



Tuesday, January 7, 2025
5:00 PM

City Council
Tuesday Meeting Agenda

Council Chambers
200 Forrest Street

Call to Order

Call to Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance

Presentation Agenda

<u>MB</u> <u>Page #</u>	<u>POLICY AGENDA</u>	
p. 233	1. 2025-3	Approve the minutes for the December 16 & 17, 2024 meetings of the City Council.
p. 233	2. 2025-4	Adopt an Ordinance to approve an amendment the Comprehensive Plan 2008-2028 to include the Right Down Broadway Master Plan. The Planning Commission recommended approval on December 11, 2024.
p. 233	3. 2025-5	Adopt an Ordinance to approve a zoning change from A-1 (General Agricultural) to A-2 (Agricultural Residential) for a property located at 34 South Hills Drive (PPIN 27754, Ward 5, Forrest County). The Planning Commission recommended approval on December 11, 2024.
p. 233-234	4. 2025-6	Approve a variance from the requirement of 10ft green space and tree requirement along a frontage to instead allow for 0ft of green space; a variance from the requirement of sidewalks along public streets to allow for no sidewalks along US Hwy 49 and Rawls Springs Rd.; a variance from the maximum requirement of 36ft for a three-way driveway entrance to instead allow for 41ft; and a variance from the minimum front setback requirement in a B-5 zone of 30ft to instead allow for 12.5ft for a proposed automotive filling station located at 6762 Hwy 49 (PPIN 27570, Ward 1, Forrest County). The Board of Adjustment recommended approval on December 11, 2024.
p. 234	5. 2025-7	Approve a variance request from the requirement of sidewalks along public streets to allow for no sidewalks along US Hwy 98 at a property located at 5032 Hardy Street (PPIN 18460, Lamar County, Ward 3). The Board of Adjustment recommended approval on December 11, 2024.
p. 234	6. 2025-8	Acknowledge receipt of proposals for services related to the Comprehensive Plan Update and approve an agreement with Clarion Services, LLC, and authorize the Mayor to execute the same.
p. 234-235	7. 2025-9	Adopt a Resolution establishing petty cash funds effective October 1, 2024, and approve the issuance of a manual check to the petty cash custodian as of October 1, 2024.
p. 235	8. 2025-10	Adopt a Resolution setting Public Hearing on Monday, February 3rd, 2025 at 4:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers located at City Hall to determine if certain properties are in such a state of uncleanness so as to be a menace to the health and safety of the community, according to the provision of MS Code 1972, Section 21-19-11.
p. 235	9. 2025-11	Adopt Resolutions adjudicating and directing the placement as an assessment for the cleanup costs and applicable penalties, not to exceed the values prescribed by State law, against the enclosed properties.
p. 235-236	10. 2025-12	Approve Release of Lien documents filed in relation to Code Enforcement clean-up assessments per attached memo and authorize the Mayor to execute and record the same.
p. 236	11. 2025-13	- Deleted -
p. 236	12. 2025-14	Approve Amendment to an MOU between the City of Hattiesburg and the Mississippi Department of Archives and History for the Mississippi Community Heritage Preservation Grant's Project Period. Amendment extends completion date to December 1, 2025 and authorize the Mayor to execute the same.
p. 236	13. 2025-15	Approve Letter of Engagement with Karen McCarty for professional services related to the 2024 Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) and the 2025 Annual Action Plan and authorize the Mayor to execute the same.
p. 236-237	14. 2025-16	Approve revised Custodian of Data for the MOU with the Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) for the Lead Hazard Reduction Grant Program and authorize the Mayor to execute the same.
p. 237	15. 2025-17	Approve Agreement between the City of Hattiesburg and the YMCA of Southeast Mississippi to manage and staff the City pools and Programs for the amount of \$35,000 and authorize the Mayor to execute all necessary documentation and issuance of a manual check.
p. 237	16. 2024-577	Take from the table; Adopt a Resolution granting and allowing ad valorem tax exemption, except state and school district ad valorem taxes to Kohler Co, for a period not to exceed ten (10) years, commencing December 31, 2023, and ending December 31, 2033, with a true value of \$99,925,745.00 or the amount approved by The Mississippi Department of Revenue.

