



City of Laurel

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

Regular Meeting Minutes City Council

Tuesday, July 2, 2024

5:30 PM

Council Chambers

CALL TO ORDER

Present: 6 - Councilperson Jason Capers, Councilperson Kevin Kelly, Council President Tony Thaxton, Vice President George Carmichael, Councilperson Andrea Ellis and Councilperson Grace Amos

Absent: 1 - Councilperson Shirley Jordan

Staff: 2 - Mayor Johnny Magee and City Council Clerk Sharon King

Staff Absent: 1 - City Attorney Deidra Bassi

PRAYER

Councilperson Andrea Ellis

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

ELECTION OF PRESIDENT

There came on before the Council the matter of electing a council member to serve as President of the City Council for the year beginning July 1, 2024 and ending July 1, 2025. Councilperson Carmichael nominated Councilman Thaxton, to serve as President of the Laurel City Council.

The President called for other nominations from the floor, there being no other nominations, the President called for votes on the matter and received the following results:

Votes for Councilman Tony Thaxton: Capers, Kelly, Thaxton, Carmichael, Ellis, Amos
Absent: Jordan

The President thereupon declared Councilman Thaxton the newly elected Council President for the year beginning July 1, 2024 and ending July 1, 2025.

This the 2nd day of July, A. D., 2024.

ELECTION OF VICE PRESIDENT

There came on before the City Council the matter of electing a Council member to serve as Vice President of the Council for the year beginning July 1, 2024 and ending July 1, 2025. Councilperson Kelly nominated Councilman Carmichael to serve as Vice-President of the Laurel City Council.

The President called for other nominations from the floor and there being no other nominations, the President called for a vote on the matter and received the following results:

Votes for Councilman Carmichael: Capers, Kelly, Thaxton, Carmichael, Ellis, Amos
Absent: Jordan

The President thereupon declared Councilman Carmichael to be the Vice-President of the Laurel City Council for the year beginning July 1, 2024 and ending July 3, 2025.

This the 2nd day of July, A. D., 2024.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. [ID 24-7265](#) June 18, 2024

Attachments: [CoL Minutes of 06182024](#)

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

Yea: 6 - Jason Capers, Kevin Kelly, Tony Thaxton, George Carmichael, Andrea Ellis and Grace Amos

Absent: 1 - Shirley Jordan

1. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Councilperson Kevin Kelly, seconded by Vice President George Carmichael, that the be that the agenda be amended as follows. Upon roll call vote the President declared the motion carried by the results as follows:

Delete Agenda Item 4K(G). Demolition of property assessed to Moses Brown Est % Cynthia McGilberry, 509 Sandy T. Gavin Ave. Total cost, including \$50 administrative fee, \$626.00, Ward 6

Yea: 6 - Jason Capers, Kevin Kelly, Tony Thaxton, George Carmichael, Andrea Ellis and Grace Amos

Absent: 1 - Shirley Jordan

2. PRESENTATION AGENDA

A. [ID 24-7269](#)

Monthly Budget Certification for April 2024.

Attachments: [Budget Certification Cover Sheet](#)
[Budget Certification Letter - April 2024](#)
[Revenue - April 2024](#)
[Sales Tax - April 2024](#)
[Tourism Tax - April 2024](#)
[Tourism Tax 3% HOTELS - April 2024](#)

Kristal Jones, City Clerk/Finance Director, presented the following Budget and Purchasing Certification for April 2024:

B. [ID 24-7270](#)

Monthly Budget Certification for May 2024.

Attachments: [Budget Certification Cover Sheet](#)
[Budget Certification Letter - May 2024](#)
[Revenue - May 2024](#)
[Sales Tax - May 2024](#)
[Tourism Tax - May 2024](#)
[Tourism Tax 3% HOTELS - May 2024](#)

Kristal Jones, City Clerk/Finance Director, presented the following Budget and Purchasing Certification for May 2024:

RECESS MEETING

Public Hearing Amended TIF Loan Grandview Drive Project/Hobb's Automotive/Cannon

Entering into the Public Agenda, Council President Thaxton declared the meeting in recess in order to conduct a public hearing which was in connection with the Amended Tax Increment Financing Plan related to the Hobbs' Automotive Grandview Drive/Cannon Project, this the 2nd day of July, A.D., 2024.

