



City of Laurel

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

Regular Meeting Minutes City Council

Tuesday, October 6, 2020

5:30 PM

Council Chambers

CALL TO ORDER

Present: 6 - Councilperson Jason Capers, Councilperson Tony Wheat, Council President Tony Thaxton, Vice President George Carmichael, Councilperson Grace Amos and Councilperson Anthony Page

Absent: 1 - Councilperson Stacy Comegys

Staff: 3 - Mayor Johnny Magee, City Attorney Deidra Bassi and City Council Clerk Sharon King

PRAYER

Councilperson Tony Thaxton

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. [ID 20-4525](#) September 22, 2020

Attachments: [CoL Minutes of 09222020](#)

A motion was made by Councilperson Tony Wheat, seconded by Councilperson Anthony Page, that the Minutes be approved. Upon roll call vote the President declared the motion carried by the results as follows:

Yea: 6 - Jason Capers, Tony Wheat, Tony Thaxton, George Carmichael, Grace Amos and Anthony Page

Absent: 1 - Stacy Comegys

1. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Councilperson Tony Wheat, seconded by Councilperson Anthony Page, 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 2B., Presentation from Laurel Main Street Director, Judi Holifield.

Add Agenda Item 2C., Presentation from Chad Mask, Attorney for Pendorff Annexation, giving update.

Delete Agenda Item 3A2 (b & c), Consider adopting a Resolution to conduct a public hearing on property in need of cleaning: (B) Lawrence Moore Sr., 2322 Queenburg Avenue ; (C) Juanita Portis, 1142 Spriggs Street

Yea: 6 - Jason Capers, Tony Wheat, Tony Thaxton, George Carmichael, Grace Amos and Anthony Page

Absent: 1 - Stacy Comegys

2. PRESENTATION AGENDA

A. [ID 20-4524](#)

Councilman George Carmichael to recognize members of the International Arts Mentors.

Attachments: [Certificate of International Arts Mentors](#)

This Presentation was presented by Councilman George Carmichael. See attached Certificate.

B. [ID 20-4539](#)

Consider hearing a presentation from Laurel Main Street Director Judi Holifield.

This Presentation was presented: Judi Holifield, Director of Laurel Main Street, came before the Council to update on the businesses and accomplishments downtown. She stated that several new businesses had opened downtown and more to come. Ms. Holifield elaborated on how excited the Laurel Main Street was with the growth. She also stated that she will be retiring and introduced the Mayor and Council to her successor, Susan Ladd. Ms. Holifield stated that she will continue working through December 31, and will continue to live in the city’s historic district and be available when needed.

C. [ID 20-4540](#)

To hear an update on the Pendorff Annexation case from Chad Mask/Annexation attorney.

This Presentation was presented: Attorney Chad Mask came before the council about the city’s recent state Supreme Court victory in the battle to annex Pendorff that will officially take effect on October 25, he stated. Mask also stated that the most immediate change will be the city police and fire protection that the 700-plus new Laurel residents will be under, Mask said. If there’s a fire or crime in Pendorff on October 25, city firefighters or police will be responsible for responding. Mask encouraged new residents to contact their insurance agent to notify them of the change on Monday, October 26. He stated that because they are now under a Class 10 fire rating, which has rates that are “sky high,” but as part of the city, that rating will be a Class 5. should reduce rates immediately and those who pay yearly should get a refund, Mask said.

Attorney Chad Mask brought a map of the city with annexed Pendorff for council members. City services will have to be available to Pendorff residents and businesses within five years. Infrastructure upgrades are expected to cost the city \$16.5 million. New city residents would not have to pay city school taxes and would be allowed to continue sending their children to county schools, according to the plan. The Mayor stated the addition of 286 residential units will increase the city’s population by 729 and add 67 businesses, that will add an estimated \$700,000 annually to the city treasury. “Congratulations to each of you,” Mask said after the end of the legal process that started two years with the ruling of special appointed Judge James Bell in Jones County Chancery Court and ended with an unsuccessful appeal by the Pendorff Community Association in the state Supreme Court. Mask stated “The mayor was a key leader on this and (City Attorney DeeDee Bassi) successfully tried the case.” The new residents will be able to vote in the city election in June, so the district lines of all wards will be adjusted in time for that, Mask said.

