

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MUNICIPAL MINUTES CITY OF TUPELO
STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
MARCH 3, 2026

The Tupelo City Council held its regular meeting in the Council Chambers in the City Hall building on Tuesday, March 3, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. The following Council Members attended: Chad Mims, Janet Gaston, Lynn Bryan, Nettie Davis, Bentley Nolan, and Rosie Jones, Ben Logan, City Attorney and Sandra Shumaker, Clerk of the Council. Council Member Travis Beard was absent. Council Member Rosie Jones gave the invocation, and Council Member Bentley Nolan 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 Vice President Bryan moved, seconded by Council Member Nolan, to amend the agenda as follows:

Due to a clerical error, the following items will be removed from the agenda:

IN THE MATTER OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR DEMOLITION AND CLEAN UP PROPERTIES

518 Clinton Street	Parcel 089F-30-003-00
205 Doe Run Road	Parcel #079S-30-039-01

IN THE MATTER OF REVIEW AND APPROVE PROPERTIES FOR DEMOLITION AND CLEAN UP

518 Clinton Street	Parcel 089F-30-003-00
205 Doe Run Road	Parcel #079S-30-039-01

The following item will be added to the Study Agenda:

#1 IN THE MATTER OF A RESOLUTION CALLING AND PROVIDING FOR THE HOLDING OF A SPECIAL ELECTION WITHIN THE CITY OF TUPELO, MISSISSIPPI, TO DETERMINE IF THE CITY OF TUPELO SHALL INCREASE THE LIMITATION PRESCRIBED IN SECTION 27-39-321, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, AS AMENDED, TO AUTHORIZE CONTINUING THE SPECIAL LEVY OF TEN (10) MILLS OF AD VALOREM TAXES UPON ALL TAXABLE PROPERTY WITHIN THE CITY OF TUPELO FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2026, AND FOR EACH OF THE NEXT FOUR (4) SUCCEEDING FISCAL YEARS THEREAFTER, THE TOTAL RECEIPTS FROM WHICH SPECIAL LEVY TO BE USED FOR THE PURPOSE OF STREET IMPROVEMENTS, INCLUDING CONSTRUCTING, IMPROVING OR PAVING STREETS, SIDEWALKS, DRIVEWAYS, PARKWAYS, WALKWAYS, PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE ABUTTING THERETO, OR PUBLIC PARKING FACILITIES, AND PURCHASING LAND THEREFOR

PUBLIC RECOGNITION

Council Member Nettie Davis requested prayer for Council Member Travis Beard who was not feeling well. She also requested prayer for the family of Carolyn Long who recently passed away. Ms. Long was a teacher at Carver Elementary and a long-time friend.

Council Member Bentley Nolan congratulated the Tupelo High School soccer team on becoming the 2026 Girls Class 7A State Champions. He also congratulated all the winners on the Tupelo Golden Wave Wrestling Team as they pulled in several awards at the State Competition.

Council Member Chad Mims echoed the sentiments of Council Member Nolan and also congratulated the THS Girl's Show Choir on winning the best division, best vocals and being the Overall Grand Champion of the Jackson Academy Invitational.

Council Member Janet Gaston stated that the 2026 March of Mayor's Food Drive was a success, and they packed up 2400 boxes of food for the needy.

MAYOR'S REMARKS

Mayor Todd Jordan stated that this is the third year of participation in the March of Mayors for the City of Tupelo. The city had a record breaking gathering and collection of items.

The City of Tupelo will host several tournaments this week. The Mayor said he was looking forward to traveling with Downtown Main Street to attend the Downtown Capital Tour in Jackson, MS.

Mayor Jordan asked Greg Pirkle, Director of the Major Thoroughfare Committee to come to the podium and to recognize Mr. C.W. Jackson. The Mayor presented Mr. Jackson with a plaque honoring 24 years of service as a member of the Major Thoroughfare Committee.

CITIZEN HEARINGS

Ashley Talton spoke to the council in support of building a multi-purpose indoor sportsplex. She believes that this sportsplex would be beneficial to the city by allowing us to host more tournaments and track meets thereby bringing in hundreds of thousands of visitors, more business for restaurants and hotels and an increase in revenue for the city. The complex would include an indoor pickleball court, volleyball court, track and indoor soccer. She requested the city move ahead with exploring the idea of private/public partnership and funding as well as grant opportunities, possible donations of property and tax breaks.

Ramon Gary spoke to the council in support of the complex stating that it would be a game-changer for the city and keep us in line with other cities in the state. He stated that he has heard young people in Tupelo often say they don't have anything to do. He believes this would help resolve that issue and bring revenue to the city. Mr. Gary reminded the council that there was a feasibility study done for this type of project approximately seven years ago. He requests that the city revisit that and be open about moving forward.

Council President Janet Gaston responded to both speakers and thanked them for bringing this to the council. She stated that she met with CDF and Ms. Talton, Mr. Gary and others prior to the council

meeting. The group discussed possible options for funding, feasibility and a pathway for moving forward.

