

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MUNICIPAL MINUTES CITY OF TUPELO
STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
JULY 21, 2026

The Tupelo City Council held its regular meeting in the Council Chambers in the City Hall building on Tuesday, July 21, 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 Lynn Bryan asked Kelly Wayne Knight to give the invocation, and Council Member Nettie Davis asked Kaiser Wiygul of Boy Scout Troop #12 to lead 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 Beard to approve the agenda and the agenda order as presented. The vote was unanimous in favor.

IN THE MATTER OF PROCLAMATION FOR GENO JONES DAY

Mayor Todd Jordan proclaimed August 1, 2026, as Geno Jones Day in honor of his musical talent and dedication to teaching and contributions to the community, citizens and events held throughout the city. APPENDIX "A"

RECOGNITION GIRL/BOY SCOUTS

The Mayor welcomed the following members of Boy Scout Troop #12 who attended the council meeting to earn Citizenship in the Community and Communications merit badges.

Collins Foote, son of Chuck and Amelia Foote
Jameson Armstrong, son of Jonathan and Carolee Armstrong
Emerson Iser, son of Richard and Sarah Iser
Bryson Hunter, son of Ben and Corey Hunter
Gus Jones, son of George and Lori Jones
Kaiser Wiygul, son of Jess & Katie Wiygul
Henry Mize, son of Paul and Boone Mize

Krista Williamson introduced the scouts of Troop 2627. Whitney Atkinson, Levi Williamson and Milla Harris

PUBLIC RECOGNITION

Council Member Beard recognized the scouts attending the council meeting. Troop 12 has been meeting for 600 consecutive months in a row. A reunion was held this past weekend with surviving members of the original group.

Council Member Davis requested that everyone pray for the family of Nolan Wells who passed away on the weekend of July 4, 2026. Ms. Nettie reviewed the history of the C.C. Augustus pool and Mr. Augustus, who contributed a great deal to the community.

Council Member Gaston stated that Tupelo hosted 300 swimmers for the MS State swim meet last weekend. People come and stay for these events generating lodging and sales tax revenues for the city. She thanked the Aquatic Center employees and parent volunteers for all the hard work.

Council Member Jones thanked Ms. Nettie for recounting the history of the C.C. Augustus Pool. She requested everyone be in prayer for the family of Anthony Rogers because his brother passed away recently. She thanked those who participated in the Juneteenth parade.

Vice President Nolan thanked the city employees who donated blood at the City of Tupelo blood drive today. It was a good turnout. The AEE Mingle event is being held at the Gum Tree Museum this weekend. This event provides grants to teachers for the school year. He welcomed the THS class of 2006 for their 20-year class reunion.

President Bryan added to the statements made by Council Member Beard regarding the history of Boy Scout Troop 12 stating that July 21, 2026, is the 100th birthday of the Charter for this troop. They recently went on their 900th campout to the Ocoee River. Troop 12 has also produced 485 Eagle Scouts. It's a good community organization. He also apologized to Council Member Jones for comments made at the July 7, 2026, meeting.

MAYOR'S REMARKS

Mayor Jordan reported that the use tax for the year was up approximately \$600,000. Sales tax is still good at 7% for last month. The curb, gutter & drainage bid for the road running from the Natchez Trace to Barnes Crossing Road opened at \$400,000 under budget.

(CLOSE REGULAR MEETING OPEN PUBLIC AGENDA)

IN THE MATTER OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR LOT MOWING

No one appeared to speak on this matter. APPENDIX "B"

CITIZEN HEARING

Lora Freeman asked the council to consider code issues on Craigmont Circle. Neighbors do not keep their yards and have aggressive dogs that hinder her freedom of movement in the yard and neighborhood. Members of council have spoken with him but further action needs to be taken. Council President Bryan requested that the matter be checked by code enforcement.

Bonnie Bahre spoke to the council regarding the decision to allow City of Tupelo police officers that are also employed by Signal Security to wear their police uniforms and use city vehicles. She stated that this company has their own vehicles and also provides uniforms for their employees. She feels that this allows Wal-Mart to get special security that does not serve the public interest. She read Statute 17-25-11 and voiced concern that this action is in violation of the code. It also adds to the city's liability for unlawful detainment and arrest. She does not feel it will deter crime and referred to events that have happened in the same parking lot while uniformed police officers were working for Signal Security. She encouraged that officers spend their time developing relationships and commended the TPD for the strides they have made so far in this effort.