ROUTINE AGENDA

- p. 238

1.

2024-779

Ratification of claims docket for the period ending December 13, 2024.

p. 238

2.

2025-18

Acknowledge the Planning Commission’s approval of a Historic Flood Variance for a structure at 215 Main Street (PPIN 18535, Ward 4, Forrest County), as requested by Southern Gents of Mississippi LLC, Property Owner, and Nick Williams, Representative. The Planning Commission approved the variance on December 11th, 2024.

p. 238

3.

2025-19

Acknowledge manual checks approved during a period beginning December 1, 2024 and ending December 31, 2024.

p. 238

4.

2025-20

Acknowledge receipt of the Two-Quote Docket

p. 238

5.

2025-27

Acknowledge receipt of proposals received on December 19, 2024 for the two (2) Year Depositories and accept all proposals received.

p. 238

6.

2025-21

Authorize submission of a grant application to the Keep America Beautiful MLK Corridor Community Grant.

p. 238

7.

2025-22

Authorize and Approve Publication of Advertisement of Bids for Katie-Dabbs Community Center Renovations.

p. 238

8.

2025-23

Approve Specifications and Authorize Publication of Advertisement for Term Bid # 25 Concrete & Brick Structures for the City of Hattiesburg, Term Bid beginning January 31, 2025 and ending December 31, 2027.

p. 238-239

9.

2025-24

Approve the sale of grave spaces per attached, Memo's, Receipts, and Deeds.

p. 239

10.

2025-25

Approve claims docket for the period ending December 31, 2024.

In Memoriam:

- Mr. Jonathan McSwain
- Mr. Joel Johnson
- Mrs. Dorothy Lynn Crosby Gammill
- Mrs. Mary Ellen Ham
- Mr. Christopher Ladd Hatten
- Mr. Ronald “Emery” Robinson, III
- Mr. Jonathan Everett Cole
- Mr. Lee Shands
- Mrs. Betty S. Nanney
- Ms. Melanie Keels
- Mr. Frank Allen Johnson

Meeting Adjourn

Call to Order

BE IT REMEMBERED that the **regular meeting of the Hattiesburg City Council was held at 5:00 p.m. Tuesday, January 7, 2025**, in Council Chambers at City Hall; same being from a recessed meeting held on January 6, 2025.

Those present included Mayor Toby Barker and members of the City Council Jeffrey George, Ward 1; Deborah Delgado, Ward 2 (via teleconference); Carter Carroll, Ward 3; Dave Ware, Ward 4; and Nicholas Brown, Ward 5. Others in attendance included Director of Administration/City Clerk, Kermas Eaton; City Attorney, Randy Pope; Clerk of Council, Ronda S. Kennedy; Deputy Clerk of Council, Lisa Luu Jolly; City staff members; media; and the public.

Council President George **Called the meeting to order.**

Call to Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance

The prayer was given by Officer David Matos.
The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Kermas Eaton.

Presentation Agenda

The PRESENTATION AGENDA came before the Council.

There were no presentations at this time.

POLICY AGENDA

THE MATTER OF THE AGENDA ORDER came before the Council.

The POLICY AGENDA came before the Council.

1. **2025-3** Approve the minutes for the December 16 & 17, 2024 meetings of the City Council.

Attachments: 12-16-2024 PH, AR, XS Mins.
 12-17-2024 Mins.

A MOTION was made by Council Member Carroll and seconded by Council Member Brown to **APPROVE** the minutes for the *December 16 & 17, 2024* meetings of the City Council.

There being no discussion, the Motion received the affirmative vote of the Council as follows:

Yeas: 5- George, Delgado (*via teleconference*), Carroll, Ware and Brown

Nays: 0

2. **2025-4** Adopt an Ordinance to approve an amendment the Comprehensive Plan 2008-2028 to include the Right Down Broadway Master Plan. The Planning Commission recommended approval on December 11, 2024.

