

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MUNICIPAL MINUTES CITY OF TUPELO
STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
SEPTEMBER 16, 2025

The Tupelo City Council held its regular meeting in the Council Chambers in the City Hall building on Tuesday, September 16, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. The following Council Members attended: Chad Mims, Lynn Bryan, Travis Beard, Nettie Davis, Janet Gaston, and Rosie Jones; Ben Logan, City Attorney and Sandra Shumaker, Clerk of the Council. Council Member Bentley Nolan was absent. Council Member Nettie Davis asked Reverend Fitzpatrick to the invocation and James Paul Perry with Boy Scout Troop #12 led the pledge of allegiance. Council President Janet Gaston called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

CONFIRMATION OR AMENDMENT TO THE AGENDA AND AGENDA ORDER

Council Member Bryan moved, seconded by Council Member Davis, to confirm the agenda order. Of those present, the vote was unanimous in favor.

PROCLAMATIONS, RECOGNITIONS AND REPORTS

Mayor Todd Jordan presented Deirdra Williamson, Jane Hopkins, Sarah Harris, Mary Risser and Laurie Barnes from the Daughters of the American Revolution, (DAR) with a proclamation establishing the week of September 17 through September 23, 2025, as Constitution Week. APPENDIX "A"

RECOGNITION OF BOY SCOUTS

Council President Janet Gaston recognized and welcomed Will Davis, Finley Payne, Henry Thomas, Jack Babb, Tony Gaines, Jack Ray, Harrison Graves, Clark McElwain and James Paul Perry from Boy Scout Troop #12 who were present to earn the Citizenship in Community Merit Badge. The visit was sponsored by The First United Methodist Church, and the Merit Badge Counselor was Duke Loden.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITIONS

Mayor Todd Jordan presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Ben Haas with the Tupelo Parks & Recreation Department for 15 years of employment.

Mayor Todd Jordan presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Battalion Chief Terry Robinson with the Tupelo Fire Department for 25 years of employment.

Mayor Todd Jordan presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Ruth Fondon with the Human Resources Department for 10 years of employment.

Mayor Todd Jordan presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Lt. Jacob Forman with the Tupelo Police Department for 20 years of employment.

PUBLIC RECOGNITIONS

Council Member Travis Beard congratulated Lucia Randle on the wedding of her daughter. Council Member Nettie Davis welcomed Pastor Evelyn Fitzpatrick and her husband. She invited everyone to attend the Community Forward Festival on October 18, 2025, at Gum Tree Park. Council Member Rosie Jones thanked the City of Tupelo for hosting the AKA Conference and thanked both the city and the volunteers who participated in the Haven Acres Festival. Council President Janet Gaston thanked the young men of Boy Scout #12 for attending the city council meeting.

MAYOR'S REMARKS

Mayor Jordan spoke about the attendance at the AKA Conference and asked Alex Farned, Director of Parks & Recreation to give statistics on the tournaments that the city hosted last weekend. Alex Farned reported that there were 158 soccer teams and close to 70 baseball teams. The games were well attended, and the hotels were filled.

Mayor Jordan updated the council on the Dot Cooper-Kelly Building which is close to completion. The final walkthrough for the playground at Ballard Park is scheduled for Friday, September 19, 2025.

IN THE MATTER OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR LOT MOWING

No one appeared to speak on properties on the lot mowing list.

IN THE MATTER OF APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR SEPTEMBER 2, 2025, COUNCIL MEETING

Council Member Davis moved, seconded by Council Member Beard, to approve the minutes of September 2, 2025, council meeting. Of those present, the vote was unanimous in favor. APPENDIX "B"

IN THE MATTER OF BILL PAY

Council Members Beard, Davis and Gaston reviewed bills at 4:30 p.m. Council Member Beard moved, seconded by Council Member Mims, to approve the payment of the bills, with check numbers 436567-436883 and 50003847-50003876. Of those present, the vote was unanimous in favor. APPENDIX "C"

