

New Margaritaville Casino plans are moving forward - WLOX

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By Elizabeth Vowell – [email](#)

BILOXI, MS (WLOX) - Hopeful developers of the Margaritaville Casino and Restaurant have met with the Biloxi Development Review Committee to make sure all plans are go. The companies behind the casino have ambitious plans to move the casino from paper to construction in just a few months.

This is

not the same Margaritaville we caught a glimpse of on Highway 90. Instead, developers hope to open up on a previously approved casino site on 5th Street in east Biloxi.

"We'd like to get the project opened and operating before the end of the year. We're anticipating it taking nine months to build out and that gets us right at the end of the year," said the developer's attorney, Mike Cavanaugh.

The owners want to break ground by the first of March. However, Margaritaville needs various approvals from the city of Biloxi, and the gaming commission must sign off on its master plan.

"You go through the specifics of your plans, the set back, the parking, make sure there's no variance, overall general scope of the project and you get their approval on it before you file the application for the master plan itself," said Cavanaugh.

This means developers have a tight timeline of deadlines and applications they must meet over the next few weeks if they hope to have shovels in the ground by March.

Developers are confident that the casino plans should stay on schedule, and have folks flocking to East Biloxi by December. The owners also hope that building on 5th Street will pave the way for even more development.

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"Pre-storm we talked about getting development on the eastern tip. It's a beautiful location and we are going to help jump start a lot of development in that northeast quadrant of the peninsula," said Cavanaugh.

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