

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MUNICIPAL MINUTES CITY OF TUPELO
STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
NOVEMBER 18, 2025

The Tupelo City Council held its regular meeting in the Council Chambers in the City Hall building on Tuesday, November 4, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. The following Council Members attended: Lynn Bryan, Travis Beard, Nettie Davis, Bentley Nolan, Janet Gaston, and Rosie Jones; Ben Logan, City Attorney and Sandra Shumaker, Clerk of the Council. Council Member Chad Mims was absent. Council President Janet Gaston gave the invocation and Council Member Bentley Nolan called on Boy Scout Nate Georges to lead 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 Beard, to amend the agenda order and add item #17. IN THE MATTER OF AN ORDER AUTHORIZING A PAYMENT OF \$250,000 TO THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION TO SUPPORT CONTINUED NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION EFFORTS and item #18 IN THE MATTER OF ACCEPTING BID #2025-038PD-(8) DODGE CHARGER POLICE PURSUIT VEHICLES
Of those present, the vote was unanimous in favor.

RECOGNITION OF GIRL AND BOY SCOUTS

The Mayor welcomed Boy Scout Troop 2627, sponsored by Saint James Catholic Church, attending the council meeting to earn the Citizenship in the Community Merit Badge. Those in attendance were:

Nate Georges, Michaela Georges, Maddie Georges and Miranda Georges with their parents, Dan & Miranda Georges, Penny Laubhan, whose parents are Matt & Emily Laubhan, Luke Hightower, Dwayne and his parents Dwayne & Nicole Hightower, Julia Williamson and her parents Craig and Krista Williamson, Sergio Ibarra and his mother Maria Delgado, Whitney Atkinson and Stephanie Atkinson and their parents, Zeb & Stephanie Atkinson, Cliff Ward and his mother, Hannah Ward, Remington Latsch, Colt Latsch, and Joe Latsch and their parents, Jessica and Joe Latsch.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

The Mayor recognized Jennifer Roberson with the Department of Development Services and thanked her for five years of service.

PUBLIC RECOGNITION

Council Member Beard complimented the Community Outreach Task Force and Reverend Wilson for a great job at the Community Thanksgiving Service. He congratulated Kim Rushing for receiving the 2025 Chairman's Award and Hannah Maharrey for receiving the 2025 Community Spirit Award. He also congratulated Kelly Wayne Knight, Director of Public Works on his one-year anniversary with the City of Tupelo and thanked Lucia Randle, Mayor Jordan and COO Don Lewis for their contributions to the city.

Council Member Davis also thanked the Community Outreach Task Force for the Community Thanksgiving Service, and the Madrigals and students of Parkway Elementary for their performances. She thanked DTMSA and Director Lucia Randle for the DTMSA Annual Meeting. It was a great turnout and a lot of fellowship. She stated that “Lucia always does a great job.” Ms. Nettie sent condolences out to the family of Ms. Lily Bell Johnson who recently passed away at 101 years of age. She thanked the City Hall for inviting her to their Thanksgiving lunch and invited the community to the Parkhill Neighborhood Association Thanksgiving lunch on Sunday, November 23, 2025, at the CC Augustus Center.

Council Member Nolan congratulated Kim Rushing. He complimented the Boys & Girls Club for a successful “Cooking Like The Stars” fundraiser and DTMSA for a successful Annual Meeting. He recognized his wife, Molly Nolan for the Gum Tree Museum being named “Downtown Partner of the Year”. He stated that it was a great time to be in Tupelo.

Council President Janet Gaston reminded everyone that the Christmas parade will be held on Friday, December 5. It is always a really fun time.

MAYOR'S REMARKS

The Mayor reminded everyone of the following events:

- Parks & Recreation Department will light the Ballard Park Christmas tree on Thursday, November 20 at 6:00 pm.
- Deck the Depot will be held on Saturday, November 22 from 9 am to 4 pm
- The ribbon cutting for the Ballard Park playground will be held on Tuesday, November 25 at 2:00 pm.
- Chicago is coming to the Cadence Bank Arena on May 6, 2026, at 7 pm.

The Mayor congratulated Kim Rushing on all the work she does. He stated that he wished the Department Head Project Meetings would be more public because of the amount of work that the city does that goes unrealized.

The Mayor informed the council that he and COO Don Lewis would be flying to Washington to attend the interment of Colonel Smitty Harris at Arlington National Cemetery on Thursday, November 20. They will return on Friday, November 21.