Council President Thaxton relinquished the floor to Mayor Magee and Laurence E. Leyens over the Cannon Project, who explained the purpose of the hearing. Following the explanation, the floor was opened, all present were given an opportunity to present oral and/or written comments on the TIF Plan. There being no comments or questions, Council President Thaxton concluded the hearing and declared to proceed with the Council Meeting, this the 2nd day of July, A.D., 2024.

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 24-7273](#)

Consider adopting A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE ADOPTION OF AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TAX INCREMENT FINANCING PLAN FOR GRANDVIEW DRIVE, CITY OF LAUREL, MISSISSIPPI, JANUARY 2024, AS AMENDED AND RESTATED JUNE 2024.

Attachments: [Resolution Approving Amended and Restated TIF Plan Grandview Drive 7.2.24](#)
[Resolution Approving Amended and Restated TIF Plan Grandview Drive 7.2.24 Exhibit A](#)

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: 6 - Jason Capers, Kevin Kelly, Tony Thaxton, George Carmichael, Andrea Ellis and Grace Amos

Absent: 1 - Shirley Jordan

B. [ID 24-7276](#)

Consider approving the First Reading of an Ordinance to grant a Zoning Change of property located at 1601 N. 5th Ave., from R-1, Low Density Residential District, to R-2, Medium Density Residential District, to Fredrick Martin Hamud, due to a change in the character of the neighborhood. Property is located in Ward 4.

Attachments: [1st Reading Zoning Change Ordinance 1601 N. 5th Ave.](#)
[Planning Zoning Minutes 050924](#)

A motion was made by Vice President George Carmichael, seconded by Councilperson Jason Capers, that the Ordinance be approved on first reading. Upon roll call vote the President declared the motion carried by the results as follows:

Yea: 6 - Jason Capers, Kevin Kelly, Tony Thaxton, George Carmichael, Andrea Ellis and Grace Amos

Absent: 1 - Shirley Jordan

C. [ID 24-7268](#)

Consider adopting a Resolution to accept and approve the bid for a Used Knuckleboom for Sanitation Department.

Attachments: [Resolution - Used Knuckleboom](#)
[Bid - RDK Assets Inc](#)

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: 6 - Jason Capers, Kevin Kelly, Tony Thaxton, George Carmichael, Andrea Ellis and Grace Amos

Absent: 1 - Shirley Jordan

D. [ID 24-7277](#)

Consider adopting an Order authorizing sale of City-owned surplus property that is a portion of 830 N 9TH Avenue.

Attachments: [ORDER -Accept Bid Surplus Property Bush, 9th Avenue 7.2.24](#)
[ORDER -Surplus Property Bush, 9th Avenue 7.2.24 ExhibitA](#)

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

Yea: 6 - Jason Capers, Kevin Kelly, Tony Thaxton, George Carmichael, Andrea Ellis and Grace Amos

Absent: 1 - Shirley Jordan

E. [ID 24-7278](#)

Consider adopting an Order to advertise request for sealed insurance proposals for the city-provided health insurance and group life insurance, as well as other benefit products for City of Laurel employees and elected officials for the upcoming 2024-2025 fiscal year.

Attachments: [Order - Sealed Proposal for Ins. Bids 6-25-24 revised](#)

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: 6 - Jason Capers, Kevin Kelly, Tony Thaxton, George Carmichael, Andrea Ellis and Grace Amos

Absent: 1 - Shirley Jordan

F. [ID 24-7272](#)

Consider adopting an Order Concerning the Appointment of Fran Casey to the City Planning Commission.

Attachments: [ORDAppPlanningCommissionFranCasey2024](#)
[ORDAppPlanningCommissionFranCasey2024.ExhibitA](#)

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

Yea: 6 - Jason Capers, Kevin Kelly, Tony Thaxton, George Carmichael, Andrea Ellis and Grace Amos

Absent: 1 - Shirley Jordan

G. [ID 24-7264](#)

Consider adopting an Order approving Nellie Satcher to travel to Gulfport, MS. to attend the Phelps Dunbar Annual Mississippi Labor and Employment Conference on July 24-26, 2024.

