



MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
Tuesday, July 21, 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 Harwood

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

PRESENT

Mayor Anna Liese

Councilmember-At-Large Gerard Maher

Ward 1 Shane Finley

Ward 2 Ricky Sheppard

Ward 3 Jessie Harwood

Ward 4 Austin Clark

Confirm or Adjust Agenda Order

Motion made by Ward 1 Finley, Seconded by Ward 2 Sheppard to adjust the agenda adding:

4 a. **2026-147:** Motion to ratify Proclamation of Existence of a Local Emergency as of 12:00 p.m. on July 20, 2026 for Flooding and Severe Weather related to Tropical Depression Two.

Voting Yea: Mayor Liese, Councilmember-At-Large Maher, Ward 1 Finley, Ward 2 Sheppard, Ward 3 Harwood, Ward 4 Clark

Presentation Agenda.

- a. The next Regular Meeting of the City Council will be held Tuesday August 4, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers located at City Hall.
- b. St. Vincent De Paul Elementary School National Beta Club Musicology Team

City Manager's Report.

CITY MANAGER REPORT
July 21, 2026

1. Police Department – There are several agenda items for your review tonight. These agenda items are the continuing steps necessary to get the department ready for our expected start date of September 1. The standard operating procedures that are on the agenda will continue to be revised as laws change and required procedures change. Special Thanks to our new chief for getting this done so quickly. What we have is a resolution to set salaries as we have to do to create

positions. The positions that we are creating have been requested by our chief and provide the same level of police protection as we have had for the last fourteen years.

2. Residential Flooding Concerns – The engineer of the Kahana/Ana Hulu project and I revisited the site last week to determine what additional needs could be addressed. The completed project is working, and the detention area is holding water during a rain event. The issue is still the need to expand, clean and upgrade the Coon Branch ditch behind the residents. On tonight's agenda, I am seeking a hazard mitigation grant to assist the city in completing the engineering needed. For May 9th & 10th, Diamondhead received a total of 6.10" of rain. This is more rain than the previous two months combined. The average rainfall for the entire month of May is 5.16". For June 18th & 19th, Diamondhead received a total of 6.06" of rain, with the average rainfall for June being 6.72".
3. Canal Dredging – The contract is for 240 days with the current end date of October 24th. The project is currently on hold as the contractor is unable to access the BU site. The city and engineer are in talks with DEQ, USACE, and DMR to determine how to get this project moving again. Several options were discussed during our last conference call with request to provide feedback. The engineer and contractor are working on getting this information back to all parties involved. The extension of the dredging permit with the USACE is ongoing.
4. Jourdan River Boardwalk – The contract is for 180 days with the current end date of October 17th. The contractor is currently on schedule and continues to make great progress. The entrance is blocked and residents should not try and walk out on the incomplete boardwalk.
5. Montjoy Creek Nature Trail – The contract is 180 calendar days with a current end date of October 10th. There is a change order on tonight's agenda to add the grass area back into the project and a necessary soil study to ensure the bridge supports will handle the weight of the bridge. The raised boardwalk area has the support structure installed. Residents need to remain off the trail until all work is completed.
6. Rotten Bayou Nature Trail – I met with the engineer last week to finalize the design of the parking area and trailhead for this project. The engineer is waiting for the necessary permits required. Expect to advertise for bids on this project in August.
7. Bank Stabilization – The project is currently out for bid. The city has received three of the additional easements needed for this project. They are on tonight's agenda for your approval.
8. MDOT Projects – The contractor is currently paving the multimodal path and the expansion of the Interstate to six lanes. Lane shifts are expected, so drivers need to use caution.
9. Pelican Cove – The project is out for bid. 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.
10. East Aloha Drive – The engineers have finished the sidewalk designs and right-of-way acquisition process. MDOT has scheduled an office review meeting for August 19th to discuss the final design. The engineers expect to be able to advertise as soon as the MDOT requirements are completed.

No additional updates on remaining projects.

11. Fitness Park – The city received the exercise equipment. Public Works will start working on installing everything.
12. West Aloha Drive – I am working with American Towers to finalize the egress into the driveway access to North Bay Auto and AutoZone.

13. Commercial District – The engineer is completing the final design. Additional sewer realignment is needed to finish the project.
14. 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.
15. 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.
16. 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.

