



City of Laurel

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

Regular Meeting Minutes City Council

Tuesday, October 7, 2025

5:30 PM

Council Chambers

CALL TO ORDER

- Present:** 7 - Vice President Jason Capers, Councilperson Kevin Kelly, Council President George Carmichael, Councilperson Andrea Thomas, Councilperson Grace Amos, Councilperson Marian Allen and Councilperson Angie Scruggs
- Staff:** 3 - Mayor Johnny Magee, City Council Clerk Sharon King and City Attorney Brett Robinson

PRAYER

Councilperson Marian Allen

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. [ID 25-7989](#)

September 16, 2025

Attachments: [CoL Minutes of 09162025](#)

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

Yea: 5 - Jason Capers, George Carmichael, Grace Amos, Marian Allen and Angie Scruggs

Abstain: 2 - Kevin Kelly and Andrea Thomas

1. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Councilperson Grace Amos, seconded by Councilperson Angie Scruggs, 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, George Carmichael, Andrea Thomas, Grace Amos, Marian Allen and Angie Scruggs

2. PRESENTATION AGENDA

A. [ID 25-8011](#)

Consider adopting the Monthly Budget Certification for August 2025.

Attachments: [Certification Cover Sheet - August 2025](#)

[Certification Letter - August 2025](#)

[Revenue - August 2025](#)

[Sales Tax](#)

[Tourism Tax](#)

[Tourism Tax 3% HOTELS](#)

Kristal Jones, City Clerk/Finance Director, presented the following Budget and Purchasing Certification for August 2025:

3. PUBLIC AGENDA

A. PUBLIC HEARING

1. SET PUBLIC HEARING

2. CONDUCT PUBLIC HEARING

A motion was made by Councilperson Grace Amos, seconded by Council President George Carmichael, 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, George Carmichael, Andrea Thomas, Grace Amos, Marian Allen and Angie Scruggs

A. [ID 25-8003](#)

Consider adopting a Resolution to conduct a public hearing on October 7, 2025 in regards to a property located at 124 W. 19th St., belonging to Symbiotic Partners LLC, to determine whether or not the property is in such a state of dilapidation so as to be a menace to the public health and safety of the community. Property is located in Ward 4.

Attachments: [Resolution 124 W. 19th St.\(demo\)](#)
[124 W 19th Ave. Oct 7,2025](#)
[R.124 W 19th Ave-09162025135657](#)
[P.124 W 19th Ave-09162025135641](#)

A motion was made by Councilperson Grace Amos, seconded by Council 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, George Carmichael, Andrea Thomas, Grace Amos, Marian Allen and Angie Scruggs

B. [ID 25-8004](#)

Consider adopting a Resolution to conduct a public hearing on October 7, 2025 in regards to a property located at 1113 N. Mississippi Ave., belonging to Karlee Henderson, to determine whether or not the property is in such a state of dilapidation so as to be a menace to the public health and safety of the community. Property is located in Ward 4.

Attachments: [Resolution 1113 N. Mississippi Ave.\(demo\)](#)
[1113 N. Mississippi Ave. Oct 7,2025](#)
[R.1113 N Mississippi Ave-09162025135553](#)
[P.1113 N Mississippi Ave-09162025135609](#)

A motion was made by Councilperson Grace Amos, seconded by Council 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, George Carmichael, Andrea Thomas, Grace Amos, Marian Allen and Angie Scruggs

B. CITIZENS HEARING

A. [ID 25-7997](#)

Mark Henderson

Attachments: [Mark Henderson Citizens Hearing Request_0001](#)

President Carmichael introduced Mr. Mark Henderson, owner of Blue Moon Rentals, LLC. Mr. Henderson gave the Council a handout on issues addressed.

C. CITIZENS FORUM

4. POLICY AGENDA

A. [ID 25-7995](#)

Consider adopting an Order Authorizing the Economic Development Authority of Jones County to Negotiate with Mississippi Development Authority and Jones County for Incentives and Grants Related to Economic Development Projects in Laurel.

Attachments: [ORDAuthorizeEDANegotiateGrantIncentiveswithMDA&JonesCounty10.7.25](#)

A motion was made by Vice President 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, George Carmichael, Andrea Thomas, Grace Amos, Marian Allen and Angie Scruggs

B. [ID 25-8007](#)

Consider adopting a Resolution for the consideration of the matter of authorizing and approving a loan on behalf of the City of Laurel from the Mississippi Development Authority for the purpose of completing capital improvements identified as Amick Farms Anaerobic Lagoon Improvements to be held on Tuesday, November 18, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

Attachments: [Resolution CAP Notice](#)
[Public Hearing Notice - CAP Loan](#)

A motion was made by Vice President Jason Capers, seconded by Councilperson Angie Scruggs, 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, George Carmichael, Andrea Thomas, Grace Amos, Marian Allen and Angie Scruggs

C. [ID 25-8008](#)

Consider adopting a Resolution to authorize the Mayor to sign a contract with Sample, Hicks, and Associates, Inc. for Capital Improvements (CAP) Loan Programs and Mississippi Land, Water, and Timber Resources Program for application preparation and administrative services.