Attachments: [ORDER - Phelps Dunbar Annual MS Labor and Emp Law Conf 2024](#)

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

Yea: 6 - Jason Capers, Kevin Kelly, Tony Thaxton, George Carmichael, Andrea Ellis and Grace Amos

Absent: 1 - Shirley Jordan

H. [ID 24-7267](#)

Consider adopting an Order to approve in-state travel for Program Director, Kristi Howard, City Clerk, Kristal Jones, and Grant Writer, Whitney Pickering to attend the mandatory AmeriCorps 2024 Program Orientation in Ridgeland, MS to held July 25-26, 2024.

Attachments: [Order - Travel AmeriCorps 2024 Summer Training](#)

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

Yea: 6 - Jason Capers, Kevin Kelly, Tony Thaxton, George Carmichael, Andrea Ellis and Grace Amos

Absent: 1 - Shirley Jordan

I. [ID 24-7266](#)

Consider adopting an Order request that Captain William Sparrow and Officer Shaymira Morgan be allowed to attend the 2-Day 2024 (RITE) Racial Intelligence Training & Engagement Instructors Program held in Pearl, MS on July 25-26, 2024 at an estimated cost of \$1,516.68. Funds will be taken from the Police Department's Travel account #001-200-610-0.

Attachments: [RITE TRAINING PROGRAM JULY 25-26, 2024 PEARL, MS](#)

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: 6 - Jason Capers, Kevin Kelly, Tony Thaxton, George Carmichael, Andrea Ellis and Grace Amos

Absent: 1 - Shirley Jordan

J. [ID 24-7263](#)

Consider adopting an Order request that Kevin Jackson be allowed to attend the 45th Juvenile Justice Symposium Conference on August 7-9, 2024 in Biloxi, MS at an estimated cost of \$568.50.

Attachments: [45TH JUVENILE JUSTICE SYMPOSIUM HELD IN BILOXI, MS](#)

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

Yea: 6 - Jason Capers, Kevin Kelly, Tony Thaxton, George Carmichael, Andrea Ellis and Grace Amos

Absent: 1 - Shirley Jordan

K. [ID 24-7275](#)

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

- A. Demolition of property assessed to S Lavon Evans Jr. Realty LLC, 1413 W. 10th St.(1014 N. 14th Ave. Total cost, including \$50 administrative fee, \$4, 950.00 Ward 2
- B. Demolition of property assessed to S Lavon Evans Jr. Realty LLC, 1413 W. 10th St.(1016 N. 14th Ave. Total cost, including \$50 administrative fee, \$4, 950.00 Ward 2
- C. Demolition of property assessed to Gwendolyn Hutton Lee, 609 Masonite Dr. Total cost, including \$50 administrative fee, \$5, 056.00 Ward 5
- D. Demolition of property assessed to, August Nicholson, 1032 N. Dr. Deborah Hyde Ave. Total cost, including \$50 administrative fee, \$5, 056.00, Ward 5
- E. Demolition of property assessed to, Robert & Veronica Brannon, 1121 N. 8th Ave. Total cost, including \$50 administrative fee, \$5, 026.00, Ward 5
- F. Demolition of property assessed to Jimmy Lee Davidson Est. % Marilyn Milsap, 508 Monroe St. Total cost, including \$50 administrative fee, \$5, 040.00, Ward 6
- G. Demolition of property assessed to Moses Brown Est % Cynthia McGilberry, 509 Sandy T. Gavin Ave. Total cost, including \$50 administrative fee, \$626.00, Ward 6
- H. Demolition of property assessed to Mark A. Moss, 824 ½ S. 6th Ave. Total cost, including \$50 administrative fee, \$4, 550.00, Ward 6
- I. Demolition of property assessed to Chalmas Lee Donald, 831 S. 6th Ave. Total cost, including \$50 administrative fee, \$6, 056.00, Ward 6
- J. Demolition of property assessed to Zouhair Wafiq, 835 S. 6th Ave. Total cost, including \$50 administrative fee, \$5, 056.00, Ward 6
- K. Demolition of property assessed to Hollis Lavois Musgrove Et Al, 1538 Margaret Dr. Total cost, including \$50 administrative fee, \$4, 876.00, Ward 7
- L. Demolition of property assessed to Rhonda Jones & Clifford Johnkin, 1205 McConkey St. Total cost, including \$50 administrative fee, \$5, 049.00, Ward 7
- M. Demolition of property assessed to Walter Gordon Est. % Dorothy M. Jones, Total cost, including \$50 administrative fee, \$5, 056.00, Ward