IN THE MATTER OF ADVERTISING AND PROMOTIONAL ITEMS

Council Member Davis moved, seconded by Council Member Beard, to approve the advertising and promotional item in the amount of \$3000.00 to Allen Levi for Tupelo Reads Event. Of those present, the vote was unanimous in favor. APPENDIX "D"

IN THE MATTER OF RESOLUTION TO RAISE SANITATION RATE

CFO Kim Hanna explained that the monthly sanitation rate would increase from \$20.50 to \$20.91, an increase of .41 cents. The increase would be effective 10/01/2025. Council Member Davis spoke in support of the increase stating that the service is good in Tupelo. Council Member Mims moved, seconded by Council Member Jones, to approve the Resolution. Of those present, the vote was unanimous in favor. APPENDIX "E"

IN THE MATTER OF FINAL LOT MOWING LIST

Council Member Bryan moved, seconded by Council Member Mims, to approve the properties on the lot mowing list as presented. Of those present, the vote was unanimous in favor. APPENDIX “F”

IN THE MATTER OF MOWING LIENS

Council Member Beard moved, seconded by Council Member Davis, to approve the liens as presented. The vote was unanimous in favor. APPENDIX “G”

IN THE MATTER OF AN ORDER AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 508 BROWN STREET

Director of Development Services informed the council that this property was considered blight and requested approval to purchase the blighted property for demolition and tree removal. The property will then be split into 3 lots for three additional homes in East Tupelo. Council Member Davis moved, seconded by Council Member Beard, to approve the purchase. Of those present, the vote was unanimous in favor. APPENDIX “H”

IN THE MATTER OF APPROVAL FOR THE CITY TO SUBMIT THE MISSISSIPPI OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUND ADVISORY COUNCIL GRANT APPLICATION – TFD CARDIAC MONITORS AND AUTOMATED CHEST COMPRESSION

Fire Chief Brad Robinson explained that this grant would assist the fire department in the purchase of equipment used to treat victims of opioid overdoses. Council Member Bryan moved, seconded by Council Member Davis to approve the and allow the city to submit this application. Of those present, the vote was unanimous in favor. APPENDIX “I”

IN THE MATTER OF APPROVAL OF AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE MS DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY AND THE CITY OF TUPELO AND TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO SIGN SAID AGREEMENT – AZURE FILES AND BRICKSTOR SOFTWARE

Grant writer Abby Christian informed the council that the six homeland security grants were for cyber security implementation & creation which would provide Azure backup and software support for the next three years. Council Member Beard moved, seconded by Council Member Davis, to approve and allow the mayor to enter into the agreement with the Department of Homeland Security. Of those present, the vote was unanimous in favor. APPENDIX “J”

IN THE MATTER OF APPROVAL OF AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE MS DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY AND THE CITY OF TUPELO AND TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO SIGN SAID AGREEMENT – FIREWALL AND NETWORK SWITCH

Grant writer Abby Christian explained that this grant was for cyber security firewall installation replacing what we have currently. The council had approved the submission of this grant earlier this year, and the administration is now asking for approval to sign the agreement. Council Member Davis moved, seconded by Council Member Beard, to approve and allow the mayor to enter into an agreement

with the Department of Homeland Security. Of those present, the vote was unanimous in favor. APPENDIX “K”

**IN THE MATTER OF APPROVAL OF AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE MS
DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY AND THE CITY OF TUPELO AND TO
AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO SIGN SAID AGREEMENT – TFD UTV**

This grant will supply the fire department with a UTV to cover difficult terrain during disasters. Council Member Beard moved, seconded by Council Member Mims to approve and allow the mayor to enter into the agreement with the Department of Homeland Security. Of those present, the vote was unanimous in favor. APPENDIX “L”

**IN THE MATTER OF APPROVAL OF AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE MS
DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY AND THE CITY OF TUPELO AND TO
AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO SIGN SAID AGREEMENT – TPD LPR**

This grant will provide the police department with additional license plate readers. Council Member Beard moved, seconded by Council Member Mims, to approve and allow the mayor to enter into the agreement with the Department of Homeland Security. Of those present, the vote was unanimous in favor. APPENDIX “M”