PUBLIC AGENDA

IN THE MATTER OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR LOT MOWING

No one appeared to speak on this matter

IN THE MATTER PUBLIC HEARING FOR DEMOLITION AND CLEAN UP PROPERTIES

<u>Address</u>	<u>Parcel</u>	<u>Demo/Cleanup</u>
1243 Hankins Street	088N-33-102-00	Remove concrete & clean-up
418 Tolbert Street	089F-30-088-00	Remove concrete slab & steps
2303 Woods Street	077P-35-165-00	Demolition of accessory building & clean-up

1330 Hankins Street
518 Park Street

088N-33-148-00
089J-31-177-00

Demolition
Demolition

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

(CLOSE PUBLIC AGENDA AND OPEN REGULAR SESSION)

ACTION AGENDA

IN THE MATTER OF DEVELOPMENT CODE AMENDMENT TO CHAPTER 8 GARAGE REQUIREMENT FOR NEW SINGLE-FAMILY DWELLINGS ON LOTS WITH STREET FRONTAGE 50 FEET WIDE OR GREATER

The council voted to table this matter. APPENDIX “B”

IN THE MATTER OF AMENDMENT TO CITY OF TUPELO DEVELOPMENT CODE CHAPTER 10 SIGNS – GENERAL PROVISIONS AND SIGNS OTHER THAN BILLBOARDS TA-25-03(1)

The council voted to table this matter. APPENDIX “C”

ROUTINE AGENDA

IN THE MATTER OF REVIEW/APPROVE OF THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 4TH, 2025

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

IN THE MATTER OF BILL PAY

The bills were reviewed by Council President Janet Gaston, Council Member Nettie Davis and Council Member Travis Beard. Council Member Beard moved, seconded by Council Member Jones, to pay the bills as presented. Of those present, the vote was unanimous in favor. APPENDIX “E”

IN THE MATTER OF ADVERTISING AND PROMOTIONAL ITEMS

Council Member Nolan moved, seconded by Council Member Davis, to approve a payment of \$598.00 to MS Radio Group for a Thanksgiving Ad and a and Christmas Ad and \$495.00 to the Northeast Daily Journal for an ad in the “Letters to Santa” edition. Of those present, the vote was unanimous in favor. APPENDIX “F”

IN THE MATTER OF MOWING

Council Member Davis moved, seconded by Council Member Beard, to approve the final lot mowing list as presented. Of those present, the vote was unanimous in favor. APPENDIX “G”

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

Council Member Bryan moved, seconded by Council Member Beard, to approve the list of properties for demolition and clean-up. Of those present, the vote was unanimous in favor. APPENDIX “H”

<u>Address</u>	<u>Parcel</u>	<u>Demo/Cleanup</u>
1243 Hankins Street	088N-33-102-00	Remove concrete & clean up
418 Tolbert Street	089F-30-088-00	Remove concrete slab & steps
2303 Woods Street	077P-35-165-00	Demolition of accessory Building & clean-up
1330 Hankins Street	088N-33-148-00	Demolition
518 Park Street	089J-31-177-00	Demolition

IN THE MATTER OF REVIEW AND APPROVE LOT MOWING LIENS

Council Member Bryan moved, seconded by Council Member Beard, to approve the list of liens to be placed against the following properties for lot mowing. Of those present, the vote was unanimous in favor. APPENDIX “I”

<u>Address</u>	<u>Parcel</u>	<u>Amount</u>
2607 Bryan Drive	101B-02-195-00	\$300.00
605 Trout Street	101B-02-025-00	\$300.00
206 West Dozier	089F-30-302-00	\$340.00
1600 Clayton Ave	077D-25-021-00	\$300.00
213 North Thomas	077J-35-005-00	\$300.00
2411 Danny Street	077P-35-006-00	\$300.00
South Canal Street	088N-33-047-00	\$300.00
909 Desoto Drive	077G-25-031-00	\$300.00

IN THE MATTER OF CVB INT’L TRAVEL FOR DEPUTY DIRECTOR ON JUNE 11-20,2026

Council Member Davis moved, seconded by Council Member Beard, to approve international travel to Sydney, Australia and Auckland, New Zealand for Assistant CVB Director Jennie Bradford Curlee to participate in the “Welcome All Y’all Roadshow.” Travel dates are June 11 – 20, 2026 and the cost for this trip is \$7,000. Of those present, the vote was unanimous in favor. APPENDIX “J”