3. PUBLIC AGENDA

A. PUBLIC HEARING

1. SET PUBLIC HEARING

A. [ID 20-4520](#)

Consider adopting an Order to set a date of November 3, 2020 to conduct a public hearing in regard to the properties listed to determine whether or not the properties are in such a state of uncleanliness so as to be a menace to the public health and safety of the community.

- a. Eric Damond Johnson, overgrown property at 16 Marion Drive, PPIN 14421, WD 7
- b. Christopher Welch, overgrown property at 2619 N 7th Ave, PPIN 30028, WD 3
- c. Clay Milsap, overgrown property at 2215 N 3rd Ave, PPIN 11736, WD 4
- d. Henry Heidelberg, overgrown property at 1728 N Joe Wheeler Ave, PPIN 15694, WD 4
- e. Annie Moore, overgrown property at 704 E Elmo St, PPIN 10815, WD 4
- f. Marquin Bivins, overgrown property at 708 E Elmo St, PPIN 10816, WD 4
- g. Vincent H & Sylvester Witherspoon, overgrown property at 1234 S 17th Ave, PPIN 16074, WD 1
- h. Andrew W. Ishee, overgrown property at 1111 S 17th Ave, PPIN 14110, WD 1
- i. Faye Cutchens Trustee, overgrown property at 811 West Dr, PPIN 16169, WD 1
- j. Barbara L. Johnson, overgrown property at 1420 Margaret Dr, PPIN 31567, WD 7
- k. Rossie Amos McCormick, overgrown property at Capitol St & Palmer Ave, WD 7
- l. Pearlina S. Anderson, overgrown property at 1153 Capitol St, PPIN 13139, WD 7
- m. Selvin Cox, overgrown property at 2263 Palmer Ave, PPIN 11111, WD 7

Attachments: [Sets for Nov 3](#)

A motion was made by Councilperson Grace Amos, seconded by Councilperson Anthony Page, that the Orders to Set Hearings be adopted. Upon roll call vote the President declared the motion carried by the results as follows:

Yea: 6 - Jason Capers, Tony Wheat, Tony Thaxton, George Carmichael, Grace Amos and Anthony Page

Absent: 1 - Stacy Comegys

2. CONDUCT PUBLIC HEARING**A. [ID 20-4516](#)**

Consider adopting a Resolution to conduct a public hearing on October 6, 2020 in regards to a property located at 2103 Center Ave, which belongs to Romas Revell McLain, to determine whether or not the property is in such a state of uncleanliness so as to be a menace to the public health and safety of the community. Property is located in WARD 7.

Attachments: [2103 Center Ave](#)
[2103 CENTER AVE, 25 AUG 001](#)
[2103 CENTER AVE, 25 AUG 002](#)

A motion was made by Councilperson Tony Wheat, seconded by Councilperson Anthony Page, that the Resolution be adopted. Upon roll call vote the President declared the motion carried by the results as follows:

Yea: 6 - Jason Capers, Tony Wheat, Tony Thaxton, George Carmichael, Grace Amos and Anthony Page

Absent: 1 - Stacy Comegys

B. [ID 20-4517](#)

Consider adopting a Resolution to conduct a public hearing on October 6, 2020 in regards to a property located at 2322 Queensburg Ave, which belongs to Lawrence Moore Sr, to determine whether or not the property is in such a state of uncleanliness so as to be a menace to the public health and safety of the community. Property is located in WARD 7.

Attachments: [2322 Queensburg Ave](#)
[2322 QUEENSBURG AVE 25 AUG 001](#)
[2322 QUEENSBURG AVE 25 AUG 002](#)

This Resolution to Conduct Hearing was deleted during Confirmation of Agenda

C. [ID 20-4518](#)

Consider adopting a Resolution to conduct a public hearing on October 6, 2020 in regards to a property located at 1142 Spriggs St, which belongs to Juanita Portis, to determine whether or not the property is in such a state of uncleanliness so as to be a menace to the public health and safety of the community. Property is located in WARD 7.

Attachments: [1142 Spriggs ST](#)
[1142 SPRIGGS ST, 25 AUG 001](#)
[1142 SPRIGGS ST, 25 AUG 002](#)

This Resolution to Conduct Hearing was deleted during Confirmation of Agenda

D. [ID 20-4519](#)

Consider adopting a Resolution to conduct a public hearing on October 6, 2020 in regards to a property located at 923 Jeffery Dr, which belongs to Kaul Arvinder, to determine whether or not the property is in such a state of uncleanliness so as to be a menace to the public health and safety of the community. Property is located in WARD 3.

