

MUNICIPAL MINUTES, CITY OF TUPELO
STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

JUNE 4, 2013

Be it remembered that the regular meeting of the Tupelo City Council was held in Council Chambers at the City Hall Building on Tuesday, June 4, 2013, 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; City Attorney John S. Hill; and Glenda Muse, Clerk of the Council.

The invocation was led by Rev. Theodore Roach, Minister at the Church of the Living God, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Councilman Bryan.

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 N. Davis, seconded by Councilman Bryan, the council voted unanimously to confirm the agenda and agenda order, amended as follows:

DELETE: #7.3 Appointment to Parks & Recreation Board
ADD: #7.13 Request to Accept Donated Property
by Tupelo Police Department

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 by Mayor Reed and City Council Members:

Councilman Jennings – Expressed his thanks to Ms. Betty Thompson of the North Miss. Missionary Council who was responsible for hosting the National Council in Tupelo last weekend. Mr. Jennings stated approximately 500 people had attended this

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event and had enjoyed their visit to Tupelo

Mayor Reed next introduced Maria Coniglio, a student of Tupelo Public Schools, who had recently won the Lee County Spelling Bee. She was, also, named the winner of the state-wide letter writing contest sponsored by the Library of Congress under the title, "Letters About Literature".

IN THE MATTER OF PROCLAMATION IN RECOGNITION OF "NATIONAL GARDEN WEEK"

Several members of the Tupelo Garden Club accepted a proclamation from Mayor Reed in recognition of "National Garden Week", being proclaimed the week of June 2 – June 8, 2013. Gardeners of the country produce a multitude of foods not only for our own people but also are able to export to other countries desperately needing food. Gardening instills as well an appreciation for nature in general to both the old and young which leads to a greater respect and care for our environment. The citizens in Tupelo are encouraged to observe the week with educational activities and projects that emphasize the benefits of gardening.

IN THE MATTER OF MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Reed, following the presentation of the Proclamation of "National Garden Week", made an analogy of the City of Tupelo being a garden. Everyone in the city is responsible for this garden – our City. A garden needs three things to grow: A vision of what it should look like; a plan for someone to care for and tend it and the resources to carry out this vision.

He stated that our vision is a city that our citizens want to live in...a safe place, good places to live in and good neighborhoods that are attractive and livable. It should be a place with good jobs, good friends, good schools, good parks and public spaces to enjoy. The citizens of the city are the caretakers, encouraging each other to keep their homes in good condition thereby allowing properties to hold their value as well as our neighbors' homes. We must reinvest in it by paving old streets, by having policemen and firemen to protect it, and we preserve it by demolishing blighted homes and neglected abandoned apartment buildings. To accomplish all these things, we need the financial and human resources to carry out this vision.

The West Jackson Street Neighborhood Revitalization Pilot Project is a response to the challenge that some of our older neighborhoods are facing. Funds have already been budgeted; resources of the city are budgeted and citizens through the banks are ready to chip in on the project. The plan to use the expertise and intelligence of dedicated

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volunteers and the financial muscle of our financial initiative add to the resources at our disposal. The City Council and Administration will be involved every step of the process. Mayor Reed stated it was his wish to get as many votes for the plan as possible and asked that the matter which was on tonight's agenda be tabled until another work session could be conducted.

He quoted Mr. George McLean, Tupelo's greatest visionary, as having inspired its citizens to light a candle rather than curse the darkness and this Pilot Project is a candle. He stated the Council's decision on how it is implemented or not will echo through the streets and neighborhoods of Tupelo for years to come. He concluded his remarks by urging the Council to vote for the plan; vote for Tupelo's future and light this candle.

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

5. PUBLIC AGENDA

5.1 PUBLIC HEARINGS

5.1.A LIST OF LOT MOWING OF PROPERTIES

No one appeared to address this issue.

