



# City of Laurel

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

## Regular Meeting Minutes City Council

Tuesday, October 20, 2020

9:00 AM

Council Chambers

### CALL TO ORDER

**Present:** 5 - Councilperson Tony Wheat, Council President Tony Thaxton, Vice President George Carmichael, Councilperson Grace Amos and Councilperson Anthony Page  
**Absent:** 2 - Councilperson Jason Capers and Councilperson Stacy Comegys  
**Staff:** 3 - Mayor Johnny Magee, City Attorney Deidra Bassi and City Council Clerk Sharon King

### PRAYER

Councilperson George Carmichael

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

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. [ID 20-4548](#) October 6, 2020

Attachments: [CoL Minutes of 10062020](#)

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

**Yea:** 5 - Tony Wheat, Tony Thaxton, George Carmichael, Grace Amos and Anthony Page

**Absent:** 2 - Jason Capers and Stacy Comegys

### 1. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Councilperson Tony Wheat, seconded by Councilperson Grace Amos, 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 4K., Consider adopting an Order to anonymously rename the softball Fields and its amenities located at the Susan B. Vincent Sportsplex.

**Yea:** 5 - Tony Wheat, Tony Thaxton, George Carmichael, Grace Amos and Anthony Page

**Absent:** 2 - Jason Capers and Stacy Comegys

### 2. PRESENTATION AGENDA

A. [ID 20-4537](#)

Monthly Report of Privilege Taxes issued for the month of September 2020.

Attachments: [Cover Letter](#)

[BL Monthly Transaction Report - 9220](#)

[New Business License List](#)

There came on before the City Council a report of privilege licenses that have been issued for the month of September 2020. This report can be reviewed in the City Clerk's office.

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B. [ID 20-4554](#)

Monthly Report of the Budget Certification.

Attachments: [CERTIFICATION SEPT20](#)  
[Copy of SALESTAX 2020](#)  
[TOURISMTAX 2020](#)  
[REVENUE 2020](#)

Mary Ann Hess, City Clerk/Finance Director, presented the following Budget and Purchasing Certification:

3. PUBLIC AGENDA

A. PUBLIC HEARING

1. SET PUBLIC HEARING

A. [ID 20-4549](#)

Consider adopting an Order to set a date of November 17, 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. Max Myrick, overgrown property at 2816 N 7th Ave, PPIN 13240, WD 3
- b. JP Morgan Chase Bank, overgrown property at 1512 Lee St, PPIN 11156, WD 1
- c. L & E Properties, overgrown property at a lot south of 604 Sandy T Gavin Ave, PPIN 9769, WD 6
- d. Rickey Divore ET, overgrown property at 1119 Martin Luther King Ave, PPIN 9581, WD 5
- e. Edwin T Benton ET, DILAPIDATED STRUCTURE at 1709 S 11th Ave, PPIN 12442, WD 7
- f. Joe H Morgan ET, UNSECURED PROPERTY at 1519 Airport Dr, PPIN 11210, WD 7

Attachments: [Sets for Nov 17](#)

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

**Yea:** 5 - Tony Wheat, Tony Thaxton, George Carmichael, Grace Amos and Anthony Page

**Absent:** 2 - Jason Capers and Stacy Comegys

2. CONDUCT PUBLIC HEARING

A motion was made by Councilperson Tony Wheat, seconded by Councilperson Anthony Page, to conduct a public hearing. Upon roll call vote the President declared the motion carried by the results as follows:

**Yea:** 5 - Tony Wheat, Tony Thaxton, George Carmichael, Grace Amos and Anthony Page

**Absent:** 2 - Jason Capers and Stacy Comegys

A. [ID 20-4542](#)

Consider adopting a Resolution to conduct a public hearing on October 20, 2020 in regards to a property located at 308 N 12th Ave, which belongs to The Hudson Group LLC, 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 6.

Attachments: [308 N 12th Ave](#)  
[308 N 12th Ave 13OCT2020 001](#)  
[308 N 12th Ave 13OCT2020 002](#)  
[308 N 12th Ave 13OCT2020 003](#)  
[308 N 12th Ave 13OCT2020 006](#)

A motion was made by Councilperson Anthony Page, 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:** 5 - Tony Wheat, Tony Thaxton, George Carmichael, Grace Amos and Anthony Page

**Absent:** 2 - Jason Capers and Stacy Comegys

**B.** [ID 20-4543](#)

Consider adopting a Resolution to conduct a public hearing on October 20, 2020 in regards to a property located at 479 S 14th Ave, which belongs to Linda Holder, 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 6.