PUBLIC HEARING

IN THE MATTER OF REVIEW AND AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING PRIORITIES FOR PHASE VIII (“PRIORITIES ORDINANCE”)

No one appeared to speak on this item. APPENDIX “A”

ACTION AGENDA

IN THE MATTER OF REVIEW AND AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING PRIORITIES FOR PHASE VIII (“PRIORITIES ORDINANCE”)

Council Member Davis moved, seconded by Council Member Bryan, to approve the ordinance and establish the priorities for Phase VIII of the Major Thoroughfare Program. Of those present, the vote was unanimous in favor. APPENDIX “B”

IN THE MATTER OF ORDINANCE AMENDING CODE OF ORDINANCES CHAPTER 7 – BUILDINGS AND BUILDING REGULATIONS BY ADOPTING 2024 ICC CODE SERIES WITH EXCEPTIONS

Council Member Bryan moved, seconded by Council Member Nolan, to approve the ordinance as presented and allow the city to adopt the 2024 ICC code with exceptions. Of those present, the vote was unanimous in favor. APPENDIX “C”

IN THE MATTER OF ORDINANCE AMENDING CODE OF ORDINANCES CHAPTER 10 – FIRE PREVENTION AND PROTECTION BY ADOPTING 2024 INTERNATIONAL FIRE CODE (IFC) CODE WITH APPENDICES B, C, D, E AND I; NFPA 101 LIFE SAFETY CODE; AND WITH EXCEPTIONS

Council Member Davis moved, seconded by Council Member Mims, to approve the ordinance as presented and allow the city to amend Chapter 10 of the Fire and Prevention Code by adopting the 2024 IFC code with exceptions. Of those present, the vote was unanimous in favor. APPENDIX “D”

ROUTINE AGENDA

IN THE MATTER OF REVIEW/APPROVE CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 17, 2026.

Council Member Davis moved, seconded by Council Member Nolan, to approve the minutes of the council meeting held on 02/17/26 as presented. Of those present, the vote was unanimous in favor. APPENDIX “E”

IN THE MATTER OF APPOINTMENT OF TRAVIS GALLAHER TO THE ELECTION COMMISSION

Mr. Gallaher introduced himself to the council and explained that he has been living in Tupelo since 2010. He is excited about serving the community as part of the election commission. Council Member Bryan moved, seconded by Council Member Nolan, to approve the appointment of Mr. Gallaher to the election commission. Of those present, the vote was unanimous in favor. APPENDIX “F”

IN THE MATTER OF BILL PAY

The bills were reviewed by Council President Janet Gaston, Council Vice President Lynn Bryan, and Council Member Nettie Davis. Council Member Nolan moved, seconded by Council Member Davis, to approve payment of the bills, check numbers 440146-440432 and 50004181-50004208. Of those present, the vote was unanimous in favor. APPENDIX “G”

IN THE MATTER OF ADVERTISING AND PROMOTIONAL ITEMS

CFO/City Clerk Kim Hanna informed the council that the amount of \$2,458.26 would be reimbursed to Tupelo Reads for the event held at the Lee County Library on February 24, 2026. This amount was for various supplies and lodging for the author during the event. Council Member Nolan moved, seconded by Council Member Bryan, to approve. Of those present, the vote was unanimous in favor. APPENDIX “H”

IN THE MATTER OF BID AWARD APPROVAL LOCAL STREET MAINTENANCE MILL AND OVERLAY ANNUAL BID 2026-004PW

Public Works Director Kelly Knight explained that this was a yearly bid item. There were five bidders that responded. Council Member Davis moved, seconded by Council Member Mims, to approve and award Bid 2026-004PW to Falcon Contracting Co. Inc. as the lowest and best bid of \$4,986,594.00. Of those present, the vote was unanimous in favor. APPENDIX “I”

IN THE MATTER OF BID AWARD APPROVAL SUPPLY/INSTALLATION THERMOPLASTIC TRAFFIC MARKING AND PAINT ANNUAL BID NO. 2026-008PW

Public Works Director Kelly Knight explained that this was also a yearly bid item and requested that the council award Bid 2026-008PW to Riverside Traffic Systems, Inc. as the sole bidder for supplies used to roadway striping. The bid was commercially reasonable and legally noticed for solicitation to all bidders. There was only one item that changed price from the bid last year and that item decreased by \$.50. Council Member Nolan moved, seconded by Council Member Davis, to approve and award the bid as presented. Of those present, the vote was unanimous in favor. APPENDIX “J”

IN THE MATTER OF BID AWARD APPROVAL TUPELO ROADWAY MAINTENANCE PROGRAM 2026 TERM BID 2026-006PW

Public Works Director Kelly Knight stated that there was a sole bidder for this item. The bid was commercially reasonable and legally noticed for solicitation to all bidders. Council Member Nolan moved, seconded by Council Member Bryan, to approve and award Bid 2026-006PW to James A. Hodges Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$37,926.00 as the lowest and best bid. Of those present, the vote was unanimous in favor. APPENDIX “K”

