

Published Agenda



Tuesday, September 2, 2025
4:00 PM

City Council
Tuesday Meeting Agenda

Council Chambers
200 Forrest Street

Public Hearing

- p. 448

1. 2025-741

Hold a Public Hearing for an appeal as filed by Gus Georgian, Property Owner, to appeal the Hattiesburg Historic Conservation Commission’s decision of denial for a request filed by Gus Georgian to remove a primary structure located at 313 Mable Street. The Hattiesburg Historic Conservation Commission voted to deny the request on July 9th, 2025.
- p. 448-449

2. 2025-731

Hold Public Hearing 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.

Attachments: 1. 133 E 9th St
 2. 201 Hattiesburg St
 3. 231 May Ave
 4. 313 Martin Luther King Ave
 5. 315 May Ave
 6. 508 Breland St
 7. 706 Bouie St
 8. 719 E 7th St
 9. 921 Mobile St

- Call to Order
- Call to Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance
- Presentation Agenda
- Citizens’ Forum

Confirmation or Adjustment of the Agenda - Add Routine Item #5 as follows:

- p. 458

R-5 2025-765

Acknowledge receipt and Approve the Hattiesburg Convention Commission’s proposed 2026 budget.

POLICY AGENDA

MB 2023
Page #

- p. 450

1. 2025-740

Approve the minutes for the August 18 & 19, 2025 meetings of the City Council.
- p. 450-451

2. 2025-574

Take from the Table: Accept the Planning Commission's recommendation to approve a request to close and vacate an alley located north of 3509 Hardy Street (Forrest County, Ward 1).
- p. 451

3. 2025-742

Approve or Deny the petition filed by Gus Georgian, Property Owner, to appeal the Hattiesburg Historic Conservation Commission’s decision of denial for a request filed by Gus Georgian to remove a primary structure located at 313 Mable Street.
- p. 451

4. 2025-732

Adopt Resolutions condemning the following properties as unclean and a menace to the health and safety of the community.

1. 133 E 9th St.	4. 313 Martin Luther King Ave.	7. 706 Bouie St.
2. 201 Hattiesburg St.	5. 315 May Ave.	8. 719 E 7th St.
3. 231 May Ave.	6. 508 Breland St.	9. 921 Mobile St.
- p. 451-452

5. 2025-761

Adopt an Ordinance amending and restating Article II, City Council Procedures, Sections 2-60 through 2-70 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Hattiesburg, Mississippi; to provide for meetings, recessed meetings, special meetings, agenda review meetings, work sessions, and procedures for agenda preparation and adoption; and for related purposes.
- p. 452

6. 2025-744

Adopt a Resolution authorizing an application for a loan through the Water Pollution Control Revolving Loan Fund Program for North Main Street Area Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation Project and naming the Mayor as the authorized representative of the City.
- p. 452

7. 2025-756

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the submission of a grant application to the Mississippi Outdoor Stewardship Trust Funding; and Authorize the Mayor to execute any and all necessary forms and documents for the same.
- p. 452

8. 2025-729

Approve an Agreement between the City of Hattiesburg and the United States Department of Justice, Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), to provide funding for administrative assistance to the Hattiesburg DEA Taskforce; and Authorize the Mayor to execute any and all necessary documents for the same.

p. 453	9. 2025-730	Approve Task Force Agreement between the Hattiesburg Police Department and the United State Department of Justice, Drug Enforcement Administration (hereinafter "DEA") concerning the use and abuse of controlled substances and authorizing the Mayor or designee to execute the same.
p. 453	10. 2025-739	Approve Contractor and Owner Agreements for the Roof Repair according to the Emergency Roof Repair Initiative Manual; and Authorize the Mayor to execute in triplicate.
p. 453	11. 2025-743	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. 453 - 454	12. 2025-758	Approve engagement of Anderson Natural Resources, LLC., to provide appraisal and professional services related to the merchantable timber adjacent to Bobby L. Chain Municipal Airport.
p. 454	13. 2025-760	Approve Letter of Engagement with Topp McWhorter Harvey PLLC to audit the financial statements of the City of Hattiesburg for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025; and Authorize the Council President to execute the same.
p. 454	14. 2025-733	Approve grant offer from the Mississippi Transportation Commission for the Bobby L. Chain Municipal Airport Project No. AIG-3-0031-034-2025 in the amount of \$12,225.00; and Authorize Mayor to execute Airport Federal Matching Grant Agreement in triplicate.
p. 454	15. 2025-746	Adopt a Resolution appointing Hardy Sims as Police Chief for the City of Hattiesburg.
p. 454 - 455	16. 2025-745	Adopt a Resolution appointing Wiley Quinn as the Director of the Urban Development Department.
p. 455	17. 2025-747	Adopt a Resolution appointing Sherrocko Stewart as Fire Chief for the City of Hattiesburg.
p. 455	18. 2025-748	Adopt a Resolution appointing Marybeth Bergin as City Engineer and Director of Transportation and Engineering.
p. 455	19. 2025-749	Adopt a Resolution appointing Alan Howe as Director of Water and Sewer for the City of Hattiesburg.
p. 455 - 456	20. 2025-750	Adopt a Resolution appointing Ronnie Perkins as Director of Public Works for the City of Hattiesburg.
p. 456	21. 2025-751	Adopt a Resolution appointing Betsy Mercier as Parks and Recreation Director for the City of Hattiesburg.
p. 456	22. 2025-752	Adopt a Resolution appointing Phillip McSwain as Municipal Court Clerk for the City of Hattiesburg.
p. 456	23. 2025-753	Adopt a Resolution appointing Brian Bledsoe as Municipal Court Judge, Post 1 for the City of Hattiesburg.
p. 456	24. 2025-754	Adopt a Resolution appointing Gay Polk-Payton as Municipal Court Judge, Post 2 for the City of Hattiesburg.
p. 457	25. 2025-755	Adopt a Resolution appointing Mary Moore-Conville as Municipal Court Judge Pro Tem for the City of Hattiesburg.
p. 457	26. 2025-757	Approve and Authorize submission of a grant application to CHEMTREC for the Help award grant.
p. 457	27. 2025-759	Approve and Authorize acceptance of unadvertised bid or 2-Quote in the amount of \$29,500.00 from Gray Builders for the construction of a pavilion near the Roger Wicker Bridge, Hall Avenue and Martin Luther King Drive as per provided plans and specifications.
p. 457 & 459-460	28. 2025-728 *Voted on after Budget PII [5:30 PM]	Adopt a Resolution levying ad valorem taxes on all taxable properties within the City of Hattiesburg for the purpose of raising revenue for said City for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2025 and ending September 30, 2026.

