

# **REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

## **MUNICIPAL MINUTES CITY OF TUPELO**

### **STATE OF MISSISSIPPI**

**MARCH 18, 2025**

The Tupelo City Council held its regular meeting in the Council Chambers in the City Hall building on Tuesday, March 18, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. The following Council Members attended: Chad Mims, Lynn Bryan, Travis Beard, Nettie Davis, Buddy Palme, Janet Gaston and Rosie Jones; Ben Logan, City Attorney and Missy Shelton, Clerk of the Council. Council Member Rosie Jones gave the invocation and Council Member Chad Mims led the pledge of allegiance. Council President Nettie Davis called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

### **CONFIRMATION OR AMENDMENT TO THE AGENDA AND AGENDA ORDER**

Council Member Palmer moved, seconded by Council Member Beard, to amend the agenda with the following additions:

#### **Add Item # 20**

**IN THE MATTER OF A RESOLUTION, DECLARING A MORATORIUM UP TO AND UNTIL APRIL 30, 2025, ON ALL CONSTRUCTION RELATED PERMIT FEES OWED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DUE TO GAS LINE AND SERVICE REPAIRS MADE NECESSARY BY THE NATURAL GAS LOCAL EMERGENCY**

#### **Add Item #21**

**IN THE MATTER OF A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE DECLARATION OF A STATE OF LOCAL EMERGENCY CREATED BY A SEVERE WEATHER OUTBREAK AND ORDERING THE CONTINUATION OF SUCH DECLARATION FOR THE LESSER OF 30-DAYS OR UNTIL SUCH DECLARATION IS DISCONTINUED BY ORDER OF THE GOVERNING BODY**

#### **Add Item #22**

**IN THE MATTER OF REAPPOINTMENT OF SHERRY DAVIS TO TUPELO PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD**

Of those present, the vote was unanimous in favor.

### **IN THE MATTER OF AMERICAN RED CROSS PROCLAMATION**

Mayor Todd Jordan recognized KC Grist, who read the proclamation declaring March 2025 as Red Cross Month. APPENDIX A

### **PUBLIC RECOGNITION**

Council Member Janet Gaston thanked all the Atmos workers and their associates for all the hard work they have done in efforts to turn natural gas back on to their customers.

Council Member Rosie Jones also thanked all the Atmos workers.

Council Member Travis Beard thanked Red Cross for offering shelter for those who were affected by both the natural gas outage and the storms that came through the area last weekend. In addition, he thanked all the city departments and their employees for all their hard work during the storms. He said Atmos brought in 500 plus employees from eight states to help in this crisis. They are currently working 16-hour days to get the customers the natural gas services. Finally, he thanked Tupelo residents for their patience in this process.

Council Member Buddy Palmer applauded all those who have been working so hard to relieve the crisis' of both the natural gas emergency and the storms.

Council Member Nettie Davis reiterated all the thanks that others have mentioned. She also thanked the city for opening all the shelters during the storms. She invited everyone to a women's leadership breakfast for Saturday 9-11 at the Link Centre. Time for Tupelo will also be on Saturday beginning at 8:00 a.m. The Rotary Club will provide breakfast for the participants.

### **MAYOR'S REMARKS**

Mayor Todd Jordan said the city will have several repairs coming up to repair damage from the flooding. There will be a pickleball tournament this weekend as a fund raiser for Habitat for Humanity at the Dot Cooper Kelly Recreation Center.

### **IN THE MATTER OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR DEMOLITION AND CLEANUP**

A public hearing was conducted for the following properties:

| <u>ADDRESS</u>                    | <u>PARCEL</u> |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|
| 766 Feemster Lake Road (Clean up) | 112C0304900   |
| 958 Dixie Creek Road (Clean up)   | 082J0903500   |
| 203 Page Street                   | 077Q3604500   |
| 2211 Kathy Lane                   | 088L3402700   |
| 516 Lake Street (Clean up)        | 112A0408000   |
| 394 South Green Street            | 089P3119200   |
| 208 Bowen Street                  | 077Q3604400   |

Joseph Smith addressed the Council concerning the property located at 203 Page Street.

### **CITIZEN HEARING**

Amanda McKeown addressed the Council concerning possibilities for animal control.

### **IN THE MATTER OF APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MARCH 4, 2025, COUNCIL MEETING**

Council Member Palmer moved, seconded by Council Member Bryan, to approve the minutes of the regular city council meeting held on March 4, 2025. The vote was unanimous in favor.

