MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL

Tuesday, September 01, 2026

6:00 PM CST

Council Chambers, City Hall

Call to Order.

At 6:00 p.m. Mayor Liese called the meeting to order.

Invocation - Councilmember Maher

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

PRESENT
Mayor Anna Liese
Councilmember-At-Large Gerard Maher
Ward 1 Shane Finley
Ward 3 Jessie Harwood
Ward 4 Austin Clark

ABSENT
Ward 2 Ricky Sheppard

Confirm or Adjust Agenda Order

Motion made by Mayor Liese, Seconded by Ward 3 Harwood to adjust the agenda adding:

19a. **2026-187:** Motion to approve the Software As A Service Agreement with Colossus Incorporated for the Online Report Management System for the Diamondhead Police Department.

Voting Yea: Mayor Liese, Councilmember-At-Large Maher, Ward 1 Finley, Ward 3 Harwood, Ward 4 Clark

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Presentation Agenda.

a. The next Regular Meeting of the City Council will be held Tuesday September 15, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers located at City Hall.

b. Proclamation - National Childhood Cancer Awareness Month

c. Proclamation - Constitution Week

d. Small Business Administration - Elizabeth Confil

e. Diamondhead Police Department - Chief Chad Dorn

City Manager's Report.

CITY MANAGER REPORT
September 01, 2026

1. MDOT Projects – The low mast lights on the South side of the interchange are currently not working. MDOT is working with both contractors to determine if the lights are a part of the roundabout project or the widening project. Also, some of the traffic headed East towards Gulfport is crossing over the lane divider, this is a concern that MDOT is working with their roundabout experts to determine what additional signage or traffic devices are needed.
2. East Rec Playground – The playground equipment at the East Rec facility was inspected by a playground company and recommendations were made to the city. Several pieces of the play structure were broken. After a month of research, the correct pieces were ordered and have been received by the city. The Public Works Department will be installing the play equipment in the next few weeks.
3. Gazebo – The town green gazebo repairs are progressing. Public Works had to remove all the flooring and are currently in the process of rebuilding it. The project is expected to be complete in about three weeks.
4. Bank Stabilization – The contractor has submitted all contracts and insurance for this project. A pre-construction meeting has been scheduled for the 9th. A notice to proceed date will be determined at this meeting and a tentative work schedule will be set.
5. Pelican Cove – Awarding of this project is on tonight's agenda. The city received six bids for this project and five of the bids received came in under the budgeted amount. This project will clean the detention pond to allow for more capacity and reconfigure the weir to allow better regulate the release of stormwater during a rain event.
6. Canal Dredging – The contract is for 240 days with the current end date of October 24th. The city has submitted a change order proposal to MDEQ for their review. This change order is due to the change in conditions at the entrance to the Wolf River. The request is for additional funds to complete the project as well as the additional time needed.
7. Jourdan River Boardwalk – The contract is for 180 days with the current end date of October 17th. The city has also submitted a change order proposal to MDEQ on this project. The change requested is to make all three observations decks two story and add an additional 20 days to the contract. The request will be sent to the MS Trustee Implementation Group on Wednesday for their approval. The contractor is working on the remaining section of the boardwalk while MDEQ reviews the request.
8. Montjoy Creek Nature Trail – The contract is 210 calendar days with a current end date of November 09th. As work continues, there has been an increase in residents on bikes, golf carts, and other motorized vehicles in this construction area. A no trespassing sign will be installed at the entrance to the trail. All residents need to remain off the trail while it is under construction.

No additional updates on remaining projects.

9. Fitness Park – The city received the exercise equipment. Public Works will start working on installing everything.
10. East Aloha Drive – The MDOT meeting scheduled for August 19th is usually the final step before bidding/construction can begin. The design is complete and ready to be submitted for advertisement.
11. West Aloha Drive – I am working with American Towers to finalize the egress into the driveway access to North Bay Auto and AutoZone.
12. Commercial District – The engineer is completing the final design. Additional sewer realignment is needed to finish the project.
13. Landscaping Project – Keep Diamondhead Beautiful and their landscape architect company are working on the project scope. The city has expressed that the landscaping cannot obstruct driver's view.
14. Unit Price Contracts
    Crooked Stick – A design has been created. A work directive will be submitted.
    Mauna Loa Drive – A design has been created. A work directive will be submitted.
    Ewa St @ Hilo Way – A design has been created. A work directive will be submitted.
    Koula Drive – A design has been created. An OPC has been issued for budget needs.
15. Hazard Mitigation Grant Program – The kickoff meeting with FEMA was held two weeks ago for the Outdoor Emergency Siren System. The project is waiting on a period of performance extension from FEMA. The bid advertisement and specifications will be on the agenda at the next council meeting for your review and approval.
16. Rotten Bayou Nature Trail – The engineer is working on final design and permitting. I have moved the expected advertisement for bids on this project to October. This agenda includes a request to extend the grant from MOSTF for six months due to the permitting process not being completed.

Public Comments on Agenda Items.