ROUTINE AGENDA

p. 458	1. 2025-734	Acknowledge receipt of request filed by Clifford Lockhart, to appeal the August 6th, 2025 Hattiesburg Planning Commission's recommendation to deny a petition for a conditional use request for an electronic reader board at 748 W 4th Street. Set a public hearing before the City Council on October 6th, 2025, at 4:00 pm; and Authorize publication of Public Notice setting an Appeal Public Hearing.
p. 458	2. 2025-736	Acknowledge receipt of the Two-Quote Docket.
p. 458	3. 2025-737	Approve and Authorize issuance of manual checks for CDBG/HOME Claims per attached.
p. 458	4. 2025-738	Approve claims docket for the period ending August 31, 2025.
p. 458	5. 2025-765	Acknowledge receipt and Approve the Hattiesburg Convention Commission's proposed 2026 budget.

Meeting Recess

5:30 P.M. – PUBLIC HEARING on proposed budget and proposed tax levies for FYE 2026

p. 459-460	1. 2025-763	Hold Public Hearing on the proposed budget and proposed tax levies for fiscal year 2026 at 5:30 p.m. in Council Chambers at City Hall.
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In Memoriam:

- Dr. Frances A. Karnes
- Mrs. Tatiana Graham
- Ms. Catherine Darlyne Dickson
- Judge Frank Caprio

Meeting Adjourn

Public Hearing for an Appeal

BE IT REMEMBERED that the Hattiesburg City Council held a **Public Hearing at 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 2, 2025**, in the **Council Chambers at City Hall**, to consider an appeal filed by **Gus Georgian**, property owner, of the Hattiesburg Historic Conservation Commission’s July 9, 2025 decision denying his request for removal of a primary structure located at **313 Mable Street**.

Council President Ware called the Public Hearing to order at 4:00 p.m. and explained the procedures.

1.

2025-741

Hold a Public Hearing for an appeal as filed by Gus Georgian, Property Owner, to appeal the Hattiesburg Historic Conservation Commission’s decision of denial for a request filed by Gus Georgian to remove a primary structure located at 313 Mable Street. The Hattiesburg Historic Conservation Commission voted to deny the request on July 9th, 2025.
- Attachments:

Appeal form Georgian

July 2025 HHCC Appeal Item

Russell Archer, Historic Preservation Planner, presented a historical overview of the case.

Council President Ware called upon the appellant, Gus Georgian, to present his appeal.

Ms. Pam Hamilton, Mr. Georgian’s cousin, appeared before the Council and spoke on behalf of Mr. Georgian.

Council President Ware then invited any members of the public who wished to speak on the appeal.

No citizens came forward to offer comments.

By unanimous consent, **Council President Ware closed the public hearing at 4:11 p.m. and proceeded with the Public Hearing for the unsafe properties.**

Public Hearing for the Unsafe Properties

2.

2025-731

Hold Public Hearing 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.
- Attachments:

1. 133 E 9th St

2. 201 Hattiesburg St

3. 231 May Ave

4. 313 Martin Luther King Ave

5. 315 May Ave

6. 508 Breland St

7. 706 Bouie St

8. 719 E 7th St

9. 921 Mobile St

Council President Ware opened the Public Hearing on the listed unsafe properties at 4:12 p.m. and explained the procedures.

This Public Hearing is being held pursuant to Resolution #2025-146, adopted on August 5, 2025, and recorded in Minute Book 2023, Pages 428-429, to determine whether the following properties are in such a state of uncleanness as to constitute a menace to the health and safety of the community.

Code Enforcement Interim Division Manager, Whit Sanguinetti, provided a case overview and the violations for each property listed for consideration. He recommended that the Council adopt resolutions determining that the properties are in such a state of uncleanness as to constitute a menace to the health and safety of the community. He further recommended that the resolutions specify a fifteen (15) day period for homeowners to remedy the violations and declared the City's intent to abate the violations and assess the cost, along with any applicable penalties, against the property if the violations were not resolved within that time frame.

Mr. Sanguinetti also requested that the following properties be dismissed from consideration due to compliance:

- Case #2 – 201 Hattiesburg Street
- Case #3 – 231 May Ave.
- Case #6 – 508 Breland St.
- Case #8 – 719 E. 7th St.
- Case #9 – 921 Mobile St.

Council President Ware called each listed property in order and first invited the property owner or their legal representative to speak on behalf of the property.

The following representatives spoke on behalf as the property was called:

- Case #1 – 133 E. 9th St. [*William Jordan, property owner*]
- Case #4 – 313 Martin Luther King Ave. [*Ngozi Ngwa, property owner's great-niece*]

There were no other citizens present who wished to address the Council regarding properties listed for the public hearing.

