

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MUNICIPAL MINUTES CITY OF TUPELO
STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
JUNE 16, 2026

The Tupelo City Council held its regular meeting in the Council Chambers in the City Hall building on Tuesday, June 16, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. The following Council Members attended: Chad Mims, Lynn Bryan, Travis Beard, Nettie Davis, Janet Gaston, Bentley Nolan, and Rosie Jones. Also attending were City Attorney Ben Logan, and Sandra Shumaker, Clerk of the Council. Council Member Chad Mims gave the invocation, and Council Member Travis Beard led the pledge of allegiance. President Janet Gaston called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

CONFIRMATION OR AMENDMENT TO THE AGENDA AND AGENDA ORDER

Council Member Nolan moved, seconded by Council Member Beard, to make the following amendments to the agenda. The vote was unanimous in favor.

Remove #16 IN THE MATTER OF APPROVING THE TRANSFER OF FUNDS FROM LANDSCAPE SERVICES TO LANDSCAPE SUPPLIES

#2 #IN THE MATTER OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR DEMOLITION PROPERTIES –
Table 843 South Green Street

#10 IN THE MATTER OF REVIEW AND APPROVE PROPERTIES FOR DEMOLITION
Table 843 South Green Street

IN THE MATTER OF PROCLAMATION FOR NATIONAL GARDEN WEEK

Mayor Todd Jordan presented Ms. Ann Godwin, Ms. Roseanne Roberts and Ms. Doyce Deas with a proclamation to declare June 7-13, 2026, as National Garden Week Proclamation.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITIONS

Mayor Todd Jordan recognized William Mark Hudson and presented him with a certificate for five years with the Cadence Bank Arena.

PUBLIC RECOGNITION

Council Member Travis Beard congratulated Chief Building Inspector Patrick Reagan with Development Services for being named Building Official of the Year by the building Official's Association of Mississippi.

Council Member Nettie Davis stated that she was happy to see the community attending the city council meeting, and wished the men all a Happy Fathers' Day. She also sent well wishes to Zelle Long, director of the Boys & Girls Club, on her retirement and wished luck to the new director.

Council Member Rosie Jones asked for prayers for the mother of the gentleman that was found deceased at the Salvation Army.

Council President Janet Gaston congratulated the Mayor for receiving the Mississippi Main Street Hero Award at the Mississippi Main Street Luncheon held in Jackson, MS. She also stated that she enjoyed giving the welcome at the MS Early Childhood Development Conference in his absence. The conference hosted approximately 1000 people. President Gaston stated that she attended the two-day John Servati Swim Meet and thanked Barbara Aguirre for her hard work and for making it special.

Council Member Nolan congratulated the Downtown Main Street Association and CVB on a fantastic Elvis Festival.

MAYOR'S REMARKS

Mayor Jordan reported the statistics reported by Bliss, LLC who installed the playground located at Ballard Park. The Bliss Corporation statistics show that the park hosted 233,000 visitors between September 2025 and April 2026.

Mayor Jordan recognized Chief Building Inspector Patrick Reagan with Development Services for being named Building Official of the Year by the building Official's Association of Mississippi.

Mayor Jordan noted that the father of Ms. Ann Godwin was a watchmaker who for many years had maintained the Lee County courthouse clock in exchange for the amount of his property taxes. The courthouse is now getting remodeled.

IN THE MATTER OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR DEMOLITION PROPERTIES

No one appears to speak on this matter.

<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>PARCEL</u>	
5661-5683 BUTLER	079T-29-007-01	
843 SOUTH GREEN	113B-06-049-00	TABLED
205 WEST DOZIER	089F-30-310-00	

IN THE MATTER OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR CLEAN-UP PROPERTIES

Teresa Norwood, executrix for the William Gardner Estate spoke to the council regarding property located at 520 Walker. The property is still in probate and the family would like the wall to be left in place pending possible future development.

<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>PARCEL</u>
563 NORTH CHURCH	089F-30-126-00
520 WALKER	089F-30-060-00

IN THE MATTER OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR LOT MOWING

No one appeared to speak on this matter.

CITIZEN HEARING

David Rumbarger, president and CFO of CDF presented a new website titled "FIND YOUR TUPELO" This website debuted in May and has a Tupelo-specific job board that will assist new and potential citizens with finding jobs as well as recruiting talent and business opportunities for Tupelo.

