



MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL

Tuesday, March 03, 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 Clark

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

Confirm or Adjust Agenda Order

Motion made by Ward 1 Finley, Seconded by Ward 3 Harwood to confirm the agenda.

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

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Presentation Agenda.

- a. The next Regular Meeting of the City Council will be held Tuesday March 17, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers located at City Hall.

City Manager's Report.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

March 03, 2026

1. DH Police Department – I am working on the job description of the police chief position. This position will not be advertised until the job description has been approved by the council. Keep in mind the budget presented to you is a draft. The new police chief and I will be working together to determine the budget needs for the department. The salary presented on the agenda tonight is an average of many cities of similar size to Diamondhead. The salary is subject to negotiation and will be approved by the council.

2. Canal Dredging – The contractor will start mobilizing equipment this month. Currently the 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 24th.
3. Paving 2026 – The contractor is finishing the base repair on Cherryhill Drive today. The current schedule is listed on the city Facebook page. As the schedule changes, the updates will be provided. The contract is for 120 days with a current completion date of June 18, 2026.
4. Dog Park – Public Works is finishing the dog park with pads for the benches and the water lines being installed this week. Sod will be delivered and installed next week. The city has set a ribbon cutting for April 4th with more information to come.
5. Jourdan River Boardwalk – The city received the contract documents this week. I will sign them later this week and an executed copy will be submitted to DEQ for approval. Once approved, DEQ will send an approval letter, and we can then issue the NTP. The contractor is looking for an NTP date at the beginning of April.
6. Montjoy Creek Nature Trail – The project is on the agenda tonight for your review and award. All bids received were higher than the budgeted amount. We negotiated with the lowest bidder to reduce the total contract amount below the total budgeted funds. This is being presented to the council as a negative change order as it was given to the city by the engineer. The result is the same as if we had approved a renegotiated price on the original contract.
7. Unit Price Contracts
 - Crooked Stick – A design has been created. A work directive will be submitted on the next agenda for council approval.
 - Mauna Loa Drive – A design has been created. A work directive will be submitted on the next agenda for council approval.
 - Ewa St @ Hilo Way – The engineer is surveying the area to determine the design needed. An OPC will be created to determine budget needs.
 - Koula Drive – A design has been created. An OPC has been issued for budget needs.
 - DH Drive North/Lily Pond – A design has been created. The city is waiting on USDA approval of the design. Once received, a work directive will be submitted.
8. Fitness Park – The city expects to receive the exercise equipment this month. Public Works will install the equipment.
9. East Aloha Drive – No update this month. The city will need to follow the MDOT right-of-way acquisition process, and the electrical engineering sub-contractor. The engineers are finalizing the design to have project out to advertise as soon as the MDOT requirements are completed.
10. West Aloha Drive – No update this month. The engineers are working on egress of the roadway to determine best access for vehicle flow. This project will also be ready to advertise in the first quarter of 2026.
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. Commercial District – No Update this month. The engineer is completing the final design. I am currently waiting for appraisers to get reports back to me for the additional piece of roadway needed.
14. 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.
15. 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.
16. 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.
17. 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.

Henry Foreman - Safety

Mo Landry - Real Estate Signs

Ben Casucio - Police Department

Council Comments.

Policy Agenda.

Minutes:

1. Motion to approve February 18, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes.

Motion made by Ward 2 Sheppard, Seconded by Ward 3 Harwood to approve February 18, 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

Resolutions:

2. **2026-037:** Motion to adopt Resolution 2026-008 authorizing a grant application to GRPC for Federal Surface Transportation Funds through the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for funding in the amount of \$54,281.20 for the Dog Park Sidewalk Project and for other related purposes.

Motion made by Ward 3 Harwood, Seconded by Ward 1 Finley to adopt Resolution 2026-008 authorizing a grant application to GRPC for Federal Surface Transportation Funds through the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for funding in the amount of \$54,281.20 for the Dog Park Sidewalk Project and for other related purposes.

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

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. **2026-038:** Motion to adopt Resolution 2026-009 thereby abandoning a 5' drainage/utility easement on each side of the common property line between lots 27 and 28, Diamondhead Phase 2, Unit 7, Block 4. The parcel numbers are 067H-2-25-017.000 and 067H-2-25-018.000. The physical address is 9953 Kahana Street.

Motion made by Ward 2 Sheppard, Seconded by Ward 3 Harwood to adopt Resolution 2026-009 thereby abandoning a 5' drainage/utility easement on each side of the common property line between lots 27 and 28, Diamondhead Phase 2, Unit 7, Block 4. The parcel numbers are 067H-2-25-017.000 and 067H-2-25-018.000. The physical address is 9953 Kahana Street.

