MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL

Tuesday, October 20, 2026
6:00 PM CST
Council Chambers, City Hall

Call to Order.

At 6:00 p.m. Mayor Liese called the meeting to order.

Invocation - Councilmember Harwood

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

PRESENT
Mayor Anna Liese
Councilmember-At-Large Gerard Maher
Ward 1 Shane Finley
Ward 2 Ricky Sheppard
Ward 3 Jessie Harwood
Ward 4 Austin Clark

Mayor Liese called John Brdecka to address the council with regard to library funding.

Confirm or Adjust Agenda Order

Motion made by Mayor Liese, Seconded by Ward 1 Finley to adjust the agenda to enter closed session to determine the need for executive session.

Voting Yea: Mayor Liese, Councilmember-At-Large Maher, Ward 1 Finley, Ward 2 Sheppard, Ward 3 Harwood, Ward 4 Clark

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Motion made by Mayor Liese, Seconded by Ward 1 Finley to enter executive session pursuant to MS Code 24-41-7(4)(a): Personnel matters regarding the City Manager and City Clerk.

Voting Yea: Mayor Liese, Councilmember-At-Large Maher, Ward 1 Finley, Ward 2 Sheppard, Ward 3 Harwood, Ward 4 Clark

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

City Attorney, Derek Cusick, announced to the Public that the City Council had voted to go into executive session pursuant to MS Code Sec. 25-41-7(4)(a): Personnel matters regarding the City Manager and City Clerk.

Motion made by Mayor Liese, Seconded by Ward 1 Finley to exit session.

Voting Yea: Mayor Liese, Councilmember-At-Large Maher, Ward 1 Finley, Ward 2 Sheppard, Ward 3 Harwood, Ward 4 Clark

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Motion made by Mayor Liese, Seconded by Ward 1 Finley to exit executive session.

Voting Yea: Mayor Liese, Councilmember-At-Large Maher, Ward 1 Finley, Ward 2 Sheppard, Ward 3 Harwood, Ward 4 Clark

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Motion made by Mayor Liese, Seconded by Ward 2 Sheppard to exit closed session.

Voting Yea: Mayor Liese, Councilmember-At-Large Maher, Ward 1 Finley, Ward 2 Sheppard, Ward 3 Harwood, Ward 4 Clark

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Attorney Cusick announced that during executive session that no official action of record was taken.

Presentation Agenda.

a. The next Regular Meeting of the City Council will be held Tuesday November 3, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers located at City Hall.

City Manager's Report.

CITY MANAGER REPORT
October 20, 2026

1. DH Drive East Roundabout – The public works department has started beautification efforts around the Blessing Circle. The project includes removing vegetation, along with the aging posts and ropes, to create a cleaner, more attractive, and well-maintained space for our community.
2. Budget Amendments – The budget amendments presented for consideration tonight reflect grant funding awarded to the city by the State Legislature during the legislative session, as well as the BP RESTORE grant awarded by Governor Tate Reeves. These amendments are necessary to ensure the city's budget accurately reflects the awarded grant funds and associated project activities. The GRPC grant projects were previously incorporated into the city's budget last fiscal year. However, these projects are currently progressing through the MDOT statewide project approval process.
3. Bank Stabilization – The contract is for 180 days with a current end date of April 10th, 2027. The contractor has started with the draining of the Duck Pond which has received a lot of attention. As this part of the project progresses, they will begin working between the homes to clean out the drainage ditch.
4. Pelican Cove – The contract is for 150 days with a current end date of April 01st, 2027. The notice to proceed date has been set for November 02, 2026. This project includes the draining and dredging of the pond on the sixth hole of the Pine Course. Residents need to be aware that this hole will be closed during construction.
5. Canal Dredging – The contract is for 240 days with the current end date of October 24th. The contractor's attorney, the city attorney and MDEQ's attorney have had several positive conversations regarding the project and the contract. The contractor and engineer are working to get MDEQ additional documentation requested.
6. Jourdan River Boardwalk – The contract is for 195 days with the current end date of November 1st. The contractor is finalizing the observation decks and lighting of the boardwalk. We have started preparations for the ribbon cutting.

