



Regular Meeting Minutes
City Council

Tuesday, September 3, 2024 5:30 PM Council Chambers

CALL TO ORDER

- Present:** 7 - Councilperson Jason Capers, Councilperson Kevin Kelly, Council President Tony Thaxton, Vice President George Carmichael, Councilperson Andrea Ellis, Councilperson Grace Amos and Councilperson Shirley Jordan
- Staff:** 2 - Mayor Johnny Magee and City Council Clerk Sharon King
- Staff Absent:** 1 - City Attorney Deidra Bassi

PRAYER

Councilperson Tony Thaxton

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. [ID 24-7363](#) August 20, 2024

Attachments: [CoL Minutes of 08202024](#)

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

- Yea:** 7 - Jason Capers, Kevin Kelly, Tony Thaxton, George Carmichael, Andrea Ellis, Grace Amos and Shirley Jordan

- B. [ID 24-7386](#) August 26, 2024 - Budget Public Hearing Minutes

Attachments: [Budget Hearing Minutes FY2025 0001](#)

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

- Yea:** 7 - Jason Capers, Kevin Kelly, Tony Thaxton, George Carmichael, Andrea Ellis, Grace Amos and Shirley Jordan

- C. [ID 24-7390](#) August 26, 2024- Special Call Meeting

Attachments: [SpecialCallMeetingMinutes 08262024](#)

A motion was made by Councilperson Andrea Ellis, seconded by Councilperson Jason Capers, that the Minutes be approved. Upon roll call vote the President declared the motion carried by the results as follows:

- Yea:** 7 - Jason Capers, Kevin Kelly, Tony Thaxton, George Carmichael, Andrea Ellis, Grace Amos and Shirley Jordan

1. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

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

- Yea:** 7 - Jason Capers, Kevin Kelly, Tony Thaxton, George Carmichael, Andrea Ellis, Grace Amos and Shirley Jordan

2. PRESENTATION AGENDA

A. [ID 24-7371](#)

Monthly Report Budget certification for July 2024.

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

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

3. PUBLIC AGENDA

A. PUBLIC HEARING

1. SET PUBLIC HEARING

2. CONDUCT PUBLIC HEARING

A motion was made by Councilperson Grace Amos, seconded by Councilperson Jason Capers, to conduct a public hearing. Upon roll call vote the President declared the motion carried by the results as follows:

Yea: 7 - Jason Capers, Kevin Kelly, Tony Thaxton, George Carmichael, Andrea Ellis, Grace Amos and Shirley Jordan

A. [ID 24-7378](#)

Consider adopting a Resolution to conduct a public hearing on September 3, 2024 in regards to a property located at 903 Johnson St. (1040 S. 9th Ave.), belonging to Rosemary Griffin, to determine whether or not the property is in such a dilapidated state so as to be a menace to the public health and safety of the community. Property is located in Ward 6

Attachments: [Resolution 903 Johnson St.\(1040 S. 9th Ave.\)\(demo\)](#)
[903 Johnson St. \(1040 S. 9th Ave. Address on house\) Sep.3, 2024](#)
[R.903 Johnson St. \[1040 S. 9th Ave. dilap.\]-08092024120500](#)
[P.903 Johnson St. \[1040 S. 9th Ave. dilap.\]-08092024120520](#)

A motion was made by Councilperson Grace Amos, 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: 7 - Jason Capers, Kevin Kelly, Tony Thaxton, George Carmichael, Andrea Ellis, Grace Amos and Shirley Jordan

B. [ID 24-7379](#)

Consider adopting a Resolution to conduct a public hearing on September 3, 2024 in regards to a property located at 820 S. Magnolia St., belonging to L C Cooley, to determine whether or not the property is in such a dilapidated state so as to be a menace to the public health and safety of the community. Property is located in Ward 7

Attachments: [Resolution 820 S. Magnolia St.\(demo\)](#)
[820 S. Magnolia St. Sep.3, 2024](#)
[R.820 S. Magnolia St. \(carport\)-08092024120835](#)
[P.820 S. Magnolia St. \(carport\)-08092024120858](#)

