

MUNICIPAL MINUTES, CITY OF TUPELO
STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

APRIL 19, 2011

Be it remembered that the regular meeting of the Tupelo City Council was held in the Council Chambers at the City Hall Building on Tuesday, April 19, 2011, at 6:00 p.m. with the following in attendance: Council Members Markel Whittington, R. Fred Pitts, Jim Newell, Nettie Y. Davis, Jonny Davis, Mike Bryan and Willie Jennings; John S. Hill, City Attorney; and Glenda Muse, Clerk of the Council.

The invocation was led by Mayor Jack Reed, Jr., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Councilman Jonny Davis.

IN THE MATTER OF CALLING THE MEETING TO ORDER

President Pitts called the City Council meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**IN THE MATTER OF CONFIRMATION OR
AMENDMENT OF AGENDA AND AGENDA ORDER**

Upon a motion by Councilwoman Davis, seconded by Councilman Bryan, the council voted unanimously to confirm the agenda and agenda order as presented.

4. PROCLAMATIONS, RECOGNITIONS AND REPORTS AGENDA

IN THE MATTER OF RECOGNITION OF BOY/GIRL SCOUTS

No scouts were present for recognition.

IN THE MATTER OF RECOGNITION OF CITY EMPLOYEES

No city employees were present for recognition

IN THE MATTER OF PUBLIC RECOGNITIONS

The following public recognitions were made:

Councilman Jonny Davis – Congratulated the Tupelo Parks & Recreation Department for two events recently sponsored by that department. The “Up, Up and Away” hot air balloon festival and Azalea Festival had been held the previous weekend at Veterans Park and was a great success. Also, the Mayor and City Council members had participated in a Challenger League basketball game the previous night at Milam School which proved to be a fun-filled night for all participants. Leigh Ann Mattox of the Parks and Recreation Department serves as director of this special population of Tupelo citizens.

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Councilman Willie Jennings – Invited everyone to attend the Mission Mississippi Prayer Breakfast on Thursday morning, April 21, 2011, at the Church of the Living God, located on North Spring Street.

Councilwoman Nettie Davis – Advised that recently new two Presidents had been appointed at state colleges in Mississippi. On Monday, April 25, at 5:30 p.m. a reception is planned in Tupelo honoring the new President of Jackson State University located in Jackson, Mississippi. The event will be held at the Bouldin Building located on Cliff Gookin Boulevard. Councilwoman Davis encouraged everyone to come out to enjoy this event to honor the first female President elected to this post at Jackson State.

Councilwoman Davis, also, announced that funeral services will be conducted on Saturday, April 23, for Mr. Leo Sims, a former City of Tupelo employee. Mr. Sims was a member of the North Green Street Church of Christ in Tupelo.

Mayor Reed – Introduced several members of the Mayor’s Task Force on Jobs which had been created about two years ago with its guiding principle being “A good job for every man and woman who lives in Tupelo who needs one.” Mayor Reed stated the task force has now completed its work and he commended the committee for its many, many hours of tireless service on behalf of the citizens of Tupelo. Mayor Reed named all the other members of this task force who had served and who were unable to attend tonight’s meeting.

IN THE MATTER OF PRESENTATION TO “TRIM DOWN-TONE UP” TEAMS

Hank Boerner of the North Mississippi Medical Center Wellness Center presented plaques to the winners of the “Trim Down-Tone Up Teams” who had participated in a contest sponsored by the Mayor’s Health Task Force. The aim of this Task Force is to make Tupelo the Healthiest City in Mississippi with Tupelo winning 2nd place this past year in this category.

IN THE MATTER OF MAYOR’S REPORT

Mayor Reed had a brief report tonight, mentioning again the Challenger League basketball game of the previous night in which the entire City Council as well as the Mayor had participated. He stated he had a very enjoyable time and thought it wonderful for everyone to be on the same team and doing their very best to make the evening a fun experience for these athletes. Mayor Reed said he wished every day could be as that one had been and he was proud of the Challenger athletes. He went on to say that recently

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angry voices of limited government and cut backs of personnel had been heard and this event showed what city government at its best can look like.

