



City of Laurel

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

Regular Meeting Minutes City Council

Tuesday, March 18, 2025

9:00 AM

Council Chambers

CALL TO ORDER

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

PRAYER

Councilperson Tony Thaxton

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. [ID 25-7674](#) March 4, 2025

Attachments: [CoL Minutes of 03042025](#)

A motion was made by Councilperson Jason Capers, 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: 5 - Jason Capers, Kevin Kelly, Tony Thaxton, George Carmichael and Grace Amos

Absent: 2 - Andrea Ellis and Shirley Jordan

1. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Councilperson Jason Capers, seconded by Councilperson Kevin Kelly, 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 2C., Proclamation honoring Mrs. Lula Cooley upon her retirement from the City of Laurel.

Yea: 5 - Jason Capers, Kevin Kelly, Tony Thaxton, George Carmichael and Grace Amos

Absent: 2 - Andrea Ellis and Shirley Jordan

2. PRESENTATION AGENDA

- A. [ID 25-7658](#)

Consider hearing a Presentation from the 2024-2025 Provisional Class of the Junior Auxiliary of Laurel for a project at Gardiner Park.

Attachments: [Presentation-Junior Auxliary of Laurel Gardiner Park Project](#)
[Laurel Auxiliary Project 0001](#)

This Presentation was presented by Ivy Holder, representative of Provisional Class of the Junior Auxiliary of Laurel.

- B. [ID 25-7663](#)

Monthly Report Privilege Taxes February 2025.

Attachments: [Cover Letter](#)
[MONTHLY REPORT 2025](#)
[New Business License List](#)

There came on before the City Council a report of privilege licenses that have been issued for the month of February, 2025. This report can be reviewed in the City Clerk's office.

C. [ID 25-7678](#)

Proclamation honoring Mrs. Lula Cooley upon her retirement from the City of Laurel.

Attachments: [Proclamation-Cooley](#)

This Presentation was presented by Mayor Johnny Magee and Councilperson Grace Amos of Ward 6.

3. PUBLIC AGENDA

A. PUBLIC HEARING

1. SET PUBLIC HEARING

A. [ID 25-7669](#)

Consider adopting an Order to set a date of April 22, 2025 to conduct a public hearing in regards to the properties listed to determine whether or not the properties are in such a state of dilapidation so as to be a menace to the public health of the community:

- A. Terry L. Tolar, dilapidated structure at 1536 Lindsey Ave. PPIN 8056, Ward 4
- B. Lawanda Michelle Love, dilapidate structure at 612 E. Kingston St. PPIN 13674, Ward 5
- C. Felicia Robinson, dilapidated structure at 623 E. Kingston St. PPIN 13664, Ward 5
- D. Ricky Lee Maye, dilapidated shed at 703 S. 6th Ave. PPIN 9813, Ward 6

Attachments: [Sets 4-22-25](#)
[Notices 4-22-25-03102025151039](#)

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

Yea: 5 - Jason Capers, Kevin Kelly, Tony Thaxton, George Carmichael and Grace Amos

Absent: 2 - Andrea Ellis and Shirley Jordan

2. CONDUCT PUBLIC HEARING

B. CITIZENS HEARING

C. CITIZENS FORUM

Anthony Hudson, 2216 Center Avenue, Laurel, MS
William Hanley, 1008 N. 7th Avenue, Laurel, MS
Steven Griffin, 721 E. 17th Street, Laurel, MS
Titania Black, 198 Keyhea/Gore Road, Laurel, MS

4. POLICY AGENDA

A. [ID 25-7659](#)

Consider adopting an Order Authorizing Acceptance of a Project at Gardiner Park by the 2024-2025 Provisional Class of the Junior Auxiliary of Laurel.

Attachments: [ORDAcceptDonationJuniorAuxiliaryCommunicationBoardGardinerPark3.18.25](#)

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: 5 - Jason Capers, Kevin Kelly, Tony Thaxton, George Carmichael and Grace Amos

Absent: 2 - Andrea Ellis and Shirley Jordan

B. [ID 25-7660](#)

Consider adopting an Order Authorizing Mayor Johnny Magee, Acting on Behalf of the City of Laurel, to Sign an Agreement with Body Works for Lease of the Multi-Purpose Room at the Natatorium.

Attachments: [ORDAuthorizeLeaseAgreementBodyWorksNatatorium2025](#)
[ORDAuthorizeLeaseAgreementBodyWorksNatatorium3.18.25](#)

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: 5 - Jason Capers, Kevin Kelly, Tony Thaxton, George Carmichael and Grace Amos

Absent: 2 - Andrea Ellis and Shirley Jordan

C. [ID 25-7665](#)

Consider Adopting A Resolution Granting The Administration Authority To Advertise For Construction Of The Central Avenue Phase II - Roadway And Pedestrian Improvements Project.

Attachments: [RESOLUTION-Auth to Adv](#)

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: 5 - Jason Capers, Kevin Kelly, Tony Thaxton, George Carmichael and Grace Amos

Absent: 2 - Andrea Ellis and Shirley Jordan

D. [ID 25-7666](#)

Consider adopting a Resolution regarding Authorization of the Mayor to Sign the Request for Cash, the Reporting Worksheet, and the Recipient's Closeout Checklists Under the State of Mississippi CDBG Program Project Number 1138-22-228-PF-01/ 1136-22-228-PF-02 and make the requested payment of invoices related to Application #8 - Final.