By unanimous consent, **Council President Ware closed the public hearing at 4:25 p.m.**

Call to Order

Council President Ware CALLED the regular meeting TO ORDER at 4:26 p.m.

This meeting convened following the Council's adjourned scheduled meeting of August 19, 2025.

In attendance were Mayor Toby Barker and members of the City Council Jeffrey George, Ward 1; Eric Boney, Ward 2; LeAnn Vance, Ward 3; Dave Ware, Ward 4; and Nicholas Brown, Ward 5.

Others in attendance were Director of Administration/City Clerk, Kermas Eaton; City Attorney, Randy Pope (via teleconference); Clerk of Council, Ronda S. Kennedy; Deputy Clerk of Council, Lisa Luu Jolly; City staff members; media; and the public.

Call to Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance

The prayer was given by *Police 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.

Citizens' Forum

Council Vice President George proceeded with the Citizens' Forum.

He stated the procedures and invited members of the public to speak.

The following citizen addressed the Council:

- *Virginia Smith, 2404 W 4th Street, Apt. B*

There being no other individuals wishing to speak, **Council Vice President George closed the Citizens' Forum and proceeded with agenda.**

THE MATTER OF THE AGENDA ORDER was before the Council.

Agenda Adjustments:

Council President Ware whether there were any adjustments to the agenda.

The Clerk of Council responded in the affirmative and proceeded to read aloud the following adjustments:

A **MOTION** was made by Council Vice President George and seconded by Council Member Brown
to **ADD** Routine Item #5.

- R-5.

2025-765

Acknowledge receipt and Approve the Hattiesburg Convention Commission’s proposed 2026 budget.
Attachment: 2026 HCC Budget
There being no discussion, the motion carried unanimously with the following vote:

Yeas: 5 – George, Boney, Vance *(via teleconference)*, Ware and Brown

Nays: 0

Confirmation of the Agenda, as Amended

A **MOTION** was made by Council Vice President George and seconded by Council Member Brown
to **APPROVE** the agenda, *as amended*.

There being no discussion, the motion carried unanimously with the following vote:

Yeas: 5 – George, Boney, Vance, Ware and Brown

Nays: 0

THE POLICY AGENDA was then considered.

POLCY AGENDA

1.

2025-740

Approve the minutes for the August 18 & 19, 2025 meetings of the City Council.
Attachments: 08-18-2025 AR, BP Mins.
 08-19-2025 Mins.

A **MOTION** was made by Council Vice President George and seconded by Council Member Brown
to **APPROVE** the minutes for the August 4 & 5, 2025 meetings of the City Council.

There being no discussion, the motion carried unanimously with the following vote:

Yeas: 5 – George, Boney, Vance, Ware and Brown

Nays: 0

2.

2025-574
{TABLED}
indefinitely

Take from the Table: Accept the Planning Commission's recommendation to approve a request to close and vacate an alley located north of 3509 Hardy Street (Forrest County, Ward 1); *{Tabled on July 24, 2025 Council meeting}*.

Attachments: Item A Staff Report- 3509 Alley Closure
 A Image Sheet - Alley Closure
 PH Application_Raising Cane's Alley Closure_CC
 Minutes- July 2025- HPC
 Ordinance - Vacate Alley on N 36th Avenue

A **MOTION** was made by Council Vice President George and seconded by Council Member Brown
to **TAKE FROM THE TABLE**; a request to close and vacate an alley located north of 3509 Hardy Street.

There being no discussion, the motion carried unanimously with the following vote:

Yeas: 5 – George, Boney, Vance, Ware and Brown

Nays: 0

A **MOTION** was made by Council Vice President George and seconded by Council Member Brown
to **TABLE** the request to close and vacate an alley located north of 3509 Hardy Street *indefinitely, to give the applicant additional time.*

There being no discussion, the motion carried unanimously with the following vote:

Yeas: 5 – George, Boney, Vance, Ware and Brown

Nays: 0

3.

2025-742
-DENIED-

Approve or Deny the petition filed by Gus Georgian, Property Owner, to appeal the Hattiesburg Historic Conservation Commission’s decision of denial for a request filed by Gus Georgian to remove a primary structure located at 313 Mable Street. The Hattiesburg Historic Conservation Commission voted to deny the request on July 9th, 2025.

Attachments: Appeal form Georgian
 July 2025 HHCC Appeal

A **MOTION** was made by Council President Ware and seconded by Council Vice President George to **DENY** the petition of Gus Georgian appealing the Historic Conservation Commission’s denial of a request to remove the primary structure at 313 Mable Street, *upholding the Commission's decision*.

There being no discussion, the motion carried with the following vote: *(petition denied)*

Yeas: 3 – George, Vance and Ware

Nays: 2 – Boney and Brown

4.

2025-732
[RES#2025-169-172]

Adopt Resolutions condemning the following properties as unclean and a menace to the health and safety of the community.

1. 133 E 9th St.	4. 313 Martin Luther King Ave.	7. 706 Bouie St.
2. 201 Hattiesburg St.	5. 315 May Ave.	8. 719 E 7th St.
3. 231 May Ave.	6. 508 Breland St.	9. 921 Mobile St.

Attachments: Dismissal MEMO, 09-02-2025
 Adopt Resolution to Condemn Memo 09 02 2025
 1. 133 E 9th St - Condemnation Resolution
 4. 313 Martin Luther King Ave - Condemnation Resolution
 5. 315 May Ave - Condemnation Resolution
 7. 706 Bouie St - Condemnation Resolution

A **MOTION** was made by Council Member Brown and seconded by Council Vice President George to **ADOPT RESOLUTIONS #2025-169-172** condemning the following properties,

1.	133 E 9th St.	– [RES#2025-169]
4.	313 Martin Luther King Ave.	– [RES#2025-170]
5.	315 May Ave.	– [RES#2025-171]
7.	706 Bouie St.	– [RES#2025-172]

as unclean and a menace to the health and safety of the community.

