REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

MUNICIPAL MINUTES CITY OF TUPELO
STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
AUGUST 18, 2026

The Tupelo City Council held its regular meeting in the Council Chambers in the City Hall building on Tuesday, August 18, 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 Jones asked Tommy Galloway, Pastor of The Word of Life Church to give the invocation, and Council Member Chad Mims led the pledge of allegiance. President Lynn Bryan called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

CONFIRMATION OR AMENDMENT TO THE AGENDA AND AGENDA ORDER

Vice President Nolan moved, seconded by Council Member Mims, to amend the agenda order and add the following item:

IN THE MATTER OF AN ORDER TO ALLOW PARTIAL REFUND OF BUILDING PERMIT FEE TO MASTERCRAFT BUILDERS FOR RENOVATION OF THE STRUCTURE LOCATED AT 218 NORTH SPRING STREET

The vote was unanimous in favor to amend and add to the agenda.

PROCLAMATIONS, RECOGNITIONS AND REPORTS AGENDA
PUBLIC RECOGNITION

Council Member Davis thanked everyone for attending the council meeting tonight. She also mentioned that St. Paul United Methodist Church held a luncheon to thank the Tupelo Fire Department for all they do.

Council Member Gaston expressed condolences to the family of Will Beasley. Despite an accident that left him a quadriplegic, Mr. Beasley earned a master of history degree and a juris doctorate of law degree. Gaston stated, “He did not let tragedy define him.”

MAYOR'S REMARKS

Mayor Jordan thanked both the Public Works and the Water & Light Departments for their work during the recent storm. He also extended thanks to partners at Tombigbee Electric Company who assisted with fallen trees.

PUBLIC AGENDA

IN THE MATTER OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR LOT MOWING

No one appeared to speak on this matter.

IN THE MATTER OF AN APPEAL OF HUNTNGTON BANK ARENA AND CONFERENCE CENTER TO THE CITY COUNCIL TO OVERRULE PLANNING COMMITTEE DECISION

Kevan Kirkpatrick, Director of the Huntington Bank Arena and Conference Center addressed the council regarding his appeal of the decision of the Planning Committee to allow the opening of a daycare across the street from the arena. Mr. Kirkpatrick stated that the unpredictable hours, traffic and attendance of events at the arena would make it unsafe for children and others attending the daycare and any activities the daycare may have. Mr. Kirkpatrick stated that, despite what had been reported, there was no overflow parking agreement between the daycare owner and the arena. Council Member Jones asked if the daycare would be open during the weekends. Mr. Kirkpatrick answered that he did not know, but the facility held well-attended conferences and events throughout the week. APPENDIX "A".

IN THE MATTER OF AN APPEAL FROM JOE ESTESS TO THE CITY COUNCIL TO AFFIRM OR OVERRULE PLANNING COMMITTEE DECISION

Lee Durrett addressed the council as a representative of Joe Estess and agreed with the concerns stated by Kevan Kirkpatrick. As a daycare, this property would get protected status, and restricts the use, selling and leasing of the neighboring properties. He asked the council to reconsider the decision of the planning committee or at least table until further review. APPENDIX "B"

IN THE MATTER OF AN APPEAL FROM JIM BEANE TO THE CITY COUNCIL TO AFFIRM OR OVERRULE PLANNING COMMITTEE DECISION

Mr. Beane did not attend the meeting. APPENDIX "C"

***A full appeal hearing would be set for all parties to state their case before the city council.*

CITIZEN HEARING

Vice President Nolan moved, seconded by Council Member Jones to suspend the rules and allow Felicia Jones to address the council regarding a permit denied for the installation of a metal roof at 622 North Church Street. The vote was unanimous in favor.

Ms. Cole stated that the roof of the home needed to be replaced due to storm damage. Her disabled niece lives in the home and had been forced to move. Her family pulled together to buy the metal for the new roof and were in the process of installing it when they received a stop work order from the city development department. She was unaware that a permit was needed to replace the roof. She pointed out that half a dozen adjacent and neighboring houses within eyesight had metal roofs, giving her no indication the city had passed an ordinance that does not allow metal roofs in the Parkhill Residential Overlay District. She is asking the council to allow her to continue installing the metal roof since the vendor will not issue a refund for the materials.

President Bryan asked Ms. Cole if she had spoken with Tanner Newman, the Director of Development Services. She said she had not. He suggested she meet with Tanner and start the process of appealing to the Planning Committee.

