

**REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**MUNICIPAL MINUTES CITY OF TUPELO**  
**STATE OF MISSISSIPPI**  
**APRIL 7, 2026**

The Tupelo City Council held its regular meeting in the Council Chambers in the City Hall building on Tuesday, April 7, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. The following Council Members attended: Janet Gaston, Lynn Bryan, Travis Beard, Nettie Davis, Bentley Nolan, and Rosie Jones. Council Member Chad Mims was absent. Also attending were Ben Logan, City Attorney and Sandra Shumaker, Clerk of the Council. Nettie Davis asked Pastor Chris Traylor to give the invocation, and President Janet Gaston led the pledge of allegiance. President Gaston called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

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

Vice President moved, seconded by Council Member Nettie Davis, to approve the agenda and agenda order. Of those present, the vote was unanimous in favor.

**PROCLAMATIONS**

Mayor Jordan presented Kaycee Burrell and Laura Miller from the Junior Auxiliary with a proclamation to declare the week of April 6-10, 2026, as Junior Auxiliary Week.

Mayor Jordan presented Dierdre Berry, current chair for the Stop the Hurt Conference Committee with a proclamation declaring April 2026 as Child Abuse Awareness Month.

**EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION**

Mayor Jordan presented Rickey Gurley with the Tupelo Parks & Recreation Department a certificate of appreciation and thanked him for 20 years of service.

**PUBLIC RECOGNITION**

Council Member Travis Beard complimented Tanner Newman and the Department of Development Services on a good Daily Journal article about the code enforcement and permitting divisions. He also congratulated El Centro and Letitia Gassaway on the 20-year anniversary of El Centro and complimented them on their work in the community.

Council Member Nettie Davis commended the Junior Auxiliary for establishing the first daycare center in Tupelo, reminding everyone that the organization has been doing good things for a long time. Council Member Davis also mentioned a class on crime that will be taught on April 18<sup>th</sup> 9am to 12pm and suggested the public attend.

Council Member Bentley Nolan congratulated Tupelo Parks & Recreation and Director Alex Farned on a successful Fishing Rodeo and stated that the Planning Committee was doing a great job.

Council President Janet Gaston reminded everyone of the MTP Election on May 5, 2026, that will approve the expenditure of 10 millage on eligible streets to be built, improved and maintained. She stated that this would not raise taxes.

Mayor Todd Jordan reminded everyone of the Tupelo Clean Up that will be held on April 11, 2026, and the City of Tupelo will host several tournaments this weekend. He also congratulated Lucia Randle, Director of Downtown Main Street, on the upcoming events scheduled for the downtown area. It's a great time to be living in Tupelo.

### **IN THE MATTER OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR DEMOLITION PROPERTIES**

518 CLINTON STREET-PARCEL #089F-30-003-00  
205 DOE RUN ROAD-PARCEL #079S0-039-01

No one appeared to speak on this matter.

### **CITIZEN HEARING**

Kathryn Rhea with Keep Tupelo Beautiful reminded everyone about the Tupelo Spring Clean on April 11, 2026. She encouraged residents to clean up the neighborhoods and parks. Cleanup supplies and breakfast will be available at designated locations. Dumpsters would be located at Robin's Field, Ballard Park, Veteran's Park, and at Theron Nichols Park and available to citizens to dispose of trash.

Phillip Shackelford, Executive Director and CEO of the Lee County Library presented the city council with the annual report and stated that the library had almost ten thousand visits per month in the last year. The library had 43% increase in the use of their meeting spaces and approximately twelve thousand attending programs presented by the library. Most of those programs are for the youth. He reported a 42% increase in book reading and a 35% increase in media. He stated the library is providing a tremendously positive economic impact to the community.

BJ Kent, Executive Director of Northeast Habitat for Humanity thanked the council and Tupelo Parks & Recreation for the Dot Cooper Kelly Pickle Ball Court which hosted the Paddle Battle Tournament. This event was highly successful with a total of 221 players participating. Visitors from several states attended and showcased the city as a destination for these events. Mr. Kent stated that the Parks and Recreation Department went above and beyond assisting them with this event.

Steve Straily spoke to the council regarding support for Ward 4 and the C.C. Augustus Pool. He stated a desire to yield his allowed speaking time to Dr. Charles Penson. Council Vice President Bryan informed that to allow someone to speak that had not applied to do so was out of order. Dr. Penson requested the council take a vote to amend the rules and allow him to speak. Councilmember Bryan explained that anyone who lives inside city limits or owns a business in the city can fill out a request before Thursday, and a failure to follow the procedure required suspending the rules to speak. He requested City Attorney Ben Logan to confirm if this was

correct. Mr. Logan affirmed that he was correct.