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 3 Harwood, Seconded by Ward 4 Clark to approve the following consent items:

4. **2026-039:** Motion to approve Pay Application 2 in the amount of \$46,352.15 to Bottom 2 Top Construction, LLC., for the 2025 Unit Price Contract - Koko Court Work Directive #1.
5. **2026-040:** Motion to approve payment to Chiniche Engineering & Surveying in the amount of \$28,480.25 for Coon Branch Drainage, in the amount of \$10,138.00 for Jourdan River Boardwalk, and in the amount of \$12,703.00 for Rotten Bayou Nature Trail.
6. **2026-041:** Motion to accept proposal to extend all insurance policies (from April 8, 2026 to May 1, 2026) General Liability, Employment Practices Liability, Public Entity Liability and Auto with Travelers in the amount of \$5,543.00 and equipment breakdown with Hartford Steam Boiler Insurance in the amount of \$55.83.
7. **2026-045:** Motion to approve payment to Covington Civil & Environmental, LLC in the amount of \$3,000.00 for On-Call Survey Services, in the amount of \$16,800.00 for West Aloha Roadway Improvements Project, in the amount of \$6,134.35 for Annual Unit Price Contract, and in the amount of \$6,200.00 for Diamondhead Paving 2026.
8. **2026-046:** Motion to approve Pay Application 7 in the amount of \$134,085.01 to SCI, LLC., for the Coon Branch Drainage Improvements - Phase I.
9. **2026-047:** Motion to add the Gulf Coast Bicycle Club Fun Ride Event to the list of City hosted and/or sponsored events. This event will be held in conjunction with the city's Open Jam Event on the third Thursday of the month.
10. **2026-048:** Motion to approve the creation of the Diamondhead Police Department and create the position of Police Chief with a salary of \$76,960.00, advertise and begin the candidate search for said position.
11. **2026-049:** Motion to accept and award low bid received from Holliday Construction, LLC, in the amount of \$953,518.38 for the Montjoy Creek Nature Trail and authorize the City Manager to execute the contract for same and to issue the notice to proceed as appropriate.

12. **2026-050:** Motion to approve Change Order No. 1 to the contract with Holliday Construction, LLC. in the net amount of -\$43,960.00 for a total contract amount of \$909,558.38 for the Montjoy Creek Nature Trail.

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.

13. **2026-042:** Motion to approve the Planning & Zoning Commission recommendation to approve the re-plat of the Harbor House Townhomes, Phase I and Phase II.

Motion made by Ward 2 Sheppard, Seconded by Ward 4 Clark to approve the Planning & Zoning Commission recommendation to approve the re-plat of the Harbor House Townhomes, Phase I and Phase II.

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

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

At 6:26 p.m. Councilmember Maher exited the meeting.

14. **2026-043:** Motion to approve the Planning & Zoning Commission recommendation to approve a text amendment to Article 8, Signs to replace "supported by a metal frame with two ground penetrating supports." in Table 8.1a) Open House Sign or Real Estate Signs with " must be incased in a two-legged metal or resin frame.", to change "3 ft(2)" in Table 8.3a) Open House Area with "2' max width, 3' max height, including riders", and remove Special Conditions "Permitted only on weekends from 5 pm Friday until 30 minutes after sunset Sunday." and replace with "Directional signs only allowed on weekends."

Motion made by Ward 2 Sheppard with no second to approve the Planning & Zoning Commission recommendation to approve a text amendment to Article 8, Signs to replace "supported by a metal frame with two ground penetrating supports." in Table 8.1a) Open House Sign or Real Estate Signs with " must be incased in a two-legged metal or resin frame.", to change "3 ft(2)" in Table 8.3a) Open House Area with "2' max width, 3' max height, including riders", and remove Special Conditions "Permitted only on weekends from 5 pm Friday until 30 minutes after sunset Sunday." and replace with "Directional signs only allowed on weekends."

MOTION FAILED FOR LACK OF A SECOND

At 6:28 p.m. Councilmember Maher returned to the meeting.

15. **2026-044:** Motion to approve the Planning & Zoning Commission recommendation to approve a text amendment to Article 4 - Uses and Use Conditions, Table 4.1 Use Matrix, Modular Home, to allow modular homes in the R-10, R-6, RHD5, and RM-5 zoning districts.

Motion made by Mayor Liese, Seconded by Ward 1 Finley to approve a text amendment to Article 4 - Uses and Use Conditions, Table 4.1 Use Matrix, Modular Home, to allow modular homes in the R-10, R-6, RHD5, and RM-5 zoning districts.

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

- 16. Motion to approve Docket of Claims (DKT233559- DKT233577) in the amount of \$415,240.05.

Motion made by Ward 1 Finley, Seconded by Ward 2 Sheppard to approve Docket of Claims (DKT233559- DKT233577) in the amount of \$415,240.05.

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

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- 17. Motion to approve Payroll Payables DKT233522 in the amount of \$90.72, DKT233578-DKT233588 in the amount of \$49,258.72, DKT233558 in the amount of \$90.72, PRCLAIM0000264 in the amount of \$29,909.99, PRCLAIM0000265 in the amount of \$30,028.37 and PRCLAIM0000266 in the amount of \$30,024.77.

Motion made by Ward 3 Harwood, Seconded by Ward 2 Sheppard to approve Payroll Payables DKT233522 in the amount of \$90.72, DKT233578-DKT233588 in the amount of \$49,258.72, DKT233558 in the amount of \$90.72, PRCLAIM0000264 in the amount of \$29,909.99, PRCLAIM0000265 in the amount of \$30,028.37 and PRCLAIM0000266 in the amount of \$30,024.77.

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 None

Council Closing Comments

Adjourn/Recess.

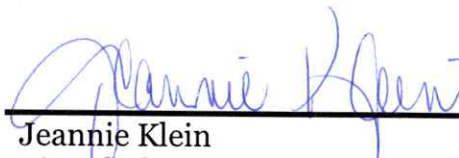
At 6:34 p.m. with no further business to come before the council, motion made by Ward 4 Clark, Seconded by Mayor Liese to adjourn.

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