IN THE MATTER OF BID AWARD APPROVAL 6 MONTH TERM BID VARIOUS DRAINAGE PIPE 2025-037PW

Public Works Director Kelly Knight stated that this item was rebid due to a three-way tie in the previous bid. G&O Pipe Supplies was the only bidder on this bid. Council Member Bryan moved, seconded by Council Member Nolan, to approve and award the bid for various drainage pipe to G&O Pipe Supplies. Of those present, the vote was unanimous in favor. APPENDIX “K”

IN THE MATTER OF APPROVAL OF CHANGE ORDER # 4 FOR THE CENTRAL PUMPING STATION RENOVATIONS (BID NO 2023-040WL)

Water & Light Director Johnny Timmons stated that this increase of \$47,797 was due to the purchase of a 60” sewer plug for the line and concrete pad work at dumpster sites. This brings the total contract price to \$11,950.912 with a revised completion date of January 3, 2026. Council Member Davis moved,

seconded by Council Member Beard, to approve the change order. Of those present, the vote was unanimous in favor. APPENDIX “L”

IN THE MATTER OF APPROVAL OF A SOLE SOURCE PURCHASE FROM DEXTER FORTSON ASSOCIATES, INC.

Water & Light Director Johnny Timmons stated that this purchase was for an upgrade in the SCADA telemetry system on the water pumping station that was installed in 2010 and has been maintained by Dexter Fortson Associates, Inc. at the Hive Business Park. Council Member Beard moved, seconded by Council Member Nolan, to approve the sole source purchase. Of those present, the vote was unanimous in favor. APPENDIX “M”

IN THE MATTER OF AN ORDER AUTHORIZING THE CONVEYANCE OF A PREVIOUSLY ABANDONED PART OF STRAIN STREET

Council Member Bryan moved, seconded by Council Member Nolan to approve the transfer of property abandoned by the city in 1970. The property owners on both sides have used this space since that time. One of the owners now wishes to sell his property and requests the city sign a quitclaim deed to transfer half of the 275’ stretch West of Parkway Street into his name. Of those present, the vote was unanimous in favor. APPENDIX “N”

IN THE MATTER OF ORDER RATIFYING REAL ESTATE CONTRACT AND ACKNOWLEDGING ACCEPTANCE OF DEED FOR TARGET PROJECT PROPERTY

Council Member Bryan moved, seconded by Council Member Davis, to approve this order as presented. Of those present, the vote was unanimous in favor. APPENDIX “M”

IN THE MATTER OF AN ORDER AUTHORIZING A PAYMENT OF \$250,000 TO THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION TO SUPPORT CONTINUED NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION EFFORTS

Director of Development Services Tanner Newman stated that this was the third payment dedicated to neighborhood revitalization bringing the total to \$750,000. At this time, twenty-three homes have been purchased by NDC, and eleven more are expected to be obtained. Council Member Bryan moved, seconded by Council Member Davis, to approve the payment to CDF for revitalization in the Parkhill community. APPENDIX “N”

IN THE MATTER OF ACCEPTING BID #2025-038PD-(8) DODGE CHARGER POLICE PURSUIT VEHICLES

Council Member Davis moved, seconded by Council Member Bryan to accept and award Bid #2025-038PD in the amount of \$284,704 from Jim Shorkey Auto Group (Kajarudan, Inc.). Of those present, the vote was unanimous in favor.

(CLOSE REGULAR SESSION)

STUDY AGENDA

**IN THE MATTER OF AMENDMENT TO CITY OF TUPELO DEVELOPMENT CODE
CHAPTER 10 SIGNS – BILLBOARDS TA25-03(2)**

The council voted to keep this matter on the study agenda.

**IN THE MATTER OF AMENDMENT TO CITY OF TUPELO DEVELOPMENT CODE -
VARIOUS CHAPTERS - RELATING TO BREWERIES, MICROBREWERIES, BREWPUBS,
WINERIES, NATIVE WINERIES, DISTILLERIES AND NATIVE DISTILLERIES TA25-02(3)***

The council voted to keep this matter on the study agenda.

ADJOURNMENT

Council member Davis moved, seconded by council member Nolan, to adjourn the meeting at 6:24 pm

JANET GASTON
COUNCIL PRESIDENT

ATTEST:

SANDRA SHUMAKER
COUNCIL CLERK

APPROVED

TODD JORDAN, MAYOR

DATE