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

6. ACTION AGENDA

IN THE MATTER OF REVIEW/APPROVE RESOLUTION GRANTING AD VALOREM TAX EXEMPTION FROM GENLYTE THOMAS GROUP, LLC, D/B/A DAY-BRITE/CAPRI/OMEGA

Upon a motion by Councilman Whittington and a second by Councilman Jennings, the council voted unanimously to approve a Resolution of the City Council of the City of Tupelo, Mississippi, Granting Exemption from Ad Valorem Taxes to Genlyte Thomas Group, LLC, d/b/a Day-Brite/Capri/Omega. That company is hereby granted tax exemption on ad valorem taxes, except State and School District ad valorem taxation, for a period of ten (10) years beginning January 1, 2013, subject to approval and certification by the Mississippi State Tax Commission. An executed copy of this Resolution is attached to these minutes and incorporated herein as **APPENDIX A.**

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IN THE MATTER OF REVIEW/APPROVE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF TUPELO, MISSISSIPPI, AND THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION TO PROMOTE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Councilman Jennings moved to table this matter and the motion was seconded by Councilwoman N. Davis. Vote on the motion to table was as follows:

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

7. ROUTINE AGENDA

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

Upon a motion by Councilman J. Davis, seconded by Councilman Whittington, the council voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the regular City Council meeting of Tuesday, May 21, 2013.

IN THE MATTER OF REVIEW/PAY BILLS

Upon a motion by Councilman Jennings, seconded by Councilman Whittington, the council voted unanimously to approve payment of the following checks, bills having been reviewed at 4:30 p.m. by Councilmen Whittington and Jennings:

Check Nos. 111216 through 111660 (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 ALAC to reimburse employees under Flex-One Plan
as shown on the face of the docket.

IN THE MATTER OF REVIEW/APPROVE APPOINTMENT TO TUPELO MAJOR THOROUGHFARE PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Mayor Reed had presented Mr. Drew Robertson as his appointment to the Tupelo Major Thoroughfare Program Committee. Upon a motion by Councilman Bryan, seconded by Council Whittington, the council voted unanimously to approve Mr. Robertson's appointment to this Committee. A copy of his bio is attached hereto as **APPENDIX B.**

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IN THE MATTER OF REVIEW/APPROVE APPOINTMENT TO TUPELO MAJOR THOROUGHFARE PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Mayor Reed had presented Rev. Jeffery Gladney as another appointment to the Tupelo Major Thoroughfare Program Committee. Upon a motion by Councilwoman N. Davis and a second by Councilman Bryan, the council voted unanimously to approve the appointment of Rev. Gladney to this Committee. A copy of his bio is attached to these minutes as **APPENDIX C.**

IN THE MATTER OF REVIEW/APPROVE APPOINTMENT TO TUPELO MAJOR THOROUGHFARE PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Mayor Reed had recommended Rev. Theodore Roach as a third appointment to serve on the Tupelo Major Thoroughfare Program Committee. Upon a motion by Councilman Whittington and a second by Councilman Bryan, the council voted unanimously to approve the appointment of Rev. Roach to this Committee. A copy of his bio is attached to these minutes as **APPENDIX D.**

IN THE MATTER OF REVIEW/APPROVE ESTIMATE/FEE PROPOSAL FOR ENGINEERING SERVICES RELATED TO DEVELOPMENT OF DOWNTOWN QUIET ZONES ALONG RAILROADS

This item had been tabled at the May 21, 2013, City Council meeting and President Pitts recommended that it remain on the table at this time.

IN THE MATTER OF REVIEW/AWARD/REJECT BID FOR SCOREBOARD AND TIMING SYSTEM FOR TUPELO AQUATIC CENTER

Upon a motion by Councilman Jennings, seconded by Councilman J. Davis, the council voted unanimously to accept the bid from Colorado Time system for \$235,500 for the scoreboard and timing system for the Tupelo Aquatic Center. A copy of bid document is attached to these minutes and incorporated herein as **APPENDIX E.**

This action was recommended by Don Lewis, Director of Department of Parks and Recreation Department, by memorandum dated May 29, 2013, to Mayor Reed and the City Council.

IN THE MATTER OF REVIEW/ACCEPT MINUTES OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION MEETINGS

Upon a motion by Councilman Whittington, seconded by Councilman Bryan, the council voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the Historic Preservation

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Commission meetings of April 11, May 9 and May 17, 2013. Copies of these minutes are attached hereto and incorporated into these minutes as **APPENDIX F.**

IN THE MATTER OF REVIEW/ACCEPT/REJECT GRANT AWARDS FROM MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR STREET AND SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENTS

By memorandum dated May 23, 2013, Pat Falkner, City Planner, had advised Mayor Reed and the City Council that three grants had been awarded the City by the Mississippi Department of Transportation to be used for street and sidewalk improvements as follows:

Eason Boulevard Mill and Overlay - \$608,120 grant, \$185,080 match. This project will improve the section of Eason Boulevard from the Briar Ridge intersection to East Main Street, a distance of 1.88 miles. The work includes widening by two feet and milling and overlay of the road surface.