Attachments: Staff Memo - Right Down Broadway
 Exhibit A Right Down Broadway
 Minutes- December Special Called Meeting 2024- HPC
 Ordinance - Right Down Broadway Master Plan

A MOTION was made by Council Vice President Ware and seconded by Council Member Carroll to **ADOPT** an **ORDINANCE (#3365)** to approve an amendment the Comprehensive Plan 2008-2028 to include the *Right Down Broadway Master Plan*.

There being no discussion, the Motion received the affirmative vote of the Council as follows:

Yeas: 5- George, Delgado (*via teleconference*), Carroll, Ware and Brown

Nays: 0

3. **2025-5** Adopt an Ordinance to approve a zoning change from A-1 (General Agricultural) to A-2 (Agricultural Residential) for a property located at 34 South Hills Drive (PPIN 27754, Ward 5, Forrest County). The Planning Commission recommended approval on December 11, 2024.

Attachments: A- Staff Report- 34 South Hills Drive
 A Image Sheet - 34 South Hills Dr
 Application S Hills Drive
 Minutes- December Special Called Meeting 2024- HPC
 Ordinance - ZONING CHANGE - South Hills Dr.

A MOTION was made by Council Member Brown and seconded by Council Member Carroll to **ADOPT** an **ORDINANCE (#3366)** to approve a zoning change for a property located at *34 South Hills Drive* from A-1 to

There being no discussion, the Motion received the affirmative vote of the Council as follows:

Yeas: 5- George, Delgado (*via teleconference*), Carroll, Ware and Brown

Nays: 0

4. **2025-6** Approve a variance from the requirement of 10ft green space and tree requirement along a frontage to instead allow for 0ft of green space; a variance from the requirement of sidewalks along public streets to allow for no sidewalks along US Hwy 49 and Rawls Springs Rd.; a variance from the maximum requirement of 36ft for a three-way driveway entrance to instead allow for 41ft; and a variance from the minimum front setback requirement in a B-5 zone of 30ft to instead allow for 12.5ft for a proposed

automotive filling station located at 6762 Hwy 49 (PPIN 27570, Ward 1, Forrest County). The Board of Adjustment recommended approval on December 11, 2024.

Attachments: A- Staff Summary- Keithco
 A Image Sheet - Keith Co
 Keithco Application
 Site plans
 Minutes- December Special Called Meeting 2024- BOA

A MOTION was made by Council Member Carroll and seconded by Council Member Brown to **APPROVE** the following variance requests, from the requirements, to allow: *0ft of green space; no sidewalks along US Hwy 49 and Rawls Springs Road; a 41ft three-way driveway entrance; and a 12.5 ft front setback* for an automotive filing station located at 6762 Hwy 49.

There being no discussion, the Motion received the affirmative vote of the Council as follows:

Yeas: 5- George, Delgado (*via teleconference*), Carroll, Ware and Brown

Nays: 0

5.
- 2025-7
- Approve a variance request from the requirement of sidewalks along public streets to allow for no sidewalks along US Hwy 98 at a property located at 5032 Hardy Street (PPIN 18460, Lamar County, Ward 3). The Board of Adjustment recommended approval on December 11, 2024.

Attachments: B- Staff Summary- 7 Brew
 B Image Sheet - 7 Brew
 Application
 Site Plan
 Minutes- December Special Called Meeting 2024- HPC

A MOTION was made by Council Member Carroll and seconded by Council Member Brown to **APPROVE** a variance request, from the requirement of sidewalks along public streets, to allow for no sidewalks along US Hwy 98 at a property located at *5032 Hardy Street*.

There being no discussion, the Motion received the affirmative vote of the Council as follows:

Yeas: 5- George, Delgado (*via teleconference*), Carroll, Ware and Brown

Nays: 0

6.
- 2025-8
- Acknowledge receipt of proposals for services related to the Comprehensive Plan Update and approve an agreement with Clarion Services, LLC, and authorize the Mayor to execute the same.

