



City of Laurel

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

Regular Meeting Minutes
City Council

Tuesday, May 6, 2025	5:30 PM	Council Chambers
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CALL TO ORDER

- Present:** 6 - Councilperson Kevin Kelly, Council President Tony Thaxton, Vice President George Carmichael, Councilperson Andrea Ellis, Councilperson Grace Amos and Councilperson Shirley Jordan
- Absent:** 1 - Councilperson Jason Capers
- Staff:** 3 - Mayor Johnny Magee, City Council Clerk Sharon King and City Attorney Brett Robinson

PRAYER

Councilperson Grace Amos

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. [ID 25-7729](#) April 22, 2025

Attachments: [CoL Minutes of 04222025](#)

A motion was made by Councilperson Grace Amos, 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:** 6 - Kevin Kelly, Tony Thaxton, George Carmichael, Andrea Ellis, Grace Amos and Shirley Jordan
- Absent:** 1 - Jason Capers

1. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Councilperson Grace Amos, seconded by Councilperson Shirley Jordan, 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 2C., Presentation from Mayor Johnny Magee on the State of the City for 2024.

Delete Agenda Item 3A2(b)., Consider adopting a Resolution to conduct a public hearing on May 6, 2025 in regards to the property located at 1004 N. 7th Ave. belonging to John T. Kersh P.O. Box 4077 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 5.

Move Agenda Item 4E to the end of the Policy Agenda., Consider adopting a Resolution giving the administration authority to reject and re-advertise bids for construction of the 2025 Citywide Paving Project.

- Yea:** 6 - Kevin Kelly, Tony Thaxton, George Carmichael, Andrea Ellis, Grace Amos and Shirley Jordan
- Absent:** 1 - Jason Capers

2. PRESENTATION AGENDA

- A. [ID 25-7727](#)
- Presentation from Becky Stewart, Executive Director of the Domestic Abuse Family Shelter, on the program and activities of the DAFS agency.

Attachments: [Domestic Abuse Family Shelter Brochure2025 0001](#)

Becky Stewart, Executive Director of the Domestic Abuse Family Shelter, came before the Mayor and City Council to give an update on the duties and responsibilities offered at the shelter and also requested an increase in appropriations to the organization from the city during their time of budget.. (See attached brochure).

- B. [ID 25-7736](#)
- Presentation from West Jones High School Senior Jayden Olson regarding the establishing of a Laurel Mayor’s Youth Council .
- Jayden Olson came before the Mayor and City Council regarding the establishment of a Laurel Mayor’s Youth Council. He presented the Council with criteria requirements in order to serve as a member. .

- C. [ID 25-7750](#)
- Presentation from Mayor Johnny Magee on the State of the City for 2024.
- This Presentation was deleted during Confirmation of Agenda

3. PUBLIC AGENDA

A. PUBLIC HEARING

1. SET PUBLIC HEARING

- A. [ID 25-7742](#)
- Consider adopting an Order to set a date of June 3, 2025 to conduct a public hearing in regards to the property listed to determine whether or not the property is in such a state of dilapidation so as to be a menace to the public health of the community:
- A. Carolyn McNeil (LE) REM: Karen Ann Bell Et Al, dead or diseased tree at 1633 N. 4th Ave. PPIN 9672 W4

B. Jerry L. Graham & Marilyn D. Graham, dead and diseased tree at 320 W. 17th St. PPIN 9671 W4

C. S. Lavon Evans Jr. Realty LLC, dilapidated residence at 507 Masonite Dr. PPIN 14264 W5

D. Aston & Eldridge LLC, dilapidated residence at 1224 Simmons St. PPIN 13152 W7

E. Tony Mosley, dilapidated residence at 2116 Queensburg Ave. PPIN 13304 W7

Attachments: [Sets 6-3-25](#)
[Notices 6-3-25-04292025100228](#)

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

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

Absent: 1 - Jason Capers

2. CONDUCT PUBLIC HEARING

A motion was made by Vice President George Carmichael, seconded by Councilperson Kevin Kelly, to conduct a public hearing. Upon roll call vote the President declared the motion carried by the results as follows:

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

Absent: 1 - Jason Capers

A. [ID 25-7743](#)

Consider adopting a Resolution to conduct a public hearing on May 6, 2025 in regards to the property located at 316 W. 21st St. belonging to Robert L. Smith 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 4.