Public Comments on Agenda Items- Penny Crawford - MS Arboretum

Council Comments.

Policy Agenda.

Minutes:

1. Motion to approve July 7, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes.

Motion made by Ward 2 Sheppard, Seconded by Ward 3 Harwood to approve July 7, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes.

Voting Yea: Mayor Liese, Councilmember-At-Large Maher, Ward 1 Finley, Ward 2 Sheppard, Ward 3 Harwood, Ward 4 Clark

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Ordinances:

2. **2026-093:** Motion to adopt Ordinance 2026-001 Zoning Ordinance thereby establishing standing procedures to ensure that entities which cut and excavate streets owned by the City have the knowledge, competence and resources needed to perform the scope of work for which they are permitted and further to provide focus on the need for better coordination and accountability and for employing less intrusive, more durable, and cost-efficient methods for restoring utility cuts within paved roads.

Motion made by Councilmember-At-Large Maher, Seconded by Ward 2 Sheppard to adopt Ordinance 2026-001 Zoning Ordinance thereby establishing standing procedures to ensure that entities which cut and excavate streets owned by the City have the knowledge, competence and resources needed to perform the scope of work for which they are permitted and further to provide focus on the need for better coordination and accountability and for employing less intrusive, more durable, and cost-efficient methods for restoring utility cuts within paved roads.

Voting Yea: Mayor Liese, Councilmember-At-Large Maher, Ward 1 Finley, Ward 2 Sheppard, Ward 3 Harwood, Ward 4 Clark

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Resolutions:

3. **2026-138:** Motion to adopt Resolution 2026-019 to accept by donation an easement which is part of Lot 63, Block 3, Diamondhead Unit 10, Phase 2, (Stephen and Stacy Kulikowski), part of Lot 64, Block 3, Diamondhead Unit 10, Phase 2, (Linele Barrow) and part of Lot 65, Block 3, Diamondhead Unit 10, Phase 2, (Diamondhead Country Club and Property Owners Association) for drainage and utility purposes.

Motion made by Ward 3 Harwood, Seconded by Ward 2 Sheppard to adopt Resolution 2026-019 to accept by donation an easement which is part of Lot 63, Block 3, Diamondhead Unit 10, Phase 2, (Stephen and Stacy Kulikowski), part of Lot 64, Block 3, Diamondhead Unit 10, Phase 2, (Linele Barrow) and part of Lot 65, Block 3, Diamondhead Unit 10, Phase 2, (Diamondhead Country Club and Property Owners Association) for drainage and utility purposes.

Voting Yea: Mayor Liese, Councilmember-At-Large Maher, Ward 1 Finley, Ward 2 Sheppard, Ward 3 Harwood, Ward 4 Clark

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. **2026-142:** Motion to adopt Resolution 2026-020 thereby establishing salaries for all Police Department employees effective September 1, 2026.

Motion made by Mayor Liese, Seconded by Ward 4 Clark to adopt Resolution 2026-020 thereby establishing salaries for all Police Department employees effective September 1, 2026.

Voting Yea: Mayor Liese, Councilmember-At-Large Maher, Ward 1 Finley, Ward 2 Sheppard, Ward 3 Harwood, Ward 4 Clark

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4a. **2026-147:** Motion to ratify Proclamation of Existence of a Local Emergency as of 12:00 p.m. on July 20, 2026 for Flooding and Severe Weather related to Tropical Depression.

Motion made by Ward 1 Finley, Seconded by Ward 3 Harwood to approve motion to ratify Proclamation of Existence of a Local Emergency as of 12:00 p.m. on July 20, 2026 for Flooding and Severe Weather related to Tropical Depression.

Voting Yea: Mayor Liese, Councilmember-At-Large Maher, Ward 1 Finley, Ward 2 Sheppard, Ward 3 Harwood, Ward 4 Clark

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**Consent Agenda:**

Motion made by Ward 2 Sheppard, Seconded by Councilmember-At-Large Maher to approve the following consent items:

5. **2026-131:** Motion to approve Preliminary Engineering Service Contract with Covington Civil and Environmental LLC, in an amount not to exceed \$73,417.10 for the Wayfinding Study.
6. **2026-132:** Motion to approve Letter of Commitment in accordance with the Office of Violence Against Women Justice for Families Program.
7. **2026-133:** Motion to approve payment to Eley Guild Hardy Archietcts PA in the amount of \$3,400.00 for the Diamondhead Community Center Renovation Cost Estimate.