Police Chief John Quaka requested that the council allow him to respond. Vice President Nolan moved, seconded by Council Member Jones, to suspend the rules and allow the Chief to speak before the council. The vote was unanimous in favor.

Chief Quaka stated that the council has approved the use of police officer uniforms only a few times. One of the places officers are allowed to wear their uniforms is at the mall and there have been no complaints. He stated that the TPD was in talks with Signal Corp prior to recent events that have been reported in the news. The Chief read statistics regarding crime reports at Walmart stores. Prior to this current detail, TPD has responded to 224 calls of service in six months. The North Gloster Walmart had 72 incident reports. The Walmart on West Main Street had 157 during the same time frame. Incident reports here were higher at this Walmart and more felonious. The ability to have officers patrolling these areas while being funded by another company is something he supports. He takes full responsibility for this action and if he finds out in another six months this action does not deter crime, he will pull back. He feels that having a trained officer at these locations is better than an untrained employee hired by the security company. This is in the best interest of public safety.

Council Member Jones asked about the course of action if another company requests this same type of security. He responded that it would be brought to the council for approval if the area in question has an issue of high crime. There are numerous companies throughout the City of Tupelo that hire off-duty officers for security. The only issue that will be brought before council is the use of badges, service weapons, uniforms and use of a police vehicle.

IN THE MATTER OF REVIEW/APPROVE CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF JULY 7, 2026

Council Member Beard moved, seconded by Council Member Davis, to approve the city council minutes of July 7, 2026, as presented. The vote was unanimous in favor. APPENDIX "C"

IN THE MATTER OF BILL PAY

The bills were reviewed at 4:30 p.m. by Council Member Travis Beard, Council Member Bentley Nolan and Council Member Nettie Davis. Council Member Beard moved, seconded by Council Member Gaston, to approve payment of the bills as presented with check numbers 443371-443683 and 50004453 – 50004481.. The vote was unanimous in favor. APPENDIX "D"

IN THE MATTER OF APPROVAL FOR MAYOR TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT BETWEEN THE MISSISSIPPI OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECURITY AND THE CITY OF TUPELO FOR THE SLCGP GRANT AWARD NUMBER 24CS366 – FIREWALL, DEPLOYABLE NETWORKING, POWER SUPPLY, FIBER LOOP EQUIPMENT AND ENCLOSURE

Abby Christian stated that the execution of the contract between the City of Tupelo and the MS Department of Homeland Security (MSDHS) was for the grant award #24CS366 to purchase necessary equipment and build a disaster recovery area that will be located at Fire Station 5. It is matched by MSDHS. Council Member Davis moved, seconded by Vice President Nolan, to approve the grant as presented. The vote was unanimous in favor. APPENDIX "E"

IN THE MATTER OF APPROVAL OF A CONTRACT BETWEEN THE CITY OF TUPELO AND HDR FOR RFQ NUMBER 2026-019PW – FY22 RAISE PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING

AND TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF TUPELO

Vice President Nolan moved, seconded by Council Member Gaston, to take this item off the table and allow council to proceed with a vote. The vote was unanimous in favor

Council Member Davis moved, seconded by Council Member Beard, to approve this contract. The vote was unanimous in favor. APPENDIX "F"

IN THE MATTER OF APPROVAL FOR CITY TO SUBMIT THE FY26 STATE BORDER SECURITY REINFORCEMENT FUND (SBSRF) GRANT APPLICATION

Grant Writer Abby Christian requested council approval for the submission of this grant. The funds will go to purchase roadside X-Ray, drones, cold cameras, night vision goggles, handheld chemical analyzers, and provide for the upgrade of SOG vehicles with LPR technology. There is no match for this grant. Vice President Nolan moved, seconded by Council Member Beard, to approve the submission of this grant. The vote was unanimous in favor. APPENDIX "G"

IN THE MATTER OF LOT MOWING

Council Member Gaston moved, seconded by Council Member Beard, to approve the final lot mowing list of July 21, 2026. Council Member Davis asked about mowing property at 532 Barnes Street. Development Services Director Tanner Newman stated that it would be mowed soon. The vote was unanimous in favor. APPENDIX "H"

IN THE MATTER OF REVIEW/APPROVE PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES OF JUNE 1, 2026

Council Member Beard moved, seconded by Council Member Nolan, to approve the planning committee minutes as presented. The vote was unanimous in favor. APPENDIX "I"