7. Montjoy Creek Nature Trail – The contract is 210 calendar days with a current end date of November 9th. The contractor is working to finish the boardwalk section and the gravel portion of the trail. The grass section of the trail has been installed. As the new sod has been installed, all residents need to stay off the trail while construction is being performed.
8. Unit Price Contracts – Ewa St @ Hilo Way – A closeout meeting has been set for Thursday.
9. East Aloha Drive – A meeting with the MDOT right of way department was held this month. The required documents have been determined and are in the process of being signed by the property owners.
10. West Aloha Drive – The engineers are working with the local business to create the final design. Hancock Whitney asked for some design changes for egress purposes. The engineers were able to accommodate the requested changes.

No additional updates on remaining projects.

11. Fitness Park – The city received the exercise equipment. Public Works will start working on installing everything.
12. Commercial District – The engineer is completing the final design. Additional sewer realignment is needed to finish the project.
13. Landscaping Project – Keep Diamondhead Beautiful and their landscape architect company are working on the project scope. The city has expressed that the landscaping cannot obstruct driver's view.
14. Unit Price Contracts

    Crooked Stick – A design has been created. A work directive will be submitted.
    Mauna Loa Drive – A design has been created. A work directive will be submitted.
    Koula Drive – A design has been created. An OPC has been issued for budget needs.
15. Hazard Mitigation Grant Program – The kickoff meeting with FEMA was held two weeks ago for the Outdoor Emergency Siren System. The project is waiting on a period of performance extension from FEMA. The bid advertisement and specifications will be on the agenda at the next council meeting for your review and approval.
16. Rotten Bayou Nature Trail – The engineer is working on final design and permitting. I have moved the expected advertisement for bids on this project to October. This agenda includes a request to extend the grant from MOSTF for six months due to the permitting process not being completed.

Public Comments on Agenda Items.

Bill Atkinson - Golf Carts

Council Comments.

Policy Agenda.

Minutes:

1. Motion to approve October 6, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes.

   Motion made by Ward 1 Finley, Seconded by Ward 3 Harwood to approve October 6, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes.

   Voting Yea: Mayor Liese, Councilmember-At-Large Maher, Ward 1 Finley, Ward 2 Sheppard, Ward 3 Harwood, Ward 4 Clark

   MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Tabled Matters:

2. **2026-202:** Request to let golf carts and LSV's properly registered be allowed on all streets in Diamondhead, following traffic laws including stop signs and speed limits. To update City ordinances to reflect this, and to remove signs throughout DH saying where Golf carts are not allowed. In addition, to express this change on city digital sign, eblast on website. If this needs to be presented first to P&Z then to make this a request for next P& Z meeting. (Maher)

   Motion made by Councilmember-At-Large Maher, Seconded by Ward 4 Clark to move from the table item **#2. 2026-202:** Request to let golf carts and LSV's properly registered be allowed on all streets in Diamondhead, following traffic laws including stop signs and speed limits. To update City ordinances to reflect this, and to remove signs throughout DH saying where Golf carts are not allowed. In addition, to express this change on city digital sign, eblast on website. If this needs to be presented first to P&Z then to make this a request for next P& Z meeting. (Maher)

   Voting Yea: Mayor Liese, Councilmember-At-Large Maher, Ward 1 Finley, Ward 2 Sheppard, Ward 3 Harwood, Ward 4 Clark

   MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

   Motion made by Councilmember-At-Large Maher, Seconded by Ward 1 Finley to discuss the request to let golf carts and LSV's properly registered be allowed on all streets in Diamondhead, following traffic laws including stop signs and speed limits. To update City ordinances to reflect this, and to remove signs throughout DH saying where Golf carts are not allowed. In addition, to express this change on city digital sign, eblast on website. If this needs to be presented first to P&Z then to make this a request for next P& Z meeting.

   NO ACTION TAKEN

Resolutions:

3. **2026-223:** Motion to ratify Proclamation of Existence of Local Emergency as of 12:00 p.m. on October 7, 2026 for flooding and severe weather related to potential Tropical Strom Isaias.

   Motion made by Councilmember-At-Large Maher, Seconded by Ward 2 Sheppard to ratify Proclamation of Existence of Local Emergency as of 12:00 p.m. on October 7, 2026 for flooding and severe weather related to potential Tropical Strom Isaias.