Attachments: [Resolution - CAP Loan Contract - Sample, Hicks, & Assoc](#)
[Sample, Hicks, & Assoc. CONTRACT](#)

A motion was made by Councilperson Grace Amos, seconded by Vice President 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, George Carmichael, Andrea Thomas, Grace Amos, Marian Allen and Angie Scruggs

D. [ID 25-8013](#)

Consider adopting a Resolution giving the administration authority to approve Change Order No. 1 for the 2025 Citywide Paving Project.

Attachments: [Resolution CO1](#)
[2025 Citywide Paving Project- Change Order Request #1](#)

A motion was made by Vice President 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: 7 - Jason Capers, Kevin Kelly, George Carmichael, Andrea Thomas, Grace Amos, Marian Allen and Angie Scruggs

E. [ID 25-8006](#)

Consider adopting a Resolution to Accept Proposal and Authorize Agreement with Compass Media for Digital Media Services for Tourism Marketing for the City of Laurel.

Attachments: [RESAuthorizeAgreementCompasMediaTourismCampaign.10.7.25](#)
[RESAuthorizeAgreementCompassMediaDigitalTourismMarketing.10.7.25.ExhibitA](#)

A motion was made by Councilperson Grace Amos, seconded by Vice President 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, George Carmichael, Andrea Thomas, Grace Amos, Marian Allen and Angie Scruggs

F. [ID 25-7996](#)

Consider approving the First Reading of an Ordinance to Close a Portion of the Alley off Adams Street Going South Between South 13th Avenue and South 12th Avenue.

Attachments: [ORDINANCEAbandonAlley307S13thAvenue.FIRST READING.10.7.25](#)
[ORDINANCEAbandonAlley307S13thAvenue.FIRST READING.10.7.25ExhibitA](#)

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

Yea: 7 - Jason Capers, Kevin Kelly, George Carmichael, Andrea Thomas, Grace Amos, Marian Allen and Angie Scruggs

G. [ID 25-7992](#)

Consider approving the Second Reading of AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 1415-2002, 1497-2007, 1527-2008, 1542-2009, 1569-2010, 1583-2011, 1595-2012, 1603-2013, 1616-2014, 1624-2016, 1655-2017, 1676-2018, 1686-2019, 1695-2020, 1707-2021, 1720-2022, 1743-2023, 1756-2024, AND 1772-2025 FROM CHAPTER 25, “WATER”, OF THE CITY OF LAUREL CODE OF ORDINANCES PERTAINING TO ARTICLE IV. “RATES AND CHARGES”, SECTION 25-53: WATER RATES, INDUSTRIAL CUSTOMERS.

Attachments: [ORDINANCE Amend Chapter 25 Section 53 Industrial Water Rate-Second Reading 10.7.25](#)
[ORDINANCE Amend Chapter 25 Section 53 Industrial Water Rate-Second Reading 10.7.25 EXHIBIT A](#)

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

Yea: 7 - Jason Capers, Kevin Kelly, George Carmichael, Andrea Thomas, Grace Amos, Marian Allen and Angie Scruggs

Enactment No: 1776-2025

H. [ID 25-7991](#)

Consider approving the Second Reading of an Ordinance for the Registration and Regulation of Vacant Commercial Properties and Vacant Commercial Lots in the City of Laurel.

Attachments: [ORDINANCERegulatingVacantCommercialPropertiesandLots.Second Reading 10.7.25](#)

A motion was made by Vice President Jason Capers, seconded by Council President George Carmichael, that the Ordinance be postponed indefinitely. Upon roll call vote the President declared the motion carried by the results as follows:

Yea: 7 - Jason Capers, Kevin Kelly, George Carmichael, Andrea Thomas, Grace Amos, Marian Allen and Angie Scruggs

I. [ID 25-7999](#)

Consider adopting an Order to Consider Entering an Agreement with Amanda Roll for Tourism Consulting Services.

Attachments: [ORDApproveAgreementRollTourismConsultingServices10.7.25](#)
[ORDApproveAgreementRollTourismConsultingServices10.7.25.Exhibit A](#)

A motion was made by Vice President 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, George Carmichael, Andrea Thomas, Grace Amos, Marian Allen and Angie Scruggs

J. [ID 25-7998](#)

Consider adopting an Order to approve an advertisement for sealed bids for the design and installation of the Mason Park Playground.

Attachments: [RESAuthorizingAdvertisementforBidsDesign&InstallationMasonParkPlayground10.7.25](#)
[RESAuthorizingAdvertisementforBidsDesign&InstallationMasonParkPlayground10.7.25.ExhibitA](#)

A motion was made by Vice President Jason Capers, seconded by Councilperson Marian Allen, 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, George Carmichael, Andrea Thomas, Grace Amos, Marian Allen and Angie Scruggs

K. [ID 25-8001](#)

Consider adopting an Order to approve the Tourism Tax transfer to the Magnolia Center for FY 2025.