There being no discussion, the motion carried unanimously with the following vote:

Yeas: 5 – George, Boney, Vance, Ware and Brown

Nays: 0

5.

2025-761
[ORD#3385]

Adopt an Ordinance amending and restating Article II, City Council Procedures, Sections 2-60 through 2-70 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Hattiesburg, Mississippi; to provide for meetings, recessed meetings, special meetings, agenda review meetings, work sessions, and procedures for agenda preparation and adoption; and for related purposes.

Attachment: Ordinance - Amending and Restating Article II, City Council Procedures

A **MOTION** was made by Council Vice President George and seconded by Council Member Brown to **ADOPT ORDINANCE #3385** amending and restating Article II, City Council Procedures, Sections 2-60 through 2-70 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Hattiesburg, Mississippi; to provide for meetings, recessed meetings, special meetings, agenda review meetings, work sessions, and procedures for agenda preparation and adoption; and for related purposes.

There being no discussion, the motion carried unanimously with the following vote:

Yeas: 5 – George, Boney, Vance, Ware and Brown

Nays: 0

6.

2025-744

[RES#2025-173]

Adopt a Resolution authorizing an application for a loan through the Water Pollution Control Revolving Loan Fund Program for North Main Street Area Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation Project and naming the Mayor as the authorized representative of the City.
- Attachments:

N Main SLRF Sewer

NPELF7 Resolution

N Main SLRF Sewer

NPELF69 Legal Certification Form

N Main SLRF Sewer

NPELF76 Allowable Costs Certification Form

N Main SLRF Sewer

PWFC74 Fed-State Procurement Certification

N Main SLRF Sewer

PWFC94 Fiscal Sustainability Plan Certification

N Main SLRF Sewer

PWFC95 GAAP Certification

N Main SLRF Sewer

PWFC98 Useful Life Certification

A MOTION was made by Council Member Boney and seconded by Council Member Vance

to **ADOPT RESOLUTION #2025-173** authorizing an application for a loan through the Water Pollution Control Revolving Loan Fund Program for North Main Street Area Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation Project and naming the Mayor as the authorized representative of the City,

There being no discussion, the motion carried unanimously with the following vote:

Yeas: 5 – George, Boney, Vance, Ware and Brown

Nays: 0

7.

2025-756

[RES#2025-174]

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the submission of a grant application to the Mississippi Outdoor Stewardship Trust Funding and authorize the Mayor to execute any and all necessary forms and documents for the same.
- Attachment:

Resolution-FY2025 Recreational Trails Program

A MOTION was made by Council Vice President George and seconded by Council Member Vance

to **ADOPT RESOLUTION #2025-174** authorizing the submission of a grant application to the Mississippi Outdoor Stewardship Trust Funding

and **AUTHORIZE** the Mayor to execute any and all necessary forms and documents for the same.

There being no discussion, the motion carried unanimously with the following vote:

Yeas: 5 – George, Boney, Vance, Ware and Brown

Nays: 0

8.

2025-729

Approve an Agreement between the City of Hattiesburg and the United States Department of Justice, Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), to provide funding for administrative assistance to the Hattiesburg DEA Taskforce and authorize the Mayor to execute any and all necessary documents for the same.
- Attachment:

DEA Taskforce Agreement Administrative position

OJP Form 4061

A MOTION was made by Council Vice President George and seconded by Council Member Boney

to **APPROVE** an Agreement between the City of Hattiesburg and the United States Department of Justice, Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), to provide funding for administrative assistance to the Hattiesburg DEA Taskforce

and **AUTHORIZE** the Mayor to execute any and all necessary documents for the same.

There being no discussion, the motion carried unanimously with the following vote:

Yeas: 5 – George, Boney, Vance, Ware and Brown

Nays: 0

9.

2025-730

Approve Task Force Agreement between the Hattiesburg Police Department and the United State Department of Justice, Drug Enforcement Administration (hereinafter "DEA") concerning the use and abuse of controlled substances and authorizing the Mayor or designee to execute the same.

Attachments:

FY26 HIDTA State and Local Task Force Agreement
OJP Form 4061

A **MOTION** was made by Council Vice President George and seconded by Council Member Brown

to **APPROVE** Task Force Agreement between the Hattiesburg Police Department and the United States Department of Justice, Drug Enforcement Administration (hereinafter "DEA") concerning the use and abuse of controlled substances;

and **AUTHORIZE** the Mayor or the designee to execute the same.

There being no discussion, the motion carried unanimously with the following vote:

Yeas: 5 – George, Boney, Vance, Ware and Brown

Nays: 0

10.

2025-739

Approve Contractor and Owner Agreements for the Roof Repair according to the Emergency Roof Repair Initiative Manual and Authorize the Mayor to execute in triplicate.

Attachment:

Roof Repair Grant Agreements - 301 MLK

A **MOTION** was made by Council Vice President George and seconded by Council Member Brown

to **APPROVE** Contractor and Owner Agreements for the Roof Repair according to the Emergency Roof Repair Initiative Manual;

and **AUTHORIZE** the Mayor to execute in triplicate.

There being no discussion, the motion carried unanimously with the following vote:

Yeas: 5 – George, Boney, Vance, Ware and Brown

Nays: 0

11.

