker Building Board Room
- New Roof on Fire Station #7
- Exterior stabilization improvements of the Old Vicksburg Library including a new roof, old broiler removal, upgrade of electrical service, window repair and paint, new doors, woodwork paint and repair, wiring and internet wiring
- Ardis T. Williams City Auditorium remodeled to have new carpet, handrails, plaster, and paint
- Enhanced recreation opportunities and facilities at the King's Playground
- Vicksburg state-of-the-art animal shelter nearing completion
- The legal department successfully validated \$1.5 million dollars note in Chancery Court for new animal shelter.
- Maintained the City fire rating, effectively lowering insurance rates for city residents and businesses

### **Infrastructure**

- FEMA Public Assistance 2020 Flooding/Erosion Project completed for roads Sturgus, Greenhill, and Crestline
- Completed street paving for 25 streets inside of the City of Vicksburg
- Planning is underway for a large-scale urban renewal project that will create economic growth and improve the quality of life in Vicksburg for generations to come
- Nearing the completion of the state-of-the-art Mississippi Center for Innovation and Technology Transfer (MCITY) and named it after the late Senator Thad Cochran

### **Tourism**

- Vicksburg was recognized on the Today Show as a “must stop” travel destination on the Mississippi River! 2024
- Enhanced the Washington Street Park with VICKSBURG lettering
- City currently has several riverboats that dock in Vicksburg on a regular basis bringing in over 30,000 visitors annually.
- Revitalized downtown Vicksburg with millions of dollars in investments and improvements by providing tax breaks
- Created an opportunity to improve our waterfront at no cost to taxpayers by working with riverboat companies

### **Crime**

- The legal department prosecuted 6,121 cases where 3,768 persons were found guilty, 705 charges were dismissed, 324 charges were dismissed based on person paying charges, 7 were found not guilty, 100 were non-adjudicated, 339 were bound to the Grand Jury, and 201 were remanded by the Court
- Created the Vicksburg-Warren County Youth Development Center to improve the quality of life of at-risk youth and their families and to increase academic performance and reduce youth violence
- Installed over 30 NOLA cameras in the City of Vicksburg which helped to solve two homicides in 2023
- Updated police department with new car/personal body equipment for officer and citizen safety

- Updated police department's record management system
- Implement first stage of public safety radio encryption

### **Recreation**

- Facilitated disaster relief to the City of Rolling Fork due to the March 2023 tornado.
- Vicksburg Police Department participated in the Mississippi Smiles Campaign distributing food, water, cleaning supplies, and personal items to elderly residents of Vicksburg
- Appointed as Mississippi River Cities and Towns Initiative Co-Chair, a coalition of 104 mayors along the Mississippi River, which spans nearly a third of the country.
- Raised Vicksburg's City Government minimum wage and gave 2% pay raise and longevity pay.
- Employees now have access to check stubs on the online portal
- City switched from printing paper checks to online self-service to save on printing costs
- Implemented DUO MFA to prevent malware, phishing and ransomware attacks
- Changed vendors for City's phone system with savings of over \$2000 monthly
- Updated CODERED and BFAC to reach a larger audience
- Human Resources Manual completely revamped to make it easier and clearer for employees
- 105 new hires for the City of Vicksburg in 2023 – each new hire participated in mandatory orientation and received a copy of the updated manual.

### **2024 City of Vicksburg Goals:**

- (1) Crime reduction
- (2) Port – 500 jobs creation
- (3) MCITY completion
- (4) Riverfront development enhancements
- (5) Riverfront Park completion
- (6) Retail development
- (7) Housing Development
- (8) Vicksburg National Military Park Interpretive Center
- (9) Address population decline
- (10) City Charter reform
- (11) Vicksburg Police Department goals and objectives