Attachments: [923 Jeffery Dr](#)
[923 Jeffery](#)

A motion was made by Councilperson Tony Wheat, seconded by Council President Tony Thaxton, that the Resolution be adopted. Upon roll call vote the President declared the motion carried by the results as follows:

Yea: 6 - Jason Capers, Tony Wheat, Tony Thaxton, George Carmichael, Grace Amos and Anthony Page

Absent: 1 - Stacy Comegys

B. CITIZENS HEARING**C. CITIZENS FORUM****4. POLICY AGENDA****A. [ID 20-4521](#)**

Consider adopting an Order approving an agreement for professional services pertaining to a redistricting plan for the City of Laurel resulting from the recent Pendorff Annexation court decision.

Attachments: [order - Redistricting 2020](#)
[City of Laurel Redistricting Letter of Agreement](#)

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: 6 - Jason Capers, Tony Wheat, Tony Thaxton, George Carmichael, Grace Amos and Anthony Page

Absent: 1 - Stacy Comegys

B. [ID 20-4507](#)

Consider adopting a Resolution approving the proposal of Neel-Schaffer, Inc. for engineering services related to a Clean Water State Revolving Fund Loan project.

Attachments: [RESApproveCleanWaterSRFLoanEngineeringServices2020](#)
[RESApproveCleanWaterSRFLoanEngineeringServicesProposal.2020.](#)
[ExhibitA](#)

A motion was made by Councilperson Tony Wheat, seconded by Councilperson Anthony Page, that the Resolution be adopted. Upon roll call vote the President declared the motion carried by the results as follows:

Yea: 6 - Jason Capers, Tony Wheat, Tony Thaxton, George Carmichael, Grace Amos and Anthony Page

Absent: 1 - Stacy Comegys

C. [ID 20-4532](#)

Consider adopting a Resolution granting authority to advertise for bids for Phase II of the Laurel Sportplex Expansion Project.

Attachments: [Resolution to Advertise Phase II.doc](#)

A motion was made by Councilperson Tony Wheat, 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: 6 - Jason Capers, Tony Wheat, Tony Thaxton, George Carmichael, Grace Amos and Anthony Page

Absent: 1 - Stacy Comegys

D. [ID 20-4531](#)

Consider adopting a Resolution granting authority to close out the 5th Avenue and 13th Avenue Utility Improvements Project.

Attachments: [Resolution](#)
[Close Out Documents](#)
[Summary Change Order No. 3](#)

A motion was made by Councilperson Tony Wheat, seconded by Councilperson Anthony Page, that the Resolution be adopted. Upon roll call vote the President declared the motion carried by the results as follows:

Yea: 6 - Jason Capers, Tony Wheat, Tony Thaxton, George Carmichael, Grace Amos and Anthony Page

Absent: 1 - Stacy Comegys

E. [ID 20-4523](#)

Consider adopting a Resolution granting the administration authority to approve Change Order No. 1 for the Daphne Park Improvements Tennis Courts Reconstruction Project.

Attachments: [Resolution](#)
[Change Order No. 1](#)

A motion was made by Councilperson Grace Amos, seconded by Councilperson Tony Wheat, that the Resolution be adopted. Upon roll call vote the President declared the motion carried by the results as follows:

Yea: 6 - Jason Capers, Tony Wheat, Tony Thaxton, George Carmichael, Grace Amos and Anthony Page

Absent: 1 - Stacy Comegys

F. [ID 20-4535](#)

Consider adopting a Resolution granting authority to close out the Jefferson Street Road Diet and Pedestrian Improvements Project.

Attachments: [Resolution](#)
[JeffersonStreetRoadDietClose-Out Docs](#)

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

Yea: 6 - Jason Capers, Tony Wheat, Tony Thaxton, George Carmichael, Grace Amos and Anthony Page

Absent: 1 - Stacy Comegys

G. [ID 20-4530](#)

Consider adopting an Order granting authority to award construction of the Iris Drive Bridge replacement project.