Attachments: [Demo Assessments 070224](#)

[Demo Bills 7-2-24-06252024104037](#)

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: 6 - Jason Capers, Kevin Kelly, Tony Thaxton, George Carmichael, Andrea Ellis and Grace Amos

Absent: 1 - Shirley Jordan

L. [ID 24-7274](#)

Consider adopting an Order to approve lot cleaning assessments on the following properties:

- A. Cleaning of property assessed to Brenda & Walter L. Hampton, at 984 S. 19th Ave. Total assessed cost \$185.00 Ward 1
- B. Cleaning of property assessed to Dorothy Kay Garcia, at Lot N. of 3428 University Ave. Total assessed cost \$145.00 Ward 3
- C. Cleaning of property assessed to Matthew Scott Norman, at 712 E. Elmo St. Total assessed cost \$90.00 Ward 4
- D. Cleaning of property assessed to Detlef Redzepovic, at 1526 N. 1st Ave. Total assessed cost \$90.00 Ward 4
- E. Cleaning of property assessed to Robert Lee Clark, at 1813 N. Dr. Deborah Hyde Ave. Total assessed cost \$105.00 Ward 4
- F. Cleaning of property assessed to Phylis Tiller, at 2020 Lindsey Ave. Total assessed cost \$105.00 Ward 4
- G. Cleaning of property assessed to U & L Properties LLC, at 3 Lots SE of Walters Ave. Total assessed cost \$105.00 Ward 5
- H. Cleaning of property assessed to Brenda Marcombe, at 153 Chestnut St. Total assessed cost \$90.00 Ward 5
- I. Cleaning of property assessed to Brenda Marcombe, at 155 Chestnut St. Total assessed cost \$90.00 Ward 5
- J. Cleaning of property assessed to Valadez Properties LLC, at 609 N. Magnolia St. Total assessed cost \$105.00 Ward 5
- K. Cleaning of property assessed to Billy Earl Turner, at 706 E. 9th St. Total assessed cost \$105.00 Ward 5
- L. Cleaning of property assessed to Billy Earl Turner, at Lot E. of 706 E. 9th St. Total assessed cost \$90.00 Wd 5
- M. Cleaning of property assessed to Lama Mouazen, at 712 N. 1st Ave. Total assessed cost \$105.00 Ward 5
- N. Cleaning of property assessed to Judith A. Hughes, at 1026 N. 4th Ave. Total assessed cost \$90.00 Ward 5
- O. Cleaning of property assessed to James D. Cox % Judith A. Hughes, at 1036 N. 4th Ave. Total assessed cost \$90.00 Ward 5
- P. Cleaning of property assessed to Wiley Dash Jr. & Ethel Hardison % Ethel Hardison, at 16 Carney Dr. Total assessed cost \$75.00 Ward 7
- Q. Cleaning of property assessed to Mable L. Allen (LE) REM : Ellen T. Loper Et Al, at 22 Carney Dr. Total assessed cost \$75.00 Ward 7

Attachments: [Assessments 7-02-2024](#)

[Bills 7-2-24-06252024103256](#)

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: 6 - Jason Capers, Kevin Kelly, Tony Thaxton, George Carmichael, Andrea Ellis and Grace Amos

Absent: 1 - Shirley Jordan

5. ROUTINE AGENDA**A.** [ID 24-7271](#)

Consider adopting a Resolution to approve the Claims Docket.

Attachments: [CLAIMS DOCKET RESOLUTION ONLY](#)

[WARRANT JULY 02 2024](#)

[CLAIMS DOCKET JULY 02 2024](#)

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

Yea: 6 - Jason Capers, Kevin Kelly, Tony Thaxton, George Carmichael, Andrea Ellis and Grace Amos

Absent: 1 - Shirley Jordan

EXECUTIVE SESSION