Council Member Rosie Jones moved, seconded by Council Member Nettie Davis, to amend the rules and allow Dr. Charles Penson to address the council. The vote was as follows:

Council President Janet Gaston - Nay  
Council Vice President Lynn Bryan – Nay  
Council Member Bentley Nolan – Nay  
Council Member Nettie Davis – Aye  
Council Member Rosie Jones – Aye  
Council Member Travis Beard – Nay

Council President Janet Gaston stated that the motion did not pass and Dr. Penson would not be allowed to address the council at this time. She asked Mr. Straily if he would like to still take advantage of his five-minute time.

Mr. Straily stated that he was not properly prepared to speak on the issue, however, he felt that Ward 4 should receive the proper funding to restore the C.C. Augustus Pool in a way that serves everyone and not just one demographic in the community. As a kid he had access to the Elvis Presley Pool in East Tupelo and it kept him out of trouble. He attended a Parkhill Neighborhood Association meeting and was disappointed that he heard law enforcement would be increased in the community by implementation of a curfew, but activities for youth were not addressed. He stated that funding should not go to the Aquatic Center as opposed to the C.C. Augustus Pool. He would rather see his tax money go to something that enhances the entire community and is not as restrictive. He would like to help Ms. Nettie and the community.

Council Member Jones asked him where he grew up. He said East Tupelo, around Brown Street. Council Member Beard asked his current address. Mr. Straily responded that he currently lives at 6106 Vermelle Drive in Tupelo.

Chevelle Champ attended the meeting but chose not to speak.

Bonnie Bahre also spoke to the council regarding investment in the C.C. Augustus pool. In her opinion, it should be a community center and a pool. The city is currently focusing on revitalization in that area so why not go “all in” and suggested that we provide something in the community for children above the age of ten. Ballard Park has a great playground that is geared toward smaller children. Splash pads are great for young children but kids from the age of 13 to 18 really don’t have much to do. A small 2-4 foot pool is not sufficient. It needs to provide a place that helps with exercise and developmental growth to let the kids know we are investing in them.

Charles Moore, President of the NAACP questioned the council regarding the funding of the C.C. Augustus Center separate from the bond issue. Council Member Jones responded that it had not been discussed at this time. Mr. Moore then asked if the funding would be included in the bond issue? Council Member Jones responded that it has not been determined at this time. Mr. Moore asked if the amount of two million dollars has been allocated for the project. Council

Member Jones responded that the money has not been allocated, nor has a plan been chosen. Mr. Moore asked if there was a feasibility study. Council Member Jones said there was a study on the four-foot pool that has been mentioned. Mr. Moore asked if the council was in support of the pool. Council Member Jones responded that she is against the four-foot depth, but she is in favor of the pool being replaced. He asked Vice President Lynn Bryan about his position on the pool. Vice President Bryan responded that there has been no formal discussion on the project. He is not in support of a pool because the city has removed most of the pools and replaced them with splash pads. Mr. Moore asked Council Member Beard about his position. Council Member Beard responded that this was an opportunity for Mr. Moore to address the council and voice an opinion, but it is not a question-and-answer session. He stated that his decision would come at the time they voted on the project. Mr. Moore reminded the council that they are to serve the communities that elected them.

Clarence Parks and Katie Gilbert did not attend the meeting.

### **ROUTINE AGENDA**

#### **IN THE MATTER OF REVIEW & APPROVE CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF APRIL 7, 2026**

Council Vice President Bryan moved, seconded by Council Member Davis, to approve the minutes of April 7, 2026, as presented. Of those present, the vote was unanimous in favor. APPENDIX "A"

#### **IN THE MATTER OF BILL P AY**

The bills were reviewed by Vice President Lynn Bryan, Council Member Nettie Davis and Council Member Bentley Nolan. Council Member Davis moved, seconded by Council Member Nolan, to pay the bills as presented. Of those present, the vote was unanimous in favor. APPENDIX "B"

#### **IN THE MATTER OF NEW FY 2026 PETTY CASH ACCOUNT**

CFO/City Clerk Kim Hanna stated that due to the retirement of Carol Botts at Water & Light Collections, Christy Hardin has been promoted to Office Manager. In this position, Hardin will be added to the petty cash account for Water & Light Collections. Council Member Beard moved, seconded by Council Member Davis, to approve this item. Of those present, the vote was unanimous in favor. APPENDIX "C"

