



City of Laurel

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

Regular Meeting Minutes City Council

Tuesday, February 4, 2025

5:30 PM

Council Chambers

CALL TO ORDER

Present: 5 - Councilperson Jason Capers, Council President Tony Thaxton, Councilperson Andrea Ellis, Councilperson Grace Amos and Councilperson Shirley Jordan
Absent: 2 - Councilperson Kevin Kelly and Vice President George Carmichael
Staff: 2 - Mayor Johnny Magee and City Council Clerk Sharon King
Staff Absent: 1 - 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 25-7606](#) January 21, 2025

Attachments: [CoL Minutes of 01232025](#)

A motion was made by Councilperson Shirley Jordan, 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: 4 - Jason Capers, Tony Thaxton, Grace Amos and Shirley Jordan

Absent: 2 - Kevin Kelly and George Carmichael

Abstain: 1 - Andrea Ellis

1. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

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

Yea: 5 - Jason Capers, Tony Thaxton, Andrea Ellis, Grace Amos and Shirley Jordan

Absent: 2 - Kevin Kelly and George Carmichael

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Councilperson Jason Capers, seconded by Councilperson Shirley Jordan, that the Council move into Closed Session to discuss the necessity of an Executive Session.

Upon roll call vote, the result was as follows:

YEAS: Capers, Thaxton, Ellis, Amos, Jordan

NAYS: None

ABSTAINING: None

ABSENT: Kelly, Carmichael

The President thereupon declared the motion carried, this the 4th day of February, A. D., 2025.

* * * * *

Councilperson Capers moved to go into Executive Session to discuss industrial development, location, relocation of a business, seconded by Councilperson Jordan.

YEAS: Capers, Thaxton, Ellis, Amos, Jordan

NAYS: None

ABSTAINING: None

ABSENT: Kelly, Carmichael

The President thereupon declared the motion carried, this the 4th day of February, A. D., 2025.

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

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAINING: None

ABSENT: Kelly, Carmichael

The President thereupon declared the motion carried, this the 4th day of February, A. D., 2025.

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President Thaxton proceeded with the meeting.

Yea: 5 - Jason Capers, Tony Thaxton, Andrea Ellis, Grace Amos and Shirley Jordan

Absent: 2 - Kevin Kelly and George Carmichael

2. PRESENTATION AGENDA

A. [ID 25-7576](#)

Proclamation Recognizing February 14, 2025 as Arbor Day in the City of Laurel.

Attachments: [Proclamation-Arbor Day 2025](#)

This Presentation was presented to the Laurel Tree Board. (See Attached)

B. [ID 25-7615](#)

Monthly Budget Certification for December 2024.

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

Kristal A. Jones, City Clerk/ Finance Director, presented the following Budget and Purchasing Certification:

3. PUBLIC AGENDA**A. PUBLIC HEARING**

1. SET PUBLIC HEARING
2. CONDUCT PUBLIC HEARING

B. CITIZENS HEARING**C. CITIZENS FORUM**

Leisha Adcock, Meridian, MS
 Samantha Brewer, Amory, MS
 Robert Paternostro, Sandersville, MS
 Elizabeth Paternostro, Sandersville, MS
 Ken Patel, Business Owner, Laurel, MS
 Sherry Owings, Monroe County, MS
 Brenda McVay, Vancleave, MS
 Jason Capers, Laurel, MS

4. POLICY AGENDA**A. [ID 25-7609](#)**

Consider adopting a Resolution giving the administration authority to approve professional services contract for the FY 2024 Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Grant Program.

Attachments: [Resolution](#)
[Professional Services 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: 5 - Jason Capers, Tony Thaxton, Andrea Ellis, Grace Amos and Shirley Jordan

Absent: 2 - Kevin Kelly and George Carmichael

B. [ID 25-7601](#)

Consider adopting an Order Authorizing the Repair of Water Well #6 and Accepting the Quotes from National Water Services for Repairs.

Attachments: [ORDAuthorizeRepairWaterWell#6 2.4.25](#)
[ORDAuthorizeRepairWaterWell#6 Exhibit A 2.4.25](#)

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: 5 - Jason Capers, Tony Thaxton, Andrea Ellis, Grace Amos and Shirley Jordan

Absent: 2 - Kevin Kelly and George Carmichael

C. [ID 25-7617](#)

Consider adopting a Resolution Authorizing Mayor Johnny Magee to Sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the Jones County Board of Supervisors and Jones-O'Gary Development.

Attachments: [RESAuthorizeMOUJones-O'GaryDevelopmentProject2.4.25](#)
[RESAuthorizeMOUJones-O'GaryDevelopmentProject2.4.25.ExhibitA](#)

A motion was made by Councilperson Jason Capers, 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: 5 - Jason Capers, Tony Thaxton, Andrea Ellis, Grace Amos and Shirley Jordan

Absent: 2 - Kevin Kelly and George Carmichael

D. [ID 25-7616](#)

Consider adopting a Resolution to authorize and approve execution of an Equipment Lease-Purchase Agreement with Trustmark National Bank for the purpose of lease-purchasing certain equipment, being two (2) 2025 Peterbilt 548 RLX25 Garbage Trucks.

Attachments: [Laurel MS Equipment Lease \(2025\) \(203366\) - Lease Resolution \(2.4.25\)](#)
[Notice - Financing Garbage Truck](#)
[Quote - Interest Rate Tabulation](#)
[Quote - Interest Rate from Banks](#)
[Form of Lease - Laurel MS Equipment Lease Purchase \(Butler Snow Comments 1.29.25\)](#)

A motion was made by Councilperson Jason Capers, 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: 5 - Jason Capers, Tony Thaxton, Andrea Ellis, Grace Amos and Shirley Jordan

Absent: 2 - Kevin Kelly and George Carmichael

E. [ID 25-7608](#)

Consider approving the Second Reading of an An Ordinance Of The City Of Laurel, Mississippi Prohibiting The Use, Purchase, Possession, Distribution, Sale Or Offering For Sale Of Synthetic Cocaine, Other Synthetic Products, Or Kratom.

Attachments: [ORDINANCE Second Reading Prohibiting Kratom](#)

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

Yea: 5 - Jason Capers, Tony Thaxton, Andrea Ellis, Grace Amos and Shirley Jordan

Absent: 2 - Kevin Kelly and George Carmichael

Enactment No: 1767-2025

F. [ID 25-7583](#)

Consider approving the Second Reading of an Ordinance Amending Chapter 8 - Elections, Article II - Voting Wards, Section 8-17 -Polling Places Designated to Reflect the Change of the Polling Place for Ward 7 from the Oak Park Field House to the Oak Park Alumni Building.

Attachments: [ORDINANCEAmendingVotingPlacesSecondReadingFebruary2025](#)

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

Absent: 2 - Kevin Kelly and George Carmichael

Enactment No: 1768-2025

G. [ID 25-7613](#)

Consider approving the Second Reading of an Ordinance to grant a zoning change of property located at 2703 Ellisville Boulevard, from I-2, Light Industrial District to C-2, General Commercial District, to Alfredo Sandoval, due to a change in character of the neighborhood. Property is located in Ward 7.

Attachments: [2nd Reading Zoning Change Ordinance 2703 Ellisville Blvd.](#)

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

Yea: 5 - Jason Capers, Tony Thaxton, Andrea Ellis, Grace Amos and Shirley Jordan

Absent: 2 - Kevin Kelly and George Carmichael

Enactment No: 1769-2025

H. [ID 25-7605](#)

Consider adopting an Order Confirming the Appointment of Mr. John Thaxton as Ward 2 Representative to the Civil Service Commission.

Attachments: [ORDAppCivilServiceCommissionJohnThaxton.2.4.25](#)

[ORDAppointJohnThaxtonCivilServiceCommission.ExhibitA2.4.25](#)

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: 5 - Jason Capers, Tony Thaxton, Andrea Ellis, Grace Amos and Shirley Jordan

Absent: 2 - Kevin Kelly and George Carmichael

I. [ID 25-7603](#)

Consider adopting an Order Approving Travel Expenses for Mayor Johnny Magee to Attend the Annual Affordable Housing Conference Sponsored by the Mississippi Home Corporation April 2-4, 2025 in Biloxi, MS.

Attachments: [ORDTravHousingAffordableConferenceApril2025](#)

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: 5 - Jason Capers, Tony Thaxton, Andrea Ellis, Grace Amos and Shirley Jordan

Absent: 2 - Kevin Kelly and George Carmichael

J. [ID 25-7602](#)

Consider adopting an Order to accept bid on Surplus Properties PPIN #15245 & #15246 that are to be sold together.

Attachments: [ORDER to Accept Bid on Surplus Property 15245 15246 _Eli Valadez Sr. Eli Valadez Bid](#)

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: 5 - Jason Capers, Tony Thaxton, Andrea Ellis, Grace Amos and Shirley Jordan

Absent: 2 - Kevin Kelly and George Carmichael

K. [ID 25-7604](#)

Consider adopting an Order Authorizing Acceptance of Monetary Donation to be Used for the Purchase of a K9 Officer for the Laurel Police Department.

Attachments: [ORDAcceptMonetaryDonationtoLPDforK9Purchase2.4.25](#)

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, Tony Thaxton, Andrea Ellis, Grace Amos and Shirley Jordan

Absent: 2 - Kevin Kelly and George Carmichael

L. [ID 25-7612](#)

Consider adopting a Resolution Authorizing Corrective Action Regarding a Tax Assessment for a Demolition at 620 Sandy T. Gavin Ave. Property is located in Ward 6.

Attachments: [Resolution- Corrective Action for Demo at 618 Sandy T. Gavin Ave.](#)

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: 5 - Jason Capers, Tony Thaxton, Andrea Ellis, Grace Amos and Shirley Jordan

Absent: 2 - Kevin Kelly and George Carmichael

M. [ID 25-7611](#)

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

- A. Demolition of property assessed to Willie Bilbrew, 1020 N. 12th Ave. Total cost, including \$50 administrative fee, \$26.00 recording fee, \$5, 066.00 Ward 2
- B. Demolition of property assessed to Robert Cooley, 324 Jefferson Ave. Total cost, including \$50 administrative fee, \$26.00 recording fee, \$5, 071.00 Ward 5
- C. Demolition of property assessed to Maderia Bingham, 825 S. Magnolia St. Total cost, including \$50 administrative fee, \$26.00 recording fee, \$4, 871.00 Ward 7
- D. Demolition of property assessed to United Missionary Baptist Church, 1117 Hayes St. Total cost, including \$50 administrative fee, \$26.00 recording fee, \$4, 846.00 Ward 7

Attachments: [Demo Assessments 020425](#)

[Demo Bills 2-4-25-01282025083056](#)

A motion was made by Councilperson Jason Capers, 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: 5 - Jason Capers, Tony Thaxton, Andrea Ellis, Grace Amos and Shirley Jordan

Absent: 2 - Kevin Kelly and George Carmichael

5. ROUTINE AGENDA

A. [ID 25-7614](#)

Consider adopting a Resolution to approve the Claims Docket.

Attachments: [RESOLUTION](#)

[WARRANT](#)

[CLAIMS DOCKET](#)

A motion was made by Councilperson Jason Capers, 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: 5 - Jason Capers, Tony Thaxton, Andrea Ellis, Grace Amos and Shirley Jordan

Absent: 2 - Kevin Kelly and George Carmichael

EXECUTIVE SESSION