



# City of Laurel

401 N. 5th Avenue  
Laurel, MS 39440  
www.laurelms.com

## Regular Meeting Minutes City Council

Tuesday, November 21, 2023

9:00 AM

Council Chambers

### CALL TO ORDER

**Present:** 5 - Councilperson Jason Capers, Councilperson Kevin Kelly, Council President Tony Thaxton, Councilperson Grace Amos and Councilperson Shirley Jordan  
**Absent:** 2 - Vice President George Carmichael and Councilperson Andrea Ellis  
**Staff:** 3 - Mayor Johnny Magee, City Attorney Deidra Bassi and City Council Clerk Sharon King

### PRAYER

Councilperson George Carmichael

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. [ID 23-6888](#) November 7, 2023

Attachments: [CoL Minutes of 11072023](#)

A motion was made by Councilperson Kevin Kelly, seconded by Councilperson Shirley Jordan, that the Minutes be approved. Upon roll call vote the President declared the motion carried by the results as follows:

**Yea:** 5 - Jason Capers, Kevin Kelly, Tony Thaxton, Grace Amos and Shirley Jordan

**Absent:** 2 - George Carmichael and Andrea Ellis

### 1. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Councilperson Grace Amos, seconded by Councilperson Jason Capers, that the agenda be amended as follows. Upon roll call vote the President declared the motion carried by the results as follows:

Add Agenda Item 4S., Consider adopting an Order to accept the Bid On Property Insurance for 2023-2024.

**Yea:** 5 - Jason Capers, Kevin Kelly, Tony Thaxton, Grace Amos and Shirley Jordan

**Absent:** 2 - George Carmichael and Andrea Ellis

### 2. PRESENTATION AGENDA

A. [ID 23-6870](#)

Monthly Report of Privilege Taxes for October 2023.

Attachments: [Cover Letter](#)

[BL Monthly Transaction Report - 7299](#)

[New Business License List](#)

There came on before the City Council a report of privilege licenses that have been issued for the month of October, 2023. This report can be reviewed in the City Clerk's office.

**B. [ID 23-6919](#)**

Monthly Budget Certification for the month of October, 2023.

**Attachments:** [CERTIFICATION FY24](#)  
[SALESTAX 2024](#)  
[TOURISMTAX 2024](#)  
[TOURISMTAX 2024 NEW](#)  
[REVENUE FY2024](#)

Mary Ann Hess, City Clerk/Finance Director, presented the following Budget and Purchasing Certification:

**3. PUBLIC AGENDA****A. PUBLIC HEARING**

1. SET PUBLIC HEARING
2. CONDUCT PUBLIC HEARING

**B. CITIZENS HEARING****C. CITIZENS FORUM****4. POLICY AGENDA****A. [ID 23-6881](#)**

Consider adopting an Order authorizing Mayor Johnny Magee to sign an agreement with Security Blanket Inc. for services related to the security alarm in the Laurel Jones County Visitor Center.

**Attachments:** [ORDAuthorizeAgreementSecurityBlanketInc.VisitorCenterAlarmMonitoring2023](#)  
[ORDAuthorizeAgreementSecurityBlanketInc.VisitorCenterAlarmMonitoring2023.ExhibitA](#)  
[ORDAuthorizeAgreementSecurityBlanketInc.VisitorCenterAlarmMonitoring2023.ExhibitB](#)

A motion was made by Councilperson Shirley Jordan, seconded by Councilperson Jason Capers, that the Order be adopted. Upon roll call vote the President declared the motion carried by the results as follows:

**Yea:** 5 - Jason Capers, Kevin Kelly, Tony Thaxton, Grace Amos and Shirley Jordan

**Absent:** 2 - George Carmichael and Andrea Ellis

**B. [ID 23-6882](#)**

Consider adopting an Order authorizing Mayor Johnny Magee to sign a contract with Security Blanket, Inc., for services related to the security alarm at Laurel Police Department Narcotics Division at 730 Hillcrest Drive.

