



MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
Tuesday, April 07, 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 - Mayor Liese

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 2 Sheppard, Seconded by Ward 3 Harwood 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 April 21, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers located at City Hall.
- b. Proclamation - Child Abuse Prevention and Awareness Month

City Manager's Report.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

April 07, 2026

1. Canal Dredging – The contract is for 240 days with the current end date of October 24th. The contractor was scheduled to start on Monday, but winds have stalled his efforts. He expects to be able to get mobilized by Thursday.
2. Paving 2026 – The contract is for 120 days with a current completion date of June 18, 2026. The contractor has finished Cherryhill and Op La Way. They are currently working on Analii/Ieke. Equipment issues have slowed the project. During the final walkthrough, any issues remaining will be addressed. An updated schedule has been posted to the website.

3. Jourdan River Boardwalk – The contractor is starting on this project in two weeks. The notice to proceed was issued for April 20th. The contract is for 180 days with the current end date of October 17th.
4. Montjoy Creek Nature Trail – The notice to proceed date is set for April 13, 2026. The contract is 180 calendar days with a current end date of October 10th.
5. Fitness Park – The city received the exercise equipment. Public Works will start working on installing everything this month.
6. Pelican Cove – The engineers have applied for the nationwide permit from USACE. There have been several follow up questions that the engineers have answered. Once the permit is approved, I will ask for permission to advertise.
7. East Aloha Drive – The engineers are finishing the sidewalk designs and right-of-way acquisition process with MDOT. The electrical engineering sub-contractor is completing the design and layout for the streetlights. The engineers expect to be able to advertise as soon as the MDOT requirements are completed.
8. West Aloha Drive – I am working with American Towers to finalize the egress into the driveway access to North Bay Auto and AutoZone.
9. Commercial District – The engineer is completing the final design. Additional sewer realignment is needed to finish the project.
10. Hazard Mitigation Grant Program – Received notification on Monday that FEMA has approved our Outdoor Emergency Siren System. The required documents will be presented on the next agenda. MEMA is currently asking for a period of performance extension on this project.
11. Bank Stabilization – Received notification from MDMR that the project is not under the Coastal Zone Management Act. Also, a non-reporting Nationwide Permit is all that is needed for this project. This will allow the engineers to move forward with final design. The next step for this project will be to work on easement acquisition. Once complete, the engineers can finalize the design.
12. 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.
13. 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.
14. Rotten Bayou Nature Trail – **No update this month.** The engineer has presented the new preliminary design for this project. They will start the survey work to determine layout and the required permitting from the USACE. The funding is currently out for public comment. Once completed, a meeting with MDEQ will be scheduled to discuss the project and receive paperwork for the council to review and approve.
15. Unit Price Contracts **No update this month.**
 - 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.

Public Comments on Agenda Items - None

Council Comments.

Policy Agenda.

Minutes:

1. Motion to approve March 17, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes.

Motion made by Ward 1 Finley, Seconded by Mayor Liese to approve March 17, 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

Consent Agenda:

Motion made by Ward 2 Sheppard, Seconded by Ward 1 Finley to approve the following consent items:

2. **2026-057:** Motion to accept the low quote for the repair of the fountain wall in the amount of \$7,800.00 from Smitty's.
3. **2026-058:** Motion to authorize the Mayor, Council, City Manager, and City Attorney to travel to Jackson for the Gulf Coast Legislative Reception that was held on March 11, 2026.
4. **2026-059:** Motion to authorize the Mayor, Council, City Manager, City Clerk, and City Attorney to travel to Biloxi for the MML 95th Annual Conference to be held on June 29 – July 1, 2026.
5. **2026-060:** Motion to authorize the Mayor, Council, City Manager, City Clerk, and City Attorney to travel to Biloxi for the Gulf Coast Business Council 2026 State of the Coast Symposium to be held on May 21 at Beau Rivage Resort & Casino.
6. **2026-061:** Motion to authorize the Mayor, Council, City Manager, City Clerk, and City Attorney to travel to Stennis Space Center for U.S. Navy 50 Year Celebration to be held on April 7-9, 2026.
7. **2026-062:** Motion to approve Pay Application 1 in the amount of \$276,677.39 to Gulf Pride Paving, LLC., for the Diamondhead Paving Project 2026.
8. **2026-063:** Motion to approve change order #4 in the net amount of -\$44,619.02 for a total contract amount of \$1,234,321.49, final pay application #8 in the amount of \$61,716.07 to SCI, LLC., and closeout documents for the Coon Branch Drainage Improvements - Phase I.
9. **2026-064:** Motion to approve payments to Chiniche Engineering & Surveying in the amount of \$14,457.50 for Coon Branch Drainage, in the amount of \$2,480.00 for Jourdan River Boardwalk, in the amount of \$4,350.00 for Canal Dredging, in the amount of \$3,890.00 for Pond 6 and in the amount of \$3,776.50 for Rotten Bayou Nature Trail.
10. **2026-065:** Motion to approve payments to Covington Civil & Environmental, LLC in the amount of \$5,680.00 for On-Call Survey Services, in the amount of \$25,200.00 for West Aloha Roadway Improvements Project, in the amount of \$3,101.15 for Annual Unit Price Contract, in the amount of \$18,960.00 for Commercial District Phase III Project, in the amount of \$62,000.00 for Bank Stabilization Project and in the amount of \$6,200.00 for Diamondhead Paving 2026.

