

# **CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL CALLED MEETING**

## **MUNICIPAL MINUTES CITY OF TUPELO**

### **STATE OF MISSISSIPPI**

**JUNE 29, 2020**

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

Council President Nettie Davis called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM.

#### **INVOCATION**

Councilwoman Davis introduced Rev. Chris Traylor to lead in the invocation.

#### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Councilman Mike Bryan led the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### **ACTION AGENDA**

##### **IN THE MATTER CONCERNING STATE OF MISSISSIPPI FLAG**

Councilman Buddy Palmer moved to approve the 'Ordinance Amending City of Tupelo Code of Ordinances Chapter 24, Article VIII, Sections 24-216 Through 24-219', as follows:

**SECTION 24-216:** The flag of the United States of America shall be displayed at all municipal facilities or grounds where the municipal facility or grounds display flags as of June 29, 2020.

**SECTION 24-217:** The current State Flag of Mississippi shall be retired from City Hall, City Council Chambers, Veteran's Park and Ballard Park, and displayed at the Oren Dunn Museum as determined to be in its proper historical context.

**SECTION 24-218:** Until the design of the State Flag of Mississippi is changed in accordance with House Bill 1796 of the 2020 Mississippi Legislature, the City of Tupelo Flag shall be displayed at City Hall, City Council Chambers, Veteran's Park, Ballard Park and the Tupelo Police Department.

**SECTION 24-219:** When the new State Flag of Mississippi is adopted, it shall replace the City of Tupelo Flag and be displayed at City Hall, City Council Chambers, Veteran's Park, Ballard Park and the Tupelo Police Department, or at any future locations in accordance with state law and this ordinance where multiple flags are flown.

Councilman Markel Whittington seconded the motion.

Councilman Willie Jennings stated, “It never was about money or anything to do with money to make my decision on changing or removing the flag. Because that’s just a thought of mine on something that shouldn’t be a dollar sign. I want to thank everyone for their support of the change because the time has come. I’ve lost a lot of rest and high blood pressure over the years about trying to help bring the races together which has been my whole goal. My decision never had anything to do with money that was going to come into the City or State because if you go back to slavery - that’s what the Civil War was all about. So I want it recorded that I respect everyone and what they believe in. That’s what I believe in. I just want done what is right and that’s what I want recorded.”

The Mayor thanked the Tupelo City Council in this step/action that will benefit the City of Tupelo. He thanked everyone who came. He also stated the flag at City Hall will be lowered at 2:15 PM today and will be retired to the Oren Dunn Museum in accordance with the Council's vote today and will be replaced with the City of Tupelo flag until the State of Mississippi has a new flag.

Councilwoman Davis thanked the Mayor for being so supportive and the Council for coming together to make this decision. She stated, “The Confederate flag has created a lot of issues in the past. The City of Tupelo has come together to make this change. I have shed tears of joy and thankfulness for the unity of the City.”

After the discussion, the vote was unanimous in favor. The full Ordinance is hereby attached to these Minutes as **EXHIBIT A**.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Council at this time, Councilman Whittington moved, seconded by Councilman Beard to adjourn. This the 29th day of June, 2020 at 1:12 PM.

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Nettie Davis, President  
City Council

ATTEST:

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Missy Shelton, Clerk of the Council

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Jason Shelton, Mayor

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June 29, 2020