



MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL

Tuesday, February 03, 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 - Councilman Finley

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 Mayor Liese, Seconded by Councilmember-At-Large Maher to adjust the agenda as follows:

Remove Item #18. 2026-035: Motion to reaffirm award to Gill's Crane & Dozer Service, Inc. and add alternate #1 in the total amount of \$1,490,140.00 for the Jourdan River Boardwalk Project per the recommendation of Chiniche Engineering and Surveying and authorize the City Manager to execute the contract for same and to issue the notice to proceed as appropriate.

Move Item #19 2026-020: Motion to approve text amendment to the Article IX. Low Speed Vehicles and Golf Carts in the Code of Ordinances from the action agenda to Resolutions.

Table Item #20 2026-021: Request to have a public meeting to change the official motto of Diamondhead to "The Jewel of the Coast" With all the great things happening in Diamondhead, it is time to have a motto that reflects the wonderful city of Diamondhead. (Maher)

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

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Presentation Agenda.

- a. The next Regular Meeting of the City Council will be held Wednesday, February 18, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers located at City Hall.
- b. City Hall Offices will be closed on Monday February 16, 2026 in observance of President's Day and on Tuesday February 17, in observance of Mardi Gras.

City Manager's Report.

CITY MANAGER REPORT
February 03, 2026

1. Canal Dredging – MDEQ has approved the contract and has requested the RESTORE Council to issue a notice for construction. Once we receive the notice from the RESTORE Council the contractor will mobilize and provide a schedule for the work. This information will be posted and updated throughout the project. The contract will be for 240 days, the estimated completion date is October 31st, 2026.
2. Jourdan River Boardwalk – The city is going to contact MDEQ to let them know we are staying with the current bidder. The reason for this is the original award aesthetically will be consistent with the existing pier. The engineer does not have concerns regarding storm surge due to the location of the boardwalk. Finally, the original award keeps the city within the budget which will allow for any contingency during construction.
3. Montjoy Creek Nature Trail – The project is out for advertisement currently. Bids will be due February 24th. After review by the engineer, I expect to have the bids on the March 3rd agenda.
4. Rotten Bayou Nature Trail – The engineer is working on a new preliminary design for this project. A meeting with MDEQ will be scheduled to discuss the project and receive paperwork for the council to review and approve.
5. Dog Park – Public Works is working on the dog park area. If you drive past, you will see the continued progress made. The main concern currently is the drainage. They want to make sure the area will not hold water and will properly drain during and after a rain event. Keep watching as this project is completed.
6. Fitness Park – Public Works has finished clearing and prepping the area. Once we receive the exercise equipment, public works will get it installed.
7. Unit Price Contracts
 - Koko Court – A walkthrough for this project has been scheduled for Thursday.
 - Crooked Stick – A design has been created. A work directive will be submitted on the next agenda for council approval.
 - Mauna Loa Drive – A design has been created. A work directive will be submitted on the next agenda for council approval.
 - DH Drive North/Lily Pond – A design has been created. The city is waiting on USDA approval of the design. Once received, a work directive will be submitted.
8. East Aloha Drive – **No update this month.** The city will need to follow the MDOT right-of-way acquisition process, and the electrical engineering sub-contractor. The engineers are finalizing the design to have project out to advertise as soon as the MDOT requirements are completed.
9. West Aloha Drive – **No update this month.** The engineers are working on egress of the roadway to determine best access for vehicle flow. This project will also be ready to advertise in the first quarter of 2026.
10. Hazard Mitigation Grant Program – **No update this month.** The appraiser has completed the reports on the property acquisition project. The reports have been submitted to Rostan for review and submittal to MEMA.
11. Pelican Cove – **No update this month.** The engineer is completing the final plans and expects to only need a National Wetlands permit to complete this project. The permission to advertise will be on the next council agenda.

12. Commercial District – **No Update this month.** The engineer is completing the final design. I am currently waiting for appraisers to get reports back to me for the additional piece of roadway needed.
13. Bank Stabilization – **No Update this month.** The next step for this project will be to work on easement acquisition. Once complete, the engineers can finalize the design.
14. MDOT Projects – **No Update this month.** The contractor installed the signage last week. Once the engineers update the drawings for the railing along the multimodal path, the contractor will be back out to install and complete the project.
15. Landscaping Project – **No update this month.** 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.

Public Comments on Agenda Items.

Bill Atkinson - Golf Carts

Council Comments.

Policy Agenda.