(President Pitts closed the regular meeting and opened the Public Agenda.)

5. PUBLIC AGENDA

No items were listed on the Public Agenda for consideration.

(President Pitts then closed the Public Agenda and the City Council returned to regular session.)

6. ACTION AGENDA

IN THE MATTER OF REVIEW/APPROVE TAX ABATEMENT APPLICATION

Mr. Brad Prewitt had submitted an application for tax abatement on the building located at 215 North Church Street, according to a memorandum dated March 30, 2011, to the Mayor and City Council from Pat Falkner, Department of Development Services. According to Mr. Falkner, this application meets the requirements of the amended tax abatement program and specifically addresses the objective of renovation of historic preservation. This property is located in the Central Business District. The applicant had provided a copy of the certification form qualifying the project for state and federal tax credits for historic preservation, documenting cost and reflecting the concurrence of the state Historic Preservation office that the renovation meets the guidelines for historic preservation.

Upon a motion by Councilman Whittington, seconded by Councilman Newell, the council voted unanimously to approve this application for tax abatement on the building located at 215 North Church Street owned by Mr. Brad Prewitt.

IN THE MATTER OF REVIEW/APPROVE "PLANT A SEED" SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAM

Councilman Davis moved to approve the "Plant a Seed" Summer Youth Program, and the motion was seconded by Councilman Whittington. The "Plant a Seed" Summer Youth Employment Program is sponsored and presented by Councilman Willie Jennings with the assistance of committee members Councilman Jonny Davis, Councilwoman Nettie Davis, Human Resources Director Cassandra L. Moore, Assistant Director Contanna Purnell, and Jimmy Avery, Fire Division Chief. The City of Tupelo will conduct an eight-week Summer Youth Employment Program to provide youth ages 16 –

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19 with enriching and constructive summer work experiences. According to Councilman Jennings, his goal is to make this program a pilot program with the possibility of gaining the support of and expanding it to the business community for future growth. The total wage cost is estimated at \$35,600 for the twenty participants who will begin the program June 1, 2011, and end July 27, 2011. Councilmen Bryan and Newell commented concerning the program, explaining their reasons for not voting for the program. Councilman Bryan said he had always supported youth endeavors and that the City already has a summer youth program, employing about 120 each year. He said he could not support taking money out of the rainy- day fund for this. He made mention of the fact that City of Tupelo employees had received no pay increase for almost three years and that some current part-time employees would like to obtain a full-time position. Councilman Newell said he would first like to commend Councilman Jennings for his leadership in attempting to do something for our underprivileged young people. He, also, mentioned the fact that the city currently hires over 100 youths in various departments every summer and he commended the city for this endeavor. He, too, stated that the employees of the city had not had a pay increase in almost three years, and he did not feel the city should take over \$35,000 from the rainy-day fund to support the additional summer jobs. Firefighters of Tupelo have taken a work-reduced schedule as well. For these reasons, he stated he could not support this project.

Vote taken on the matter was as follows:

VOTING AYE: Whittington, Pitts, N. Davis, J. Davis, Jennings
VOTING NAY: Newell, Bryan

IN THE MATTER OF REVIEW/APPROVE LICENSE AGREEMENT WITH WINDSTREAM KDL, INC.

Upon a motion by Councilman Whittington and a second by Councilman Bryan, the council voted unanimously to approve a License Agreement between the City of Tupelo, Mississippi, and Windstream KDL, Inc. This company is planning to expand its fiber optic network by the development, construction, installation and operation of one or more fiber optic routes in Tupelo and Lee County and desires to use certain of the City's structures to do so. These structures are wood or metal poles or any combination of the same and steel lattice transmission towers and any other related facilities owned and/or controlled by the City, including but not limited to Joint Use Poles as defined in the Agreement. Rentals for the use of these structures shall be computed on the basis of \$29.00 per annum for each structure. An executed copy of this License Agreement is attached to these minutes and incorporated herein as **APPENDIX A.**

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7. **ROUTINE AGENDA**

IN THE MATTER OF REVIEW/APPROVE MINUTES OF REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Upon a motion by Councilman Newell, seconded by Councilman Jennings, the council voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the regular City Council meeting of Tuesday, April 5, 2011.