Attachments: [Order - Magnolia Center Appropriation](#)

A motion was made by Vice President Jason Capers, seconded by Councilperson Angie Scruggs, 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, George Carmichael, Andrea Thomas, Grace Amos, Marian Allen and Angie Scruggs

L. [ID 25-7993](#)

Consider adopting an Order approving Elvin Ulmer, Parks & Recreation Director, to travel to the annual Deep South Turf Expo in Biloxi, MS, October 27 - 30, 2025.

Attachments: [ORDER 2025 DEEP SOUTH TURF EXPO](#)
[DEEP SOUTH TURF EXPO 2025_0001](#)

A motion was made by Councilperson Grace Amos, seconded by Vice President 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, George Carmichael, Andrea Thomas, Grace Amos, Marian Allen and Angie Scruggs

M. [ID 25-7990](#)

Consider adopting an Order to approve travel for LPD Officer, Walter Blakeney, to attend the 2025 NRA (National Rifle Association) Patrol Rifle Instructor Course in Florence, AL on November 17-21, 2025 at an estimated cost of \$1065.60. Funds will be taken from the Police Department's Travel account #001-200-610-0.

Attachments: [MITCH BLAKENEY -- 2025 PATROL RIFLE INSTRUCTOR COURSE FLORENCE, AL - NOVEMBER](#)

A motion was made by Vice President Jason Capers, seconded by Councilperson Marian Allen, 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, George Carmichael, Andrea Thomas, Grace Amos, Marian Allen and Angie Scruggs

N. [ID 25-7987](#)

Consider adopting an Order to approve travel for the Municipal Clerks, Kristal Jones, Lauren Stewart, and Ann Brown, to attend the 2025 Winter MMCCA Conference in Flowood, MS, December 9-12, 2025.

Attachments: [TRAVEL ORDER 2025 WINTER MMCCA](#)
[2025 Winter MMCCA Conference Ad](#)

A motion was made by Vice President Jason Capers, seconded by Councilperson Marian Allen, 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, George Carmichael, Andrea Thomas, Grace Amos, Marian Allen and Angie Scruggs

O. [ID 25-8002](#)

Consider adopting a Resolution to accept the Municipal Compliance Questionnaire for FY 2025.

Attachments: [Resolution - Municipal Compliance Questionnaire](#)
[Municipal Compliance Questionnaire](#)
[ADDRESS LISTING OF MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS](#)
[2025-2026](#)

A motion was made by Vice President Jason Capers, seconded by Councilperson Angie Scruggs, 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, George Carmichael, Andrea Thomas, Grace Amos, Marian Allen and Angie Scruggs

P. [ID 25-7994](#)

Consider adopting a Resolution to accept the sealed bids for Bank Depository Services effective January 01, 2026 to December 31, 2029.

Attachments: [Resolution - Depository Bid](#)
[2026-2029 Bid Results](#)

A motion was made by Councilperson Angie Scruggs, seconded by Vice President 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, George Carmichael, Andrea Thomas, Grace Amos, Marian Allen and Angie Scruggs

Q. [ID 25-8012](#)

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

Attachments: [Order - Surplus 10-07-2025](#)
[Surplus 10-07-2025 LOCATION REPORT](#)

A motion was made by Councilperson Grace Amos, seconded by Councilperson Angie Scruggs, 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, George Carmichael, Andrea Thomas, Grace Amos, Marian Allen and Angie Scruggs

R. [ID 25-8005](#)

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

- A. Demolition of property assessed to S. Lavon Evans Jr. Realty LLC, at 507 Masonite Dr. Total cost, including \$50 administrative fee, \$26.00 recording fee, and \$53.00 judgement fee \$5,124.00 Ward 5
- B. Demolition of property assessed to Gwendolyn Hutto Lee, at 611 Masonite Dr. Total cost, including \$50 administrative fee, \$26.00 recording fee, and \$53.00 judgement fee \$5,109.00 Ward 5
- C. Demolition of property assessed to Deborah McSwain, at 610 Van Buren St. Total cost, including \$50 administrative fee, \$26.00 recording fee, and \$ 53.00 judgement fee \$5,109.00 Ward 6
- D. Demolition of property assessed to Kevin Lyon, at 912 N. 10th Ave. Total cost, including \$50 administrative fee, and \$53.00 judgement fee \$4,103.00 Ward 6

Attachments: [Demo Assessments 10072025](#)
[Demo Bills 10-7-25-09252025160536](#)

A motion was made by Councilperson Grace Amos, seconded by Vice President 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, George Carmichael, Andrea Thomas, Grace Amos, Marian Allen and Angie Scruggs

5. ROUTINE AGENDA

A. [ID 25-8010](#)

Consider adopting a Resolution to approve the Claims Docket.

Attachments: [Claims Docket Resolution 10.07.2025](#)
[WARRANT OCTOBER 7 2025](#)
[CLAIMS DOCKET OCTOBER 7 2025](#)

A motion was made by Councilperson Angie Scruggs, seconded by Vice President 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, George Carmichael, Andrea Thomas, Grace Amos, Marian Allen and Angie Scruggs

EXECUTIVE SESSION