**Attachments:** [ORDAuthorizeAgreementSecurityBlanketInc.LPDNarcoticsDeptSecurityMonitoring2023](#)  
[ORDAuthorizeAgreementSecurityBlanketInc.LPDNarcoticsDeptSecurityMonitoring2023.ExhibitA](#)

A motion was made by Councilperson Kevin Kelly, seconded by Councilperson Jason Capers, that the Order be adopted. Upon roll call vote the President declared the motion carried by the results as follows:

**Yea:** 5 - Jason Capers, Kevin Kelly, Tony Thaxton, Grace Amos and Shirley Jordan

**Absent:** 2 - George Carmichael and Andrea Ellis

C. [ID 23-6877](#)

Consider approving the Second Reading of an Ordinance Amending 8-16 of the City of Laurel, Mississippi Code of Ordinances to Establish the Boundaries of the Council Wards to Reflect Voter Redistricting Plan for the City of Laurel, Mississippi Following the Enlargement of the City's Boundaries Due to Annexation of 0.3 Square Miles on Highway 84 West.

**Attachments:** [ORDINANCERedistrictingVoluntaryAnnexationHwy84WSecondReading11.21.23](#)

**A motion was made by Councilperson Jason Capers, seconded by Councilperson Kevin Kelly, that the Ordinance be approved on second reading. Upon roll call vote the President declared the motion carried by the results as follows:**

**Yea:** 5 - Jason Capers, Kevin Kelly, Tony Thaxton, Grace Amos and Shirley Jordan

**Absent:** 2 - George Carmichael and Andrea Ellis

Enactment No: 1751-2023

D. [ID 23-6879](#)

Consider approving the Second Reading of an Ordinance to grant a zoning change for 5 acres of 10 of property located on Parcel No. 135d-29-17-002.02 PPIN No. 32976 from I-2, Light Industrial District to R-2, Medium Density Residential District, to SSCS Enterprises LLC (Scott Stephens), due to a change in the character of the neighborhood. Property is located in Ward 4.

**Attachments:** [.Second Reading Zoning Change Ordinance Scott Stephens Planning & Zoning Minutes 10122023](#)

**A motion was made by Councilperson Jason Capers, seconded by Councilperson Shirley Jordan, that the Ordinance be approved on second reading. Upon roll call vote the President declared the motion carried by the results as follows:**

**Yea:** 5 - Jason Capers, Kevin Kelly, Tony Thaxton, Grace Amos and Shirley Jordan

**Absent:** 2 - George Carmichael and Andrea Ellis

Enactment No: 1752-2023

E. [ID 23-6878](#)

Consider approving the Second Reading of an Ordinance to assign zoning classification for newly annexed property in the Calhoun area that hasn't been officially zoned. Property is located in Ward 1.

**Attachments:** [.Second Reading Zoning Change Ordinance City of Laurel Planning & Zoning Minutes 10122023](#)

**A motion was made by Councilperson Jason Capers, seconded by Councilperson Kevin Kelly, that the Ordinance be approved on second reading. Upon roll call vote the President declared the motion carried by the results as follows:**

**Yea:** 5 - Jason Capers, Kevin Kelly, Tony Thaxton, Grace Amos and Shirley Jordan

**Absent:** 2 - George Carmichael and Andrea Ellis

Enactment No: 1753-2023

F. [ID 23-6886](#)

Consider adopting a Resolution authorizing the City of Laurel to request assistance from the Mississippi Department of Transportation on behalf of Hobbs Automotive Inc. related to a commercial development project.

**Attachments:** [RESLetterRequestMDOTHobbsAutomotive11.21.2023](#)  
[RESLetterRequestMDOTHobbsAutomotive11.21.2023.ExhibitA](#)

**A motion was made by Councilperson Jason Capers, seconded by Councilperson Kevin Kelly, that the Resolution be adopted. Upon roll call vote the President declared the motion carried by the results as follows:**

**Yea:** 5 - Jason Capers, Kevin Kelly, Tony Thaxton, Grace Amos and Shirley Jordan

**Absent:** 2 - George Carmichael and Andrea Ellis

**G. [ID 23-6873](#)**

Consider adopting an Order regarding the reappointment of Ms. Charlotte Cook to the Civil Service Commission.