**Attachments:** [479 S 14th Ave](#)  
[479 S 14th Ave 13OCT2020 001](#)  
[479 S 14th Ave 13OCT2020 002](#)  
[479 S 14th Ave 13OCT2020 003](#)

**A motion was made by Councilperson Anthony Page, 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:** 5 - Tony Wheat, Tony Thaxton, George Carmichael, Grace Amos and Anthony Page

**Absent:** 2 - Jason Capers and Stacy Comegys

**C.** [ID 20-4544](#)

Consider adopting a Resolution to conduct a public hearing on October 20, 2020 in regards to a property located at 611 N 14th Ave, which belongs to Cardinal Management Group LLC, 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 6.

**Attachments:** [611 N 14th Ave](#)  
[611 N 14th Ave 13OCT2020 001](#)  
[611 N 14th Ave 13OCT2020 002](#)  
[611 N 14th Ave 13OCT2020 003](#)

**A motion was made by Councilperson Anthony Page, 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:** 5 - Tony Wheat, Tony Thaxton, George Carmichael, Grace Amos and Anthony Page

**Absent:** 2 - Jason Capers and Stacy Comegys

**D.** [ID 20-4545](#)

Consider adopting a Resolution to conduct a public hearing on October 20, 2020 in regards to a property located at 108 E 7th St, which belongs to Beverly Whitten, 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 5.

**Attachments:** [108 E 7th St](#)  
[108 E 7th St 13OCT2020 001](#)  
[108 E 7th St 13OCT2020 002](#)

**A motion was made by Councilperson Tony Wheat, seconded by Councilperson Anthony Page, that the Resolution be adopted as amended, allowing a 30 day extension. Upon roll call vote the President declared the motion carried by the results as follows:**

**Yea:** 5 - Tony Wheat, Tony Thaxton, George Carmichael, Grace Amos and Anthony Page

**Absent:** 2 - Jason Capers and Stacy Comegys

E. [ID 20-4546](#)

Consider adopting a Resolution to conduct a public hearing on October 20, 2020 in regards to a property located at a lot adjacent to 108 E 7th St, which belongs to Beverly Whitten, 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 5.

Attachments:   [LOT ADJACENT TO 108 E 7th St](#)  
[Lot East of 108 E 7th St 13OCT2020 001](#)  
[Lot East of 108 E 7th St 13OCT2020 002](#)  
[Lot East of 108 E 7th St 13OCT2020 003](#)

A motion was made by Councilperson Tony Wheat, seconded by Councilperson Anthony Page, that the Resolution be adopted as amended, allowing a 30 day extension. Upon roll call vote the President declared the motion carried by the results as follows:

Yea:    5 -    Tony Wheat, Tony Thaxton, George Carmichael, Grace Amos and Anthony Page

Absent:   2 -    Jason Capers and Stacy Comegys

B. CITIZENS HEARING

A. [ID 20-4558](#)

Mrs. Luretha Bivins request to speak at the city council meeting.

Attachments:   [Citizens Hearing - Luretha Bivins](#)

President Thaxton introduced Mrs. Luretha Bivins of 907 S. 8th Avenue, Laurel, MS. Mrs. Bivins came before the Council to address her concerns on generating false work order, replacing faulty water meters and assessing fees to customers, poorly trained clerical staff, poor customer service, affixing fees that affect customer’s credit and management availability. Upon her final statement, President Thaxton referred her to the Administration for her concerns.

\* \* \* \* \*

C. CITIZENS FORUM

President Thaxton recognized Anthony Hudson, 2219 Center Avenue of Ward 7. Mr. Hudson stated he was for promoting the Police Reform ordinance. He also stated that his grandson was arrested and suffered police brutality in another state. These were reasons for the need of police reform in Laurel as well.

\* \* \* \* \*

4. POLICY AGENDA

**A. [ID 20-4552](#)**

Consider adopting a Resolution of the Mayor and City Council of the City of Laurel, Mississippi (The “City”), approving the employment of professionals in connection with the issuance of refunding bonds of the City, in one or more series, in a to be determined principal amount to raise money for the purpose of defeasing and refunding the City’s debt including, but not limited to , all or a portion of the City’s \$10,000,000 General Obligation Bonds, Series 2015, dated December 10, 2015, the City’s \$4,400,000 General Obligation Bonds, Series 2016, dated April 14, 2016, and all or a portion of the City’s State Revolving Fund Loans, and for other related purposes as authorized under Mississippi Code Ann. Sections 31-27-1 et seq., or Sections 31-15-1 et seq., as amended and supplemented from time to time, including paying for the cost of such borrowing; and for related purposes.