IN THE MATTER OF REVIEW/PAY BILLS

Upon a motion by Councilman Jennings, seconded by Councilman Davis, the council voted unanimously to approve payment of the following checks, bills having been reviewed at 4:30 p.m. by Council Members Pitts, Newell, N. Davis and J. Davis:

Check Nos. 90680 through 91041 (Pool Cash Fund)
Electronic transfers as shown on the face of the docket.
Invoices as shown on the face of the docket.
Requests made by AFLAC to reimburse employees under Flex-One Plan
As shown on the face of the docket.

IN THE MATTER OF REVIEW/APPROVE APPOINTMENT TO TUPELO PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD

Mayor Jack Reed had nominated Mr. Rob Hudson to fill a vacancy on the Tupelo Public School District Board due to the expiration of the term of Mr. John Nail. Upon a motion by Councilwoman Davis, seconded by Councilman Davis, the council voted unanimously to approve the appointment of Mr. Hudson to this Board. A copy of his bio is attached to these minutes and incorporated herein as **APPENDIX B.**

IN THE MATTER OF REVIEW/APPROVE RESOLUTION TO SUBMIT 2011 BULLETPROOF VEST PARTNERSHIP GRANT APPLICATION

According to a memorandum dated April 13, 2011, from Terri Blissard, Grant Administrator, to the Mayor and City Council, the U. S. Department of Justice has announced that funding is now available through its Bulletproof Vest Partnership Program. Under the terms of this program, 50% of the cost of each vest purchased is reimbursable through grant funds. The Tupelo Police Department has previously utilized this funding source for vest purchases and has requested to do so again. The department wishes to apply for the sum of \$2,120,00 in federal funds, which is one-half of the cost

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of eight (8) vests at \$530.00 per vest. Upon a motion by Councilman Jennings, seconded by Councilman Bryan, the council voted unanimously to approve a Resolution of Authorization to Submit 2011 Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Application for funding in the amount of \$2,120.00 which includes a commitment to a local match equal to the amount of federal dollars awarded through the program. A copy of the Resolution is attached hereto as **APPENDIX C.**

IN THE MATTER OF REVIEW/APPROVE RESOLUTION TO SUBMIT EMERGENCY SHELTER GRANT APPLICATION

Terri Blissard, Grant Administrator, had submitted a memorandum dated April 13, 2011, to Mayor Reed and the Tupelo City Council for permission to apply for an Emergency Shelter Grant in the amount of \$75,000 from the Mississippi Development Authority (MDA) on behalf of Alpha House, Faith Haven and Gardner-Simmons. According to Ms. Blissard, any grant funds awarded will be designated for operations and maintenance expenses at these three shelters. The City of Tupelo will serve as a pass-through agency for the grant according to MDA's requirements. The grant requires a one-to-one match which the agencies provide.

Upon a motion by Councilman Whittington and a second by Councilman Bryan, the council voted unanimously to approve a Resolution of Authorization to Submit Emergency Shelter Grant Application to MDA in the amount of \$75,000 on behalf of the three above-named agencies. A copy of the Resolution is attached hereto as **APPENDIX D.**

IN THE MATTER OF REVIEW/APPROVE COLLECTION CONTRACT AGREEMENT WITH MISSISSIPPI WARRANTS NETWORK, INC. (MWN)

This item had been tabled on January 18, 2011, and upon a motion by Councilman Newell, seconded by Councilman Davis, the council voted unanimously to bring the matter off the table for consideration at this time.

Upon a motion by Councilman Newell, seconded by Councilman Jennings, the council voted unanimously to cancel the Collection Contract Agreement between the City of Tupelo, Mississippi, and Mississippi Warrants Network, Inc., which contract had previously been entered into in 2005 to serve as a collections service for Tupelo Municipal Court.