**Attachments:** [ORDAppCivilServiceCommissionCookReappoint2023](#)

**A motion was made by Councilperson Grace Amos, seconded by Councilperson Shirley Jordan, that the Order be adopted. Upon roll call vote the President declared the motion carried by the results as follows:**

**Yea:** 5 - Jason Capers, Kevin Kelly, Tony Thaxton, Grace Amos and Shirley Jordan

**Absent:** 2 - George Carmichael and Andrea Ellis

**H. [ID 23-6872](#)**

Consider adopting an Order regarding the reappointment of Mrs. Willie Evans to the Board of Trustees of the Laurel/Jones County Library.

**Attachments:** [ORDAppLibraryBoardEvans2023](#)  
[ORDAppLibraryBoardEvans2023.ExhibitA](#)

**A motion was made by Councilperson Grace Amos, seconded by Councilperson Kevin Kelly, that the Order be adopted. Upon roll call vote the President declared the motion carried by the results as follows:**

**Yea:** 5 - Jason Capers, Kevin Kelly, Tony Thaxton, Grace Amos and Shirley Jordan

**Absent:** 2 - George Carmichael and Andrea Ellis

**I. [ID 23-6871](#)**

Consider adopting an Order approving travel, meals, registration and hotel expenses for the elected officials and clerk to attend the 2024 Mississippi Municipal League Mid-Winter Conference in Jackson, MS on January 8-11, 2024.

**Attachments:** [ORDER TRAVEL FOR ELECTED OFFICIALS MML MID WINTER CONFERENCE](#)

**A motion was made by Councilperson Kevin Kelly, seconded by Councilperson Shirley Jordan, that the Order be adopted. Upon roll call vote the President declared the motion carried by the results as follows:**

**Yea:** 5 - Jason Capers, Kevin Kelly, Tony Thaxton, Grace Amos and Shirley Jordan

**Absent:** 2 - George Carmichael and Andrea Ellis

**J. [ID 23-6876](#)**

Consider adopting an Order approving the travel of the City Clerk/Finance Director to attend the annual Valuation Meeting of the Municipal Retirement System in Jackson, Mississippi.

**Attachments:** [order- travel PERS](#)  
[DOC110623-11062023115834](#)

**A motion was made by Councilperson Kevin Kelly, seconded by Councilperson Shirley Jordan, that the Order be adopted. Upon roll call vote the President declared the motion carried by the results as follows:**

**Yea:** 5 - Jason Capers, Kevin Kelly, Tony Thaxton, Grace Amos and Shirley Jordan

**Absent:** 2 - George Carmichael and Andrea Ellis

**K. [ID 23-6874](#)**

Consider adopting an Order to approve the travel of the City Clerk to attend and speak at the Texas Municipal Clerks Association Election Law Seminar in Denton, Texas on January 11-12, 2024.

**Attachments:** [order - travel Denton](#)

**A motion was made by Councilperson Kevin Kelly, seconded by Councilperson Grace Amos, that the Order be adopted. Upon roll call vote the President declared the motion carried by the results as follows:**

**Yea:** 5 - Jason Capers, Kevin Kelly, Tony Thaxton, Grace Amos and Shirley Jordan

**Absent:** 2 - George Carmichael and Andrea Ellis

**L. [ID 23-6910](#)**

Consider adopting a Resolution granting authority to advertise for bids for the Massey and Smyly WWTP Grating and Handrail Replacement Project.