Minutes:

1. Motion to approve January 20, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes.

Motion made by Ward 3 Harwood, Seconded by Ward 1 Finley to approve January 20, 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

Resolutions:

2. **2026-019:** Motion to adopt Resolution 2026-004 thereby accepting the revised Deed of Dedication authorizing City Council to acquire by donation certain real property from the Diamondhead Country Club and Property Owners Association Inc., authorizing City Attorney and City Manager to effectuate said acquisition and for other related purposes.
Motion made by Councilmember-At-Large Maher, Seconded by Mayor Liese to adopt Resolution 2026-004 thereby accepting the revised Deed of Dedication authorizing City Council to acquire by donation certain real property from the Diamondhead Country Club and Property Owners Association Inc., authorizing City Attorney and City Manager to effectuate said acquisition and for other related purposes.

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

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. **2026-022:** Motion to adopt Resolution 2026-005 authorizing a grant application to GRPC for Federal Surface Transportation Funds through the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for funding in the amount of \$281,452.00 and for other related purposes including matching fund commitment in the amount of \$70,363.00 for the Highpoint Intersection Project.

Motion made by Ward 2 Sheppard, Seconded by Ward 1 Finley to adopt Resolution 2026-005 authorizing a grant application to GRPC for Federal Surface Transportation Funds through the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for funding in the amount of \$281,452.00 and for other related purposes including matching fund commitment in the amount of \$70,363.00 for the Highpoint Intersection Project.

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

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. **2026-023:** Motion to adopt Resolution 2026-006 authorizing a grant application to GRPC for Federal Surface Transportation Funds through the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for funding in the amount of \$947,254.00 and for other related purposes including matching fund commitment in the amount of \$236,813.50 for the Diamondhead Drive East/Golf Club Drive Intersection Roundabout Project.

Motion made by Ward 4 Clark, Seconded by Ward 2 Sheppard to adopt Resolution 2026-006 authorizing a grant application to GRPC for Federal Surface Transportation Funds through the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for funding in the amount of \$947,254.00 and for other related purposes including matching fund commitment in the amount of \$236,813.50 for the Diamondhead Drive East/Golf Club Drive Intersection Roundabout Project.

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

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. **2026-024:** Motion to adopt resolution 2026-007 authorizing a grant application to the MS Department of Wildlife & Fisheries for a Recreation Trails Program Grant in the amount of \$120,000.00 with matching funds of \$30,000.00 for the Rotten Bayou Nature Trail Project and for other related purposes.

Motion made by Ward 2 Sheppard, Seconded by Ward 3 Harwood to adopt resolution 2026-007 authorizing a grant application to the MS Department of Wildlife & Fisheries for a Recreation Trails Program Grant in the amount of \$120,000.00 with matching funds of \$30,000.00 for the Rotten Bayou Nature Trail Project and for other related purposes.

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

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- 5a. **2026-020:** Motion to approve text amendment to the Article IX. Low Speed Vehicles and Golf Carts in the Code of Ordinances.

Motion made by Mayor Liese, Seconded by Ward 2 Sheppard to approve text amendment to the Article IX. Low Speed Vehicles and Golf Carts in the Code of Ordinances.

NO ACTION TAKEN

Motion made by Mayor Liese, Seconded by Ward 4 Clark to table motion to approve text amendment to the Article IX. Low Speed Vehicles and Golf Carts in the Code of Ordinances.