### **IN THE MATTER OF BILL PAY**

Council Members Beard, Bryan, Gaston and Palmer reviewed bills at 4:30 p.m. Council Member

Gaston moved, seconded by Council Member Mims, to approve the payment of the checks, bills, claims and utility adjustments. The vote was unanimous in favor. APPENDIX B

**IN THE MATTER OF CONTRACT APPROVAL OF TYLER TECHNOLOGIES INC SOFTWARE AS A SERVICE AGREEMENT**

Council Member Beard moved, seconded by Council Member Gaston, to approve the Tyler Technology Services SaaS-Software as a service agreement. The vote was unanimous in favor. APPENDIX C

**IN THE MATTER OF ACCEPTANCE OF DONATION OF TREES FROM BOB MARION NURSERY**

Council Member Bryan moved, seconded by Council Member Gaston, to accept the donation of 22 trees from Bob Marion Nursery to replace trees that have died in the Fairpark area. The monetary value of these trees is \$1,100.00. The vote was unanimous in favor. APPENDIX D

**IN THE MATTER OF REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES FOR THE PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING**

Council Member Bryan moved, seconded by Council Member Beard, to approve the minutes for the November 4, 2024, planning committee meeting. The vote was unanimous in favor. APPENDIX E

**IN THE MATTER OF REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES FOR THE LICENSE COMMISSION MEETING**

Council Member Bryan moved, seconded by Council Member Palmer, to approve the minutes for the September 9, 2024, license commission meeting. The vote was unanimous in favor. APPENDIX F

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

Council Member Beard moved, seconded by Council Member Bryan, to approve the properties for demolition and cleanup, as follows:

| <u>ADDRESS</u>                    | <u>PARCEL</u> |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|
| 766 Feemster Lake Road (Clean up) | 112C0304900   |
| 958 Dixie Creek Road (Clean up)   | 082J0903500   |
| 203 Page Street                   | 077Q3604500   |
| 2211 Kathy Lane                   | 088L3402700   |
| 516 Lake Street (Clean up)        | 112A0408000   |
| 394 South Green Street            | 089P3119200   |
| 208 Bowen Street                  | 077Q3604400   |

The vote was unanimous in favor. APPENDIX G

**IN THE MATTER OF AMENDMENT OF OFFICER LIST FOR SPECIAL POLICE DETAIL FOR TOMBIGBEE ELECTRIC POWER ASSOCIATION**

Council Member Palmer recused himself.

An agreement between Tombigbee Fiber and the Tupelo Police Department was approved on October 1, 2024, concerning a request from Tombigbee to employ several police officers to perform traffic duty during the time that crews will be working. Tombigbee Fiber will compensate the officers on an hourly rate for their services and will reimburse the City of Tupelo for costs associated with the use of the vehicles. Council Member Bryan moved, seconded by Council Member Gaston, to update the employee list for the continued agreement. Of those present, the vote was unanimous in favor. APPENDIX H

Council Member Palmer rejoined the meeting.

#### **IN THE MATTER OF APPROVAL OF BID # 2024-007FD – FIRE STATION #5**

The city advertised and accepted bids for Bid 2024-007FD – Fire Station #5. Seven bids were received, with the lowest and best being received from Southland Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$4,196,306 which includes the alternate bid of \$19,306. Council Member Bryan moved, seconded by Council Member Mims, to accept the lowest and best bid from Southland Construction, Inc. The vote was unanimous in favor. APPENDIX I

#### **IN THE MATTER OF APPROVAL OF SURPLUS FOR PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

Council Member Bryan moved, seconded by Council Member Beard, to approve the surplus items, no longer needed for use by the City of Tupelo as listed in APPENDIX I, to be auctioned. The vote was unanimous in favor.

#### **IN THE MATTER OF CHANGE ORDER #1 FOR BALLARD PARK IMPROVEMENTS PHASE II PLAYGROUND FOR BID#2024-040PR**

Council Member Gaston moved, seconded by Council Member Gaston, to approve change order #1 for bid #2024-040PR – Ballard Park Improvements Phase II Playground. This change order decreases the contract by \$156.00 for a total of \$2,036,992.00. The vote was unanimous in favor. APPENDIX J

#### **IN THE MATTER OF REJECTION OF BID 2025-003PR - TUPELO AQUATIC CENTER POOL LINER REPLACEMENT**

Council Member Palmer moved, seconded by Council Member Gaston, to reject bid # 2025-003PR – Tupelo Aquatic Center Pool Liner Replacement. One bid was received but was over budget. The vote was unanimous in favor. APPENDIX K