2025-743

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

Attachments:

Release of Lien Memo 09 02 2025
1. 607 Gussie Ave - Release of Lien
2. 1206 Alcorn Ave - Release of Lien
3. 68 Central School Rd - Release of Lien
4. 1116 Ida Ave - Release of Lien

A **MOTION** was made by Council Vice President George, 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 carried unanimously with the following vote:

Yeas: 5 – George, Boney, Vance, Ware and Brown

Nays: 0

12.

2025-758

Approve engagement of Anderson Natural Resources, LLC., to provide appraisal and professional services related to the merchantable timber adjacent to Bobby L. Chain Municipal Airport.

Attachments:

2478_001
2479_001

A **MOTION** was made by Council Vice President George and seconded by Council Member Vance

to **APPROVE** engagement of Anderson Natural Resources, LLC., to provide appraisal and professional services related to the merchantable timber adjacent to Bobby L. Chain Municipal Airport.

There being no discussion, the motion carried unanimously with the following vote:

Yeas: 5 – George, Boney, Vance, Ware and Brown

Nays: 0

13.

2025-760

Approve Letter of Engagement with Topp McWhorter Harvey PLLC to audit the financial statements of the City of Hattiesburg for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025; authorize the Council President to execute the same.

Attachment: [Hattiesburg Engagement Letter](#)

A **MOTION** was made by Council Vice President George and seconded by Council Member Brown

to **APPROVE** Letter of Engagement with Topp McWhorter Harvey PLLC to audit the financial statements of the City of Hattiesburg for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025;

and **AUTHORIZE** the Council President to execute the same.

There being no discussion, the motion carried unanimously with the following vote:

Yeas: 5 – George, Boney, Vance, Ware and Brown

Nays: 0

14.

2025-733

Approve grant offer from the Mississippi Transportation Commission for the Bobby L. Chain Municipal Airport Project No. AIG-3-0031-034-2025 in the amount of \$12,225.00; authorize Mayor to execute Airport Federal Matching Grant Agreement in triplicate.

Attachments: [Hattiesburg 034-2025](#)
[Hattiesburg 035-2025](#)

A **MOTION** was made by Council Vice President George and seconded by Council Member Brown

to **APPROVE** grant offer from the Mississippi Transportation Commission for the Bobby L. Chain Municipal Airport Project No. AIG-3-0031-034-2025 in the amount of \$12,225.00;

and **AUTHORIZE** Mayor to execute Airport Federal Matching Grant Agreement in triplicate.

There being no discussion, the motion carried unanimously with the following vote:

Yeas: 5 – George, Boney, Vance, Ware and Brown

Nays: 0

15.

2025-746
[RES#2025-175]

Adopt a Resolution appointing Hardy Sims as Police Chief for the City of Hattiesburg.

Attachment: [RESOLUTION Police Chief appointment- Hardy Sims 2025](#)

A **MOTION** was made by Council Vice President George and seconded by Council Member Vance

to **ADOPT RESOLUTION #2025-175** appointing Hardy Sims as Police Chief for the City of Hattiesburg.

There being no discussion, the motion carried unanimously with the following vote:

Yeas: 5 – George, Boney, Vance, Ware and Brown

Nays: 0

16.

2025-745
[RES#2025-176]

Adopt a Resolution appointing Wiley Quinn as the Director of the Urban Development Department.

Attachment: [RESOLUTION Appointing Urban Development Director- Wiley Quinn 2025](#)

A MOTION was made by Council Vice President George and seconded by Council Member Vance

to **ADOPT RESOLUTION #2025-176** *appointing Wiley Quinn* as the Director of the Urban Development Department.

There being no discussion, the motion carried unanimously with the following vote:

Yeas: 5 – George, Boney, Vance, Ware and Brown

Nays: 0

17. **2025-747** Adopt a Resolution appointing Sherrocko Stewart as Fire Chief for the City of Hattiesburg.
 [RES#2025-177] Attachment: RESOLUTION Fire Chief appointment- Sherrocko Stewart 2025

A MOTION was made by Council Vice President George and seconded by Council Member Vance

to **ADOPT RESOLUTION #2025-177** *appointing Sherrocko Stewart* as Fire Chief for the City of Hattiesburg.

There being no discussion, the motion carried unanimously with the following vote:

Yeas: 5 – George, Boney, Vance, Ware and Brown

Nays: 0

18. **2025-748** Adopt a Resolution appointing Marybeth Bergin as City Engineer and Director of Transportation and
 [RES#2025-178] Engineering.
 Attachment: RESOLUTION Appoint Transportation & Engineering Director-Marybeth Bergin 2025

A MOTION was made by Council Vice President George and seconded by Council Member Brown

to **ADOPT RESOLUTION #2025-178** *appointing Marybeth Bergin* as City Engineer and Director of Transportation and Engineering.

There being no discussion, the motion carried unanimously with the following vote:

Yeas: 5 – George, Boney, Vance, Ware and Brown

Nays: 0

19. **2025-749** Adopt a Resolution appointing Alan Howe as Director of Water and Sewer for the City of Hattiesburg.
 [RES#2025-179] Attachment: RESOLUTION Appointing Water & Sewer Director- Alan Howe 2025

A MOTION was made by Council Vice President George and seconded by Council Member Brown

to **ADOPT RESOLUTION #2025-179** *appointing Alan Howe* as Director of Water and Sewer for the City of Hattiesburg.

