

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

The Tupelo City Council held its regular meeting in the Council Chambers in the City Hall building on Tuesday, February 3, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. The following Council Members attended: Janet Gaston, Lynn Bryan, Travis Beard, Nettie Davis, Bentley Nolan, and Rosie Jones, Ben Logan, City Attorney and Sandra Shumaker, Clerk of the Council. Council Member Chad Mims was absent. Council Member Lynn Bryan gave the invocation and Council Member Nettie Davis 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 Lynn Bryan moved, seconded by Council Member Bentley Nolan, to amend the agenda and add Item #14

**IN THE MATTER OF SETTING PUBLIC HEARING DATE FOR PHASE VIII MAJOR THOROUGHFARE ELECTION**

Of those present, the vote was unanimous in favor.

**PUBLIC RECOGNITION**

Council Member Travis Beard complimented the city administration and department heads on the response and hard work during the recent ice storm. The city was well prepared and carried out a plan. He gave the city an A+.

Council Member Nettie Davis echoed the compliments given to the Public Works Department, Water & Light Department and Parks & Rec Department and thanked everyone who worked to make sure citizens were safe. She also invited everyone to attend the Black History Program at the Oren Dunn Museum on February 5, 2026, at 6pm. Council Member Davis also invited everyone to attend a Black History Program at the Link Centre on February 10 at 6pm where she will be the guest speaker.

Council Member Bentley Nolan thanked the Mayor and department heads for being proactive and executing safety measures in advance of the winter storm. It was encouraging to see how everyone came together and communicated so well. He also invited everyone to attend the Junior Auxiliary Charity Ball on Friday February 7.

Council Member Rosie Jones also thanked the Mayor and department heads for answering calls and handling concerns.

Council Member Janet Gaston stated that she was impressed with the amount of communication and flow of information during the ice storm.

## **MAYOR'S REMARKS**

Mayor Todd Jordan agreed with the council and stated that Water and Light had a few poles go down, approximately 500 customers lost power for a short time before the poles were back up.

The Mayor congratulated the Parks & Recreation Department on winning the 2025 Best Team Event Tournament in tennis.

The Mayor announced that the lineup for the 2026 Elvis Festival has been set. The Elvis Festival will take place June 3-6 with a free concert on Friday night at the Depot.

He offered condolences to the family of Lee County Sheriff's Deputy Rick Haggard who lost his life in the line of duty on Monday, February 2. The Tupelo Police Department will assist with patrols and other duties in the county while they have the funeral on Friday, February 7.

The Mayor stated that he was grateful that Tupelo was fortunate not to have received a direct hit from the ice storm, and consequently, it was not as bad as predicted. Water & Light Director Johnny Timmons has dispatched teams to New Albany and Oxford to assist those municipalities and their citizens still without power.

## **CITIZEN HEARING**

Mr. Chris Brown lives at 107 Yellowstone in Tupelo spoke to the council regarding Music Bend Trail. He said it is the best trail to walk and run on in this area. He asked the city to maintain the area by bush hogging, filling in holes in the trail, trim the bushes and clear the underbrush and re-slag. He also asked the city to organize a planned burn to clear out areas north of the dog park at Veteran's Park. He also asked the city to resolve an ongoing issue at the dog park with specific breeds that are aggressive to other dogs.

Mr. Murray Coulum requested to speak. Council Member Nettie Davis moved, seconded by Council Member Rosie Jones, to suspend the rules and allow Mr. Coulum to speak. The vote was five to one in favor. Council Member Lynn Bryan opposed.

Mr. Coulum works as one of the track and cross-country coaches at Tupelo High School. He is proud of the accomplishments of the programs at Tupelo High School. He presented the council with a packet of information for an indoor track and multi-sport facility. He discussed the economic impact and the types of sport competitions that could be hosted in Tupelo if the city invested in such a facility.

APPENDIX "A"

Antonio Watkins did not appear to speak

## **ACTION AGENDA**

**IN THE MATTER OF AN ORDINANCE TO PROHIBIT THE USE, POSSESSION, PURCHASE, DISTRIBUTION, SALE OR DISPLAY FOR SALE OF KRATOM AND KRATOM PRODUCTS**

Council Member Travis Beard moved, seconded by Council Member Lynn Bryan, to approve an ordinance to ban the use, possession, purchase, distribution sale or display for sale of Kratom and Kratom products. Of those present, the vote was unanimous in favor. APPENDIX “B”

**ROUTINE AGENDA**

**IN THE MATTER OF A REVIEW OF THE PROCLAMATION OF THE EXISTENCE OF A LOCAL EMERGENCY CREATED BY THE EFFECTS OF A SEVERE WINTER STORM AND DECLARING THE CITY OF TUPELO, MISSISSIPPI TO BE A DISASTER AREA**

Mayor Todd Jordan declared a state of local emergency pursuant to his authority under Miss. Code Ann. §33-15-17 (1972 as amended). Most of the effects of the winter storm within the City of Tupelo have subsided, and the local emergency shall be discontinued.