8. **2026-134:** Motion to ratify the approval of application for Flood Mitigation Assistance FY2024 Capability and Capacity Building Grant Proposal Coon Branch LFRR Scoping Project.
9. **2026-135:** Motion to accept and award bids received for the sale of surplus real property for Parcel 067N-1-35-047.00 to Lloyd and Kristy Nicaud in the amount of \$39,000.00, Parcel 067H-2-25-014.00 to Jacob Epperly in the amount of \$6,801.00 and Parcel 067F-1-26-112.00 to Crystal Steube in the amount of \$1,688.00.
10. **2026-136:** Motion to approve Memorandum of Understanding between Hancock County Board of Supervisors and the City of Diamondhead for Police Protection services and other purposes through September 30, 2026.
11. **2026-137:** Motion to approve Change Order No. 2 to the contract with Holliday Construction, LLC. in the net amount of \$49,804.84 for a total contract amount of \$959,363.22 for the Montjoy Creek Nature Trail.
12. **2026-139:** Motion to ratify the purchase made prior to authorization in the amount of \$694.65 to Adonai Electric.
13. **2026-140:** Motion to approve Budget Amendment 2026-004.
14. **2026-141:** Motion to approve MS Arboretum application submittal to the MS Urban Forest Council for a certified Arboreta Trail.
15. **2026-146:** Motion to declare surplus equipment and proceed with proper disposal.

Voting Yea: Mayor Liese, Councilmember-At-Large Maher, Ward 1 Finley, Ward 2 Sheppard, Ward 3 Harwood, Ward 4 Clark

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Action Agenda.

16. **2026-143:** Motion to create positions and approve job descriptions of Patrol Officer, Police Sergeant, Investigator, Assistant Chief/Investigator and Police Clerk for the Diamondhead Police Department.

Motion made by Councilmember-At-Large Maher, Seconded by Ward 3 Harwood to create positions and approve job descriptions of Patrol Officer, Police Sergeant, Investigator, Assistant Chief/Investigator and Police Clerk for the Diamondhead Police Department.

Voting Yea: Mayor Liese, Councilmember-At-Large Maher, Ward 1 Finley, Ward 2 Sheppard, Ward 3 Harwood, Ward 4 Clark

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

17. **2026-144:** Motion to approve and adopt the designed insignia, consisting of the official badge and logo for the Diamondhead Police Department.

Motion made by Ward 4 Clark, Seconded by Mayor Liese to approve and adopt the designed insignia, consisting of the official badge and logo for the Diamondhead Police Department.

Voting Yea: Mayor Liese, Councilmember-At-Large Maher, Ward 1 Finley, Ward 2 Sheppard, Ward 3 Harwood, Ward 4 Clark

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- 18. 2026-145:** Motion to approve and adopt Standard Operating Procedures for the Diamondhead Police Department.

Motion made by Ward 2 Sheppard, Seconded by Mayor Liese to approve and adopt Standard Operating Procedures for the Diamondhead Police Department.

Voting Yea: Mayor Liese, Councilmember-At-Large Maher, Ward 1 Finley, Ward 2 Sheppard, Ward 3 Harwood, Ward 4 Clark

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Routine Agenda.

Claims Payable

19. Motion to approve Docket of Claims (DKT233934-DKT233953) in the amount of \$180,467.67.

Motion made by Ward 1 Finley, Seconded by Ward 3 Harwood to approve Docket of Claims (DKT233934-DKT233953) in the amount of \$180,467.67.

Voting Yea: Mayor Liese, Councilmember-At-Large Maher, Ward 1 Finley, Ward 2 Sheppard, Ward 3 Harwood, Ward 4 Clark

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items-

Peter Yanez – Commercial District

Council Closing Comments

Adjourn/Recess.

At 6:36 p.m. with no further business to come before the council, motion made by Ward 4 Clark, Seconded by Ward 2 Sheppard to recess until August 4, 2026 at 5:00 p.m.

Voting Yea: Mayor Liese, Councilmember-At-Large Maher, Ward 1 Finley, Ward 2 Sheppard, Ward 3 Harwood, Ward 4 Clark

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Anna Liese
Mayor

Jeannie Klein
City Clerk