Attachments: Clarion_RFP
 DeLaine Companies_RFP
 SSR_RFP
 Clarion Contract
 Contract ExhibitA 24-12-30

A MOTION was made by Council Member Carroll and seconded by Council Member Brown to **ACKNOWLEDGE** receipt of proposals for services related to the *Comprehensive Plan Update* and **APPROVE** an agreement with *Clarion Services, LLC*, and **AUTHORIZE** the Mayor to execute the same.

There being no discussion, the Motion received the affirmative vote of the Council as follows:

Yeas: 5- George, Delgado (*via teleconference*), Carroll, Ware and Brown

Nays: 0

7.
- 2025-9
- Adopt a Resolution establishing petty cash funds effective October 1, 2024, and approve the issuance of a manual check to the petty cash custodian as of October 1, 2024.

Attachments: Petty Cash Resolution

A MOTION was made by Council Member Carroll and seconded by Council Member Brown to **ADOPT** a **RESOLUTION (#2025-1)** *establishing petty cash funds* effective October 1, 2024, and **APPROVE** the issuance of a manual check to the petty cash custodian as of October 1, 2024.

There being no discussion, the Motion received the affirmative vote of the Council as follows:

Yeas: 5- George, Delgado (*via teleconference*), Carroll, Ware and Brown

Nays: 0

8.
- 2025-10
- Adopt a Resolution setting Public Hearing on Monday, February 3rd, 2025 at 4:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers located at City Hall to determine if certain properties are in such a state of uncleanliness so as to be a menace to the health and safety of the community, according to the provision of MS Code 1972, Section 21-19-11.

Attachments: Request to Set Public Hearing –CE 01/07/2025
 Resolution for Setting Public Hearing for 02/03/2025

A MOTION was made by Council Member Carroll and seconded by Council Member Brown to **ADOPT** a **RESOLUTION (#2025-2)** *setting Public Hearing on Monday, February 3rd, 2025 at 4:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers located at City Hall* to determine if certain properties are in such a state of uncleanliness so as to be a menace to the health and safety of the community, according to the provision of MS Code 1972, Section 21-19-11.

There being no discussion, the Motion received the affirmative vote of the Council as follows:

Yeas: 5- George, Delgado (*via teleconference*), Carroll, Ware and Brown

Nays: 0

9.
- 2025-11
- Adopt Resolutions adjudicating and directing the placement as an assessment for the cleanup costs and applicable penalties, not to exceed the values prescribed by State law, against the enclosed properties.

Attachments: 01/07/2025 Adjudication Memo
 1. 79 Dixie Pine Adjudication Resolution
 2. 217 W 7th St Adjudication Resolution
 3. 500 Ruby Ave Adjudication Resolution
 4. 105 Plantation Place Dr Adjudication Resolution
 5. 520 North St Adjudication Resolution
 6. 515 North St Adjudication Resolution
 7. 1002 Butler Ave Adjudication Resolution

A MOTION was made by Council Member Carroll and seconded by Council Member Brown to **ADOPT** **RESOLUTIONS (#2025-3-9)** adjudicating and directing the placement as an assessment for the cleanup costs and applicable penalties, not to exceed the values prescribed by State law, against the enclosed properties.

There being no discussion, the Motion received the affirmative vote of the Council as follows:

Yeas: 5- George, Delgado (*via teleconference*), Carroll, Ware and Brown

Nays: 0

10.
- 2025-12
- Approve Release of Lien documents filed in relation to Code Enforcement clean-up assessments per attached memo and authorize the Mayor to execute and record the same.

Attachments: Release of Lien Memo 01/07/2025
 1. 990 Hardy St - Release of Lien Resolution

A MOTION was made by Council Member Carroll and seconded by Council Member Brown to APPROVE *Release of Lien* documents filed in relation to Code Enforcement clean-up assessments per attached memo and AUTHORIZE the Mayor to execute and record the same.