Council Member moved, seconded by Council Member Nettie Davis, to approve this resolution reviewing the Proclamation of the Existence of a Local Emergency declared by Mayor Todd Jordan on January 23, 2026 in expectation of the winter ice storm, declaring the City of Tupelo, Mississippi to be a disaster area, and waive any permit fees owed by property owners for any repairs to their property due to the effects of the severe winter weather. Of those present, the vote was unanimous in favor. APPENDIX “C”

**IN THE MATTER OF REVIEW / APPROVE CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 20, 2026**

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

**IN THE MATTER OF REVIEW / APPROVE SPECIAL CALLED MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 29, 2026**

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

**IN THE MATTER OF BILL PAY**

The bills were reviewed by Council Member Bentley Nolan, Council Member Travis Beard and Council Member Nettie Davis. Council Member Nolan moved, seconded by Council Member Rosie Jones, to approve and pay the bills as presented with check numbers 439596-439865 and 50004133 - 50004154. Of those present, the vote was unanimous in favor. APPENDIX “F”

**IN THE MATTER OF ADVERTISING AND PROMOTIONAL ITEMS**

Council Member Nettie Davis moved, seconded by Council Member Rosie Jones, to approve a payment to the Mississippi Radio Group in the amount of \$199.00 to advertise Black History Month. Of those present, the vote was unanimous in favor. APPENDIX “G”

**IN THE MATTER OF BUDGET AMENDMENT #3 FOR FY 2026**

Chief Financial Officer/City Clerk Kim Hanna informed the council that this is the third budget amendment for this fiscal year.

- Increase the general fund, including carrying over excess revenue from the prior year.
- Transfer funds to cover Fire Department compensation time and pay the employees. This will allow the city to close the comp banks for the Fire Department,
- Transfer funds for computer program maintenance for the OpenGov computer software utilized by Development Services.
- Transfer funds to the Tourism Fund for the purchase and renovation of real property (Tupelo Hardware)
- To move funds to the capital fund for the new pool liner at Elvis Presley Pool.
- To transfer funds to Major Thoroughfare which would be held in the municipal reserve and allow them to finish projects in Phase VII. This money will be paid back from Phase VIII.
- The capital and infrastructure fund for the Ballard Park Improvements project and a donation for equipment.

Council President Janet Gaston asked about the MTP fund for Phase VIII. Kim Hanna explained that this phase will be voted on and budgeted in May.

Council Member Nettie Davis asked about the \$5,000 in the capital fund allotted for the professional design of the CC Augustus Pool. Kim Hanna clarified that it is just for the conceptual design and the project would be budgeted when we find out a final cost.

Council Member Travis Beard moved, seconded by Council Member Bentley Nolan, to approve the budget amendment as presented. Of those present, the vote was unanimous in favor. APPENDIX “H”

#### **IN THE MATTER OF CONTINUING DISCLOSURE FOR FY 2025**

Chief Financial Officer/City Clerk Kim Hanna stated that the annual submission of a disclosure statement with Butler Snow was routine. Council Member Bentley Nolan moved, seconded by Council Member Travis Beard, to approve the disclosure as presented. Of those present, the vote was unanimous in favor. APPENDIX “I”

#### **IN THE MATTER OF ADOPTION OF A TOW-TRUCK POLICY AND TO AUTHORIZE THE CHIEF OF POLICE TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH TOWING COMPANIES FOR THE PURPOSE OF ENFORCING SUCH POLICY**

Council Member Travis Beard moved, seconded by Council Member Bentley Nolan, to approve the policy and allow Police Chief John Quaka to execute the agreement. Of those present, the vote was unanimous in favor. APPENDIX “J”

#### **IN THE MATTER OF REJECTING BID #2026-009PD – 3 DODGE DURANGOS**

Chief John Quaka explained that there were no responses to this bid. Council Member Travis Beard moved, seconded by Council Member Bentley Nolan, to reject this bid. Of those present, the vote was unanimous in favor. APPENDIX “K”