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

6. **2026-015:** Motion to approve payment to Covington Civil & Environmental, LLC in the amount of \$1,945.00 for On-Call Survey Services, in the amount of \$812.50 for Site Development Plan Review FY26, in the amount of \$40,583.75 and \$10,378.75 for Survey and Legal Descriptions, in the amount of \$11,850.00 for the Commercial District Phase III Project, in the amount of \$6,701.10 for Annual Unit Price Contract, in the amount of \$19,402.69 and in the amount of \$8,000.00 for Diamondhead Paving 2026.
7. **2026-016:** Motion to approve payment to Chiniche Engineering & Surveying in the amount of \$32,285.00 for Coon Branch Drainage, in the amount of \$9,182.50 for Pond 6 Drainage Improvements, in the amount of \$13,729.50 for Jourdan River Boardwalk and in the amount of \$10,982.50 for Canal Dredging.
8. **2026-017:** Motion to approve Pay Application 5 in the amount of \$190,105.98 and Pay Application 6 in the amount of \$217,459.17 to SCI, LLC., for the Coon Branch Drainage Improvements -Phase I.
9. **2026-018:** Motion to accept and award low bid received from Gulf Pride Paving, LLC., in the amount of \$699,797.00 for the Diamondhead Paving Project 2026 and authorize the City Manager to execute the contract for same and to issue the notice to proceed as appropriate.
10. **2026-026:** Motion to declare scrap metal collected by Public Works surplus and proceed with disposal by sale to SA Recycling.
11. **2026-027:** Motion to authorize the use of a city-owned event tent, 6 tables and 30 chairs to CASA Hancock County for an event to be held March 28, 2026.
12. **2026-028:** Motion to enter into new annual maintenance agreement with TK Elevator in the amount of \$3,708.00 (\$309.00 p/month) for the city hall elevator.
13. **2026-029:** Motion to approve Covington Civil & Environmental, LLC as consultant for the Wayfinding Project funded by MDOT Grant Funds.
14. **2026-031:** Motion to request a time extension for the 2024 Mississippi Outdoor Stewardship Trust Fund Grant for two years (April 10, 2028).
15. **2026-032:** Motion to approve Work Assignment under the Master Service Agreement with Chiniche Engineering and Surveying Environmental in the amount not to exceed \$80,628.82 for the Design, Permitting, Bidding, Construction Inspection and Construction Phase services for the Montjoy Creek Trailhead Improvements Project.
16. **2026-033:** Motion to approve Change Order No. 1 to the contract with Bottom 2 Top Construction, LLC. in the net amount of \$7,775.98 for a total contract amount of \$32,033.50 for the Moke Way Project.
17. **2026-034:** Motion to approve Pay Application 1 in the amount of \$32,033.50 to Bottom 2 Top Construction, LLC., for the 2025 Unit Price Contract - Moke Way Work Directive #2.

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.

21. 2026-025: Motion to direct the City Manager to engage the appropriate engineering staff or consultant to reevaluate the effectiveness of the previous drainage improvements at the southern portion of the intersection of Ewa Street and Hilo Way, and to execute necessary corrective actions to remedy any remaining drainage and safety issues that may be present. (Clark)

Motion made by Ward 4 Clark, Seconded by Mayor Liese to direct the City Manager to engage the appropriate engineering staff or consultant to reevaluate the effectiveness of the previous drainage improvements at the southern portion of the intersection of Ewa Street and Hilo Way, and to execute necessary corrective actions to remedy any remaining drainage and safety issues that may be present.

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

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

22. 2026-030: Motion to authorize the City Manager to explore the establishment of a Diamondhead Police Department and to make recommendations to the Council regarding same.

Motion made by Mayor Liese, Seconded by Ward 3 Harwood to authorize the City Manager to explore the establishment of a Diamondhead Police Department and to make recommendations to the Council regarding same.

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**

23. Motion to approve Docket of Claims (DKT233494- DKT233521) in the amount of \$653,609.89.

Motion made by Ward 1 Finley, Seconded by Ward 2 Sheppard to approve Docket of Claims (DKT233494- DKT233521) in the amount of \$653,609.89.

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

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

24. Motion to approve Payroll Payables PRCLAIM000260 in the amount of \$30,937.54, PRCLAIM000261 in the amount of \$29,773.42, PRCLAIM000262 in the amount of \$3,028.37, PRCLAIM000263 in the amount of \$31,907.16, DKT233405 in the amount of \$90.72, DKT233448 in the amount of \$90.72, DKT233483 in the amount of \$90.72 and DKT233484-233493 in the amount of \$46,958.52

Motion made by Ward 2 Sheppard, Seconded by Ward 3 Harwood to approve Payroll Payables PRCLAIM000260 in the amount of \$30,937.54, PRCLAIM000261 in the amount of \$29,773.42, PRCLAIM000262 in the amount of \$3,028.37, PRCLAIM000263 in the amount of \$31,907.16, DKT233405 in the amount of \$90.72, DKT233448 in the amount of \$90.72, DKT233483 in the amount of \$90.72 and DKT233484-233493 in the amount of \$46,958.52.

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

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Department Reports

- a. November 2025 Financials

Motion made by Ward 3 Harwood, Seconded by Ward 2 Sheppard to approve November 2025 Financials.

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

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- b. December 2025 Financials

Motion made by Ward 2 Sheppard, Seconded by Ward 3 Harwood to approve December 2025 Financials.

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 - None

Council Closing Comments

Adjourn/Recess.

At 7:01 p.m. with no further business to come before the council, motion made by Ward 4 Clark, Seconded by Mayor Liese to adjourn.

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