Former mayor Jack Reed, Jr. spoke to the council regarding the replacement of the C.C. Augustus Pool. He stated that during his term as mayor, he had requested funding for the Tupelo Aquatic Center, and it was passed. He reviewed the history of the C.C. Augustus pool and stated its importance to the citizens of Tupelo. He also stated how he appreciated the "Working Together Mississippi, Tupelo" group that attended the council meeting in support.

ROUTINE AGENDA

IN THE MATTER OF REVIEW/APPROVE CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF AUGUST 4, 2026

Council Member Gaston moved, seconded by Council Member Mims, to approve the minutes as presented. The vote was unanimous in favor. APPENDIX "D"

IN THE MATTER OF BILL PAY

The bills were reviewed by President Lynn Bryan, Council Member Chad Mims and Council Member Travis Beard. Council Member Beard moved, seconded by Council Member Davis, to table this item due to an additional invoice that will be included. The vote was unanimous in favor.

IN THE MATTER OF ADVERTISING AND PROMOTIONAL ITEMS

Vice President Nolan moved, seconded by Council Member Mims, to approve the payment to Lamar Advertising for an ad in the amount of $1,000 to promote the Dudie Burger Festival. The vote was unanimous in favor. APPENDIX "E"

IN THE MATTER OF BUDGET AMENDMENT #8 FOR FY 2026

Council Member Beard moved, seconded by Council Member Gaston, to approve budget amendment #8 as presented. The vote was unanimous in favor. APPENDIX "F"

IN THE MATTER OF NEW BANK ACCOUNTS-G.O. BONDS 2026

Council Member Gaston recused herself from this matter. Vice President Nolan moved, seconded by Council Member Beard to approve the opening of a new bank account with Huntington Bank to hold the proceeds from issuing general obligation bonds to fund bond eligible projects. These funds are required to remain in a separate account until fully expended. Of those present, the vote was unanimous in favor. APPENDIX "G"

IN THE MATTER OF APPROVAL FOR THE MAYOR TO SIGN A MOU BETWEEN THE MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES AND HISTORY AND THE CITY OF TUPELO FOR THE CERTIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENT GRANT WITH SPRING HILL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

Council Member Davis moved, seconded by Council Member Beard, to allow Mayor Jordan to execute the MOU for a grant for Spring Hill Missionary Baptist Church. Council Member Davis said she supported this grant because the church has been working hard to move forward. The vote was unanimous in favor. APPENDIX "H"

IN THE MATTER OF REVIEW/APPROVE MINUTES OF TUPELO LICENSE COMMISSION

Council Member Beard moved, seconded by Vice President Nolan, to approve the minutes as presented.

The vote was unanimous in favor. APPENDIX "I"

IN THE MATTER OF REVIEW/APPROVE PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES OF AUGUST 3, 2026

Vice President Nolan moved, seconded by Council Member Gaston, to approve the minutes of the August 3, 2026, Planning Committee subject to the matters on appeal. The vote was unanimous in favor. APPENDIX "J"

IN THE MATTER OF A RESOLUTION TO CHANGE "PARKGATE DRIVE" TO "DON WILDMON DRIVE"

Council Member Davis moved, seconded by Council Member Beard, to approve to change the designated portion from "Parkgate Drive" to "Don Wildmon Drive". The vote was unanimous in favor. APPENDIX "K"

IN THE MATTER OF LOT MOWING

Council Member Beard moved, seconded by Council Member Gaston, to approve the final lot mowing list as presented. The vote was unanimous in favor. APPENDIX "L"

IN THE MATTER OF UNMARKED VEHICLE RESOLUTION

Vice President Nolan moved, seconded by Council Member Gaston, to approve the annual submission list of unmarked vehicles used by the Tupelo Police Department. The vote was unanimous in favor. APPENDIX "M"

IN THE MATTER OF ACCEPTING A REQUEST FOR OUT OF COUNTRY TRAVEL IN REGARDS TO EXPLOSIVES AND WMD DETECTION

Council Member Davis moved, seconded by Council Member Beard, to allow Lt. Brenton Thornton (EOD Commander) to travel in partnership with other military civil support teams and federal law enforcement agencies to Tashkent, Uzbekistan for a 10-day special training event. This training will concentrate on weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (CBRN) incidents and scenarios. This trip will be made at no cost to the city. The vote was unanimous in favor. APPENDIX "N"

IN THE MATTER OF DONATION OF FUNDS FROM TUPELO SPORTS COUNCIL

Council Member Beard moved, seconded by Council Member Mims, to approve the donations from the Tupelo Sports Council to the City of Tupelo as follows:

- $4300.00 for Challenger Program.
- $1700.00 for Irrigation Controller at Baseball Complex.