Attachments: [Resolution - CDBG Payment Request - Closeout](#)
[Request #8 - Memorandum-RFC CDBG Public Facilities](#)
[1138-22-228-PF-01](#)
[Request #8 Close-Out Request for Cash](#)
[Recipient's Closeout CheckList 1138-22-228-PF-01](#)
[Recipient's Closeout CheckList 1136-22-228-PF-02](#)

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: 5 - Jason Capers, Kevin Kelly, Tony Thaxton, George Carmichael and Grace Amos

Absent: 2 - Andrea Ellis and Shirley Jordan

E. [ID 25-7662](#)

Consider adopting an Order Authorizing Mayor Johnny Magee, Acting on Behalf of the City of Laurel, to Enter into an Agreement with the Southern MS Planning and Development District for a Senior Community Service Employment Program.

Attachments: [ORDAuthorizeAgreementSMPDDSeniorCommunityServiceEmploymentProgram3.18.25](#)
[ORDAuthorizeAgreementSMPDDSeniorCommunityServiceEmploymentProgram3.18.25.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: 5 - Jason Capers, Kevin Kelly, Tony Thaxton, George Carmichael and Grace Amos

Absent: 2 - Andrea Ellis and Shirley Jordan

F. [ID 25-7668](#)

Consider adopting an Order request that Melicia Cooper be allowed to attend the 2025 End Violence Against Women International Conference on April 21-25, 2025 in Anaheim, CA at an estimated cost of \$3,095.34. Funds will be taken from the Victims Advocate Travel Account 121-200-610-0.

Attachments: [2025 END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN INTERNATIONAL ANAHEIM, CA](#)

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, George Carmichael and Grace Amos

Absent: 2 - Andrea Ellis and Shirley Jordan

G. [ID 25-7667](#)

Consider adopting an Order request that Melicia Cooper be allowed to attend the 2025 Conference Against Women Conference in Dallas, TX on May 18-22, 2025 at an estimated cost of \$2,672.85. Funds will be taken from the Police Department Travel account #001-200-610-0.

Attachments: [2025 CONFERENCE ON CRIMES AGAINST DALLAS, TX](#)

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, George Carmichael and Grace Amos

Absent: 2 - Andrea Ellis and Shirley Jordan

H. [ID 25-7661](#)

Consider adopting an Order approving meals, registration and hotel expenses for the Superintendent of Inspection, Sandra Hadley, to attend the 2025 Building Officials Association of Mississippi Summer Conference in Gulfport, MS on June 9-13, 2025 at an estimated cost of \$1,783.00 and shall be paid from Inspection Department Travel, Job Training, and Meals Account 001-280-610.0.

Attachments: [ORDER conference BOAM](#)

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, George Carmichael and Grace Amos

Absent: 2 - Andrea Ellis and Shirley Jordan

I. [ID 25-7677](#)

Consider adopting an Order approving travel, meals, registration and hotel expenses for the elected officials and municipal clerks to attend the Mississippi Municipal League Annual Summer Conference in Biloxi, MS on July 21-24, 2025.

Attachments: [ORDER APPROVING TRAVEL FOR ELECTED OFFICIALS MML SUMMER CONFERENCE 2025](#)

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, George Carmichael and Grace Amos

Absent: 2 - Andrea Ellis and Shirley Jordan

J. [ID 25-7673](#)

Consider adopting an Order to grant a Special exception renewal to James Perkins to allow parking of a major recreational vehicle on property located at 514 E. 19th St. Property is zoned R-1 and located in Ward 4.

Attachments: [Order Special Exception Renewal James Perkins 030425](#)
[Planning & Zoning Minutes 021325](#)

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: 5 - Jason Capers, Kevin Kelly, Tony Thaxton, George Carmichael and Grace Amos

Absent: 2 - Andrea Ellis and Shirley Jordan

K. [ID 25-7672](#)

Consider adopting an Order to grant a Special exception renewal to Kathy Fukuda to allow operation of a short-term rental with two separate units under one structure to be located at 624 W. 12th St. Property is zoned R-1 and located in Ward 5.

Attachments: [Order Special Exception Renewal Kathy Fukada 030425](#)
[Planning & Zoning Minutes 021325](#)

A motion was made by Councilperson Jason Capers, 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, George Carmichael and Grace Amos

Absent: 2 - Andrea Ellis and Shirley Jordan

L. [ID 25-7671](#)

Consider adopting a Resolution Authorizing Re-appointment of Certain Members to the Laurel Tree Board.

Attachments: [RESAppTreeBoardGroupReAppoint2025](#)

A motion was made by Councilperson Jason Capers, 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: 5 - Jason Capers, Kevin Kelly, Tony Thaxton, George Carmichael and Grace Amos

Absent: 2 - Andrea Ellis and Shirley Jordan

5. ROUTINE AGENDA

A. [ID 25-7675](#)

Consider adopting an Order to ratify approval of notice of April 10, 2025 for a Planning & Zoning Commission public hearing meeting.

Attachments: [ORDER planning commission 041025](#)

A motion was made by Councilperson Jason Capers, 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, George Carmichael and Grace Amos

Absent: 2 - Andrea Ellis and Shirley Jordan

B. [ID 25-7676](#)

Consider adopting a Resolution to approve the Claims Docket.

Attachments: [RESOLUTION.docx](#)
[CLAIMS DOCKET MARCH 18 2025](#)
[WARRANT MARCH 18 2025](#)

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, George Carmichael and Grace Amos

Absent: 2 - Andrea Ellis and Shirley Jordan

EXECUTIVE SESSION