IN THE MATTER OF REVIEW AND APPROVE PRELIMINARY PLAT MAP FOR SUNNY WAY SUBDIVISION-SPRINGLAKE

Council Member Beard moved, seconded by Council Member Mims, to approve the plat map as presented. The vote was unanimous in favor. APPENDIX "J"

IN THE MATTER OF APPROVAL OF MAJOR THOROUGHFARE COMMITTEE MINUTES FOR MAY 11, 2026, AND JUNE 8, 2026

Vice President Nolan moved, seconded by Council Member Davis, to approve the MTP meeting minutes as presented. The vote was unanimous in favor. APPENDIX "K"

IN THE MATTER OF BID AWARD APPROVAL FOR THE BRIDGE REPAIR FOR BRIDGE #69 (COLONIAL ESTATES RD) AND BRIDGE #97 (RANKIN BLVD EXT) 2026-030PW

Council Member Beard moved, seconded by Council Member Davis, to approve and award the bid for bridge repairs to bridges located at Colonial Estates Road, (69), and Rankin Boulevard Extended, (97), to M&N Excavators, Inc. in the amount of \$162,919.50. The vote was unanimous in favor. APPENDIX "L"

IN THE MATTER OF CVB BOARD MINS. JULY 7, 2026

Council Member Gaston moved, seconded by Council Member Davis, to approve the CVB board meeting minutes as presented. The vote was unanimous in favor. APPENDIX “M”

IN THE MATTER OF SOLE SOURCE PROCUREMENT – MUELLER SYSTEMS

Vice President Nolan moved, seconded by Council Member Beard, to approve the renewal of Mueller Systems as the sole source vendor for AMI water meters. The vote was unanimous in favor. APPENDIX “N”

IN THE MATTER OF RATIFICATION OF AN ENERGY SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH SCHNEIDER ELECTRIC BUILDINGS AMERICAS, INC, APPROVED ON JULY 7, 2026 IN THE MATTER OF APPROVAL OF AN ORDER AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF REAL PROPERTY LOCATED ON THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF SPRING STREET AND JEFFERSON STREET IN THE CITY OF TUPELO, MISSISSIPPI AND TO APPROVED THE EXECUTED PURCHASE AGREEMENT

Council Member Davis moved, seconded by Vice President Nolan, to approve this order and ratify the executed contract for this property purchase. The vote was unanimous in favor. APPENDIX “O”

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Council Member Beard, seconded by Council Member Gaston, to determine the need for executive session. The vote was unanimous in favor.

City Attorney Ben Logan stated that there is a matter of pending litigation and two property purchases that were considered proper items for executive session

Council Member Davis moved, seconded by Vice President Nolan, to enter executive session at 6:47 p.m. The vote was unanimous in favor.

Council Member Davis moved, seconded by Council Member Gaston, to leave executive session and return to regular session at 7:08 p.m. The vote was unanimous in favor.

IN THE MATTER OF RETAINING BRAD MORRIS LAW FIRM AND THE FOREVER JUSTICE ALLIANCE TO REPRESENT THE CITY ON A CONTINGENCY BASIS FOR ANY CLAIMS THE CITY MAY HAVE RELATED TO ANY RELEASE OR THREAT OF RELEASE OF PFAS-PFOS OR RELATED “FOREVER CHEMICALS”, APPROVE THE CONTRACT AND AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO SIGN THE AUTHORITY TO REPRESENT CONTRACT

Council Vice President Nolan moved, seconded by Council Member Beard to approve the city to retain the Brad Morris Law Firm in the above-mentioned matter. The vote was unanimous in favor. APPENDIX “Q”

IN THE MATTER OF A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FOR A DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT OF 125 EAST MAIN STREET BETWEEN THE CITY OF TUPELO,

MISSISSIPPI AND GUARANTY BANK AND TRUST AND AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO SIGN THE AGREEMENT AT THE CLOSING OF THE PROPERTY BETWEEN GUARANTY BANK AND THE PROPERTY OWNERS, SUBJECT TO LATER RATIFICATION BY CITY COUNCIL

Council Member Beard moved, seconded by Council Member Mims to approve the Memorandum of Understanding for a Development Agreement between the City of Tupelo and Guaranty Bank for the development of property located at 125 East Main Street. The vote was unanimous in favor.
APPENDIX "R"

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 July 21, 2026, at 7:10 pm.

LYNN BRYAN
COUNCIL PRESIDENT

ATTEST:

SANDRA SHUMAKER
COUNCIL CLERK

APPROVED

TODD JORDAN, MAYOR

DATE