Madelyn Hutto, Director of Public Relations / Talent Liaison for CDF explained how the website is helping to grow the Tupelo Young Professional's program which currently has 1300 participants. Using this website, younger people can discover why Tupelo is the place to build a career and life. The cost-of-living advantage in Tupelo is a powerful recruitment advantage. Tupelo has the lowest cost of living in the south out of 400 communities. A dollar goes approximately 18% farther here.

Lauren Wilson stated that she cares about the opportunities for the next generations. The Parkhill and neighboring communities have 350 children that benefit from the C.C. Augustus Pool. She stated that the community guarantees partnership and support in rebuilding the pool.

Cindy Edwards is a member of the board of "Wear it Well" and "Working Together Tupelo". She has been a social worker for 35 years. Thriving communities are built through intentional investments. The proposal of the C.C. Augustus Pool will provide more than recreation. It will provide youth engagement, mentoring and community engagement. These things strengthen neighborhoods. When a neighborhood feels respected, valued and supported and respected by their city, there is a decrease in crime. They are not asking the city to shoulder this community alone. Residents, businesses, community organizations and churches are ready to help with fundraising for the rebuilding and maintenance of the C.C. August Pool and Community Center.

Dr. Bridgett Shelly serves as the president of the Parkhill Neighborhood Association. The pool has been closed for a second summer, and residents feel the loss personally. The Parkhill and Green Street communities have been affected. It is the last outdoor pool in the city. She serves on the board of directors of the neighborhood coalition, and they are in the process of building new homes in the Parkhill area. The pool will be a great attraction. They are asking for a commitment from the city. They will help organize community support & partnerships to help raise funds for programs and long-term operations. This is an investment in the children, families and neighborhoods of Tupelo.

David Gretties stated that he was raised in Tupelo. His dad used to run the C.C. Augustus Center, and his family spent time there holding after-school programs for the community. The Aquatic Center is not always open to the community for swimming. You should never turn away the community. He believes it will cost more to tear it down than to remodel it. A splash pad does not appeal to everyone.

Showanica Price stated that her family is from Tupelo. She learned to swim at the C.C. Augustus pool and was able to conquer her fear of deep water. Because of this, she went on to become one of the first three African-American members of the swim team at Tupelo High School. Many families in the community do not have transportation to the Aquatic Center. Why does this have to be a fight when it

could be a family-based center for the community? Let's keep C.C. Augustus pool alive for the kids.

IN THE MATTER OF REVIEW/APPROVE CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF JUNE 2, 2026

Council Member Nolan moved, seconded by Council Member Davis, to approve the minutes of June 2, 2026, council meeting as presented. The vote was unanimous in favor. APPENDIX B

IN THE MATTER OF BILL PAY

The bills were reviewed by President Gaston, Council Member Beard, and Council Member Davis. Council Member Beard moved, seconded by Council Member Mims, to approve payment of the bills with check numbers 442591-442924 and 50004390-50004411. The vote was unanimous in favor. APPENDIX C

IN THE MATTER OF APPROVAL OF A CONTRACT BETWEEN THE CITY OF TUPELO AND HDR FOR RFQ NUMBER 2026-019PW – FY22 RAISE PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING AND TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF TUPELO

Assistant City Attorney Stephen Reed stated that this contract was received by the city late this afternoon. After legal review, it will be presented to council at the meeting on July 7, 2026. This item will remain on the table. APPENDIX D

IN THE MATTER OF APPROVAL TO SUBMIT FY25-26 CRISI GRANT FOR RAIL SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS

Grant Administrator Abby Christian stated that this submission would be for signage and lights for the train crossing located at Crosstown. Vice President Bryan moved, seconded by Council Member Nolan, to approve this item. The vote was unanimous in favor. APPENDIX E

IN THE MATTER OF REVIEW AND APPROVE PROPERTIES FOR DEMOLITION

Tanner Newman, Director of Development Services, requested the council to table the submission for demolition at the property located at 843 South Green Street. It will be presented again to council on July 7, 2026. Council Member Beard moved, seconded by Council Member Davis, to approve the demolition of 5661-5683 Butler Drive, Parcel 079T-29-007-01 and 205 West Dozier, Parcel #089F-30-310-00. The vote was unanimous in favor. APPENDIX F

IN THE MATTER OF REVIEW AND APPROVE PROPERTIES FOR CLEAN UP

Vice President Bryan asked legal counsel how these properties are processed through blight if they are in litigation or probate. Assistant Attorney Stephen Reed answered that there is a family dispute regarding 520 Walker Street and two separate estate matters were filed and the county combined them, leaving two co-executors of the estate. One of the administrators was noticed of the public hearing, so the city is in good position to approve the cleaning of the property.