Bill Atkinson - Pond 6 Remediation Project, Zoning Ordinance Variance, Surveillance Cameras and Golf Cart Registration

Ernie Knobloch - Millage Rate, Police Department Creation; final milestone of Incorporation

Council Comments.

1. The proposed FY27 Budget adoption will be at the next Regular Meeting of the City Council to be held on September 15, 2026.

Policy Agenda.

2. **PUBLIC HEARING FY27 BUDGET 6:30 P.M**

   Mayor Liese opened the FY27 Budget Public Hearing

   City Manager Jon McCraw presented the proposed FY27 Budget. At the conclusion of the FY27 Budget presentation, Mayor Liese called for anyone with comments or questions regarding the proposed FY27 Budget; no comments or questions were presented and the FY27 Budget Public Hearing was closed.

Minutes:

3. Motion to approve August 18, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes.

   Motion made by Ward 3 Harwood, Seconded by Ward 1 Finley to approve August 18, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes.

   Voting Yea: Mayor Liese, Ward 1 Finley, Ward 3 Harwood, Ward 4 Clark

   Abstain: Councilmember-At-Large Maher

   MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Resolutions:

4. **2026-170:** Motion to adopt Resolution 2026-025 thereby setting the tax levy for Fiscal Year ending September 30, 2027 at a rate of 29.5 mills and for other related purposes.

   Motion made by Councilmember-At-Large Maher, Seconded by Mayor Liese to adopt Resolution 2026-025 thereby setting the tax levy for Fiscal Year ending September 30, 2027 at a rate of 29.5 mills and for other related purposes.

   Voting Yea: Mayor Liese, Councilmember-At-Large Maher, Ward 1 Finley, Ward 3 Harwood, Ward 4 Clark

   MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. **2026-177:** Motion to adopt Resolution 2026-026 to accept by donation an easement which is part of Lot 81, Glen Eagle at Diamondhead Phase 1 for drainage and utility purposes from Kim S. Zimmerman.

   Motion made by Ward 4 Clark, Seconded by Ward 3 Harwood to adopt Resolution 2026-026 to accept by donation an easement which is part of Lot 81, Glen Eagle at Diamondhead Phase 1 for drainage and utility purposes from Kim S. Zimmerman.

   Voting Yea: Mayor Liese, Councilmember-At-Large Maher, Ward 1 Finley, Ward 3 Harwood, Ward 4 Clark

   MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6. **2026-183:** Motion to adopt resolution 2026-027 appointing Trey McKnight to fill the vacant position of Planning and Zoning Commissioner representing Ward 4 effective immediately. (Clark)

   Motion made by Ward 4 Clark, Seconded by Mayor Liese to adopt resolution 2026-027 appointing Trey McKnight to fill the vacant position of Planning and Zoning Commissioner representing Ward 4 effective immediately.

   Voting Yea: Mayor Liese, Councilmember-At-Large Maher, Ward 1 Finley, Ward 3 Harwood, Ward 4 Clark

   MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Consent Agenda:

Motion made by Ward 1 Finley, Seconded by Ward 3 Harwood to approve the following consent items:

7. **2026-169:** Motion to approve the Grant Agreement with Department of Marine Resources for the Rotten Bayou Nature Trail Project FY27-P510-10 with funding in the amount of $500,000.

8. **2026-171:** Motion to authorize the release of annual fire rebate funds in the amount of $67,957.91 to Hancock County Board of Supervisors for expenses relating to support, operation, maintenance and equipment for the Diamondhead Fire Department for fire protection services pursuant to the agreement entered into on May 5, 2026.

9. **2026-172:** Motion to approve Pay Application 4 in the amount of $245,622.50 to Gill's Crane & Dozer Services, for the Jourdan River Boardwalk Project.

10. **2026-173:** Motion to approve Pay Application 3 in the amount of $136,677.30 to Holliday Construction, for the Montjoy Creek Nature Trail.

11. **2026-174:** Motion to approve amendment to Work Assignment with Covington Civil and Environmental, LLC adding Bidding in the amount of $9,750.00, Construction Inspection and Oversight Services in the amount of $92,000.00 and in the amount of ($101,750.00) for a reduction of the cost for the Engineering and Design and Permitting Tasks for the Bank Stabilization Project. The Work Assignment remains at the amount not to exceed $430,000.00

12. **2026-175:** Motion to approve payments to Covington Civil & Environmental, LLC in the amount of $1,315.00 for On-Call Survey Services, in the amount of $350.00 for Annual Unit Price Contract, in the amount of $5,850.00 for Site Development Plan Review FY26, and in the amount of $16,800.00 for West Aloha Roadway Improvements Project.

13. **2026-176:** Motion to approve payment to Chiniche Engineering & Surveying in the amount of $12,570.50 for Rotten Bayou Nature Trail, in the amount of $7,891.50 for Montjoy Creek Nature Trail, in the amount of $7,353.50 for Montjoy Creek Trailhead Project, in the amount of $25,258.00 for Jourdan River Boardwalk, in the amount of $10,195.75 for Pond 6 Remediation and in the amount of $5,420.25 for Canal Dredging.