Attachments: [ORDAuthorizeBidIrisDriveBridgeReplacementProject2020](#)
[ORDAuthorizeBidIrisDriveBridgeReplacementProject2020.ExhibitA](#)

A motion was made by Councilperson Jason Capers, seconded by Councilperson Anthony Page, that the Order be adopted. Upon roll call vote the President declared the motion carried by the results as follows:

Yea: 6 - Jason Capers, Tony Wheat, Tony Thaxton, George Carmichael, Grace Amos and Anthony Page

Absent: 1 - Stacy Comegys

H. [ID 20-4527](#)

Consider adopting a Resolution designating agents for FEMA disaster assistance funds relating to Iris Drive Bridge replacement project.

Attachments: [RESDesignateAgentsFEMAFundsIrisDriveBridgeReplacement2020](#)
[RESDesignateAgentsFEMAFundsIrisDriveBridgeReplacement2020.ExhibitA](#)

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: 6 - Jason Capers, Tony Wheat, Tony Thaxton, George Carmichael, Grace Amos and Anthony Page

Absent: 1 - Stacy Comegys

I. [ID 20-4526](#)

Consider adopting an Order acknowledging the receipt of two RFP's from Waste Pro and Arrow Disposal Service, Inc. for Sanitation Services.

Attachments: [order - sanitation bid acknowledgement](#)

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: 6 - Jason Capers, Tony Wheat, Tony Thaxton, George Carmichael, Grace Amos and Anthony Page

Absent: 1 - Stacy Comegys

J. [ID 20-4522](#)

Consider adopting an Order approving an agreement between MEMA and the City of Laurel for the acceptance of County and Municipality Emergency Relief Funds.

Attachments: [order - MEMA COVID 2020](#)
[DOC092520-09252020172004](#)

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: 6 - Jason Capers, Tony Wheat, Tony Thaxton, George Carmichael, Grace Amos and Anthony Page

Absent: 1 - Stacy Comegys

K. [ID 20-4529](#)

Consider adopting an Order establishing a policy that allows the City of Laurel to collect 9.42 mils from any requested tax exemption.

Attachments: [order - tax exemption 10-2020](#)

A motion was made by Councilperson Jason Capers, seconded by Councilperson Tony Wheat, that the Order be adopted. Upon roll call vote the President declared the motion carried by the results as follows:

Yea: 6 - Jason Capers, Tony Wheat, Tony Thaxton, George Carmichael, Grace Amos and Anthony Page

Absent: 1 - Stacy Comegys

L. [ID 20-4509](#)

Consider adopting an Order approving the tourism tax transfer to the Magnolia Center for FY 2020.

Attachments: [resolution - mag cen approp](#)
[MAGNOLIA CENTER 1](#)

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: 6 - Jason Capers, Tony Wheat, Tony Thaxton, George Carmichael, Grace Amos and Anthony Page

Absent: 1 - Stacy Comegys

M. [ID 20-4508](#)

Consider adopting an Order approving the annual budgeted appropriations.

Attachments: [resolution - fy approp](#)

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: 6 - Jason Capers, Tony Wheat, Tony Thaxton, George Carmichael, Grace Amos and Anthony Page

Absent: 1 - Stacy Comegys

N. [ID 20-4514](#)

Consider adopting the Second Reading of an Ordinance amending the City of Laurel's Personnel Rules & Regulations Handbook, Fourth Edition.

Attachments: [ORDINANCE](#)
[AmendPersonnelRules&RegulationsHandbookChapter7EmployeeBenefitsSecondReading.2020](#)

A motion was made by Councilperson Jason Capers, seconded by Councilperson Grace Amos, 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 - Jason Capers, Tony Wheat, Tony Thaxton, George Carmichael, Grace Amos and Anthony Page

Absent: 1 - Stacy Comegys

Enactment No: 1701-2020

O. [ID 20-4533](#)

Consider adopting a Resolution endorsing the nomination of City Clerk/Finance Director Mary Ann Hess to the office of IIMC Vice President.

Attachments: [resolution of support - IIMC Vice President](#)

A motion was made by Councilperson Jason Capers, seconded by Councilperson Tony Wheat, that the Order be adopted. Upon roll call vote the President declared the motion carried by the results as follows:

Yea: 6 - Jason Capers, Tony Wheat, Tony Thaxton, George Carmichael, Grace Amos and Anthony Page

Absent: 1 - Stacy Comegys

P. [ID 20-4511](#)

Consider adopting an Order that the City Council hereby orders the Franchise Ordinance with Mississippi Power Company so granted and accepted be spread upon the Ordinance Book of the Municipality of Laurel, Mississippi.