IN THE MATTER OF BID REJECTION APPROVAL CURB AND GUTTER/FLATWORK ANNUAL BID 2026-007PW

Public Works Director Kelly Knight informed the council that there were procedural errors on both bids. He requested that the council reject this bid so Public Works can rebid the item. Council Member Bryan moved, seconded by Council Member Mims, to reject the bid. Of those present, the vote was unanimous in favor. APPENDIX “L”

IN THE MATTER OF REJECTION OF BID FOR TURF SPRAYING PROGRAM. BID#2026-101PR

Council Member Bryan moved, seconded by Council Member Mims, to reject the bid due to incorrect form submission. Of those present, the vote was unanimous in favor. APPENDIX “M”

IN THE MATTER OF RESOLUTION APPROVING AN APPLICATION FOR EXEMPTION FROM MUNICIPAL AD VALOREM TAXES BY SMC RECYCLING, LLC

City Attorney Ben Logan informed the council that this was a qualifying business that can apply for tax exemptions. Due to the late submission, the ad valorem tax credit could only be granted for a period of six years. Council Member Bryan moved, seconded by Council Member Davis, to approve the resolution granting a municipal tax exemption to SMC Recycling, Inc. for a period of six years beginning January 1, 2026. Of those present, the vote was unanimous in favor. APPENDIX “N”

IN THE MATTER OF RESOLUTION APPROVING AN APPLICATION FOR EXEMPTION FROM MUNICIPAL AD VALOREM TAXES BY SMC RECYCLING, LLC

City Attorney Ben Logan informed the council that due to the late submission, the ad valorem tax credit could only be granted for a period of eight years. Council Member Bryan moved, seconded by Council Member Davis, to approve the resolution granting a municipal tax exemption to SMC Recycling, Inc. for a period of eight years beginning January 1, 2026. Of those present, the vote was unanimous in favor. APPENDIX “O”

STUDY AGENDA

IN THE MATTER OF A RESOLUTION CALLING AND PROVIDING FOR THE HOLDING OF A SPECIAL ELECTION WITHIN THE CITY OF TUPELO, MISSISSIPPI, TO DETERMINE IF THE CITY OF TUPELO SHALL INCREASE THE LIMITATION PRESCRIBED IN SECTION 27-39-321, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, AS AMENDED, TO AUTHORIZE CONTINUING THE SPECIAL LEVY OF TEN (10) MILLS OF AD VALOREM TAXES UPON ALL TAXABLE PROPERTY WITHIN THE CITY OF TUPELO FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2026, AND FOR EACH OF THE NEXT FOUR (4) SUCCEEDING FISCAL YEARS THEREAFTER, THE TOTAL RECEIPTS FROM WHICH SPECIAL LEVY TO BE USED FOR THE PURPOSE OF STREET IMPROVEMENTS, INCLUDING CONSTRUCTING, IMPROVING OR PAVING STREETS, SIDEWALKS, DRIVEWAYS, PARKWAYS, WALKWAYS, PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE ABUTTING THERETO, OR PUBLIC PARKING FACILITIES, AND PURCHASING LAND THEREFOR

The council voted to move this to the action agenda at the March 17, 2026, meeting. APPENDIX “P”

EXECUTIVE SESSION

City Attorney Ben Logan stated that there were matters regarding the purchase of real property, the sale of real property and a matter of pending litigation to be brought before the council. These were proper discussions for executive session.

Council Member Davis moved, seconded by Council Member Nolan to determine the need for executive session. Of those present, the vote was unanimous in favor.

Council Member Jones moved, seconded by Council Member Bryan, to enter executive session at 6:23 p.m. Of those present, the vote was unanimous in favor.

Council Member Nolan moved, seconded by Council Member Davis, to exit executive session and return to the regular meeting at 6:38 p.m. Of those present, the vote was unanimous in favor.

IN THE MATTER OF AN ORDER AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 114 WEST MAIN STREET, TUPELO HARDWARE CO., TO DECLARE THAT AN ADMINISTRATIVE SETTLEMENT FOR THE PURCHASE OF REAL PROPERTY IS REASONABLE, PRUDENT AND IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE PUBLIC, AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO

Council Member Davis moved, seconded by Council Member Nolan, to approve the order and authorize the purchase of Tupelo Hardware Co., located at 114 West Main Street. Of those present, the vote was unanimous in favor. APPENDIX "Q"

IN THE MATTER OF AN ORDER APPROVING SALE OF REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 502 AUGUSTA STREET NO LONGER NEEDED FOR MUNICIPAL PURPOSES

Council Member Nolan moved, seconded by Council Member Mims to approve the order and approve the sale of city-owned property located at 502 Augusta Street. Of those present, the vote was unanimous in favor. APPENDIX "R"

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to be brought before the city council at this time, Council Member Nolan moved, seconded by Council Member Mims to adjourn the March 3, 2026, meeting at 7:00 pm. Of those present, the vote was unanimous in favor.

JANET GASTON
COUNCIL PRESIDENT

ATTEST:

SANDRA SHUMAKER
COUNCIL CLERK

APPROVED

TODD JORDAN, MAYOR

DATE