14. **2026-180:** Motion of approval of support letter for the Hancock Resource Center application to the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Program.

15. **2026-181:** Motion to accept and award low bid received from LJ Construction Inc. in the amount of $311,059.69 for the Pond 6 Remediation at Pine Golf Course and authorize the City Manager to execute the contract for same and to **issue** the notice to proceed as appropriate.

16. **2026-182:** Motion to accept and approve the resignation of Michael (Gene) Peters as Planning and Zoning Commissioner Ward 4 effective immediately.

17. **2026-184:** Motion to approve amendment to Work Assignment with Chiniche Engineering & Surveying in the amount of -$5,628.82 for a total amount not to exceed $75,000.00 for the Montjoy Creek Trailhead Improvements Project.

18. **2026-185:** Motion to approve and amend Work Assignment under the Master Service Agreement with Covington Civil and Environmental, LLC from $30,000.00 to $0.00 for Traffic Engineer Services for FY26.

19. **2026-186:** Motion to approve amendment #1 to the Work Assignment under the Master Service Agreement with Covington Civil and Environmental, LLC in the amount of $30,000.00 for a total contract amount not to exceed $60,000.00 for the Support for 2025 Annual Unit Price Contract.

19a. **2026-187:** Motion to approve the Software As A Service Agreement with Colossus Incorporated for the Online Report Management System for the Diamondhead Police Department.

Voting Yea: Mayor Liese, Councilmember-At-Large Maher, Ward 1 Finley, Ward 3 Harwood, Ward 4 Clark

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Action Agenda.

20. **2026-178:** Motion to approve the application from Kirk and Darla Hartsell thereby granting a variance from the Zoning Ordinance Article 3.4.8 to allow a covered patio within 18' of a rear property line. The property address is 756 Cherryhill Drive. The tax parcel number is 067P-0-35-055.000. The property is in a R-10 zoning district. The setback for a residence from the rear property line is 20'. The variance requested is 2'. The Case File Number is 202600579.

Motion made by Ward 1 Finley, Seconded by Ward 3 Harwood to approve the application from Kirk and Darla Hartsell thereby granting a variance from the Zoning Ordinance Article 3.4.8 to allow a covered patio within 18' of a rear property line. The property address is 756 Cherryhill Drive. The tax parcel number is 067P-0-35-055.000. The property is in a R-10 zoning district. The setback for a residence from the rear property line is 20'. The variance requested is 2'. The Case File Number is 202600579.

Voting Yea: Mayor Liese, Councilmember-At-Large Maher, Ward 1 Finley, Ward 3 Harwood, Ward 4 Clark

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOULSY

21. **2026-179:** Motion to approve the application from Greenscape Brothers Inc., represented by Kirk Edrington, on behalf of Nathan Hopper, thereby granting a variance from the Zoning Ordinance Article 3.4.8 to allow a covered patio within 15' of a rear property line. The property address is 646 Apelehama Court. The tax parcel number is 132A-1-03-010.000. The property is in a R-6 zoning district. The setback for a residence from the rear property line is 20'. The variance requested is 5'. The Case File Number is 202600586.

Motion made by Ward 3 Harwood, Seconded by Ward 1 Finley to approve the application from Greenscape Brothers Inc., represented by Kirk Edrington, on behalf of Nathan Hopper, thereby granting a variance from the Zoning Ordinance Article 3.4.8 to allow a covered patio within 15' of a rear property line. The property address is 646 Apelehama Court. The tax parcel number is 132A-1-03-010.000. The property is in a R-6 zoning district. The setback for a residence from the rear property line is 20'. The variance requested is 5'. The Case File Number is 202600586.

Voting Yea: Mayor Liese, Councilmember-At-Large Maher, Ward 1 Finley, Ward 3 Harwood, Ward 4 Clark

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Routine Agenda.

Claims Payable

22. Motion to approve Docket of Claims (DKT234036-DKT234068) in the amount of $673,778.16.

Motion made by Ward 1 Finley, Seconded by Councilmember-At-Large Maher to approve Docket of Claims (DKT234036-DKT234068) in the amount of $673,778.16.

Voting Yea: Mayor Liese, Councilmember-At-Large Maher, Ward 1 Finley, Ward 3 Harwood, Ward 4 Clark

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Department Reports

Motion made by Ward 4 Clark, Seconded by Mayor Liese to approve the following department reports.

a. Court

Police

Code Enforcement

Building

Voting Yea: Mayor Liese, Councilmember-At-Large Maher, Ward 1 Finley, Ward 3 Harwood, Ward 4 Clark

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items - None

Council Closing Comments

Adjourn/Recess.

At 7:23 p.m. with no further business to come before the council, motion made by Ward 4 Clark, Seconded by Ward 3 Harwood to adjourn.

Voting Yea: Mayor Liese, Councilmember-At-Large Maher, Ward 1 Finley, Ward 3 Harwood, Ward 4 Clark

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Anna Liese Mayor	Jeannie Klein City Clerk