11. **2026-066:** Motion to authorize the City Manager to enter into the agreement for the 2026 Cruisin' The Coast event to be held Wednesday, October 7, 2026 and to approve payment of the event fee in the amount of \$4,000.
12. **2206-070:** Motion to authorize the City Manager to obtain appraisals of multiple lots throughout the city to allow for access to new amenities.
13. **2026-072:** Motion to approve the Amended Rental Agreement for the Activity Center, City Hall Grounds and Twin Lakes Pavilion.
14. **2026-073:** Motion to extend the LPA professional services contract with Covington Civil and Environmental for the East Aloha Phase II Sidewalk Improvements Project through December 31, 2026.

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.

15. **2026-067:** Motion to approve the Planning & Zoning Commission recommendation to allow a residence with 16' of a rear property line. The property address is 7442 Mahalo Hui Drive. The tax parcel number is 067N-2-35-071.000. 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 4'. The Case File Number is 202600131.

Motion made by Mayor Liese, Seconded by Ward 3 Harwood to approve the Planning & Zoning Commission recommendation to allow a residence with 16' of a rear property line. The property address is 7442 Mahalo Hui Drive. The tax parcel number is 067N-2-35-071.000. 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 4'. The Case File Number is 202600131.

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

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

16. **2026-068:** Motion to approve the Planning & Zoning Commission recommendation to allow a fence within 10' of the property line adjoining the golf course. The property address is 7848 Moanalua Way. The tax parcel number is 067K-2-36-038.000. The property is in a R-6 zoning district. The setback for a fence on a property line adjoining the golf course is 10'. The variance requested is 0'. The Case File Number is 202600124.

Motion made by Ward 4 Clark, Seconded by Councilmember-At-Large Maher to approve the Planning & Zoning Commission recommendation to allow a fence within 10' of the property line adjoining the golf course. The property address is 7848 Moanalua Way. The tax parcel number is 067K-2-36-038.000. The property is in a R-6 zoning district. The setback for a fence on a property line adjoining the golf course is 10'. The variance requested is 0'. The Case File Number is 202600124.

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

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- 17. **2026-069:** Motion to approve the Planning & Zoning Commission recommendation to approve a re-plat of Diamondhead, Phase 2, Unit 1 Block 11, Lots 48-52. The properties are located on the west side of the intersection of Kaumakapili Street and Kalaepohuku Drive.

Motion made by Ward 3 Harwood, Seconded by Ward 2 Sheppard to approve the Planning & Zoning Commission recommendation to approve a re-plat of Diamondhead, Phase 2, Unit 1 Block 11, Lots 48-52. The properties are located on the west side of the intersection of Kaumakapili Street and Kalaepohuku Drive.

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

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- 18. **2026-071:** Motion to require the City Manager to erect a minimum of 2 signs or 1 double-sided sign in work zones and surrounding areas at the time notice to proceed has been issued and to also issue such notices via social media and e-blast, as appropriate, in order to provide proper notice to the public. (Clark)

Motion made by Ward 4 Clark, Seconded by Councilmember-At-Large Maher to require the City Manager to erect a minimum of 2 signs or 1 double-sided sign in work zones and surrounding areas at the time notice to proceed has been issued and to also issue such notices via social media and e-blast, as appropriate, in order to provide proper notice to the public.

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

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- 19. **2026-074:** Motion to consider donation of properties by Anne and Ken Reaver. (Finley)

Motion made by Ward 1 Finley, Seconded by Ward 4 Clark to consider donation of properties by Anne and Ken Reaver.

NO ACTION TAKEN

Routine Agenda.

Claims Payable

- 20. Motion to approve Docket of Claims (DKT233630- DKT233678) in the amount of \$703,479.45.

Motion made by Ward 2 Sheppard, Seconded by Ward 3 Harwood to approve Docket of Claims (DKT233630- DKT233678) in the amount of \$703,479.45.

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 1 Finley, Seconded by Mayor Liese

a. Police

Court

Code Enforcement

Building

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.

Tracy Rouyer - Ditch Erosion

Council Closing Comments

Executive Session

Motion made by Mayor Liese, Seconded by Ward 2 Sheppard to enter closed session to discuss the need for executive session.

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

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Motion made by Mayor Liese, Seconded by Ward 2 Sheppard to enter executive session pursuant to MS Code 25-41-7(4)(b): perspective litigation regarding the Pertuit matter and MS Code 25-41-7(4)(g): transaction of business and discussion of land acquisition of POA amenities.

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

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Motion made by Mayor Liese, Seconded by Ward 2 Sheppard to exit executive session.

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

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Motion made by Mayor Liese, Seconded by Ward 2 Sheppard to exit closed session.

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

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Attorney Cusick announced that during executive session that no official action of record was taken.

Adjourn/Recess.

At 7:10 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 2 Sheppard, Ward 3 Harwood, Ward 4 Clark

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Anna Liese
Mayor

Jeannie Klein
City Clerk