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**IN THE MATTER OF REVIEW/APPROVE CONTRACT WITH FRANKLIN
COLLECTION AGENCY FOR COLLECTION OF MUNICIPAL COURT FINES**

Upon a motion by Councilman Bryan, seconded by Councilwoman Davis, the council voted unanimously to approve a Contract between the City of Tupelo, Mississippi, and Franklin Collection Service whereby that firm will serve as a collections service for the Tupelo Municipal Court. An executed copy of this Contract is attached to these minutes and incorporated herein as **APPENDIX E.**

IN THE MATTER OF REVIEW/AWARD/REJECT BID FOR WATER METERS

Johnny Timmons, Manager, Tupelo Water & Light Department, had submitted a memorandum dated April 13, 2011, to Mayor Reed and the City Council in regard to Bid Number 1203WL for water meters, a six-month supply bid. The water meter manufacturers have recently made some changes and there was some confusion among the vendors about who is allowed to sell in certain areas, according to Mr. Timmons' memorandum. As a result, no sealed bids were received for these items and Mr. Timmons asked that the bid be declared as rejected. The items will be rebid as soon as possible. Upon a motion by Councilman Whittington, seconded by Councilman Jennings, the council voted unanimously to declare Bid Number 1203WL as a rejected bid. A copy of the bid package is attached to these minutes as **APPENDIX F.**

IN THE MATTER OF REVIEW/AWARD/REJECT BID FOR WOODEN UTILITY POLES

Upon a motion by Councilman Whittington, seconded by Councilman Davis, the council voted unanimously to award Bid No. 1202WL – Wooden Utility Poles (6-Month Supply Bid) to the low qualified bid submitted by Baldwin Pole & Piling Company, as recommended by Johnny Timmons, Manager, Tupelo Water & Light Department.

It is noted that although Cox Industries provided a lower price as an alternate bid, the chemical treatment of these poles does not meet the required bid specifications (Item #5), according to Mr. Timmons. A copy of the bid package is attached to these minutes and incorporated herein as **APPENDIX G.**

IN THE MATTER OF REVIEW/APPROVE SPECIAL POLICE DETAIL AT WALL'S BARGAIN CENTER

Police Chief Tony Carleton had submitted additional names of police officers requesting to work security at Wall's Bargain Center. Upon a motion by Councilwoman Davis, seconded by Councilman Davis, the council voted unanimously to approve

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the additional officers desiring to work this detail. A copy of Chief Carleton's letter listing these officers is attached to these minutes and incorporated herein as

APPENDIX H.

IN THE MATTER OF REVIEW/ACCEPT MINUTES OF TUPELO MAJOR THOROUGHFARE PROGRAM MEETING

Upon a motion by Councilman Davis and a second by Councilman Newell, the council voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the Tupelo Major Thoroughfare Program meeting of March 14, 2011, a copy being attached hereto as **APPENDIX I.**

8. STUDY AGENDA

IN THE MATTER OF REVIEW/DISCUSS TUPELO NEIGHBORHOOD REINVESTMENT PLAN

This item will remain on the Study Agenda for further consideration.

IN THE MATTER OF REVIEW/DISCUSS TRANSFER OF RIGHT-OF-WAY TO MDOT FOR INTERCHANGE OF NORTHERN LOOP & HIGHWAY 78 (I-22)

At the request of Council Members N. Davis and Jennings, this item will be moved to the next agenda.

IN THE MATTER OF REVIEW/DISCUSS DEMOLITION OF BUILDINGS COMPRISING TRACE INN AND COUNTRY HEARTH INN AND SUITES

This item will remain on the Study Agenda for further consideration.

IN THE MATTER OF REVIEW/DISCUSS REQUEST TO DEED/CONVEY CERTAIN PROPERTY IN REGARD TO DEER PARK SEWER PROJECT

At the request of Council Members Bryan and Jennings, this item will be moved to the next agenda.

IN THE MATTER OF REVIEW/DISCUSS APPLICATION FOR AD VALAOREM TAX EXEMPTION FROM COOPER TIRE & RUBBER COMPANY

At the request of Council Members Newell and Bryan, this item will be moved to the next agenda.

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9. ADJOURNMENT

IN THE MATTER OF ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the City Council, upon a motion by Councilman Jennings, seconded by Councilman Newell, the council voted unanimously to adjourn the regular meeting at 6:55 p.m.

PRESIDENT

ATTEST:

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

APPROVED:

MAYOR