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

Yea: 7 - Jason Capers, Kevin Kelly, Tony Thaxton, George Carmichael, Andrea Ellis, Grace Amos and Shirley Jordan

C. [ID 24-7381](#)

Consider adopting a Resolution to conduct a public hearing on September 3, 2024 in regards to a property located at 825 S. Magnolia St., belonging to Maderia Bingham, to determine whether or not the property is in such a dilapidated state so as to be a menace to the public health and safety of the community. Property is located in Ward 7

Attachments: [Resolution 825 S. Magnolia St.\(demo\)](#)
[825 S. Magnolia St. Sep.3, 2024](#)
[R.825 S. Magnolia St-08092024120715](#)
[P.825 S. Magnolia St-08092024120735](#)

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

Yea: 7 - Jason Capers, Kevin Kelly, Tony Thaxton, George Carmichael, Andrea Ellis, Grace Amos and Shirley Jordan

D. [ID 24-7382](#)

Consider adopting a Resolution to conduct a public hearing on September 3, 2024 in regards to a property located at 1212 Simmons St., belonging to Rudolph V Edwards Est., to determine whether or not the property is in such a dilapidated state so as to be a menace to the public health and safety of the community. Property is located in Ward 7

Attachments: [Resolution 1212 Simmons St.\(demo\)](#)
[1212 Simmons St. Sep.3, 2024](#)
[R.1212 Simmons St-08092024120627](#)
[P.1212 Simmons St-08092024120601](#)

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

Yea: 7 - Jason Capers, Kevin Kelly, Tony Thaxton, George Carmichael, Andrea Ellis, Grace Amos and Shirley Jordan

E. [ID 24-7383](#)

Consider adopting a Resolution to conduct a public hearing on September 3, 2024 in regards to a property located at 1805 Pearson St., belonging to Charlie Semmons, to determine whether or not the property is in such a dilapidated state so as to be a menace to the public health and safety of the community. Property is located in Ward 7

Attachments: [Resolution 1805 Pearson Ave.\(demo\)](#)
[1805 Pearson Ave. Sep.3, 2024](#)
[R.1805 Pearson Ave-08092024120332](#)
[P.1805 Pearson Ave-08092024120303](#)

A motion was made by Councilperson Shirley Jordan, seconded by Councilperson Jason Capers, that the Resolution be adopted as amended, allowing a 60 days extension. Upon roll call vote the President declared the motion carried by the results as follows:

Yea: 7 - Jason Capers, Kevin Kelly, Tony Thaxton, George Carmichael, Andrea Ellis, Grace Amos and Shirley Jordan

B. CITIZENS HEARING

C. CITIZENS FORUM

Bethany Moffett

4. POLICY AGENDA

A. [ID 24-7384](#)

Consider adopting a Resolution giving the administration authority to approve an agreement for general consulting engineering services.

Attachments: [Resolution](#)

[AGREEMENT FOR GENERAL CONSULTING ENGINEERING SERVICES](#)

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

Yea: 7 - Jason Capers, Kevin Kelly, Tony Thaxton, George Carmichael, Andrea Ellis, Grace Amos and Shirley Jordan

B. [ID 24-7372](#)

Consider adopting a Resolution giving the administration authority to approve professional services contract for the 2025 City Wide Paving Project.

Attachments: [Resolution](#)

[Engineering Contract](#)

A motion was made by Councilperson Grace Amos, 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: 7 - Jason Capers, Kevin Kelly, Tony Thaxton, George Carmichael, Andrea Ellis, Grace Amos and Shirley Jordan

C. [ID 24-7373](#)

Consider adopting a Resolution granting the administration authority to execute a professional services agreement for the preparation of an application to the MDOT Transportation Alternatives (TA) Program for the Magnolia Street Pedestrian Improvements Project.