#### **IN THE MATTER OF NEW BANK ACCOUNT AT RENASANT BANK-CITY OF TUPELO SAVINGS ACCOUNT**

Council Member Nolan moved, seconded by Council Member Beard, to approve the new savings account with Renasant Bank. Of those present, the vote was unanimous in favor. APPENDIX "D"

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

Director of Development Services Tanner Newman informed the council that 518 Clinton is an abandoned property that is in such a state of disrepair and a health and safety hazard to the community and will need to be demolished. He also stated that 205 Doe Run Road is in such a state of disrepair and a health and safety hazard to the community and will need to be cleaned and the swimming pool closed and back-filled.

Council Member Davis asked if 518 Clinton would become part of the ongoing NDC project in the Parkhill neighborhood. Mr. Newman responded that though it does fall in the criteria to be included in the NDC district, that decision has not been determined. Council Member Davis moved, seconded by Council Member Beard, to approve the demolition and cleaning of the properties listed below. Of those present, the vote was unanimous in favor. APPENDIX “E”

518 CLINTON STREET PARCEL #089F-30-003-00  
205 DOE RUN ROAD PARCEL #079S-30-039-01

**IN THE MATTER OF APPROVE ADDING SEIZED VEHICLES TO NMNU ASSET LIST**

Vice President Bryan moved, seconded by Council Member Nolan, to approve the addition of the seized vehicles listed below to be added to the NMNU asset list. Of those present, the vote was unanimous in favor. APPENDIX “F”

<u>VEHICLE</u>	<u>VIN #</u>	<u>FMV</u>
2019 white Dodge Charger SRT	2C3CDXL95KH703343	\$35,906
2017 silver Nissan Titan	1N6AA1EJ2HN562440	\$17,740
2015 silver Mercedes Benz CLS	WDDLJ6FBXFA154763	\$18,480
2017 gray Chevrolet Malibu	1G1ZE5ST9HF207453	\$11,405
2003 maroon Toyota Tundra	5TBBT48163S373221	\$7,750

**IN THE MATTER OF APPROVE ADDING SEIZED VEH TO NMNU ASSET LIST**

Police Chief John Quaka stated a 2012 black Buick Regal; vin #2G4GS5EV3C9142021; FMV \$4,800 was a last-minute addition to the list of seized vehicles and to the agenda. Council Member Nolan moved, seconded by Council Member Beard, to approve the addition of this vehicle to the NMNU asset list. Of those present, the vote was unanimous in favor. APPENDIX “G”

**IN THE MATTER OF APPROVING VEHICLES TO BE SURPLUSED FOR NMNU**

Police Chief John Quaka stated that the vehicles listed below are not in the appropriate mechanical condition to use for official police duties or surveillance details. He requested council approval for them to be sold at the city auction.

<u>VEHICLE</u>	<u>VIN #</u>
2004 gold Infinity FX35	JNRAS08U54X107855

2014 gray Dodge Challenger	2C3CDYAG3EH196955
2012 blue Nissan Altima	1N4AL2APXCC160947
2008 black Chevrolet Impala	2G1WB58K881305679
2005 white GMC Sierra	1GTEK19BX5E115001
2005 silver Honda Accord	1HGCM56465A100597
2008 Red Dodge Charger	2B3KA33G08H174028
2011 silver Chevrolet Impala	2G1WF5EK2B1310120
2009 GMC Yukon	1GKFC330X9J101251

Chief Quaka also stated that a 2008 black Volkswagen Jetta; vin #3VWJM71K48M173477 vehicle is not in the appropriate mechanical condition to use for official police duties but can be utilized as a training tool for Tupelo PD K-9 training facility. He requested council approval for this vehicle to surplus for NMNU and transferred to the TPD K-9 division.

Council Member Beard moved, seconded by Council Member Davis, to approve the surplus and transfer of these vehicles as presented. Of those present, the vote was unanimous in favor.  
APPENDIX “H”

**IN THE MATTER OF MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) BETWEEN TUPELO POLICE DEPARTMENT AND ITAWAMBA COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

Chief John Quaka informed the council that the Mississippi Highway Safety Patrol (MHSP) has been the primary sponsor for the ICC Criminal Justice Program for the past five years. MHSP has decided that it will no longer participate in this program. TPD has been a co-sponsor in this program and believes continuing the program will benefit the department. This MOU would continue this program between TPD, Lee County Sheriff’s Department and ICC. The MOU requires TPD to teach one class per semester and would increase recruiting possibilities. Council Member Beard moved, seconded by Council Member Nolan, to approve this MOU as presented. Of those present, the vote was unanimous in favor. APPENDIX “I”