#### **IN THE MATTER OF RATIFICATION OF CONTRACT FOR BID # 2025-005PR - BALLARD PARK IMPROVEMENTS PHASE III**

Bid # 2025-005PR – Ballard Park Improvements Phase III was awarded and contract approved at the March 4, 2025, Council meeting. Council Member Bryan, seconded by Council Member Gaston, to ratify the contract. The vote was unanimous in favor. APPENDIX L

#### **IN THE MATTER OF APPROVAL OF CADENCE BANK ARENA MINUTES OF JANUARY 27, 2025**

Council Member Gaston moved, seconded by Council Member Jones, to approve the minutes of meeting held on January 27, 2025, of the Cadence Bank Arena Commission. The vote was unanimous in favor. APPENDIX M

**IN THE MATTER OF A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE DECLARATION OF A STATE OF LOCAL EMERGENCY FOR THE NATURAL GAS EVENT AND ORDERING THE CONTINUATION OF SUCH DECLARATION FOR THE LESSER OF 30-DAYS OR UNTIL SUCH DECLARATION IS DISCONTINUED BY ORDER OF THE GOVERNING BODY**

Council Member Bryan moved, seconded by Council Member Beard, to approve a resolution declaring a state of emergency in response to the natural gas emergency affecting service to the City of Tupelo on March 12, 2025. The vote was unanimous in favor. APPENDIX N

**IN THE MATTER OF AUTHORIZING CERTAIN OFFICERS EMPLOYED BY THE TUPELO POLICE DEPARTMENT TO UTILIZE THEIR UNIFORM, SERVICE WEAPON AND VEHICLE WHILE PERFORMING PRIVATE SECURITY DETAIL FOR ATMOS ENERGY**

Due to the natural gas emergency, Atmos Energy will be going house to turn off and relight pilot lights to its customers. Due to the late hours that they will be performing this task, Atmos has requested assistance of officers from the Tupelo Police Department to accompany Atmos employees and contractors to alleviate concern from the public. Council Member Palmer moved, seconded by Council Member Jones, to approve this request. A hold harmless agreement is attached to these minutes, as well as a list of the officers. This arrangement and agreement is authorized by Miss. Code Anno. § 21-17-11 (1972 as amended). APPENDIX O

**IN THE MATTER OF RESOLUTION, DECLARING A MORATORIUM UP TO AND UNTIL APRIL 30, 2025, ON ALL CONSTRUCTION RELATED PERMIT FEES OWED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DUE TO GAS LINE AND SERVICE REPAIRS MADE NECESSARY BY THE NATURAL GAS LOCAL EMERGENCY**

Council Member Bryan moved, seconded by Council Member Gaston, to approve a ‘Resolution Declaring a Moratorium Up to and Until April 30, 2025, on All Construction Related Permit Fees Owed to the Department of Development Services Due to Gas Line and Service Repairs Made Necessary by the Natural Gas Local Emergency’. The vote was unanimous in favor. APPENDIX P

**IN THE MATTER OF A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE DECLARATION OF A STATE OF LOCAL EMERGENCY CREATED BY A SEVERE WEATHER OUTBREAK AND ORDERING THE CONTINUATION OF SUCH DECLARATION FOR THE LESSER OF 30 DAYS OR UNTIL SUCH DECLARATION IS DISCONTINUED BY ORDER OF THE GOVERNING BODY**

Council Member Mims moved, seconded by Council Member Palmer, to approve a ‘Resolution of a State of Local Emergency Created by a Severe Weather Outbreak and Ordering the Continuation of Such Declaration for the Lesser of 30 Days or Until Such Declaration is Discontinued by Order of the Governing Body’. The vote was unanimous in favor. APPENDIX Q

**IN THE MATTER OF REAPPOINTMENT OF SHERRY DAVIS ARMOUR TO ADDITIONAL TERM TO TUPELO PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Council Member Bryan moved, seconded by Council Member Beard, to approve the reappointment of Sherry Davis Armour to an additional term of 5 years to the Tupelo Public School District Board. The vote was unanimous in favor. APPENDIX R

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Council at this time, Council Member Palmer moved, seconded by Council Member Beard, to adjourn the meeting at 6:36 p.m. This the 18<sup>th</sup> day of March 2025.

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Nettie Davis, Council President

ATTEST:

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Missy Shelton, Council Clerk

APPROVED

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Todd Jordan, Mayor

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Date