**IN THE MATTER OF APPROVAL OF AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE MS
DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY AND THE CITY OF TUPELO AND TO
AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO SIGN SAID AGREEMENT – TPD BALLISTIC SHIELD AND
RESPIRATORS**

This grant would provide an additional ballistic shield for the police department. Council Member Davis moved, seconded by Council Member Beard, to approve and allow the mayor to enter into the agreement with the Department of Homeland Security. Of those present, the vote was unanimous in favor. APPENDIX “N”

**IN THE MATTER OF APPROVAL OF AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE MS
DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY AND THE CITY OF TUPELO AND TO
AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO SIGN SAID AGREEMENT – TPD BOMB SUIT AND
REMOTE FIRING DEVICE**

This grant will allow the police department to replace the bomb suit they currently have and provide a remote firing device. Council Member Beard moved, seconded by Council Member Davis to approve and allow the mayor to enter into the agreement with the Department of Homeland Security. Of those present, the vote was unanimous in favor. APPENDIX “O”

**IN THE MATTER OF APPROVAL TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION FOR MS OUTDOOR
STEWARDSHIP TRUST FUND GRANT – BALLARD PARK WALKING TRACK
IMPROVEMENTS SEPT 2025**

This will allow base repair to approximately 9,000 feet of walking trail that circles Ballard Park and the lake. Council Member Beard moved, seconded by Council Member Davis, to approve. Of those present, the vote was unanimous in favor. APPENDIX “P”

IN THE MATTER OF APPROVAL FOR MAYOR TO SIGN RESOLUTION FOR MS OUTDOOR STEWARDSHIP TRUST FUND GRANT AUTHORIZING THE APPLICATION AND COMMITTING ALL FUNDS TO COMPLETE THE BALLARD PARK WALKING TRACK IMPROVEMENTS

This is to complete the walking track at Ballard Park. Council Member Bryan moved, seconded by Council Member Mims, to approve this resolution. Of those present, the vote was unanimous in favor. APPENDIX “R”

IN THE MATTER OF APPROVAL OF AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE MS DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE, FISHERIES AND PARKS AND THE CITY OF TUPELO AND TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO SIGN SAID AGREEMENT FOR LWCF PROJECT NUMBER 28-00726 – BALLARD PARK LAKE IMPROVEMENTS

This award will repair the walking trail, the bridge and the retaining wall along the north and east side of Ballard Park. Council Member Bryan moved, seconded by Council Member Mims, to approve and allow the mayor to enter into the agreement with the MS Department of Wildlife Fisheries and Parks. Of those present, the vote was unanimous in favor. APPENDIX “S”

IN THE MATTER OF APPROVAL OF MAJOR THOROUGHFARE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES OF AUGUST 11, 2025

Council Member Davis moved, seconded by Council Member Beard, to approve the minutes as presented. Of those present, the vote was unanimous in favor. APPENDIX “T”

IN THE MATTER OF APPROVAL OF CVB BOARD MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 9, 2025

Council Member Beard moved, seconded by Council Member Mims, to approve the minutes as presented. Of those present, the vote was unanimous in favor. APPENDIX “U”

IN THE MATTER OF REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF WATER & LIGHT SURPLUS ITEM

Water & Light Director Johnny Timmons explained that this truck was involved in a rear-end collision and has been totaled by the insurance company. Council Member Beard moved, seconded by Council Member Bryan, to approve the surplus of this vehicle. Of those present, the vote was unanimous in favor. APPENDIX “V”

IN THE MATTER OF APPROVAL OF CHANGE ORDER #3 FOR THE CENTRAL PUMPING STATION RENOVATIONS (BID NO. 2023-040WL)

This change order will extend the days allowed on the contract for work on the central pump station project to November 28, 2025. Council Member Bryan moved, seconded by Council Member Beard to approve the change order. Of those present, the vote was unanimous in favor. APPENDIX “W”

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council at this time, Council Member Bryan moved, seconded by Council Member Davis, to adjourn the meeting at 6:29 p.m. this the 16th day of September 2025.

Janet Gaston, Council President

ATTEST:

Sandra Shumaker, Council Clerk

APPROVED

Todd Jordan, Mayor

Date