**IN THE MATTER OF APPROVE ADDING SGT. WES KLOAC TO THE NMNU PIPE CHECK PAYEE LIST**

Chief John Quaka requested council approval to give Sgt. Wes Kloac authorization to obtain PIPE funds for use in drug investigations. Sgt. Kloac would be added to the list in case the other two authorized people were unavailable. Beth Smith is expected to be unavailable while she attends FBI training. Council Member Nolan moved, seconded by Vice President Bryan, to approve this addition to the PIPE Check Payee List. Of those present, the vote was unanimous in favor. APPENDIX “J”

**IN THE MATTER OF APPROVE AND AWARD THE BID 2026 -017FD TO HOOKER CONSTRUCTION**

Tupelo Fire Chief Brad Robinson stated that they received seven bids for this project which includes providing the materials & construction of a new metal building / pole barn at Fire Station 5. Vice President Bryan moved, seconded by Council Member Nolan, to approve and award the bid

to Hooker Construction as the lowest and best bid in the amount of \$219,310.00. Of those present, the vote was unanimous in favor. APPENDIX “K”

**IN THE MATTER OF AWARD CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT TO HOOKER CONSTRUCTION BID 2026-17FD**

Vice President Bryan moved, seconded by Council Member Nolan, to approve the contract for the metal building supplies and construction of the pole barn at Fire Station #5. Of those present, the vote was unanimous in favor. APPENDIX “L”

**IN THE MATTER OF CONTRACT APPROVAL TUPELO ROADWAY MAINTENANCE PROGRAM BID NO. 2026-006PW**

Vice President Bryan moved, seconded by Council Member Nolan, to approve the annual bid as presented. Of those present, the vote was unanimous in favor. APPENDIX “M”

**IN THE MATTER OF BID AWARD APPROVAL CURB AND GUTTER/FLATWORK/MINOR STRUCTURES BID NO. 2026-020PW**

Public Works Director Kelly Knight informed the council that this was a competitive, annual term bid for concrete work. The bids were to be awarded on a line-by-line basis. Vice President Bryan moved, seconded by Council Member Davis, to approve this bid as presented. Of those present, the vote was unanimous in favor. APPENDIX “N”

**IN THE MATTER OF APPROVAL OF AWARD FOR THE BID FOR THE BALLARD PARK SOCCER COMPLEX-STADIUM FIELD SUB-DRAINAGE, CBN:2026-018PR**

Council Member Beard moved, seconded by Council Member Nolan, to approve and award the bid as presented to Next Generation Sports Surfaces, LLC, with the lowest and best bid of \$98,695.00. Of those present, the vote was unanimous in favor. APPENDIX “O”

**IN THE MATTER OF CVB BOARD MINS. MARCH 3 , 2026**

Council Member Beard moved, seconded by Council Member Nolan, to approve the March 3, 2026, minutes of the CVB board as presented. Of those present, the vote was unanimous in favor. APPENDIX “P”

**IN THE MATTER OF APPROVAL OF CADENCE BANK ARENA MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 23, 2026**

Council Member Beard moved, seconded by Council Member Nolan, to approve the February 23, 2026, minutes of the Coliseum Commission. Of those present, the vote was unanimous in favor. APPENDIX “Q”

**IN THE MATTER OF APPROVAL OF CHANGE ORDER # 1 FOR TULIPS**

**SEWER IMPROVEMENTS (BID NO 2025-019WL) SRF/ARC**

Water & Light Director Johnny Timmons stated that the request for this change order is due to a delivery delay of a generator in Tupelo – Lee South Industrial Park (TULIPS) and would allow more contract time. Council Member Davis moved, seconded by Council Member Beard, to approve the change order as presented. Of those present, the vote was unanimous in favor. APPENDIX “R”

**IN THE MATTER OF AWARD OF BID NO. 2026-015WL - SOURCES OF SUPPLY (12 MONTH BID)**

Council Member Beard moved, seconded by Council Member Nolan, to approve this annual bid for Minor/Sewer Construction/Rehab and award it on a section-by-section basis to the lowest and best bidder as indicated on the attached bid tabulation sheet. Of those present, the vote was unanimous in favor. APPENDIX “S”