Attachments: [Resolution 316 W. 21st St.\(demo\)](#)
[316 W 21ST ST - 5-06-2025](#)
[R 316 W 21ST ST-04212025140358](#)
[P 316 W 21ST ST-04212025140421](#)

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

Absent: 1 - Jason Capers

B. [ID 25-7745](#)

Consider adopting a Resolution to conduct a public hearing on May 6, 2025 in regards to the property located at 1004 N. 7th Ave. belonging to John T. Kersh P.O. Box 4077 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 5.

Attachments: [Resolution 1004 N. 7th Ave.\(demo\)](#)
[1004 N 7TH AVE - 5-06-2025](#)
[R 1004 N 7TH AVE-04212025140220](#)
[P 1004 N 7TH AVE-04212025140248](#)

This Resolution to Conduct Hearing was deleted during Confirmation of Agenda

CITIZENS HEARING

CITIZENS FORUM

- 1. William Hanley, 1008 N. 7th Avenue

4. POLICY AGENDA

A. [ID 25-7728](#)

Consider approving the Second Reading of A SECOND AMENDED ORDINANCE ENLARGING, EXTENDING, AND DEFINING THE CORPORATE LIMITS AND BOUNDARIES OF THE CITY OF LAUREL, JONES COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI; SPECIFYING THE IMPROVEMENTS TO BE MADE IN THE ANNEXED TERRITORY AND THE MUNICIPAL OR PUBLIC SERVICES TO BE RENDERED THEREIN; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES RELATED THERETO.

Attachments: [ORDINANCE- Second Reading of Second Amended Annexation Ordinance 5.6.25](#)

A motion was made by Vice President George Carmichael, 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: 6 - Kevin Kelly, Tony Thaxton, George Carmichael, Andrea Ellis, Grace Amos and Shirley Jordan

Absent: 1 - Jason Capers

Enactment No: 1770-2025

B. [ID 25-7731](#)

Consider adopting an Order to Ratify an Emergency Order GIVING THE ADMINISTRATION AUTHORITY TO SUBMIT A DRINKING WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS REVOLVING LOAN FUND (DWSIRLF) APPLICATION AND NAME THE MAYOR AS THE AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE.

Attachments: [OrderRatifyEmergencyOrder-Submit loan application DWSIRLF 5.6.25](#)
[OrderRatifyEmergencyOrder-Submit loan application DWSIRLF Exhibit A 5.6.25](#)

A motion was made by Vice President George Carmichael, 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: 6 - Kevin Kelly, Tony Thaxton, George Carmichael, Andrea Ellis, Grace Amos and Shirley Jordan

Absent: 1 - Jason Capers

C. [ID 25-7747](#)

Consider adopting a Resolution granting the administration authority to award construction of the Central Avenue Phase II - Roadway and Pedestrian Improvements Project.

Attachments: [RESOLUTION](#)
[Letter of Recommendation and Bid Tab.pdf](#)

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

Absent: 1 - Jason Capers

D. [ID 25-7748](#)

Consider adopting a Resolution granting the administration authority to execute the Construction Engineering and Inspection Agreement (CEI) of the Central Avenue Phase II - Roadway and Pedestrian Improvements Project.

Attachments: [RESOLUTION](#)
[CE&I Contract, Central Avenue Improvements Phase 2](#)

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

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

Absent: 1 - Jason Capers

F. [ID 25-7734](#)

Consider adopting a Resolution Authorizing an Agreement with Weisbrod Matteis & Copley PLLC for PFAs Contamination Claim.

Attachments: [RESAuthorizeAgreementPFASDrinkingWaterClaims.5.6.25](#)
[RESAuthorizeAgreementPFASDrinkingWaterClaims.ExhibitA.5.6.25](#)

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

Absent: 1 - Jason Capers

G. [ID 25-7749](#)

Consider adopting an Order authorizing FY2025 Agreement between the City of Laurel and the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force Regarding Reimbursement of Overtime Payment and authorized Expenses for Participating Laurel Police Department Personnel.

Attachments: [ORGANIZED CRIME DRUG ENFORCEMENT TASK FORCE ORDER](#)

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

Absent: 1 - Jason Capers

H. [ID 25-7740](#)

Consider adopting a Resolution Authorizing the Establishment of a Mayor's Youth Council for the City of Laurel.

Attachments: [RESAuthorizeEstablishmentofMayor'sYouthCouncil.5.6.25](#)

A motion was made by Vice President George Carmichael, 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: 6 - Kevin Kelly, Tony Thaxton, George Carmichael, Andrea Ellis, Grace Amos and Shirley Jordan

Absent: 1 - Jason Capers

I. [ID 25-7735](#)

Consider adopting an Order to apply and accept a donation from the Wal-Mart Community Grant for five thousand dollars (\$5000.00). Twenty-five hundred dollars (\$2500.00) will be given to the Laurel Fire Department to purchase fire prevention materials and equipment. Twenty-five hundred dollars (\$2500.00) will be given to the Laurel Police Department to be used for materials for Night Out Against Crime event.

Attachments: [walmart grant](#)

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

Absent: 1 - Jason Capers

J. [ID 25-7730](#)

Consider adopting an Order request that the Laurel Police Department be allowed to retire K-9 Max to the care of Sergeant Roman Moss.

Attachments: [RETIRE K-9 MAX](#)

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

Absent: 1 - Jason Capers

K. [ID 25-7751](#)

Consider adopting an Order to grant a Special Exception Renewal to allow operation of a car dealership and tire shop located at 3371 Ellisville Blvd. Property is zoned R-1 and in Ward 7.

Attachments: [Speacial Exception- Maria Estaban](#)
[Planning & Zoning Minutes 041025](#)

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

Absent: 1 - Jason Capers

L. [ID 25-7737](#)

Consider adopting an Order approving application of the Essmueller Company for renewal of tax exemption from ad valorem taxes for their freeport warehouse as authorized by Section 27-31-51 through Section 27-31-61 code of 1972 as amended.

Attachments: [Essmueller Freeport Application Order 2025](#)
[Essmueller Co Freeport Application 2025](#)

A motion was made by Vice President George Carmichael, 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: 6 - Kevin Kelly, Tony Thaxton, George Carmichael, Andrea Ellis, Grace Amos and Shirley Jordan

Absent: 1 - Jason Capers

M. [ID 25-7738](#)

Consider adopting Order approving application of Howard Industries, Inc. for renewal of tax exemption from ad valorem taxes for their freeport warehouse as authorized by Section 27-31-51 through Section 27-31-61 code of 1972 as amended.

Attachments: [Howard Ind. Freeport Application Order 2025](#)
[Howards Freeport Application 2025](#)
[Howards Freeport Attached Order 2025](#)

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

Absent: 1 - Jason Capers

N. [ID 25-7732](#)

Consider adopting an Order approving application of Dixie Inc. - Applied Industrial Technologies for renewal of tax exemption from ad valorem taxes for their Freeport Warehouse as authorized by Section 27-31-51 through 27-31-61 Code of 1972, as amended.

Attachments: [Dixie - Applied Industrial Tech Freeport Application Order 2025](#)
[Dixie- Applied Industrial Application 2025](#)

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

Absent: 1 - Jason Capers

O. [ID 25-7739](#)

Consider adopting Order approving application of Mid-South Industries, Inc. for renewal of tax exemption from ad valorem taxes for their freeport warehouse as authorized by Section 27-31-51 through Section 27-31-61 code of 1972 as amended.

Attachments: [Mid-South Freeport Application Order 2025](#)
[Mid-South Freeport Application 2025](#)

A motion was made by Councilperson Andrea Ellis, 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: 6 - Kevin Kelly, Tony Thaxton, George Carmichael, Andrea Ellis, Grace Amos and Shirley Jordan

Absent: 1 - Jason Capers

P. [ID 25-7733](#)

Consider adopting Order approving application of Masonite Corporation, Inc. for renewal of tax exemption from ad valorem taxes on the freeport warehouse as authorized by Section 27-31-51 through Section 27-31-61, Code of 1972, as amended.

Attachments: [Masonite Freeport Application Order 2025](#)
[Masonite Amended Freeport Application 2025](#)

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 - Kevin Kelly, Tony Thaxton, George Carmichael, Andrea Ellis, Grace Amos and Shirley Jordan

Absent: 1 - Jason Capers

Q. [ID 25-7741](#)

Consider adopting an Order to approve certain budget amendments to FY 2025 budget.

Attachments: [Budget Amendment - Order](#)
[Budget Amendment List - May 06, 2025](#)

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

Absent: 1 - Jason Capers

R. [ID 25-7746](#)

Consider adopting an Order to approve lot cleanings for the following properties:

- A. Cleaning of property assessed to Longbeard Properties LLC, at 207 W. 15th St. Total assessed cost \$74.09 Ward 4
- B. Cleaning of property assessed to Karlee Henderson, at 1113 Mississippi Ave. Total assessed cost \$86.54 Ward 4
- C. Cleaning of property assessed to Euodoutai Investment LLC, at 516 Arco Ln. Total assessed cost \$74.09 Ward 5
- D. Cleaning of property assessed to Sam Corriere Est% John Corriere, at 118 Bay St. Total assessed cost \$123.08 Ward 5
- E. Cleaning of property assessed to Hill Williams Jr., at 137 Chestnut St. Total assessed cost \$68.87 Ward 5
- F. Cleaning of property assessed to Brenda Marcombe, at 153 Chestnut St. Total assessed cost \$74.90 Ward 5
- G. Cleaning of property assessed to Brenda Marcombe at 155 Chestnut St. Total assessed cost \$74.90 Ward 5
- H. Cleaning of property assessed to Frank Corriere Est.% John Corriere at Lot W. of 224 N. Cook Ave. Total assessed cost \$ 97.78 Ward 5

Attachments: [Assessments 5-6-2025](#)

[Bills 5-6-25-04292025102025](#)

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

Absent: 1 - Jason Capers

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Councilperson Carmichael moved, seconded by Councilperson Ellis that the Council moved into Closed Session to discuss the necessity of an Executive Session.

Upon roll call vote, the result was as follows:

YEAS: Kelly, Thaxton, Carmichael, Ellis, Amos, Jordan

NAYS: None

ABSTAINING: None

ABSENT: Capers

The President thereupon declared the motion carried, this the 6th day of May, A. D., 2025.

* * * * *

Councilperson Kelly moved to go into Executive Session to discuss litigation, seconded by Councilperson Carmichael.

YEAS: Kelly, Thaxton, Carmichael, Ellis, Amos, Jordan

NAYS: None

ABSTAINING: None

ABSENT: Capers

The President thereupon declared the motion carried, this the 6th day of May, A. D., 2025.

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Following discussion, Councilperson Carmichael moved, seconded by Councilperson Amos that the Council move back into Open Session.

Upon roll call vote, the results were as follows:

YEAS: Kelly, Thaxton, Carmichael, Ellis, Amos, Jordan

NAYS: None

ABSTAINING: None

ABSENT: Capers

The President thereupon declared the motion carried and proceeded with the meeting, this the 6th day of May, A. D., 2025.

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

Absent: 1 - Jason Capers

E. [ID 25-7753](#)

Consider adopting a Resolution giving the administration authority to reject and readvertise bids for construction of the 2025 Citywide Paving Project.

Attachments: [Resolution](#)
[Bid Review Letter.pdf](#)
[Certified Bid Tab.pdf](#)

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: 4 - George Carmichael, Andrea Ellis, Grace Amos and Shirley Jordan

Nay: 2 - Kevin Kelly and Tony Thaxton

Absent: 1 - Jason Capers

5. ROUTINE AGENDA

A. [ID 25-7744](#)

Consider adopting a Resolution to approve the Claims Docket.

Attachments: [RESOLUTION MAY 06 2025](#)
[WARRANT MAY 06 2025](#)
[CLAIMS DOCKET MAY 06 2025](#)
[CLAIMS DOCKET MAY 06 2025 PART 2](#)

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

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

Absent: 1 - Jason Capers

EXECUTIVE SESSION

With no objections to adjourning, the President declared the meeting adjourned to Tuesday, May 20, 2025 at 9:00 a.m., this the 6th day of May, A. D., 2025.

PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL
COUNCILPERSON WARD 3

COUNCILPERSON WARD 1

COUNCILPERSON WARD 5

COUNCILPERSON WARD 2

COUNCILPERSON WARD 6

COUNCILPERSON WARD 4

COUNCILPERSON WARD 7

ATTEST:

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

MAYOR

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK

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