



MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL

Tuesday, April 21, 2026

6:00 PM CST

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

At 6:00 p.m. Councilmember Finley called the meeting to order.

Invocation - Councilmember Harwood

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

PRESENT

Councilmember-At-Large Gerard Maher - Via Teleconference

Ward 1 Shane Finley

Ward 3 Jessie Harwood

Ward 4 Austin Clark

ABSENT

Mayor Anna Liese

Ward 2 Ricky Sheppard

Confirm or Adjust Agenda Order

Motion made by Ward 3 Harwood, Seconded by Ward 4 Clark to confirm the agenda.

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

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Presentation Agenda.

- a. The next Regular Meeting of the City Council will be held Tuesday May 5, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers located at City Hall.
- b. Frank Bordeaux - AJG Insurance Renewals

City Manager's Report.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

April 21, 2026

1. Canal Dredging – The contract is for 240 days with the current end date of October 24th. The contractor started on Thursday of last week. The city has asked for weekly dredging numbers from the contractor to track progress.

2. Paving 2026 – The contract is for 120 days with a current completion date of June 18, 2026. The contractor was back on the work site last week. They have now finished paving Cherryhill, Op La Way, and Analii/Ieke. The city is waiting for an updated schedule
3. Jourdan River Boardwalk – The contract is for 180 days with the current end date of October 17th. The contractor was scheduled to start on Monday.
4. Montjoy Creek Nature Trail – The contract is 180 calendar days with a current end date of October 10th. The contractor started mobilizing last Monday.
5. East Rec Playground – The city has installed a gate to provide security. A playground inspection has been completed. Currently working with the playground vendor to replace the broken pieces. All other safety issues in the reports are being addressed by public works.
6. Community Center – A building inspection has been completed, and the city has reviewed the report. A proposal will be on the next agenda to hire an architect firm to determine next steps in the repair of the facility.
7. Police Department – The city has received several applications for the police chief position. I will be setting up interviews over the next two to three weeks.

No additional updates on remaining projects.

8. Fitness Park – The city received the exercise equipment. Public Works will start working on installing everything this month.
9. Pelican Cove – The engineers have applied for the nationwide permit from USACE. There have been several follow up questions that the engineers have answered. Once the permit is approved, I will ask for permission to advertise.
10. 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.
11. West Aloha Drive – I am working with American Towers to finalize the egress into the driveway access to North Bay Auto and AutoZone.
12. Commercial District – The engineer is completing the final design. Additional sewer realignment is needed to finish the project.
13. Hazard Mitigation Grant Program – Received notification on Monday that FEMA has approved our Outdoor Emergency Siren System. The required documents will be presented on the next agenda. MEMA is currently asking for a period of performance extension on this project.
14. Bank Stabilization – Received notification from MDMR that the project is not under the Coastal Zone Management Act. Also, a non-reporting Nationwide Permit is all that is needed for this project. This will allow the engineers to move forward with final design. The next step for this project will be to work on easement acquisition. Once complete, the engineers can finalize the design.
15. MDOT Projects – 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 – 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 – 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.
- 18. 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.

Public Comments on Agenda Items - None

Council Comments.

Policy Agenda.

Minutes:

- 1. Motion to approve April 7, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes.
Motion made by Ward 4 Clark, Seconded by Ward 1 Finley to approve April 7, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes.
Voting Yea: Councilmember-At-Large Maher, Ward 1 Finley, Ward 3 Harwood, Ward 4 Clark
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
- 2. **PUBLIC HEARING:**
Motion to discuss the potential change of the official motto of Diamondhead to "The Jewel of the Coast."
Councilmember Finley opened the **Public Hearing** in the matter of potential change of the official motto of Diamondhead to "The Jewel of the Coast" and called for public comment on three (3) occasions and received none. The **Public Hearing** was closed.

Resolutions:

- 3. **2026-075:** Motion to adopt Resolution 2026-013 thereby acquiring by donation certain real property for drainage and greenspace purposes from Kenneth and P. Anne Reaver.
Motion made by Ward 1 Finley, Seconded by Ward 4 Clark to adopt Resolution 2026-013 thereby acquiring by donation certain real property for drainage and greenspace purposes from Kenneth and P. Anne Reaver.
Voting Yea: Councilmember-At-Large Maher
Voting Nay: Ward 1 Finley, Ward 3 Harwood, Ward 4 Clark
MOTION FAILED

Consent Agenda:

Motion made by Ward 3 Harwood, Seconded by Ward 1 Finley to approve the following consent items:

4. **2026-076:** Motion to amend Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality Sub-Award Agreement for the Jourdan River Boardwalk Project extending the period performance through May 31, 2027.
5. **2026-077:** Motion to accept and enter into Subrecipient Program Grant Agreement with FEMA for the Hazard Mitigation Grant Project DR-4576-0006-F City of Diamondhead Warning Siren and acceptance of State of Assurance therein.
6. **2026-078:** Motion to approve payment in the amount of \$12,081.50 to the Diamondhead Water and Sewer District for the manhole risers used in the bond paving project of Diamondhead Drive.
8. **2026-080:** Motion to accept and award to Wright Ward Hatten Guel the FY25, FY26 and FY27 Auditing Services in the amount of \$36,600, \$37,750 and \$38,750 respectively.

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

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Routine Agenda.

Claims Payable

9. Motion to approve Docket of Claims (DKT233680- DKT233704) in the amount of \$168,365.33.

Motion made by Ward 4 Clark, Seconded by Ward 3 Harwood to approve Docket of Claims (DKT233680- DKT233704) in the amount of \$168,365.33.

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

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

After presentation by Frank Bordeaux with AJG Insurance, motion made by Ward 1 Finley, Seconded by Ward 3 Harwood to move item #7. **2026-079:** Motion to approve 2026 insurance renewals from the consent agenda to the action agenda.

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

Motion made by Ward 1 Finley, Seconded by Ward 3 Harwood.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Motion made by Ward 3 Harwood, Seconded by Ward 1 Finley to approve 2026 insurance renewals.

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

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items.

Tim Sterling - AT&T flags in yard.

Council Closing Comments

Adjourn/Recess.

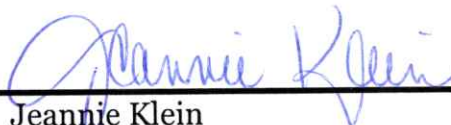
At 6:25 p.m. with no further business to come before the council, motion made by Ward 1 Finley, Seconded by Ward 4 Clark.

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

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY



Anna Liese
Mayor



Jeannie Klein
City Clerk