**IN THE MATTER OF AWARD OF BID # 2026-014WL RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE CLEARANCE**

Water & Light Director Johnny Timmons stated that this bid is to clear trees from property lines and requested council to approve ROW Pro, LLC as the lowest and best qualified bidder. Council Member Beard moved, seconded by Council Member Nolan, to approve and award the bid to ROW Pro, LLC in the amount of \$12,200.00. Of those present, the vote was unanimous in favor. APPENDIX “T”

**IN THE MATTER OF AUTHORIZING THE SETTLEMENT OF OPIOID RELATED CLAIMS AGAINST SIX REMNANT DEFENDANTS AND TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO EXECUTE ALL RELATED SETTLEMENT DOCUMENTS**

Assistant City Attorney Stephen N. Reed stated that these claims were against six nationwide distributors and being handled in the same manner as the previous claims. The amount of the settlement received by the city is yet undetermined but will be a similar amount to previously received settlements. Council Member Beard moved, seconded by Council Member Nolan, to approve and allow the Mayor and City Clerk to execute the settlement documents. Of those present, the vote was unanimous in favor. APPENDIX “U”

**PROOF OF PUBLICATION OF 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)**

Vice President Bryan moved, seconded by Council Member Nolan, to spread the proof of publication on the minutes as presented. Of those present, the vote was unanimous in favor. APPENDIX “V”

**PROOF OF PUBLICATION OF ORDINANCE AMENDING DEVELOPMENT CODE CHAPTER 2 – DEFINITIONS BY ADDING “ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES” AND “PACKAGE RETAILER PERMITTEE” AND CHAPTER 11 BY CREATING 11.10 – LOCAL ZONING REGULATIONS ON ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES AS DEFINED BY MISS. CODE ANN. SECTION 67-1-5 (TA25-02.02)**

Council Member Davis moved, seconded by Council Member Beard, to spread the proof of publication on the minutes as presented. Of those present, the vote was unanimous in favor.  
APPENDIX “W”

**PROOF OF PUBLICATION OF ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 26 UTILITIES – ARTICLE II – SEWERS AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL BY ADDING ARTICLE VIII – GREASE ORDINANCE AND INSPECTION**

Vice President Bryan moved, seconded by Council Member Nolan, to spread the proof of publication on the minutes as presented. Of those present, the vote was unanimous in favor.  
APPENDIX “X”

**PROOF OF PUBLICATION OF ORDINANCE AMENDING DEVELOPMENT CODE CHAPTERS 4 – BASE ZONING DISTRICTS AND TABLE 5.3.4 BY ADDING PROVISIONS REQUIRING MINIMUM DISTANCES BETWEEN “CONVENIENCE STORES WITH FUEL SALES” AND ALSO REQUIRING “CONVENIENCE STORES WITH FUEL SALES” BE LOCATED ON ARTERIAL ROADS (TA25.02.03)**

Vice President Bryan moved, seconded by Council Member Davis, to spread the proof of publication on the minutes as presented. Of those present, the vote was unanimous in favor.  
APPENDIX “Y”

**STUDY AGENDA**

**IN THE MATTER OF CREATION OF TOWN CREEK OVERLAY DISTRICT**

This matter was left on the study agenda.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Council Member Davis moved, seconded by Council Member Nolan, to determine the need for executive session. City Attorney Ben M. Logan stated that there was a matter of purchasing property to be discussed, and it was a suitable subject for executive session. Of those present the vote was unanimous in favor.

Council Member Davis moved, seconded by Council Member Nolan, to enter executive session at 6:51 p.m. Of those present, the vote was unanimous in favor.

After a brief discussion, Council Member Nolan moved, seconded by Council Member

Davis, to exit executive session and return to regular session for a vote at 7:15 p.m. Of those present, the vote was unanimous in favor.

**RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION**

**IN THE MATTER OF REVIEW AND APPROVE AN ORDER AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1510 FORREST STREET IN THE CITY OF TUPELO, MISSISSIPPI AND ALLOW THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO EXECUTE THE CONTRACT OF PURCHASE FOR SAME**

Vice President Bryan moved, seconded by Council Member Beard to approve the Order to Purchase blighted property located at 1510 Forrest Street and allow the Mayor and City Clerk to execute the Contract of Purchase. Of those present, the vote was unanimous in favor. APPENDIX “Z’

**ADJOURNMENT**

Vice President Bryan moved, seconded by Council Member Nolan to adjourn the council meeting of April 7, 2026, at 7:23 p.m. Of those present, the vote was unanimous in favor.

\_\_\_\_\_  
JANET GASTON  
COUNCIL PRESIDENT

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
SANDRA SHUMAKER  
COUNCIL CLERK

APPROVED

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE