



City of Laurel

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

Regular Meeting Minutes City Council

Tuesday, March 4, 2025

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 Brett Robinson

PRAYER

Councilperson Jason Capers

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. [ID 25-7639](#) February 18, 2025

Attachments: [CoL Minutes of 02182025](#)

A motion was made by Councilperson Jason Capers, 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: 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 Kevin Kelly, seconded by Councilperson Jason Capers, that the be adopted as amended. 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 25-7645](#)

Consider hearing a Presentation from Mayor Johnny Magee on the State of the City of Laurel

This Presentation was deleted during Confirmation of Agenda

B. [ID 25-7651](#)

Monthly Budget Certification for January 2025.

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

[Certification Letter - January 2025](#)

[Revenue - January 2025](#)

[Sales Tax](#)

[Tourism Tax](#)

[Tourism Tax 3% HOTELS](#)

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

3. PUBLIC AGENDA

A. PUBLIC HEARING

1. SET PUBLIC HEARING

A. [ID 25-7653](#)

Consider adopting an Order to set a date of April 8, 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 public health and community:

- A. Eugenio Jose Luis Martinez Et Al, dilapidated structure at 13 Woodlawn Dr., PPIN 14390 W1
- B. Eric L. Randolph Est, dilapidated structure at 914 S. 14th Ave., PPIN 14434 W1
- C. Peggy Collins Gatlin, dilapidated structure at 1625 W. 20th St., PPIN 15808 W 2
- D. Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing (Erich M. Taylor), dilapidated structure at 1043 N. 11th Ave. PPIN 10588 W2
- E. Evelyn J. Dozier Est Et Al % Cynthia Lockhart, dilapidated structure at 149 Chestnut St. PPIN 14218 W5
- F. Willie C. Walker Et Ux, dilapidated structure at 162 Chestnut St. PPIN 14232 W5
- G. Lorenzo Osborne, dilapidated shed at 1437 Queen St. PPIN 11073 W6
- H. Lorenzo Osborne, dilapidated shed at 1505 Queen St. PPIN 11039 W6
- I. Donald C. Rogers Jr., dilapidated nonconforming mobile home/ manufactured home at 27 Meadowbrook Dr. PPIN 30977 W7
- J. James Rosenberg, dilapidated structure at 1521 Julian St. PPIN 11159 W7

Attachments: [Sets 4-8-25](#)
[Notices 03042025-02212025164210](#)

A motion was made by Councilperson Jason Capers, seconded by Councilperson Shirley Jordan, that the Order to Set 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

2. CONDUCT PUBLIC HEARING

B. CITIZENS HEARING

C. CITIZENS FORUM

4. POLICY AGENDA

A. [ID 25-7628](#)

Consider adopting a Resolution Declaring Support for the Preservation of the Federal Tax Exemption of Municipal Bonds.

Attachments: [RES Tax Exemption of Municipal Bonds 3.4.25](#)

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

B. [ID 25-7641](#)

Consider adopting an Order Authorizing Mayor Johnny Magee, Acting on Behalf of the City of Laurel, to Sign a Contract with Water Company of America for Services Related to Water Department Collections.

Attachments: [ORDAuthorizeAgreementWaterCompanyofAmerica3.4.25](#)
[ORDAuthorizeAgreementWaterCompanyofAmerica3.4.25.ExhibitA](#)

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

C. [ID 25-7633](#)

Consider adopting an Order Authorizing an Inventory and Assessment of Traffic Signals Maintained by the City of Laurel and Accepting Quote from Temple Inc.

Attachments: [ORDTrafficSignalAssessment3.4.25](#)
[ORDTrafficSignalAssessment3.4.25.ExhibitA](#)

A motion was made by Councilperson Shirley Jordan, 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

D. [ID 25-7634](#)

Consider adopting a Resolution Regarding City of Laurel's Application for Credit Card with First State Bank and Designation of Authorized Users for Same.

Attachments: [RESOLUTION-Credit Card Application with First State Bank 3.4.25](#)

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

E. [ID 25-7640](#)

Consider adopting a Resolution Authorizing Application to the Mississippi Commission for Volunteer Service and the Corporation for National and Community Service for a 2025 Grant Under the AmeriCorps Program and Committing Local Matching Funds.

Attachments: [AmeriCorps2025RESAuthorizeApplication](#)

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

F. [ID 25-7642](#)

Consider adopting an Order to Ratify an Emergency Order Giving the Administration Authority to Submit a Water Pollution Control Revolving Loan Fund Application for Sewer System Improvements and Name the Mayor as the Authorized Representative.

Attachments: [OrderRatifyEmergencyOrder-Authorize WPCRLF Application for Sewer System Improvements 3.4.25](#)
[OrderRatifyEmergencyOrder-Authorize WPCRLF Application for Sewer System Improvements 3.4.25 Exhibit A](#)

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

G. [ID 25-7646](#)

Consider adopting a Resolution Authorizing Application by the City of Laurel to the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks for a Grant Under the Recreational Trails Program.

Attachments: [RES MDWFP 2025 Grant Application Ward 4 Walking Trail 3.4.25](#)
[RES MDWFP 2025 Grant Application Ward 4 Walking Trail 3.4.25 Exhibit A](#)

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

H. [ID 25-7656](#)

Consider adopting a Resolution Granting The Administration Authority To Execute A Letter Agreement For Professional Services For The Conceptual Layout Of Utility Improvements For The Calhoun Annexation Area.

Attachments: [RESOLUTION-LETTER AGREEMENT Letter Agreement](#)

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

I. [ID 25-7636](#)

Consider adopting an Order request that the Laurel Police Department be allowed to accept a donation from J F & W, LLC in the amount of \$300.00 and Shree Jalasai LLC in the amount of \$500.00. funds will be placed in the Police Department's K-9 Account.

Attachments: [J F & W, LLC K-9 DONATION 2025](#)

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

J. [ID 25-7648](#)

Consider adopting an Order Authorizing Acceptance of Donations to the City of Laurel for the March of the Mayor's Canned Tuna Collection.

Attachments: [ORDAcceptDonationsMarchoftheMayorsTunaDrive2025](#)

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

K. [ID 25-7650](#)

Consider adopting a Resolution giving the administration authority to close out the Spec Wilson Boulevard Pedestrian Improvements Project.

Attachments: [Resolution to close out Spec Wilson Project.doc](#)
[Final Close Out Packet.pdf](#)

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

L. [ID 25-7649](#)

Consider adopting an Order to approve the Mayor and Administration to sign all documents related to the State Appropriation for the West Drive Bridge Project.

Attachments: [ORDER - Memorandum of Understanding](#)
[Government - Memorandum of Understanding](#)
[Verification Form](#)
[Contact Form](#)
[W9 - Signed](#)

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

M. [ID 25-7647](#)

Consider adopting a Resolution giving the Administration Authority to Advertise for the Construction of the 2025 Citywide Paving Project.

Attachments: [Resolution to Advertise 2025 CityWidePavingProject](#)

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

N. [ID 25-7643](#)

Consider adopting an Order authorizing the City Clerk to enter into a contract with the Circuit Clerk of Jones County for the City of Laurel 2025 Municipal Elections.

Attachments: [Order - Circuit Clerk Contract 2025](#)
[CONTRACT - Greg Dickerson](#)

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

O. [ID 25-7644](#)

Consider adopting an Order to approve an increase in the daily pay for the City of Laurel poll workers, poll managers, count center workers, and election commissioners.

Attachments: [Order - Poll Workers Pay Rate](#)

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 25-7657](#)

Consider adopting an Order approving a salary increase for the Mayor and City Council positions, effective July 1, 2025.

Attachments: [ORDER INCREASING MAYOR AND ELECTED OFFICIALS SALARIES 2025](#)

A motion was made by Councilperson Jason Capers, 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

Q. [ID 25-7652](#)

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

Attachments: [Budget Amendment Order March 04, 2025](#)

[Budget Amendment List March 04, 2025](#)

A motion was made by Councilperson Kevin Kelly, 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 25-7630](#)

Consider adopting an Order Authorizing Payment of Expenses Related to the Travel of Mayor Johnny Magee to the Mississippi Association of Planning And Development Districts Annual Conference in Biloxi, MS, April 22-25, 2025).

Attachments: [ORDTravMAPDD2025](#)

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

S. [ID 25-7632](#)

Consider adopting an Order approving meals, registration and hotel expenses for the Superintendent of Inspection, Sandra Hadley, to attend the 2025 Association of State Floodplain Managers Annual National Conference held in New Orleans, LA May 18-22, 2025 at an estimated cost of \$3,750.

Attachments: [ORDER conference FLOODPLAIN 2025](#)

A motion was made by Councilperson Jason Capers, 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

T. [ID 25-7635](#)

Consider adopting an Order request that Lieutenant Rodrigus Carr be allowed to attend the MLEOTA (Mississippi Law Enforcement Officers' Training Academy) Interview and Interrogation Four Day Class held in Pearl, MS on March 17-20, 2025 at an estimated cost of \$1,216.50. Funds will be taken from the Police Department's Travel account #001-200-610-0.

Attachments: [INTERVIEW AND INTERROGATION FOUR DAY CLASS TRAINING HELD IN PEARL, MS](#)

A motion was made by Councilperson Jason Capers, 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

U. [ID 25-7637](#)

Consider adopting an Order request that Sergeant Shaymira Morgan be allowed to attend the MLEOTA(Mississippi Law Enforcement Officers' Training Academy) First Line Leadership and Supervision Level II Training Program held in Pearl, MS on April 7-9, 2025 at an estimated cost of \$934.60. Funds will be taken from the Police Department's Travel account #001-200-610-0.

Attachments: [FIRST LINE SUPERVISION II TRAINING APRIL 7-9, 2025 PEARL, MS](#)

A motion was made by Councilperson Jason Capers, 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

V. [ID 25-7655](#)

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

- A. Demolition of property assessed to Clark Properties LLC, 312 S. 16th Ave. Total cost, including \$50 administrative fee, \$.00 recording fee, \$5, 150.00 Ward 1
- B. Demolition of property assessed to Lula M. Gavin, 717 E. 16th St. Total cost, including \$50 administrative fee, \$26.00 recording fee, \$5, 075.00 Ward 4
- C. Demolition of property assessed to Phylis Tiller, 2020 Lindsey Ave. Total cost, including \$50 administrative fee, \$26.00 recording fee, \$5, 026.00 Ward 4
- D. Demolition of property assessed to Genora Porter Arrington Et Al, 218 W. 1st St. Total cost, including \$50 administrative fee, \$26.00 recording fee, \$4, 076.00 Ward 5
- E. Demolition of property assessed to Knight W. H. Jr., 721 Magnolia St. Total cost, including \$50 administrative fee, \$.00 recording fee, \$4, 500.00 Ward 6
- F. Demolition of property assessed to James D. & Joanne Welborn, 2033 Ellisville Blvd. Total cost, including \$50 administrative fee, \$26.00 recording fee, \$5, 075.00 Ward 7

Attachments: [Demo Assessments 03042025](#)

[Demo Bills 3-4-25-02252025104854](#)

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

5. ROUTINE AGENDA

A. [ID 25-7654](#)

Consider adopting a Resolution to approve the Claims Docket.

Attachments: [RESOLUTION](#)

[WARRANT MARCH 04 2025](#)

[CLAIMS DOCKET MARCH 04 2025](#)

A motion was made by Councilperson Jason Capers, 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

EXECUTIVE SESSION