There being no discussion, the motion carried unanimously with the following vote:

Yeas: 5 – George, Boney, Vance, Ware and Brown

Nays: 0

20. **2025-750** Adopt a Resolution appointing Ronnie Perkins as Director of Public Works for the City of Hattiesburg.
 [RES#2025-180] Attachment: RESOLUTION Appointing Public Works Director- Ronnie Perkins 2025

A MOTION was made by Council Vice President George and seconded by Council Member Brown

to **ADOPT RESOLUTION #2025-180** *appointing Ronnie Perkins* as Director of Public Works for the City of Hattiesburg.

There being no discussion, the motion carried unanimously with the following vote:

Yeas: 5 – George, Boney, Vance, Ware and Brown

Nays: 0

21. **2025-751** Adopt a Resolution appointing Betsy Mercier as Parks and Recreation Director for the City of Hattiesburg.
 [RES#2025-181] Attachment: RESOLUTION Appointing Parks & Recreation Director- Betsy Mercier 2025

A MOTION was made by Council Vice President George and seconded by Council Member Vance
to **ADOPT RESOLUTION #2025-181** *appointing Betsy Mercier* as Parks and Recreation Director for the City of Hattiesburg.

There being no discussion, the motion carried unanimously with the following vote:

Yeas: 5 – George, Boney, Vance, Ware and Brown

Nays: 0

22. **2025-752** Adopt a Resolution appointing Phillip McSwain as Municipal Court Clerk for the City of Hattiesburg.
 [RES#2025-182] Attachment: Resolution Appointing Mun Court Clerk-Phillip McSwain 2025

A MOTION was made by Council Vice President George and seconded by Council Member Brown
to **ADOPT RESOLUTION #2025-182** *appointing Phillip McSwain* as Municipal Court Clerk for the City of Hattiesburg.

There being no discussion, the motion carried unanimously with the following vote:

Yeas: 5 – George, Boney, Vance, Ware and Brown

Nays: 0

23. **2025-753** Adopt a Resolution appointing Brian Bledsoe as Municipal Court Judge, Post 1 for the City of
 [RES#2025-183] Hattiesburg.
 Attachment: HATTIESBURG FY26 Impaired Driving Agreement Cover Letter
 HATTIESBURG 154 ALCOHOL - FY26 Grant Agreement - Law Enforcement

A MOTION was made by Council Vice President George and seconded by Council Member Vance
to **ADOPT RESOLUTION #2025-183** *appointing Brian Bledsoe* as Municipal Court Judge, Post 1 for the City of Hattiesburg.

There being no discussion, the motion carried unanimously with the following vote:

Yeas: 5 – George, Boney, Vance, Ware and Brown

Nays: 0

24. **2025-754** Adopt a Resolution appointing Gay Polk-Payton as Municipal Court Judge, Post 2 for the City of
 [RES#2025-184] Hattiesburg.
 Attachment: Resolution Appointing Mun Judge Post 2-Gay Polk-Payton 2025

A MOTION was made by Council Vice President George and seconded by Council Member Vance
to **ADOPT RESOLUTION #2025-184** *appointing Gay Polk-Payton* as Municipal Court Judge, Post 2 for the City of Hattiesburg.

There being no discussion, the motion carried unanimously with the following vote:

Yeas: 5 – George, Boney, Vance, Ware and Brown

Nays: 0

25.

2025-755
[RES#2025-185]

Adopt a Resolution appointing Mary Moore-Conville as Municipal Court Judge Pro Tem for the City of Hattiesburg.

Attachment: Resolution Appointing Mun Court Judge Pro Tem-Mary Moore Conville 2025

A MOTION was made by Council Member Vance and seconded by Council Vice President George to **ADOPT RESOLUTION #2025-185** appointing Mary Moore-Conville as Municipal Court Judge Pro Tem for the City of Hattiesburg.

There being no discussion, the motion carried unanimously with the following vote:

Yeas: 5 – George, Boney, Vance, Ware and Brown

Nays: 0

26.

2025-757

Authorize submission of a grant application to CHEMTREC for the Help award grant.

Attachment: 2025ChemtreHelpAward

A MOTION was made by Council Vice President George and seconded by Council Member Brown to **APPROVE and AUTHORIZE** submission of a grant application to CHEMTREC for the Help award grant.

There being no discussion, the motion carried unanimously with the following vote:

Yeas: 5 – George, Boney, Vance, Ware and Brown

Nays: 0

27.

2025-759

Approve and authorize acceptance of unadvertised bid or 2-Quote in the amount of \$29,500.00 from Gray Builders for the construction of a pavilion near the Roger Wicker Bridge, Hall Avenue and Martin Luther King Drive as per provided plans and specifications.

Attachments: 19320 PLANS 8-13-25
MLK Pavilion 2-Quote Bid Specification 8.13.25
Stamped Two-Quote

A MOTION was made by Council Member Brown and seconded by Council Vice President George to **APPROVE and AUTHORIZE** acceptance of unadvertised bid or 2-Quote in the amount of \$29,500.00 from Gray Builders for the construction of a pavilion near the Roger Wicker Bridge, Hall Avenue and Martin Luther King Drive as per provided plans and specifications.

There being no discussion, the motion carried unanimously with the following vote:

Yeas: 5 – George, Boney, Vance, Ware and Brown

Nays: 0

- *Note:
The Council took action on Policy Agenda Item #28 following the 5:30 p.m. public hearing on the proposed budget and tax levy.*

28.

2025-728

Adopt a Resolution levying ad valorem taxes on all taxable properties within the City of Hattiesburg for the purpose of raising revenue for said City for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2025 and ending September 30, 2026.

Attachment: Resolution tax

ROUTINE AGENDA

The Council then considered the ROUTINE AGENDA.
A MOTION was made by Council Vice President George and seconded by Council Member Brown

to **APPROVE** the Routine Agenda, including the claims docket and added item #5.

