



**MINUTES**  
**REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

**Tuesday, March 17, 2026**

**6:00 PM CST**

**Council Chambers, City Hall**  
**and via teleconference, if necessary**

**Call to Order.**

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

Invocation - Mayor Liese

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

**PRESENT**

Mayor Anna Liese

Councilmember-At-Large Gerard Maher

Ward 3 Jessie Harwood – via teleconference

Ward 4 Austin Clark – via teleconference

**ABSENT**

Ward 1 Shane Finley

Ward 2 Ricky Sheppard

Confirm or Adjust Agenda Order

Motion made by Mayor Liese, Seconded by Councilmember-At-Large Maher to adjust the agenda adding Aaron Moran with Boy Scout Troop 210 to present an Eagle Scout Project.

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

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Presentation Agenda.**

- a. The next Regular Meeting of the City Council will be held Tuesday April 7, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers located at City Hall.

Aaron Moran - Boy Scout Project Presentation

Motion made by Mayor Liese, Seconded by Councilmember-At-Large Maher to approve Aaron Moran to construct and install drop off box for retired United States flags at the Maluhia Garden as a part of the Eagle Scout Project.

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

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

## City Manager's Report.

**CITY MANAGER REPORT**

March 17, 2026

1. Canal Dredging – The contractor has to provide a finalized work plan to the engineer and submit his Memorandum of Agreement to DMR. The current schedule is to start at the Western end of the canal and work towards the East. The contract is for 240 days with the current end date of October 24<sup>th</sup>.
2. Paving 2026 – The contractor has finished Cherryhill Drive. During the final walkthrough, any issues remaining will be addressed. The base repairs for Op La Way were completed last week, and the asphalt repairs were started this week. If the schedule changes, the updates will be posted. The contract is for 120 days with a current completion date of June 18, 2026.
3. Dog Park – Public Works is finishing the dog park with the sod and gates being installed this week. The city has set a ribbon cutting for April 4<sup>th</sup>. A dog parade will start the festivities off at 11:00 on the 4<sup>th</sup> with the ribbon cutting after.
4. Jourdan River Boardwalk – The pre-construction meeting is this Thursday. The NTP was issued for April 20<sup>th</sup>. The contract is for 180 days with the current end date of October 17<sup>th</sup>.
5. Montjoy Creek Nature Trail – The pre-construction meeting is set for next week. A notice to proceed date has not been set at this time, but the contractor wants to start by mid-April.
6. Fitness Park – The city expects to receive the exercise equipment this week. After Public Works finishes the dog park, they will get this equipment installed.
7. 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.
  - Ewa St @ Hilo Way – 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.
8. East Aloha Drive – The engineers are finishing the sidewalk designs and right-of-way acquisition process with MDOT. The electrical engineering sub-contractor is completing the design and layout for the streetlights. The engineers expect to be able to advertise as soon as the MDOT requirements are completed.
9. West Aloha Drive – I am working with American Towers to finalize the egress into the driveway access to North Bay Auto and AutoZone. The engineers hope to get this project out for bid by next month.
10. Commercial District – The engineer is completing the final design. Additional sewer realignment is needed to finish the project.
11. Hazard Mitigation Grant Program – **No update this month.** The appraiser has completed the reports on the property acquisition project. The reports have been submitted to Rostan for review and submittal to MEMA.
12. Pelican Cove – **No update this month.** The engineer is completing the final plans and expects to only need a National Wetlands permit to complete this project. The permission to advertise will be on the next council agenda.

- 13. Bank Stabilization – **No Update this month.** The next step for this project will be to work on easement acquisition. Once complete, the engineers can finalize the design.
- 14. MDOT Projects – **No Update this month.** The contractor installed the signage last week. Once the engineers update the drawings for the railing along the multimodal path, the contractor will be back out to install and complete the project.
- 15. Landscaping Project – **No update this month.** 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.
- 16. Rotten Bayou Nature Trail – **No update this month.** The engineer has presented the new preliminary design for this project. They will start the survey work to determine layout and the required permitting from the USACE. The funding is currently out for public comment. Once completed, a meeting with MDEQ will be scheduled to discuss the project and receive paperwork for the council to review and approve.