Council Member Davis moved, seconded by Council Member Mims, to approve the cleaning of properties located at 563 North Church Street, Parcel 089F-30-126-00 and 520 Walker Street, Parcel #089F-30-060-00. Council Member Rosie Jones abstained from voting on this matter. This item passed with a majority in favor. APPENDIX G

IN THE MATTER OF LOT MOWING

Vice President Bryan moved, seconded by Council Member Beard, to approve the final lot mowing report as presented. The vote was unanimous in favor. APPENDIX H

IN THE MATTER OF REVIEW AND APPROVE REAPPOINTMENT OF LESLIE MART TO THE PLANNING COMMITTEE

President Gaston recommended the reappointment of Leslie Mart stating that she has been on the committee for many years and is diligent and does a good job. Vice President Bryan moved, seconded by Council Member Nolan, to approve the reappointment of Leslie Mart to the Tupelo Planning Committee. The vote was unanimous in favor. APPENDIX I

IN THE MATTER OF REVIEW/APPROVE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 2, 2026, AND JUNE 1, 2026 PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Council Member Nolan moved, seconded by Council Member Davis, to approve the Planning Committee minutes of March 2, 2026 and June 1, 2026. The vote was unanimous in favor. APPENDIX J

IN THE MATTER OF MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) BETWEEN TUPELO POLICE DEPARTMENT (TPD) AND MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY (MDPS)

President Gaston stated that this MOU would allow the police department and Department of Public Safety to access information from each other's license plate reader technology and databases. Council Member Beard moved, seconded by Council Member Davis, to approve the MOU as presented. The vote was unanimous in favor. APPENDIX K

IN THE MATTER OF A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS TO ENTER INTO AN EMERGENCY CONTRACT FOR THE REPAIR OF PUBLIC DRAINAGE PURSUANT TO MISS. CODE ANN § 31-7-13(K)

President Gaston stated that that this contract with Hodges Construction is to perform emergency repairs to and replacement of a 10' drainage pipe on Mossy Cup Drive. The current condition of the pipe is undermining the corner of one of the houses. Undertaking the competitive bid process would delay the repairs for at least six weeks, and the need to address the problem is immediate to prevent irreparable harm. Vice President Bryan moved, seconded by Council Member Nolan, to approve the emergency procurement for the repair. The vote was unanimous in favor. APPENDIX M

IN THE MATTER OF APPROVAL OF A SOLE SOURCE VENDOR FOR ACLARA METERING PRODUCTS

Johnny Timmons, Director of Tupelo Water & Light recommended Border States as a sole source vendor for the State of Mississippi and for the purchase of ACLARA products used in our electrical metering system. These items and their integral parts are not interchangeable with other manufacturers. Council Member Davis moved, seconded by Council Member Nolan, to approve the sole source purchase. The vote was unanimous in favor. APPENDIX N

IN THE MATTER OF BD DEBT WRITE-OFF FOR THE PERIOD OF JANUARY 2025 TO JUNE 2025

Johnny Timmons, Director of Water & Light stated that its electric utility is required by TVA to “retire” this debt. The total bad debt total is \$44,000.00. These balances would be written off but would stay in the computer system in case any of these customers would apply for service in the future. Water & Light has collected a total amount of \$40,850,000, so this write off is approximately the small percentage (0.11%) of gross sales of power. Council Member Beard moved, seconded by Council Member Nolan, to approve this write-off. APPENDIX N

IN THE MATTER OF APPROVAL OF THE TRAFFIC COMMITTEE MINUTES OF MAY 28, 2026

Council Member Nolan moved, seconded by Council Member Beard to approve the minutes of the traffic committee meeting of May 28, 2026. The vote was unanimous in favor. APPENDIX O

IN THE MATTER OF INITIAL RESOLUTION APPROVING AN APPLICATION FOR EXEMPTION FROM MUNICIPAL AD VALOREM TAXES BY HAWKEYE INDUSTRIES, INC.