There being no discussion, the motion carried unanimously with the following vote:

Yeas: 5 – George, Boney, Vance, Ware and Brown

Nays: 0

1.

2025-734

Acknowledge receipt of request filed by Clifford Lockhart, to appeal the August 6th, 2025 Hattiesburg Planning Commission's recommendation to deny a petition for a conditional use request for an electronic reader board at 748 W 4th Street. Set a public hearing before the City Council on October 6th, 2025, at 4:00 pm, and authorize publication of Public Notice setting an Appeal Public Hearing.
- Attachments:

Minutes- August 2025- HPC

Minutes- August 2025- BOA

748 W 4th Street- APPEAL
2.

2025-736

Acknowledge receipt of the Two-Quote Docket.
- Attachment:

September 2, 2025 Agenda
3.

2025-737

Approve and authorize issuance of manual checks for CDBG/HOME Claims per attached.
- Attachments:

Terracon Inv.-802Northhill Dr,1932 Stone Street,103 City Park&301 MLK, 8.22.25

CSpire - CDBG-CV Broadband Invoice C030145460
4.

2025-738

Approve claims docket for the period ending August 31, 2025.
- Attachments:

DOCKET 25.0831

DT 25.0831
5.

2025-683

Approve Specifications and Authorize publication of an advertisement for term bid #2, repair and rehab of city streets.
- Attachment:

2026 HCC Budget

Executive Session

A MOTION was made by Council Vice President George

to **ENTER CLOSED SESSION TO DETERMINE THE NEED FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION** at 4:48 p.m.

There being no discussion, the motion carried unanimously with the following vote:

Yeas: 5 – George, Boney, Vance, Ware and Brown

Nays: 0

Council President Ware requested that the Chambers be cleared at this time.

A MOTION was made by Council Vice President George and seconded by Council Member Brown

to **ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION** at 4:49 p.m. to discuss *pending litigation*, as an open meeting would have a detrimental effect on the City’s litigating position, in accordance with Mississippi Code Section § 25-41-7(4)(b).

§ 25-41-7 (4)(b): Litigation, where open discussion would have detrimental effect on litigating position.

There being no discussion, the motion carried unanimously with the following vote:

Yeas: 5 – George, Boney, Vance, Ware and Brown

Nays: 0

The City Attorney stepped out into the hall and announced that the Council had entered executive session to discuss pending litigation.

Those present for the Executive Session were Mayor Toby Barker; Council members: Jeffrey George, Eric Boney, LeAnn Vance, Dave Ware and Nicholas Brown; Director of Administration/City Clerk, Kermas Eaton; City Attorney, Randy Pope; Chief Administrative Officer, Ann Jones; Chief Financial Officer, Malcolm Berch; Police Chief, Hardy Sims; Fire Chief, Sherrocko Stewart; Director of Urban Development, Wiley Quinn; Director of Water & Sewer, Alan Howe; Director of Public Works, Ronnie Perkins; Director of Parks & Recreation, Betsy Mercier; Deputy Director Department of

Transportation and Engineering, Hunter White; Chief Communications Officer, John Arender; Clerk of Council, Ronda Kennedy; and Deputy Clerk of Council, Lisa Luu Jolly.

A **MOTION** was made by Council Vice President George and seconded by Council Member Brown to **RE-OPEN** the meeting to the public at 4:58 p.m.

There being no discussion, the motion carried unanimously with the following vote:

Yeas: 5 – George, Boney, Vance, Ware and Brown
Nays: 0

Council President Ware called the meeting back to order in Open Session and reported that no action was taken during Executive Session. *The Council discussed matters pertaining to pending litigation.*

A **MOTION** was made by Council Vice President George and seconded by Council Member Brown to **APPROVE** the Purdue Pharma bankruptcy and Sackler settlement as recommended by our Opioid attorneys, and **AUTHORIZE** the City Attorney to execute the Sackler participation agreement.

There being no discussion, the motion carried unanimously with the following vote:

Yeas: 5 – George, Boney, Vance, Ware and Brown
Nays: 0

2025-821	Approve the Purdue Pharma bankruptcy and Sackler settlement as recommended by our Opioid attorneys, and Authorize the City Attorney to execute the Sackler participation agreement.
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Council President Ware recessed the meeting at 4:49 p.m. to reconvene at 5:30 p.m. for the Public Hearing on the proposed budget and tax levy for the fiscal year ending 2026.

5:30 P.M. – PUBLIC HEARING on proposed budget and proposed tax levies for FYE 2026

Council President Ware called the meeting back to order at 5:30 p.m. and opened the Budget Public Hearing. Mayor Barker presented an opening statement of the proposed budget. Following the Mayor's opening statement, Mr. Malcolm Berch, Chief Financial Officer, provided a PowerPoint presentation on the 2025-2026 proposed budget. Council President Ware called for comments or questions from citizens; *there were none.* Council President Ware declared the Public Hearing closed at 5:43 p.m.

Council President Ware reconvened the regular meeting and called the Council back to order to take action on Policy Agenda Item #28.

28.	2025-728 [RES#2025-186]	Adopt a Resolution levying ad valorem taxes on all taxable properties within the City of Hattiesburg for the purpose of raising revenue for said City for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2025 and ending September 30, 2026. Attachment: Resolution tax
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A **MOTION** was made by Council Vice President George and seconded by Council Member Brown to **ADOPT RESOLUTION #2025-186** levying ad valorem taxes on all taxable properties within the City of Hattiesburg for the purpose of raising revenue for said City for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2025 and ending September 30, 2026.