North Green Street Sidewalks - \$99,820 grant, \$35,805 match. This project will provide a five-foot concrete sidewalk on the south side of Green Street from the intersection with Gloster to Madison Street, a distance of 1,450 feet.

North Gloster Street Sides - \$262,236 grant, 86,889 match. This project will provide a five-foot concrete sidewalk on the east side of north Gloster Street from the Green/Lakeshire intersection to Commonwealth Boulevard, a distance of 2,800 feet.

Upon a motion by Councilman J. Davis and a second by Councilman Jennings, the council voted unanimously to accept the above referenced grants from Mississippi Department of Transportation to be used as set out above.

IN THE MATTER OF REVIEW/ACCEPT MINUTES OF TRAFFIC COMMITTEE MEETING

Upon a motion by Councilman Whittington, seconded by Councilman Jennings, the council voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the Traffic Committee meeting of May 21, 2013, a copy being attached hereto as **APPENDIX G.**

IN THE MATTER OF REVIEW/APPROVE LISTING OF LOT MOWING OF PROPERTIES

Councilman Newell moved to approve a listing of lot mowings submitted by the Department of Development Services as being in such a state of uncleanness as to be a

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menace to public health, safety and welfare of the community, thereby authorizing the department to proceed with mowing of these properties. The motion was seconded by Councilman Whittington and unanimously passed by a vote of the council. A public hearing had been conducted earlier in the meeting with no one appearing to address the issue. A copy of the listing is attached to these minutes and incorporated herein as **APPENDIX H.**

IN THE MATTER OF REVIEW/APPROVE REQUEST TO ACCEPT DONATED PROPERTY BY THE TUPELO POLICE DEPARTMENT

Kim Hanna, City Clerk, had advised the Mayor and City Council by memorandum dated June 4, 2013, that the City of Tupelo has an officer assigned to the U. S. Marshall Service. The U. S. Marshall wishes to purchase a vehicle titled directly to the City of Tupelo to be used by the assigned city officer. Ms. Hanna is requesting that this vehicle be accepted and added to the city's list of police department assets. Once the vehicle is delivered, the city will have the title, the value and the VIN number on file.

Upon a motion by Councilman Whittington, seconded by Councilman Bryan, the council voted unanimously to approve this request from the City Clerk and accept this vehicle from the U. S. Marshall Service and when received, that it be added to the city's list of police department assets.

8. STUDY AGENDA

IN THE MATTER OF REVIEW/DISCUSS APPLICATION FOR AD VALOREM TAX EXEMPTION OF HYPERION TECHNOLOGY GROUP, INC.

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

IN THE MATTER OF REVIEW/DISCUSS APPLICATION FOR AD VALOREM TAX EXEMPTION OF SUNBOO, LLC

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

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IN THE MATTER OF REVIEW/DISCUSS APPLICATION FOR AD VALOREM TAX EXEMPTION OF DORIC VAULTS OF NORTH MISSISSIPPI

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

IN THE MATTER OF REVIEW/DISCUSS APPLICATION FOR AD VALOREM TAX EXEMPTION OF LEGGETT & PLATT, INC.

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

9. EXECUTIVE SESSION

IN THE MATTER OF EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon a motion by Councilman Whittington, seconded by Councilman Newell, the council voted unanimously to close the regular meeting to determine the need for an executive session.

Upon a motion by Councilman Bryan, seconded by Councilman Whittington, the council voted unanimously to go into executive session to discuss possible purchase of real property.

Upon a motion by Councilman Bryan, seconded by Councilman Newell, the council voted unanimously to come out of executive session and return to the regular meeting.

IN THE MATTER OF EXECUTIVE SESSION DECISION

Councilman Bryan moved that if prospective seller of real property located at 1124 West Jackson Street clears title on said property, the City of Tupelo will offer \$15,000.00 for the purchase of the property. The motion was seconded by Councilman Jennings with vote being as follows:

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

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IN THE MATTER OF ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the City Council, upon a motion by Councilwoman N. Davis, seconded by Councilman Newell, the council voted unanimously to adjourn the regular meeting at 6:40 p.m.

PRESIDENT

ATTEST:

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

APPROVED:

MAYOR