Attachments: [FF10 - MS Power Election 2020](#)
[Executed - Form FF9 \(MPC\)\(9442775.1\)](#)

A motion was made by Councilperson Jason Capers, seconded by Councilperson Tony Wheat, that the Order be adopted. Upon roll call vote the President declared the motion carried by the results as follows:

Yea: 6 - Jason Capers, Tony Wheat, Tony Thaxton, George Carmichael, Grace Amos and Anthony Page

Absent: 1 - Stacy Comegys

Q. [ID 20-4513](#)

Consider adopting an Order to advertise for Property Insurance for the year 2020-21.

Attachments: [order - adv for bids - property insurance 2020-2021 A](#)
[2020 insurance bid notice a](#)

A motion was made by Councilperson Jason Capers, seconded by Councilperson Tony Wheat, that the Order be adopted. Upon roll call vote the President declared the motion carried by the results as follows:

Yea: 6 - Jason Capers, Tony Wheat, Tony Thaxton, George Carmichael, Grace Amos and Anthony Page

Absent: 1 - Stacy Comegys

R. [ID 20-4512](#)

Consider adopting a Final Order for approving an application for Tax Exemption on Ad Valorem for Dunn Roadbuilders LLC.

Attachments: [FINAL ORDER Dunn Roadbuilders 2020](#)
[Exhibit A for prop tax exemption - Dunn Roadbuilders 2020](#)
[State Dunn Roadbuilders LLC. \(City of Laurel\) 2020](#)

A motion was made by Councilperson Tony Wheat, 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: 6 - Jason Capers, Tony Wheat, Tony Thaxton, George Carmichael, Grace Amos and Anthony Page

Absent: 1 - Stacy Comegys

S. [ID 20-4515](#)

Consider adopting an Order to approve lot cleaning assessments on the following properties:

- a. Cut and cleaning of property assessed to Sharon Annette Smith, 911 S 11th Ave, Total Cost, including \$75 administrative fee, \$120.00, WD 6
- b. Cut and cleaning of property assessed to Lucious Newell % Colette White, 1728 General Pershing, Total Cost, including \$75 administrative fee, \$140.00, WD 1
- c. Cut and cleaning of property assessed to Georgia & Gregory Miller, 1819 Airport Drive, Total cost, including \$75 administrative fee, \$245, WD 7
- d. DEMOLITION CLEANUP of property assessed to Frank Martin Est % Donald Barnett, 1646 Queensburg Ave, Total cost, including \$75 administrative fee, \$690.00, WD 7

Attachments: [Assessments for Oct 6](#)
[Copies of assessment bills Oct 6](#)

A motion was made by Councilperson Jason Capers, seconded by Councilperson Tony Wheat, that the Order be adopted. Upon roll call vote the President declared the motion carried by the results as follows:

Yea: 6 - Jason Capers, Tony Wheat, Tony Thaxton, George Carmichael, Grace Amos and Anthony Page

Absent: 1 - Stacy Comegys

T. [ID 20-4536](#)

Consider adopting an Order authorizing payment to McLaurin Carpets for purchase and installation of carpet at City Hall.

Attachments: [ORDAuthorizePaymentMcLaurinCarpets2020](#)
[ORDAuthorizePaymentMcLaurinCarpets2020.ExhibitA](#)

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: 6 - Jason Capers, Tony Wheat, Tony Thaxton, George Carmichael, Grace Amos and Anthony Page

Absent: 1 - Stacy Comegys

5. ROUTINE AGENDA**A. [ID 20-4534](#)**

Consider adopting a Resolution to approve the claims docket.

Attachments: [CLAIMS DOCKET RESOLUTION ONLY.docx](#)
[WARRANT OCTOBER 06 2020.pdf](#)
[CLAIMS DOCKET OCTOBER 06 2020.pdf](#)

A motion was made by Councilperson Tony Wheat, seconded by Councilperson Anthony Page, that the Resolution be adopted. Upon roll call vote the President declared the motion carried by the results as follows:

Yea: 6 - Jason Capers, Tony Wheat, Tony Thaxton, George Carmichael, Grace Amos and Anthony Page

Absent: 1 - Stacy Comegys

EXECUTIVE SESSION