There being no discussion, the motion carried unanimously with the following vote:

Yeas: 5 – George, Boney, Vance, Ware and Brown

Nays: 0

In Memoriam:

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

- *Dr. Frances A. Karnes*
- *Mrs. Tatiana Graham*
- *Ms. Catherine Darlyne Dickson*
- *Judge Frank Caprio*

Meeting Adjourn

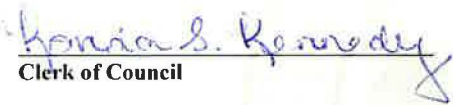
THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, Council President Ware declared the meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m. on this 2nd day of September 2025, by unanimous consent.

The next Council meeting had been duly scheduled for the 15th day of September 2025.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND CERTIFICATION

ATTEST:

APPROVE:


Clerk of Council


Council President

ATTEST AND CERTIFY:

APPROVE:


City Clerk


Mayor

Published Agenda



Thursday, September 11, 2025
4:00 PM

City Council
Special Called Meeting Agenda

Council Chambers
200 Forrest Street

- Call to Order
- Declaration of Special Called Meeting
- Confirmation of the Agenda
- Agenda Item

<u>MB 2023</u>		
<u>Page #</u>		
p. 461-462	1. 2025-787	Adopt a Resolution to adopt the budget for the City of Hattiesburg, Mississippi for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2025 and ending September 30, 2026 and authorizing publication of the same.

Meeting Adjourn

Call to Order & Declaration of Special Called Meeting

BE IT REMEMBERED that the Hattiesburg City Council held a **Special Called meeting at 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 11, 2025**, in the **Council Chambers at City Hall**. The meeting was duly called for the purpose of adopting the City’s Budget for Fiscal Year 2025–2026.

In attendance were Mayor Toby Barker and members of the City Council Jeffrey George, Ward 1; Eric Boney, Ward 2; LeAnn Vance, Ward 3; Dave Ware, Ward 4; and Nicholas Brown, Ward 5.

Others in attendance were Director of Administration/City Clerk, Kermas Eaton; City Attorney, Randy Pope (via teleconference); Clerk of Council, Ronda S. Kennedy; Deputy Clerk of Council, Lisa Luu Jolly; City staff members; media; and the public.

Council President Ware Called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

THE MATTER OF THE AGENDA ORDER was before the Council.

Confirmation of the Agenda

A **MOTION** was made by Council Vice President George and seconded by Council Member Brown to **APPROVE** the agenda.

There being no discussion, the motion carried unanimously with the following vote:

Yeas: 5 – George, Boney, Vance, Ware and Brown

Nays: 0

THE AGENDA was then considered.

Agenda Item

1.	2025-787 [RES#2025-187]	Adopt a Resolution to adopt the budget for the City of Hattiesburg, Mississippi for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2025 and ending September 30, 2026 and authorizing publication of the same.
	<u>Attachments:</u>	<u>Resolution – budget adoption fye 2026</u> <u>Proposed Budget FYE 2026 - final</u>

A MOTION was made by Council Vice President George and seconded by Council Member Brown

to **ADOPT RESOLUTION #2025-187** to adopt the budget for the City of Hattiesburg, Mississippi for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2025 and ending September 30, 2026 and authorizing publication of the same.

Discussion:

Council Member Boney stated for the record that he fully supported the funding allocations for the Police and Fire Departments, emphasizing the importance of remaining competitive in order to retain current officers and firefighters. He affirmed his commitment to ensuring those departments received the compensation needed to sustain their workforce. However, he expressed concern that some salary adjustments in other areas of the budget appeared disproportionate. He noted that while certain raises occurred only once every several years, the overall structure still reflected imbalances that warranted closer review. He stressed the need for the City to value all employees and to conduct due diligence in evaluating raises, taking into account current economic conditions. He further recommended the implementation of clear measurement tools to guide future salary decisions and ensure fairness and accountability across departments.

Council President Ware stated that he believed the Council had a strong budget before them -- one based on conservative revenue estimates and reflective of the City's commitment to its employees. He highlighted the competitive salary adjustments, particularly significant raises for first responders, which would place Hattiesburg at the top of the regional pay scale. He also noted funding to re-inventory historic districts for the first time in forty years and expressed appreciation to the administration for their work in preparing a budget that would guide the City effectively over the next year.

Council Vice President George echoed prior comments and thanked the administration and department directors for their work in preparing the budget. He noted that while not all priorities could be funded, the process was thoughtful and balanced. He emphasized the importance of maintaining a structurally balanced budget, making investments in technology to improve planning and ordinance enforcement, and continuing infrastructure improvements such as paving across all wards. He highlighted targeted raises for areas of need, including bus drivers, dispatch, animal control, and code enforcement, while stressing the significance of competitive raises for police and fire to retain and attract first responders. He expressed pride in supporting the budget and interest in exploring measurement tools for salary adjustments in the future.

Following discussion, the motion carried unanimously with the following vote:

Yeas: 5 – George, Boney, Vance, Ware and Brown

Nays: 0

Meeting Adjourn

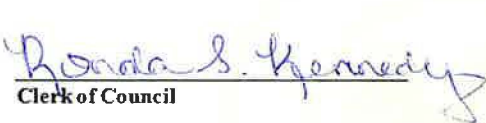
THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, Council President Ware declared the meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m. on this 11th day of September 2025, by unanimous consent.

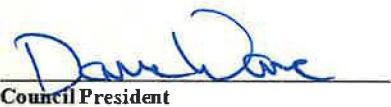
The next Council meeting had been duly scheduled for the 15th day of September 2025.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND CERTIFICATION

ATTEST:

APPROVE:


Clerk of Council


Council President

ATTEST AND CERTIFY:

APPROVE:


City Clerk


Mayor