Attachments: [RESOLUTION](#)

[Letter Agreement](#)

A motion was made by Councilperson Grace Amos, 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: 7 - Jason Capers, Kevin Kelly, Tony Thaxton, George Carmichael, Andrea Ellis, Grace Amos and Shirley Jordan

D. [ID 24-7374](#)

Consider adopting a Resolution granting the administration authority to submit an application to the MDOT Transportation Alternatives (TA) Program for the Magnolia Street Pedestrian Improvements Project.

Attachments: [RESOLUTION](#)

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

Yea: 7 - Jason Capers, Kevin Kelly, Tony Thaxton, George Carmichael, Andrea Ellis, Grace Amos and Shirley Jordan

E. [ID 24-7375](#)

Consider adopting a Resolution giving the administration authority to execute a professional services agreement for the design of the 2023 RAISE Grant Project, Completing Downtown Laurel.

Attachments: [RESOLUTION-RAISE GRANT Contract](#)

[preliminary engineering contract](#)

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

Yea: 7 - Jason Capers, Kevin Kelly, Tony Thaxton, George Carmichael, Andrea Ellis, Grace Amos and Shirley Jordan

F. [ID 24-7370](#)

Consider adopting an Order to approve the budget for fiscal year ending September 30, 2025.

Attachments: [Order - Budget Adoption](#)
[Published Budget for FY 2025](#)

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

G. [ID 24-7364](#)

Consider adopting a Resolution Regarding Updating Designated Agents Related to Department of Justice Grants.

Attachments: [RESUpdateEntityAgentsDOJJusticeGrants2024](#)

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

Yea: 7 - Jason Capers, Kevin Kelly, Tony Thaxton, George Carmichael, Andrea Ellis, Grace Amos and Shirley Jordan

H. [ID 24-7365](#)

Consider adopting an Order to Authorize Application of the FY2021 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant and Execution of Documents for Acceptance and Implementation of the Grant if Awarded.

Attachments: [ORD Authorize Application FY2021 Byrne Memorial JAG 9.3.24](#)

A motion was made by Councilperson Jason Capers, 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: 7 - Jason Capers, Kevin Kelly, Tony Thaxton, George Carmichael, Andrea Ellis, Grace Amos and Shirley Jordan

I. [ID 24-7376](#)

Consider adopting an Order Approving an Amended Interlocal Agreement with Jones County for the Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) FY2021 Award.

Attachments: [ORDApproveAmendedInterlocalAgreementJonesCountyJAGFY2021](#)
[ORDApproveAmendedInterlocalAgreementJonesCountyJAGFY2021.ExhibitA](#)

A motion was made by Councilperson Jason Capers, 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: 7 - Jason Capers, Kevin Kelly, Tony Thaxton, George Carmichael, Andrea Ellis, Grace Amos and Shirley Jordan

J. [ID 24-7377](#)

Consider adopting an Order Authorizing an Amended Interlocal Agreement with Jones County for the Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) FY2022 Award.

Attachments: [ORDApproveAmendedInterlocalAgreementJonesCountyJAGFY2022](#)
[ORDApproveAmendedInterlocalAgreementJonesCountyJAGFY2022.ExhibitA](#)

A motion was made by Vice President George Carmichael, 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: 7 - Jason Capers, Kevin Kelly, Tony Thaxton, George Carmichael, Andrea Ellis, Grace Amos and Shirley Jordan

K. [ID 24-7368](#)

Consider adopting an Order to declare surplus property to be sold as scrap, sold through auction, or destroyed.

Attachments: [2024 SURPLUS PROPERTY](#)
[DOC082624-08262024124006](#)
[DOC082624-08262024144641](#)

A motion was made by Vice President George Carmichael, 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: 7 - Jason Capers, Kevin Kelly, Tony Thaxton, George Carmichael, Andrea Ellis, Grace Amos and Shirley Jordan

L. [ID 24-7367](#)

Consider adopting an Order approving the request that the Laurel Police Department be allowed to accept the donation of K-9 Maximus (Max) from Lieutenant John Stringer as an active-duty patrol officer.