**Attachments:** [Laurel MS GO Ref Bonds \(2020\) \( \)- Engagement Resolution](#)  
[Laurel MS Refunding Bonds \(2020\)\( \) - BS Engagment Letter](#)  
[G-17 - Laurel GO Refunding 10.13.20](#)  
[Laurel GO Refunding Bonds \(2020\) - City MA \(IRMA\) Disclosure Eng Ltr \(10.20.20\)](#)

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:** 5 - Tony Wheat, Tony Thaxton, George Carmichael, Grace Amos and Anthony Page

**Absent:** 2 - Jason Capers and Stacy Comegys

**B. [ID 20-4557](#)**

Consider adopting a Resolution giving authority to approve Change Order No. 1 of the 13th Avenue Overlay and Drainage Improvement Project.

**Attachments:** [Resolution](#)  
[CHANGE ORDER NO. 1.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:** 5 - Tony Wheat, Tony Thaxton, George Carmichael, Grace Amos and Anthony Page

**Absent:** 2 - Jason Capers and Stacy Comegys

**C. [ID 20-4559](#)**

Consider adopting a Resolution giving authority to approve Change Order No. 1 5th Avenue Overlay and Drainage Project.

**Attachments:** [Resolution](#)  
[CHANGE ORDER NO. 1](#)

A motion was made by Councilperson Grace Amos, 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:** 5 - Tony Wheat, Tony Thaxton, George Carmichael, Grace Amos and Anthony Page

**Absent:** 2 - Jason Capers and Stacy Comegys

**D. [ID 20-4538](#)**

Consider adopting an Order authorizing the City to enter into an additional services agreement with SUEZ for upgrade of UV treatment systems at Smyly and Massey wastewater plants.

**Attachments:** [ORDAuthorizeAgreementSuezAdditionalServicesSmylyMasseyUVSystem2020](#)  
[Suez Agreement Smyly UV System](#)

A motion was made by Councilperson Tony Wheat, 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:** 5 - Tony Wheat, Tony Thaxton, George Carmichael, Grace Amos and Anthony Page

**Absent:** 2 - Jason Capers and Stacy Comegys

- E.** [ID 20-4547](#) Consider adopting an Order for publishing a bid for surplus property.-

**Attachments:** [order to advertise bid surplus property #14285 & 14287](#)

[NOTICE TO BIDDERS OF SURPLUS PROPERTY 14285 & 14287](#)

**A motion was made by Councilperson Anthony Page, 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:** 5 - Tony Wheat, Tony Thaxton, George Carmichael, Grace Amos and Anthony Page

**Absent:** 2 - Jason Capers and Stacy Comegys

- F.** [ID 20-4553](#)

Consider adopting an Order to approve travel for Kristal Jones, Lauren Stewart, Mary Ann Hess, and Sharon King to attend the 2020 Fall Master Municipal Clerk and Committee Academy of the Mississippi Municipal Clerks and Collectors Association October 21-23, 2020 at Embassy Suites by Hilton in Ridgeland, MS.

**Attachments:** [ORDER - Travel Fall Class](#)

[Fall MMC 2020 Announcement](#)

**A motion was made by Councilperson Grace Amos, 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:** 5 - Tony Wheat, Tony Thaxton, George Carmichael, Grace Amos and Anthony Page

**Absent:** 2 - Jason Capers and Stacy Comegys

- G.** [ID 20-4560](#)

Consider adopting an Order approving the request that Training Officer David Grasha be allowed to attend the 2020 Safariland Training Group Conference in Troy, AL on November 3-6, 2020.

**Attachments:** [Safariland Training Group 2020---DAVID GRASHA](#)

**A motion was made by Councilperson Tony Wheat, 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:** 5 - Tony Wheat, Tony Thaxton, George Carmichael, Grace Amos and Anthony Page

**Absent:** 2 - Jason Capers and Stacy Comegys

- H.** [ID 20-4551](#)

Consider adopting an Order to approve advertisement for Annual Bids and Semi-Annual Bids for FY 2021 to be publicly opened Thursday, November 12, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. at City Hall.

**Attachments:** [Order - Annual Bids & Semi Annual Bids](#)

[Notice to Bidders Annual & Semi Annual](#)

**A motion was made by Councilperson Grace Amos, 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:** 5 - Tony Wheat, Tony Thaxton, George Carmichael, Grace Amos and Anthony Page

**Absent:** 2 - Jason Capers and Stacy Comegys

I. [ID 20-4550](#)

Consider adopting an Order to approve certain budget amendments to FY 2020 budget.