The vote was unanimous in favor. APPENDIX "O"

IN THE MATTER OF BID AWARD APPROVAL S. FEEMSTER LAKE RD BOX CULVERT BID NO. 2026-035PW

Vice President Nolan moved, seconded by Council Member Beard, to approve and award the bid to ENSCOR, LLC, as the lowest and best bid in the amount of $429,559.00. The vote was unanimous in favor. APPENDIX “P”

IN THE MATTER OF CONTRACT APPROVAL FOR BID NO. 2026-030PW BRIDGE REPAIR FOR BRIDGE 69 COLONIAL ESTATES RD AND BRIDGE 97 RANKIN BLVD EXT

Council Member Beard moved, seconded by Council Member Mims, to approve a contract with M&N Excavators, Inc. for repairing two bridges. The vote was unanimous in favor. APPENDIX “Q”

IN THE MATTER OF CONTRACT APPROVAL S. FEEMSTER LAKE RD BOX CULVERT PROJECT BID NO. 2026-035PW

Council Member Gaston moved, seconded by Vice President Nolan, to approve a contract to repair the box culvert on Feemster Lake Road. The vote was unanimous in favor. APPENDIX “R”

IN THE MATTER OF APPROVAL OF MAJOR THOROUGHFARE COMMITTEE MINUTES FOR JULY 13, 2026

Council Member Mims moved, seconded by Council Member Beard, to approve the minutes as presented. The vote was unanimous in favor. APPENDIX “S”

IN THE MATTER OF APPROVAL OF COURTNEY PHILPOT TO SERVE ON THE TUPELO COLISEUM COMMISSION

Council Member Jones moved, seconded by Council Member Davis, to approve the appointment of Courtney Philpot to the Tupelo Coliseum Commission. The vote was unanimous in favor. APPENDIX “T”

IN THE MATTER OF CVB BOARD MINUTES. AUGUST 4, 2026

Council Member Davis moved, seconded by Council Member Mims, to approve the minutes as presented. The vote was unanimous in favor. APPENDIX “U”

IN THE MATTER OF APPROVAL OF AN ORIDINANCE AMENDING THE TUPELO WATER & LIGHT DEPARTMENT’S ELECTRIC RATES EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

Council Member Mims moved, seconded by Council Member Gaston, to approve the ordinance as presented. The vote was unanimous in favor. APPENDIX “V”

IN THE MATTER OF AN ORDER TO ALLOW PARTIAL REFUND OF BUILDING PERMIT FEE TO MASTERCRAFT BUILDERS FOR RENOVATION OF THE STRUCTURE LOCATED AT 218 NORTH SPRING STREET

Vice President Nolan moved, seconded by Council Member Beard, to approve the partial refund for a building permit to Mastercraft Builders. The owner of the property and building has sold it back to the City of Tupelo and construction has been halted. Permit fees for city inspection services were collected which could not be performed due to the sale. The vote was unanimous in favor. APPENDIX “W”

IN THE MATTER OF BILL PAY

Council Member Gaston moved, seconded by Council Member Mims, to take the matter off the table. The vote was unanimous in favor.

Council Member Nolan moved, seconded by Council Member Gaston, to pay the bills as presented with check numbers 443961-444295 and 50004509-50004535. The vote was unanimous in favor. APPENDIX "X"

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Council Member Beard moved, seconded by Council Member Davis, to determine the need for executive session. The vote was unanimous in favor. Attorney Logan advised the matter related to the sale of real property interests by the city and represented a proper matter for executive session.

Council Member Beard moved, seconded by Council Member Davis, to enter executive session at 6:37 PM

Council Member Davis moved, seconded by Council Member Gaston, to return to regular session at 6:47 pm. The vote was unanimous in favor.

IN THE MATTER OF AN ORDER TO DECLARE VACANT AND USE ADDITIONAL BURIAL PLOTS IN A PORTION OF GLENWOOD CEMETERY – BLOCK D, LOTS 84A AND 84B, TEN (10) PLOTS

Vice President Nolan moved, seconded by Council Member Mims, to approve the order as presented. The vote was unanimous in favor. APPENDIX "Y"

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to be brought before the council at this time, Council Member Beard moved, seconded by Vice President Nolan, to adjourn the city council meeting of August 25, 2026, at 6:50 pm.

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LYNN BRYAN
COUNCIL PRESIDENT

ATTEST:

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SANDRA SHUMAKER
COUNCIL CLERK

APPROVED

____
TODD JORDAN, MAYOR

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DATE