There being no discussion, the Motion received the affirmative vote of the Council as follows:

Yeas: 5- George, Delgado *(via teleconference)*, Carroll, Ware and Brown
Nays: 0

11.

2025-13

- Deleted -
12.

2025-14

Approve Amendment to an MOU between the City of Hattiesburg and the Mississippi Department of Archives and History for the Mississippi Community Heritage Preservation Grant’s Project Period. Amendment extends completion date to December 1, 2025 and authorize the Mayor to execute the same.

Attachments: MOA Amendment Extension 3 - G. L. hawkins Elementary School

A MOTION was made by Council Member Carroll and seconded by Council Member Brown to APPROVE Amendment to an MOU between the City of Hattiesburg and the *Mississippi Department of Archives and History for the Mississippi Community Heritage Preservation Grant’s Project Period*. Amendment extends completion date to December 1, 2025 and AUTHORIZE the Mayor to execute the same.

There being no discussion, the Motion received the affirmative vote of the Council as follows:

Yeas: 5- George, Delgado *(via teleconference)*, Carroll, Ware and Brown
Nays: 0

13.

2025-15

Approve Letter of Engagement with Karen McCarty for professional services related to the 2024 Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) and the 2025 Annual Action Plan and authorize the Mayor to execute the same.

Attachment: Karen McCarty - Hattiesburg Letter of Engagement

A MOTION was made by Council Member Carroll and seconded by Council Member Brown to APPROVE Letter of Engagement with *Karen McCarty* for professional services related to the *2024 Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) and the 2025 Annual Action Plan* and AUTHORIZE the Mayor to execute the same.

There being no discussion, the Motion received the affirmative vote of the Council as follows:

Yeas: 5- George, Delgado *(via teleconference)*, Carroll, Ware and Brown
Nays: 0

14.

2025-16

Approve revised Custodian of Data for the MOU with the Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) for the Lead Hazard Reduction Grant Program and authorize the Mayor to execute the same.

Attachment: Hattiesburg Lead Data DUA - Amendment 1 01.07.24

A MOTION was made by Council Member Carroll and seconded by Council Member Brown to APPROVE revised Custodian of Data for the MOU with the *Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) for the Lead Hazard Reduction Grant Program* and AUTHORIZE the Mayor to execute the same.

There being no discussion, the Motion received the affirmative vote of the Council as follows:

Yeas: 5- George, Delgado (*via teleconference*), Carroll, Ware and Brown

Nays: 0

15. **2025-17** Approve Agreement between the City of Hattiesburg and the YMCA of Southeast Mississippi to manage and staff the City pools and Programs for the amount of \$35,000 and authorize the Mayor to execute all necessary documentation and issuance of a manual check.

Attachment: 2025 YMCA Staff Contract

A MOTION was made by Council Member Carroll and seconded by Council Member Brown to **APPROVE** Agreement between the City of Hattiesburg and the *YMCA of Southeast Mississippi* to manage and staff the City pools and Programs for the amount of \$35,000 and **AUTHORIZE** the Mayor to execute all necessary documentation and issuance of a manual check.

There being no discussion, the Motion received the affirmative vote of the Council as follows:

Yeas: 5- George, Delgado (*via teleconference*), Carroll, Ware and Brown

Nays: 0

16. **2024-577** Take from the table; Adopt a Resolution granting and allowing ad valorem tax exemption, except state and school district ad valorem taxes to Kohler Co, for a period not to exceed ten (10) years, commencing December 31, 2023, and ending December 31, 2033, with a true value of \$99,925,745.00 or the amount approved by The Mississippi Department of Revenue.

Attachments: Kohler Reso
 Kohler Position Statement
 Kohler App

A MOTION was made by Council Member Carroll and seconded by Council Member Brown to **TAKE FROM THE TABLE**; a Resolution granting and allowing ad valorem tax exemption, except state and school district ad valorem taxes to *Kohler Co*, for a period not to exceed ten (10) years, commencing December 31, 2023, and ending December 31, 2033, with a true value of \$99,925,745.00 or the amount approved by The Mississippi Department of Revenue.