Attachments: [DONATION OF K-9 MAXIMUS \(MAX\)](#)

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

M. [ID 24-7369](#)

Consider adopting an Order approving the request that the Laurel Police Department be allowed to purchase forty-two (42) Tasers and forty-two (42) Cameras from Axon Enterprises, Inc.

Attachments: [2024 5-YEAR TASER LEASE AGREEMENT](#)
[AXON MASTER SERVICE AND PURCHASING AGREEMENT v22](#)

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

N. [ID 24-7380](#)

Consider adopting a Resolution Appointing Andrew Ousley to the Board of Directors of the Economic Development Authority of Jones County.

Attachments: [RESAppEDAousley2024](#)
[RESAppEDAousley2024.ExhibitA](#)

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

Yea: 7 - Jason Capers, Kevin Kelly, Tony Thaxton, George Carmichael, Andrea Ellis, Grace Amos and Shirley Jordan

O. [ID 24-7388](#)

Consider adopting an Order to approve in-state travel for the City Clerk, Kristal Jones, to attend the 2025 Grant Implementation Meeting located at the Mississippi Office of Highway Safety.

Attachments: [Order - Travel MOHS Grant Implementation](#)

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

P. [ID 24-7360](#)

CONSIDER ADOPTING AN ORDER TO APPROVE TRAVEL FOR MUNICIPAL COURT ADMINISTRATOR, REBECCA CLARK, TO ATTEND THE ANNUAL MUNICIPAL COURT CLERKS TRAINING COURSE IN BILOXI, MS ON SEPTEMBER 18-20, 2024.

Attachments: [2024 Municipal Court Clerks Training](#)

A motion was made by Councilperson Jason Capers, 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: 7 - Jason Capers, Kevin Kelly, Tony Thaxton, George Carmichael, Andrea Ellis, Grace Amos and Shirley Jordan

Q. [ID 24-7366](#)

Consider adopting an Order approving travel expenses for Public Relations Specialist Kat Romero to attend the 2024 Southern Public Relations Federation Conference in Biloxi, MS, October 20-23, 2024

Attachments: [TRAVEL ORDER 2024 SPRF Conference Kat Romero PR Specialist](#)

A motion was made by Vice President George Carmichael, 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: 7 - Jason Capers, Kevin Kelly, Tony Thaxton, George Carmichael, Andrea Ellis, Grace Amos and Shirley Jordan

R. [ID 24-7387](#)

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

- A. Demolition of property assessed to Lue Creasie McGill, 2219 N. 3rd Ave. Total cost, including \$50 administrative fee, \$2,050.00 Ward 4
- B. Demolition of property assessed to Charles E. Larkin, 1811 N. 1st Ave. Total cost, including \$50 administrative fee, \$26 recording fee \$5,076.00 Ward 4
- C. Demolition of property assessed to Barbara Toliver, 1507 N. Meridian Ave. Total cost, including \$50 administrative fee, \$26 recording fee \$5,076.00 Ward 4
- D. Demolition of property assessed to James E Cooley, 128 W. 23rd St. Total cost, including \$50 administrative fee, \$26 recording fee \$5,066.00 Ward 4

Attachments: [Demo Assessments 090324](#)
[Demo Bills-08272024113330](#)

A motion was made by Vice President George Carmichael, 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: 7 - Jason Capers, Kevin Kelly, Tony Thaxton, George Carmichael, Andrea Ellis, Grace Amos and Shirley Jordan

5. ROUTINE AGENDA

A. [ID 24-7385](#)

Consider adopting a Resolution to approve the Claims Docket.

Attachments: [CLAIMS DOCKET RESOLUTION ONLY](#)
[WARRANT SEPTEMBER 03 2024](#)
[CLAIMS DOCKET SEPTEMBER 03 2024](#)

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

Yea: 7 - Jason Capers, Kevin Kelly, Tony Thaxton, George Carmichael, Andrea Ellis, Grace Amos and Shirley Jordan

EXECUTIVE SESSION