Public Comments on Agenda Items - None

Council Comments.

**Policy Agenda.**

**Minutes:**

- 1. Motion to approve March 3, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes.  
Motion made by Councilmember-At-Large Maher, Seconded by Mayor Liese to approve March 3, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes.  
Voting Yea: Mayor Liese, Councilmember-At-Large Maher, Ward 3 Harwood, Ward 4 Clark  
**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Resolutions:**

- 2. **2026-052:** Motion to adopt Resolution 2026-010 thereby reappointing Bob Armstrong to a 4-year term to represent the City on the Hancock County E-911 Commission.  
Motion made by Councilmember-At-Large Maher, Seconded by Mayor Liese to adopt Resolution 2026-010 thereby reappointing Bob Armstrong to a 4-year term to represent the City on the Hancock County E-911 Commission.  
Voting Yea: Mayor Liese, Councilmember-At-Large Maher, Ward 3 Harwood, Ward 4 Clark  
**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**
- 3. **2026-054:** Motion to adopt Resolution 2026-011 authorizing submittal of grant application to Congressman Mike Ezell's office for FY2027 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.  
Motion made by Mayor Liese, Seconded by Councilmember-At-Large Maher to adopt Resolution 2026-011 authorizing submittal of grant application to Congressman Mike Ezell's office for FY2027 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.  
Voting Yea: Mayor Liese, Councilmember-At-Large Maher, Ward 3 Harwood, Ward 4 Clark.  
**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

4. **2026-055:** Motion to adopt Resolution 2026-012 authorizing submittal of grant application to Congressman Mike Ezell's office for FY2027 U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Economic Development Initiative.

Motion made by Mayor Liese, Seconded by Councilmember-At-Large Maher to adopt Resolution 2026-012 authorizing submittal of grant application to Congressman Mike Ezell's office for FY2027 U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Economic Development Initiative.

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

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Consent Agenda:**

Motion made by Councilmember-At-Large Maher, Seconded by Mayor Liese to approve the following consent items:

5. **2026-051:** Motion to approve Sexual Abuse Prevention Policy.
6. **2026-053:** Motion to approve job description for Police Chief.
7. **2026-056:** Motion to amend the employee benefits plan to include elected officials as eligible employees to participate in employer-sponsored health, dental and vision programs at a cost share of 100% employee and 0% city effective April 1, 2026 and to authorize the administration to amend and execute necessary documents to effectuate same.

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

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Routine Agenda.**

**Claims Payable**

8. Motion to approve Docket of Claims (DKT233600- DKT233627) in the amount of \$116,360.62.

Motion made by Councilmember-At-Large Maher, Seconded by Mayor Liese to approve Docket of Claims (DKT233600- DKT233627) in the amount of \$116,360.62.

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

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

9. Motion to approve Payroll Payables PRCLAIM000264 in the amount of \$29,814.26, PRCLAIM000265 in the amount of \$3,028.37, PRCLAIM000266 in the amount of \$30,487.87, DKT 23359 in the amount of \$90.72 and DKT233590-DKT233599 in the amount of \$48,607.38.

Motion made by Councilmember-At-Large Maher, Seconded by Mayor Liese to approve Payroll Payables PRCLAIM000264 in the amount of \$29,814.26, PRCLAIM000265 in the amount of \$3,028.37, PRCLAIM000266 in the amount of \$30,487.87, DKT 23359 in the amount of \$90.72 and DKT233590-DKT233599 in the amount of \$48,607.38.

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

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Department Reports**

- a. January 2026 Financials

Motion made by Councilmember-At-Large Maher, Seconded by Mayor Liese to approve January 2026 Financials.

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

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

- b. February 2026 Financials

Motion made by Councilmember-At-Large Maher, Seconded by Mayor Liese to approve February 2026 Financials.

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

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items - None**

**Council Closing Comments**

**Adjourn/Recess.**

At 6:20 p.m. with no further business to come before the council, motion made by Councilmember-At-Large Maher, Seconded by Mayor Liese to adjourn.

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

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**



Anna Liese  
Mayor



Jeannie Klein  
City Clerk