### **IN THE MATTER OF UNMARKED VEHICLES RESOLUTION**

Council Member Lynn Bryan moved, seconded by Council Member Travis Beard, to approve the list of unmarked vehicles in the Tupelo Police Department inventory as a routine submission for fixed assets. Of those present, the vote was unanimous in favor. APPENDIX “L”

### **IN THE MATTER OF APPROVAL OF CHANGE ORDER # 3 (SCO) FOR THE TWL VERONA LS/GSL & FEEMSTER LAKE GSL REPLACEMENT (BID NO. 2024-046WL) ARPA**

Water & Light Director Johnny Timmons explained that this change order will wrap up this ARPA project. Enscor, LLC is the contractor, and the total deduct is \$16,298.00, bringing the total project to \$887,000.00. Council Member Nettie Davis moved, seconded by Council Member Bentley Nolan, to approve the change order as presented. Of those present, the vote was unanimous in favor. APPENDIX “M”

### **IN THE MATTER OF AWARD OF BID # 2026-001WL – ELECTRIC LINE RIGHT-OF- WAY CLEARANCE SERVICES**

Water & Light Director Johnny Timmons changed the request and asked the council to reject this bid and rebid. Council Member Lynn Bryan moved, seconded by Council Member Rosie Jones, to approve the rejection of this bid and rebid. Of those present, the vote was unanimous in favor. APPENDIX “N”

### **IN THE MATTER OF SETTING PUBLIC HEARING DATE FOR PHASE VIII MAJOR THOROUGHFARE ELECTION**

Council Member Lynn Bryan moved, seconded by Council Member Bentley Nolan, to approve the attached timeline for the 2026 special election for Phase VIII of the Major Thoroughfare Program and direct the city clerk and city attorney to prepare the necessary ordinances, resolutions, notices of public hearings, and conduct the election on May 5, 2026. The notice of public hearings for the Ordinance Establishing Priorities for Phase VIII (“Priorities Ordinance”) is also attached. APPENDIX “O”

### **STUDY AGENDA**

### **IN THE MATTER OF ORDINANCE AMENDING CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF CODE OF ORDINANCES CHAPTER 23.5 - SOLID WASTE COLLECTION, REMOVAL AND DISPOSAL**

The council voted to move this item to the action agenda for the council meeting of February 17, 2026. APPENDIX “P”

### **IN THE MATTER OF DETERMINING THE NEED FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Council Member Bentley Nolan moved, seconded by Council Member Travis Beard, to determine the need for executive session. City Attorney Ben Logan stated that there were two matters to present to the council. Both the possible acquisition of real property and a matter of economic discussion involving the North Mississippi Water Supply District are appropriate subjects for executive session. Of those present, the vote was unanimous in favor.

**IN THE MATTER OF ENTERING INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Council Member Travis Beard moved, seconded by Council Member Nettie Davis, to close the regular session and enter executive session at 6:32 p.m. Of those present, the vote was unanimous in favor.

**IN THE MATTER OF COMING OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION AND RETURNING TO REGULAR SESSION**

Council Member Lynn Bryan moved, seconded by Council Member Nettie Davis, to come out of executive session and return to regular session at 7:25 p.m. Of those present, the vote was unanimous in favor.

**IN THE MATTER OF A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TUPELO, MISSISSIPPI, WITH RESPECT TO REQUESTING THAT THE MISSISSIPPI LEGISLATURE REINSTATE THE CITY’S ABILITY TO IMPOSE A ONE-QUARTER OF ONE PERCENT (0.25%) SALES TAX UPON THE RETAIL SALE OF GROCERIES IN THE CITY OF TUPELO IN FURTHERANCE OF THE CITY’S RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES AS A MEMBER OF THE NORTHEAST MISSISSIPPI REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY DISTRICT, AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES**

Council Member Lynn Bryan moved, seconded by Council Member Nettie Davis, to approve and request a resolution be submitted to request the Mississippi Legislature to allow the City of Tupelo to impose a 0.25% sales tax on groceries in the City of Tupelo. Of those present, the vote was 5-1 in favor. Council Member Rosie Jones abstained from the vote. APPENDIX “Q”

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to be brought before the city council at this time, Council Member Nettie Davis moved, seconded by Council Member Bentley Nolan, to adjourn the meeting of 02/03/26 at 7:33 p.m.

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JANET GASTON  
COUNCIL PRESIDENT

ATTEST:

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SANDRA SHUMAKER  
COUNCIL CLERK

APPROVED

\_\_\_\_\_  
TODD JORDAN, MAYOR

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE