



MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
Tuesday, August 19, 2025
6:00 PM CST
Council Chambers, City Hall

Call to Order.

Mayor Liese called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

Invocation - Clark

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 3 Harwood, Seconded by Mayor Liese to confirm the agenda.

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 Tuesday, September 2, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers located at City Hall.
- b. Annual Paddle Paradise Event will be held Saturday, September 27th at the south side kayak launch. Participants may register in advance on the City's website or on-site registration beginning at 8:00 a.m. the morning of the event.
- c. Hancock County Resource Center Annual Report Presentation – Rhonda Rhodes
- d. Hancock Education Foundation Presentation - Stacey Necaise

City Manager's Report.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

August 19, 2025

1. Kome Drive & Kalipekona Pond – The project end date is August 22, 2025. A walkthrough has been scheduled for this week. Substantial completion will be issued this Friday.
2. MDOT Projects – The contractor has finished the paving and will complete the striping in the next two weeks weather permitting.
3. Paving 2025 – Project is 90 days with a current end date of September 21st. The contractor has completed all paving. The engineer and contractor did a pre walkthrough to identify any missed driveway tie ends. Contractor will stripe Bayou Drive this week.
4. Coon Branch – The project is 180 days with a current end date of December 13th. A change order on this agenda is to remove an existing headwall and tie it into a newly designed headwall.
5. Canal Dredging – The bids have been received and are under the total grant amount. The engineer is working on all the required documents to submit to MDEQ for their final review before a Notice to Proceed can be issued.
6. Jourdan River Boardwalk – MDEQ has issued their initial comments back regarding the design plans and bid documents. The engineers are working on making corrections and adding the additional language required. They should resubmit to MDEQ by next week.
7. Montjoy Creek – The engineer has addressed all concerns that USACE had regarding this project and will be resubmitting the design plans for review.
8. HMGP – Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. All grants are waiting on extensions or set up kickoff meetings. Rostan is in constant communication with them.
9. Bank Stabilization – The engineers are finalizing the design for Phase I. Once completed, they will do a presentation for the council. Phase one will cover the area from Diamondhead Drive North to Kalipekona Pond.
10. Pelican Cove Drainage Project – The engineer is completing final design and will provide an OPC this week. The weir on the pond will be adjusted to allow better waterflow in the area.
11. Rotten Bayou Nature Trail – **No update on this meeting.** The engineer has redesigned this project into five phases. The funding is already secured for phase 1. The engineer is working on the phase 1 design.
12. Dog Park – **No update on this meeting.** Public Works is currently working on rerouting the ditch according to the engineer's design. They are also completing the clearing of the dog park area.

Public Comments on Agenda Items - None

Council Comments.

Policy Agenda.

1. FY26 Budget Hearing

Mayor Liese opened the FY26 Budget Public Hearing.

City Manager Jon McCraw presented the proposed FY26 Budget. At the conclusion of the FY26 Budget presentation, Mayor Liese called for anyone with comments or questions regarding the proposed FY26 Budget; no comments or questions were presented and the FY26 Budget Public Hearing was closed.

Minutes:

2. Motion to approve August 5, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes.

Motion made by Ward 2 Sheppard, Seconded by Ward 3 Harwood to approve August 5, 2025 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:

3. **2025-194:** Motion to adopt Resolution 2025-041 thereby abandoning a 5' drainage/utility easement on each side of the common property line between lots 85 and 86, Diamondhead Phase 2, Unit 10, Block 3. The parcel numbers are 132A-1-03-055.000 and 132A-1-03-056.000. The physical address is 6437 Kalipekona Way.

Motion made by Ward 2 Sheppard, Seconded by Councilmember-At-Large Maher to adopt Resolution 2025-041 thereby abandoning a 5' drainage/utility easement on each side of the common property line between lots 85 and 86, Diamondhead Phase 2, Unit 10, Block 3. The parcel numbers are 132A-1-03-055.000 and 132A-1-03-056.000. The physical address is 6437 Kalipekona Way.

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 1 Finley, Seconded by Mayor Liese to approve the following consent items:

4. **2025-187:** Motion to authorize interfund transfer of funds from and to General Fund.
5. **2025-188:** Motion to accept the Memorandum of Agreement with Pearl River Community College for the County Tuition Assistance Program for FY 2024-2025 and authorize City Manager, Jon McCraw to execute same.
6. **2025-189:** Motion to authorize advertisement soliciting qualifications for Master General Engineering Services and Federal Projects Engineering Services for a year term beginning November 1, 2025.
7. **2025-191:** Motion to approve Amendment No. 2 thereby extending the contract with Tetra Tech, Inc. (debris monitoring and management services) for additional 1 year pursuant to the current contract and to also include revised billing rates resulting from a CPI increase of 2.04% as presented with the amendment.
8. **2025-192:** Motion to approve Change Order 1 to the contract with SCI, Inc. for Coon Branch in the amount of \$9,375.00 increasing the total contract sum to \$1,268,843.20.

9. **2025-195:** Motion to approve Amendment No. 2 thereby extending the contract with Ashbritt (debris collection and disposal services) for additional 1 year pursuant to the current contract.

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.

10. **2025-193:** Motion to approve the placement of neighborhood development signs in the right-of-way for The Sanctuary Phase 1 subdivision.

Motion made by Ward 4 Clark, Seconded by Ward 3 Harwood to approve the placement of neighborhood development signs in the right-of-way for The Sanctuary Phase 1 subdivision.

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

11. Motion to approve Docket of Claims (DKT233055 - DKT233087) in the amount of \$182,316.47.

Motion made by Ward 1 Finley, Seconded by Ward 2 Sheppard to approve Docket of Claims (DKT233055 - DKT233087) in the amount of \$182,316.47.

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

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

12. Motion to approve Payroll Payables PRCLAIM000244 in the amount of \$30,495.86, PRCLAIM000245 in the amount of \$29,938.95, PRCLAIM000246 in the amount of \$3,028.37, DKT233002 in the amount of \$90.72, DKT233044 in the amount of \$90.72 and DKT233045 - DKT233054 in the amount of \$45,143.90.

Motion made by Ward 2 Sheppard, Seconded by Ward 3 Harwood to approve Payroll Payables PRCLAIM000244 in the amount of \$30,495.86, PRCLAIM000245 in the amount of \$29,938.95, PRCLAIM000246 in the amount of \$3,028.37, DKT233002 in the amount of \$90.72, DKT233044 in the amount of \$90.72 and DKT233045 - DKT233054 in the amount of \$45,143.90.

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

Motion made by Ward 2 Sheppard, Seconded by Ward 4 Clark to accept Department Reports

- a. Police
- Court
- Building
- Code Enforcement
- b. July 2025 Financial Report

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.

Ben Casuccio

Council Closing Comments

Adjourn/Recess.

At 7:14 p.m. with no further business to come before the council, motion made by Ward 4 Clark, Seconded by Ward 2 Sheppard 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