Attachments: [Budget Amendment Order](#)  
[BA 10-20-2020A](#)

**A motion was made by Councilperson Tony Wheat, 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:** 5 - Tony Wheat, Tony Thaxton, George Carmichael, Grace Amos and Anthony Page

**Absent:** 2 - Jason Capers and Stacy Comegys

J. [ID 20-4541](#)

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

- A. Cleaning of property assessed to Sam Corriere Est % John Corriere, 111 Bay St, Total cost including \$75 administrative fee \$300.00, WD 5
- B. Cleaning of property assessed to Sam Corriere Est % John Corriere, 118 Bay St, Total cost including \$75 administrative fee \$255.00, WD 5
- C. Cleaning of property assessed to Martin Miss Investment LLC, lot west of 526 N 12th Ave, Total cost including \$75 administrative fee 180.00, WD 6
- D. Cleaning of property assessed to Chalmas Donald, 831 S 6th Ave, Total cost including \$75 administrative fee \$140.00, WD 6
- E. Cleaning of property assessed to Herbert Merrill Jr., located on E 7th St and Herbert Ave, Total cost including \$75 administrative fee \$300.00, WD 5
- F. Cleaning of property assessed to Evelyn Johnson, 1004 N 11th Ave, Total cost including \$75 administrative fee \$120.00, WD 6
- G. Cleaning of property assessed to Evelyn Johnson, 1008 N 11th Ave, Total cost including \$75 administrative fee \$120.00, WD 6
- H. Cleaning of property assessed to Plum Hill Properties LLC, a lot located on E 9th St, Total cost including \$75 administrative fee \$165.00, WD 5
- I. Cleaning of property assessed to Willie Jasper, 316 E 5th St, Total cost including \$75 administrative fee \$135.00, WD 5
- J. Cleaning of property assessed to USDA Rural Housing Service, 213 S Pine St, Total cost including \$75 administrative fee \$135.00, WD 5
- K. Cleaning of property assessed to Stratford Investments LLC, 518 Monroe St, Total cost including \$75 administrative fee \$120.00, WD 6
- L. Cleaning of property assessed to Frank Corriere Est, 308 E Oak St, Total cost including \$75 administrative fee \$120.00, WD 5
- M. Cleaning of property assessed to John Corriere, 207 Masonite Drive, Total cost including \$75 administrative fee \$210.00, WD 5
- N. Cleaning of property assessed to Ebrahim Aldiri, 313 N Pine St, Total cost including \$75 administrative fee \$160.00, WD 5

Attachments: [Assessments Oct 20 Meeting](#)  
[CLEANING BILLS OCT 20 MEETING](#)

**A motion was made by Councilperson Tony Wheat, 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:** 5 - Tony Wheat, Tony Thaxton, George Carmichael, Grace Amos and Anthony Page

**Absent:** 2 - Jason Capers and Stacy Comegys

K. [ID 20-4561](#)

Consider adopting an Order to anonymously rename the softball fields and its amenities located at the Susan B Vincent Sportsplex.

Attachments: [ORDER PC APPROVAL](#)

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

**Yea:** 5 - Tony Wheat, Tony Thaxton, George Carmichael, Grace Amos and Anthony Page

**Absent:** 2 - Jason Capers and Stacy Comegys

**5. ROUTINE AGENDA**

**A. [ID 20-4556](#)**

Consider adopting an Order ratifying approval of notice of November 10, 2020 Historic Commission public meeting.

**Attachments:** [ORDER HP NOV 10 Meeting](#)

**A motion was made by Councilperson Grace Amos, 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:** 5 - Tony Wheat, Tony Thaxton, George Carmichael, Grace Amos and Anthony Page

**Absent:** 2 - Jason Capers and Stacy Comegys

**B. [ID 20-4555](#)**

Consider adopting a Resolution to approve the claims docket.

**Attachments:** [CLAIMS DOCKET RESOLUTION ONLY.docx](#)

[WARRANT OCTOBER 20 2020.pdf](#)

[CLAIMS DOCKET OCTOBER 20 2020.pdf](#)

**A motion was made by Councilperson Tony Wheat, 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:** 5 - Tony Wheat, Tony Thaxton, George Carmichael, Grace Amos and Anthony Page

**Absent:** 2 - Jason Capers and Stacy Comegys

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**