Council Member Beard moved, seconded by Council Member Davis, to approve the application as presented. The vote was unanimous in favor. APPENDIX P

IN THE MATTER OF ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF ASSIGNMENT OF HEAD START PROGRAM COORDINATOR RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS AT THE HAVEN ACRES HEAD START CENTER FROM MISSISSIPPI ACTION FOR PROGRESS, INC. (MAP), TO DELTA HEALTH ALLIANCE, INC.

President Gaston stated that Delta Health Alliance has been designated as the program coordinator for the federal Head Start program. Council member Davis moved, seconded by Council Member Jones, to formally acknowledge the assignment of the rights and obligations from the previous program coordinator MAP to Delta Health Alliance. The vote was unanimous in favor. APPENEDIX Q

IN THE MATTER OF AN ORDER APPROVING REIMBURSEMENT AGREEMENT WITH TOMBIGBEE ELECTRICAL POWER ASSOCIATION FOR UNDERGROUND ELECTRICAL PROJECT ON WOODFORD WAY

City Attorney Ben M. Logan stated that the MTP committee recommended to the city council to include underground electric power to be included on the Woodford Way project. The project lies within the Tombigbee Electric Power Association (TEPA) service area. The city is a specific and general customer of this sole source of electrical power. TEPA service and practices require underground power to be installed at the customer's expense. The provision of underground power on this project is in the best interest of the public by building resiliency of the electrical grid, improving the aesthetics of the commercial overlay district and immediately contributing to the economic growth of the area. Council Member Nolan moved, seconded by Council Member Mims, to approve this item as presented. APPENDIX R

STUDY AGENDA

IN THE MATTER OF REVIEW AND APPROVE REQUEST TO REZONE PROPERTY LOCATED OFF NORTH GLOSTER STREET FROM A/O – AGRICULTURE/OPEN SPACE TO RC – REGIONAL COMMERCIAL

PARCELS: 084S-18-001-18
084S-18-001-04
084S-18-001-19
083U-07-066-06
083U-07-003-00
083U-07-005-00

The council voted to move this item to the action agenda at the council meeting of July 7, 2026

IN THE MATTER OF ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH THE WOODFORD WAY OVERLAY DISTRICT

The council voted to move this item to the action agenda at the council meeting of July 7, 2026

IN THE MATTER OF ORDINANCE TO UPDATE THE DESIGN GUIDELINES FOR THE MIXED-USE DOWNTOWN OVERLAY DISTRICT

The council voted to move this item to the action agenda at the council meeting of July 7, 2026

IN THE MATTER OF ORDINANCE TO UPDATE DEFINITIONS AND STANDARDS FOR CONGREGATE LIVING FACILITIES

The council voted to move this item to the action agenda at the council meeting of July 7, 2026

EXECUTIVE SESSION (WE NEED THE TIMES IN AND OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION)

Council Member Nolan moved, seconded by Council Member Beard, to determine the need for executive session. The vote was unanimous in favor.

City Attorney Ben M. Logan stated that there were 2 pieces of property to discuss for possible purchase, and matters of real property are suitable topics for discussion in executive session. He stated action will be taken on

these matters when the city council comes out of executive session.

Council Member Davis moved, seconded by Vice President Bryan to enter executive session at 6:56 p.m. The vote was unanimous in favor.

Council Member Beard moved, seconded by Council Member Nolan, to come out of executive session at 7:00 p.m. and vote on two matters. The vote was unanimous in favor.

IN THE MATTER OF AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO PURCHASE PROPERTY LOCATED AT SPRING STREET AND WEST JEFFERSON

Council Member Nolan moved, seconded by Council Member Beard, to approve the offer of up to \$250,000 for the property located at the corner of Spring Street and West Jefferson. The vote was unanimous in favor.

IN THE MATTER OF AN ORDER AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO REPURCHASE REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 216 AND 218 NORTH SPRING STREET, CITY OF TUPELO, MISSISSIPPI

Vice President Bryan moved, seconded by Council Member Nolan, to approve the repurchase of this property under the terms of the previous sale contract. The vote was unanimous in favor.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no more business to bring before council at this time, Council Member Nolan moved, seconded by Council Member Davis, to adjourn the meeting of June 16, 2026, at 7:04 p.m.

ATTEST:

JANET GASTON
COUNCIL PRESIDENT

SANDRA SHUMAKER
COUNCIL CLERK

APPROVED

TODD JORDAN, MAYOR

DATE