There being no discussion, the Motion received the affirmative vote of the Council as follows:

Yeas: 5- George, Delgado (*via teleconference*), Carroll, Ware and Brown

Nays: 0

A MOTION was made by Council Member Carroll and seconded by Council Member Brown to **ADOPT** a **RESOLUTION (#2025-10)** granting and allowing ad valorem tax exemption, except state and school district ad valorem taxes to *Kohler Co*, for a period not to exceed ten (10) years, commencing December 31, 2023, and ending December 31, 2033, with a true value of \$99,925,745.00 or the amount approved by The Mississippi Department of Revenue.

There being no discussion, the Motion received the affirmative vote of the Council as follows:

Yeas: 5- George, Delgado (*via teleconference*), Carroll, Ware and Brown

Nays: 0

ROUTINE AGENDA

THE ROUTINE AGENDA came before the Council.

A MOTION was made by Council Member Carroll and seconded by Council Member Brown to **APPROVE** the Routine Agenda.

There being no discussion, the Motion received the affirmative vote of the Council as follows:

Yeas: 5- George, Delgado (*via teleconference*), Carroll, Ware and Brown

Nays: 0

1.

2024-779

Ratification of claims docket for the period ending December 13, 2024.

Attachments: DOCKET 24.12.13
DT 24.12.13
2.

2025-18

Acknowledge the Planning Commission’s approval of a Historic Flood Variance for a structure at 215 Main Street (PPIN 18535, Ward 4, Forrest County), as requested by Southern Gents of Mississippi LLC, Property Owner, and Nick Williams, Representative. The Planning Commission approved the variance on December 11th, 2024.

Attachments: B- Staff Report- 215 Main- Historic Flood Variance
B-Historic Review and Approval
B1 Image Sheet - 215 N Main Street
215 N Main Street- Flood Variance Application
Variance Application Answers
3.

2025-19

Acknowledge manual checks approved during a period beginning December 1, 2024 and ending December 31, 2024.

Attachment: MANUAL CHECK 1224
4.

2025-20

Acknowledge receipt of the Two-Quote Docket.

Attachments: January 7, 2025 Agenda
5.

2025-27

Acknowledge receipt of proposals received on December 19, 2024 for the two (2) Year Depositories and accept all proposals received.

Attachments: Cadence
Community Bank
First Bank
Grand Bank
Merchants nd Marine Bank
The First Bank
Trustmark 2024
6.

2025-21

Authorize submission of a grant application to the Keep America Beautiful MLK Corridor Community Grant.

Attachment: MLK_Final-Grant-Guidelines_2025-1
7.

2025-22

Authorize and Approve Publication of Advertisement of Bids for Katie-Dabbs Community Center Renovations.

Attachments: Notice of Advertisement For Bids - Katie-Dabbs Community Center 1.9.25
Specification Manual - COMBINED SET
8.

2025-23

Approve Specifications and Authorize Publication of Advertisement for Term Bid # 25 Concrete & Brick Structures for the City of Hattiesburg, Term Bid beginning January 31, 2025 and ending December 31, 2027.

Attachments: Notice to Bidders - Item 25 - Concrete and Brick Structures
Specs - Item 25 - Concrete and Brick Structures
Notice to Bidders - Item 25 - Concrete and Brick Structures
9.

2025-24

Approve the sale of grave spaces per attached, Memo's, Receipts, and Deeds.

Attachments: Memo's (01-07-2025)
 Receipts (01-07-2025)
 Deeds (01-07-2025)

10. **2025-25** Approve claims docket for the period ending December 31, 2024.

Attachments: DOCKET 24.12.31
 DT 24.12.31

Executive Session

A MOTION was made by Council Vice President Ware for the Council to **ENTER CLOSED SESSION TO DETERMINE THE NEED TO ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION** at 5:13 p.m.