   Voting Yea: Mayor Liese, Councilmember-At-Large Maher, Ward 1 Finley, Ward 2 Sheppard, Ward 3 Harwood, Ward 4 Clark

   MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. **2026-228:** Motion to adopt Resolution 2026-034 thereby redefining certain salaries within the Building Department for Fiscal Year 2027 effective November 2, 2026.

   Motion made by Ward 4 Clark, Seconded by Ward 2 Sheppard to adopt Resolution 2026-034 thereby redefining certain salaries within the Building Department for Fiscal Year 2027 effective November 2, 2026.

   Voting Yea: Mayor Liese, Councilmember-At-Large Maher, Ward 1 Finley, Ward 2 Sheppard, Ward 3 Harwood, Ward 4 Clark

   MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Consent Agenda:

Motion made by Ward 1 Finley, Seconded by Mayor Liese to approve the following consent items:

5. **2026-224:** Motion to approve lease purchase with Axon for the sole source purchase of TASER Energy Weapons for a term of five years. The annual lease payment will be $6,499.56 for a total contract cost of $32,497.80.
6. **2026-225:** Motion to authorize the engagement of Dr. Joy Hogge to provide professional development and organizational consulting services for an amount not to exceed $3,975.00 (Liese)
7. **2026-227:** Motion to approve Budget Amendment 2027-001.
8. **2026-229:** Motion to approve the addition of the Mississippi Wildlife, Fisheries & Parks Kid's Fishing Rodeo event to the list of annual events hosted and/or sponsored by the city.

Voting Yea: Mayor Liese, Councilmember-At-Large Maher, Ward 1 Finley, Ward 2 Sheppard, Ward 3 Harwood, Ward 4 Clark

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Action Agenda.

9. **2026-226:** Motion for discussion of the intent of the Mayor and City Council to Acquire, Construct, Finance and Equip a Community Center and Related Facilities and Improvements in the City in an amount not to exceed $2,200,000.

   Motion made by Mayor Liese, Seconded by Ward 3 Harwood for discussion of the intent of the Mayor and City Council to Acquire, Construct, Finance and Equip a Community Center and Related Facilities and Improvements in the City in an amount not to exceed $2,200,000.

   Voting Yea: Mayor Liese, Councilmember-At-Large Maher, Ward 1 Finley, Ward 2 Sheppard, Ward 3 Harwood, Ward 4 Clark

   MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

   Motion made by Mayor Liese, Seconded by Councilmember-At-Large Maher to adopt Resolution 2026-035 of intent of the Mayor and City Council to Acquire, Construct, Finance and Equip a Community Center and Related Facilities and Improvements in the City in an amount not to exceed $2,200,000 and to approve the engagement services letter for Municipal Advisory Services.

   Voting Yea: Mayor Liese, Councilmember-At-Large Maher, Ward 1 Finley, Ward 2 Sheppard, Ward 3 Harwood, Ward 4 Clark

   MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Routine Agenda.

Claims Payable

10. Motion to approve Docket of Claims (DKT234151-DKT234179) in the amount of $131,088.39.

    Motion made by Ward 2 Sheppard, Seconded by Ward 1 Finley to approve Docket of Claims (DKT234151-DKT234179) in the amount of $131,088.39.

    Voting Yea: Mayor Liese, Councilmember-At-Large Maher, Ward 1 Finley, Ward 2 Sheppard, Ward 3 Harwood, Ward 4 Clark

    MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items.

Mary Hirsch - Library

Tom Sugar - Library, Noma Drive

LeAndra Beckemeyer - Library

Council Closing Comments

Adjourn/Recess.

At 8:16 p.m. with no further business to come before the council, motion made by Ward 4 Clark, Seconded by Ward 3 Harwood to adjourn.

Voting Yea: Mayor Liese, Councilmember-At-Large Maher, Ward 1 Finley, Ward 2 Sheppard, Ward 3 Harwood, Ward 4 Clark

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Anna Liese
Mayor

Jeannie Klein
City Clerk

The City of Diamondhead, Mississippi
2012