**Attachments:** [Resolution](#)

**A motion was made by Councilperson Grace Amos, seconded by Councilperson Kevin Kelly, that the Resolution be adopted. Upon roll call vote the President declared the motion carried by the results as follows:**

**Yea:** 5 - Jason Capers, Kevin Kelly, Tony Thaxton, Grace Amos and Shirley Jordan

**Absent:** 2 - George Carmichael and Andrea Ellis

**M. [ID 23-6912](#)**

Consider adopting a Resolution granting authority to advertise for bids for the Massey and Smyly WWTP Blower Replacement Project.

**Attachments:** [Resolution](#)

**A motion was made by Councilperson Kevin Kelly, seconded by Councilperson Shirley Jordan, that the Resolution be adopted. Upon roll call vote the President declared the motion carried by the results as follows:**

**Yea:** 5 - Jason Capers, Kevin Kelly, Tony Thaxton, Grace Amos and Shirley Jordan

**Absent:** 2 - George Carmichael and Andrea Ellis

**N. [ID 23-6887](#)**

Consider adopting an Order to approve bids on the Veterans Memorial Museum.

**Attachments:** [ORDER TO Accept bid for Laurel Veterans' Museum 11-23](#)

[Bids on The Veterans Memorial Museum 11-23](#)

**A motion was made by Councilperson Kevin Kelly, seconded by Councilperson Shirley Jordan, that the Order be adopted. Upon roll call vote the President declared the motion carried by the results as follows:**

**Yea:** 5 - Jason Capers, Kevin Kelly, Tony Thaxton, Grace Amos and Shirley Jordan

**Absent:** 2 - George Carmichael and Andrea Ellis

**O. [ID 23-6890](#)**

Consider adopting an Order accepting donations from various vendors for the sole purpose of the City of Laurel's Annual Employees Christmas Event.

**Attachments:** [Order accepting donations for Christmas Events](#)

[Copy of Checks for Christmas Event2023](#)

**A motion was made by Councilperson Grace Amos, seconded by Councilperson Shirley Jordan, that the Order be adopted. Upon roll call vote the President declared the motion carried by the results as follows:**

**Yea:** 5 - Jason Capers, Kevin Kelly, Tony Thaxton, Grace Amos and Shirley Jordan

**Absent:** 2 - George Carmichael and Andrea Ellis

**P. [ID 23-6909](#)**

Consider adopting an Order to approve certain budget amendments to FY 2024 budget.

**Attachments:** [Budget Amendment Order](#)

[Budget Amendment List](#)

**A motion was made by Councilperson Grace Amos, seconded by Councilperson Kevin Kelly, that the Order be adopted. Upon roll call vote the President declared the motion carried by the results as follows:**

**Yea:** 5 - Jason Capers, Kevin Kelly, Tony Thaxton, Grace Amos and Shirley Jordan

**Absent:** 2 - George Carmichael and Andrea Ellis

**Q. [ID 23-6903](#)**

Consider adopting A FINAL RESOLUTION OF A NINE YEAR AD VALOREM TAX EXEMPTION FOR HOWARD INDUSTRIES, INC.

**Attachments:** [FINAL RESOLUTION GRANTING EXEMPTION Howard Ind 2023 9 year](#)  
[Howard Industries Inc. - Transformer \(City of Laurel - 2022 9 yr\) 2023 state](#)

**A motion was made by Councilperson Kevin Kelly, seconded by Councilperson Shirley Jordan, that the Resolution be adopted. Upon roll call vote the President declared the motion carried by the results as follows:**

**Yea:** 5 - Jason Capers, Kevin Kelly, Tony Thaxton, Grace Amos and Shirley Jordan

**Absent:** 2 - George Carmichael and Andrea Ellis

**R. [ID 23-6883](#)**

Consider adopting an Order to approve Demolition Assessments for the following properties:

- A. Demolition of property assessed to Pamela Taylor, 911 S. 14th Ave. Total cost, including \$75 administrative fee, \$5,101.00, Ward 1
- B. Demolition of property assessed to Judith Hughes, 1028 N. 4th Ave. Total cost, including \$75 administrative fee, \$5,101.00, Ward 5
- C. Demolition of property assessed to Blackledge Brian C. % Martiza McDaniel, 1312 W. 10th St. Total cost, including \$75 administrative fee, 5,001.00, Ward 6
- D. Demolition of property assessed to, Lula Mae Kirk Washington Est % Sandra Washington, 628 Sandy T. Gavin Ave. Total cost, including \$75 administrative fee, \$ 5,101.00, Ward 6
- E. Demolition of property assessed to, Michael D. McClendon. 1707 S. 11th Ave. Total cost, including \$75 administrative fee, \$5,901.00, Ward 7
- F. Demolition of property assessed to Johana Noemi Trosper, 2322 Queensburg Ave. Total cost, including \$75 administrative fee, \$ 5,551.00, Ward 7

**Attachments:** [Demo Assessments 11-21-23](#)  
[Demo Bills-11092023134849](#)

**A motion was made by Councilperson Kevin Kelly, seconded by Councilperson Jason Capers, that the Order be adopted. Upon roll call vote the President declared the motion carried by the results as follows:**

**Yea:** 5 - Jason Capers, Kevin Kelly, Tony Thaxton, Grace Amos and Shirley Jordan

**Absent:** 2 - George Carmichael and Andrea Ellis

**S. [ID 23-6921](#)**

Consider adopting an Order to accept the Bid On Property Insurance for 2023-2024.

**Attachments:** [ORDER TO Accept Bid for Insurance 2023-2024](#)  
[INS BID 2023-24](#)  
[For Signature Property ScheduleEquipment ScheduleTerrorism Forms](#)  
[Official Quotes](#)  
[Insurance Policy](#)

**A motion was made by Councilperson Grace Amos, seconded by Councilperson Jason Capers, that the Order be adopted. Upon roll call vote the President declared the motion carried by the results as follows:**

**Yea:** 5 - Jason Capers, Kevin Kelly, Tony Thaxton, Grace Amos and Shirley Jordan

**Absent:** 2 - George Carmichael and Andrea Ellis

## 5. ROUTINE AGENDA

### A. [ID 23-6880](#)

Consider adopting an Order to ratify approval of the notice of December 12, 2023 for a Historic Commission public hearing meeting.

Attachments: [Order Historic Preservation 121223](#)

A motion was made by Councilperson Shirley Jordan, seconded by Councilperson Kevin Kelly, that the Order be adopted. Upon roll call vote the President declared the motion carried by the results as follows:

**Yea:** 5 - Jason Capers, Kevin Kelly, Tony Thaxton, Grace Amos and Shirley Jordan

**Absent:** 2 - George Carmichael and Andrea Ellis

### B. [ID 23-6920](#)

Consider adopting a Resolution to approve the Claims Docket.

Attachments:

[CLAIMS DOCKET RESOLUTION ONLY](#)

[WARRANT NOVEMBER 21 2023](#)

[CLAIMS DOCKET NOVEMBER 21 2023](#)

A motion was made by Councilperson Shirley Jordan, seconded by Councilperson Kevin Kelly, that the Resolution be adopted. Upon roll call vote the President declared the motion carried by the results as follows:

**Yea:** 5 - Jason Capers, Kevin Kelly, Tony Thaxton, Grace Amos and Shirley Jordan

**Absent:** 2 - George Carmichael and Andrea Ellis

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

With no objections to adjourning, the President declared the meeting adjourned to Tuesday, December 5, 2023 at 5:30 p.m., this the 21<sup>st</sup> day of November, A. D., 2023.

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PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL  
COUNCILPERSON WARD 3

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COUNCILPERSON WARD 1

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COUNCILPERSON WARD 5

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COUNCILPERSON WARD 2

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COUNCILPERSON WARD 6

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COUNCILPERSON WARD 4

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COUNCILPERSON WARD 7

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

\_\_\_\_\_  
MAYOR

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
CITY CLERK

\* \* \* \* \*