There being no discussion, the Motion received the affirmative vote of the Council as follows:

Yeas: 5 - George, Delgado (*via teleconference*), Carroll, Ware and Brown

Nays: 0

Council President George asked for the Chambers to be cleared at this time.

A MOTION was made by Council Vice President Ware and seconded by Council Member Carroll to **ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION** to discuss litigation strategy, since to have an open meeting on this would have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the City, in accordance with Mississippi Code Section 25-41-7 (b) at 5:14 p.m.

There being no discussion, the Motion received the affirmative vote of the Council as follows:

Yeas: 5 - George, Delgado (*via teleconference*), Carroll, Ware and Brown

Nays: 0

The City Attorney stepped out into the hall and announced that the Council has gone into Executive Session to discuss litigation strategy.

Council Member Delgado **disconnected** via teleconference at 5:14 p.m.

Those present for the Executive Session were Mayor Toby Barker; Council members Jeffrey George, Carter Carroll, Dave Ware and Nicholas Brown; Director of Administration/City Clerk, Kermas Eaton; City Attorney, Randy Pope; Chief Administrative Officer, Ann Jones; Police Chief, Hardy Sims; City Engineer, Marybeth Bergin; Director of Urban Development, Wiley Quinn; Planning Division Manager, Cory Long; Director of Parks and Recreation, Betsy Mercier; Director of Public Works, Ronnie Perkins; Chief Communications Officer, John Arender; Clerk of Council, Ronda Kennedy; Deputy Clerk of Council, Lisa Luu Jolly.

A MOTION was made by Council Member Carroll and seconded by Council Vice President Ware **EXIT EXECUTIVE SESSION** and **RE-OPEN THE MEETING** to the public at 5:22 p.m.

There being no discussion, the Motion received the affirmative vote of the Council as follows:

Yeas: 4 - George, Carroll, Ware and Brown

Nays: 0

Absent: 1 – Delgado

Council Member Delgado **re-connected** via teleconference at 5:23 p.m.

Council President George stated to the public that there was no action taken during Executive Session.

A MOTION was made by Council Vice President Ware and seconded by Council Member Carroll to **ADD**

Policy Item #17 (*Letter of Engagement with Hicks Law Firm, LLC*) to the agenda.

17.
- 2025-35
- Approve a Letter of Engagement with Hicks Law Firm, PLLC to represent the City of Hattiesburg in the Civil Action #2:24-cv-193.

Attachment: Hicks Law Firm PLLC letter of engagement

The City Attorney provided Council Member Delgado a follow-up of the Engagement Letter.

Following discussion, the Motion received the affirmative vote of the Council as follows:

Yeas: 5 - George, Delgado (*via teleconference*), Carroll, Ware and Brown

Nays: 0

A MOTION was made by Council Vice President Ware and seconded by Council Member Carroll to **APPROVE** a Letter of Engagement with *Hicks Law Firm, LLC* to represent the City of Hattiesburg in the *Civil Action* #2:24-cv-193.

There being no discussion, the Motion received the affirmative vote of the Council as follows:

Yeas: 5 - George, Delgado (*via teleconference*), Carroll, Ware and Brown

Nays: 0

In Memoriam:

A MOTION was made by Council President George to Adjourn the meeting in memory of:

- *Mr. Jonathan McSwain*
- *Mr. Joel Johnson*
- *Mrs. Dorothy Lynn Crosby Gammill*
- *Mrs. Mary Ellen Ham*
- *Mr. Christopher Ladd Hatten*
- *Mr. Ronald "Emery" Robinson, III*
- *Mr. Jonathan Everett Cole*
- *Mr. Lee Shands*
- *Mrs. Betty S. Nanney*
- *Ms. Melanie Keels*
- *Mr. Frank Allen Johnson*

Meeting Adjourn

Council President George declared the **meeting adjourned at 5:26 p.m., this 7th day of January 2025**, by unanimous consent, until the 21st day of January 2025.

ATTEST:

APPROVE:



Clerk of Council



Council President

ATTEST AND CERTIFY:

APPROVE:



City Clerk



Mayor