



BOARD OF ALDERMEN REGULAR MEETING

July 21, 2026

6:00 PM

Board Room • 119 W 8th Ave, Petal MS

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Roll Call, Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance

PRESENT

Mayor Tony Ducker
Alderman Drew Brickson
Alderman Craig Bullock
Alderman Mike Lott
Alderman Blake Nobles
Alderman Gerald Steele
Alderman Craig Strickland
Alderwoman Kim Stringer

Invocation was offered by Alderman Mike Lott

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

ADOPT AGENDA

Motion made by Alderman Strickland, Seconded by Alderman Nobles.

Voting Yea: Alderman Brickson, Alderman Bullock, Alderman Lott, Alderman Nobles, Alderman Steele, Alderman Strickland, Alderwoman Stringer

CONSENT AGENDA

- Minutes - Regular Meeting of July 7, 2026
- Minutes - Special Meeting of July 16, 2026
- Proofs of Publication
 - Public Notice - 611 E Central Ave
 - Public Notice - 225 Collins Rd
- Court Balances for June 2026
- Privilege License Report for the month of June 2026.
- Revenue & Expenditures for the month of June 2026
- Utility Billing Aging - June 2026

Motion made by Alderman Bullock, Seconded by Alderman Brickson.

Voting Yea: Alderman Brickson, Alderman Bullock, Alderman Lott, Alderman Nobles, Alderman Steele, Alderman Strickland, Alderwoman Stringer

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ron Martin - requests to add a movie in the park. He would like to do a movie in September.

Varnado - New construction @ 1946 Old Richton Rd. Request to have a septic system instead of connecting to city sewer. Matt Fountain stated that is too far from the sewer for them to be able to gravity feed. They provided verification of a perc test from the Health Dept.

Motion to approve a septic system contingent on approval of engineer and Forrest Co Health Dept.

Motion made by Alderwoman Stringer, Seconded by Alderman Brickson.

Voting Yea: Alderman Brickson, Alderman Bullock, Alderman Lott, Alderman Nobles, Alderman Steele, Alderman Strickland, Alderwoman Stringer

PROCLAMATIONS & RESOLUTIONS

BIDS — QUOTES

OLD BUSINESS

Continue review of Knox Box Rapid Entry System Ordinance until 7/21/2026. (Chief Sims)

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2026-153 requiring the installation of Knox Rapid Entry System key boxes where emergency access is required pursuant to the 2024 International Fire Code, Section 506

Exhibit "A"

Ordinance 2026-153

Motion made by Alderman Brickson, Seconded by Alderman Nobles.

Voting Yea: Alderman Brickson, Alderman Bullock, Alderman Lott, Alderman Nobles, Alderman Steele, Alderman Strickland, Alderwoman Stringer

GENERAL BUSINESS

Request to pay Estimate #5 in the amount of \$64,653.20 to Tru-Mac, LLC for S George St Bridge Replacement per Shows, Dearman & Waits recommendation. (City Clerk)

Motion made by Alderman Bullock, Seconded by Alderman Brickson.

Voting Yea: Alderman Brickson, Alderman Bullock, Alderman Lott, Alderman Nobles, Alderman Steele, Alderman Strickland, Alderwoman Stringer

Request to set a hearing date of August 11, 2026 @ 6:00 p.m. for the following properties: (A Heath)

723 S Main St

218 Sunset Dr.

Motion made by Alderman Nobles, Seconded by Alderman Brickson.

Voting Yea: Alderman Brickson, Alderman Bullock, Alderman Lott, Alderman Nobles, Alderman Steele, Alderman Strickland, Alderwoman Stringer

Request to approve Change Order and authorize the City Clerk to advertise for and make final payment in the amount of \$70,908.34 to Warren Paving for 2025 Paving Project per Shows, Dearman & Waits recommendation. (City Clerk)

Motion made by Alderman Bullock, Seconded by Alderman Brickson.

Voting Yea: Alderman Brickson, Alderman Bullock, Alderman Lott, Alderman Nobles, Alderman Steele, Alderman Strickland, Alderwoman Stringer

Request to authorize the City Clerk to make payment in the amount of \$1,000.00 to Greg Wheeler, Court Appointed Appraiser and in the amount of \$7,245.00 to the Forrest County Circuit Clerk for the Immediate Title and Possession of PPIN: 28704, 28707 and 28708 with regards to S George St Sidewalk per Pittman Howdeshell, PLLC recommendation. (City Clerk)

Motion made by Alderman Steele, Seconded by Alderman Bullock.

Voting Yea: Alderman Brickson, Alderman Bullock, Alderman Lott, Alderman Nobles, Alderman Steele, Alderman Strickland, Alderwoman Stringer

Request to approve the Planning Commission recommendation to grant a Conditional Use for property located at 611 E Central Ave allowing for the construction of a shop without a facade where seen streetside. (A Heath)

Motion made by Alderman Bullock, Seconded by Alderman Strickland.

Voting Yea: Alderman Brickson, Alderman Bullock, Alderman Lott, Alderman Nobles, Alderman Steele, Alderman Strickland, Alderwoman Stringer

Request to approve the Planning Commission recommendation to grant a Variance for property located at 225 Collins Rd allowing the addition of two rooms. (A Heath)

Motion made by Alderman Nobles, Seconded by Alderman Lott.

Voting Yea: Alderman Brickson, Alderman Bullock, Alderman Lott, Alderman Nobles, Alderman Steele, Alderman Strickland, Alderwoman Stringer

Request to refund the following Cash Bonds

J Dixon - \$504.75

D Colvin - \$206.00

Motion made by Alderman Bullock, Seconded by Alderman Lott.

Voting Yea: Alderman Brickson, Alderman Bullock, Alderman Lott, Alderman Nobles, Alderman Steele, Alderman Strickland, Alderwoman Stringer

Request to accept quote from Mutual of Omaha for employee dental, vision and life insurance and United Healthcare for health insurance. (City Clerk)

Motion made by Alderman Steele, Seconded by Alderwoman Stringer.

Voting Yea: Alderman Brickson, Alderman Bullock, Alderman Lott, Alderman Nobles, Alderman Steele, Alderman Strickland, Alderwoman Stringer

SEMINARS & TRAVEL

Request for Hunter McPhail to attend EMT Hybrid training at the State Fire Academy on 8/03/2026. Total cost: \$920.00 (Chief Sims)

Motion made by Alderman Steele, Seconded by Alderwoman Stringer.
Voting Yea: Alderman Brickson, Alderman Bullock, Alderman Lott, Alderman Nobles, Alderman Steele, Alderman Strickland, Alderwoman Stringer

Request for the following to attend Fire Officer I training at the State Fire Academy on Aug. 17-20, 2026. Total cost: \$330.00 each

Amanda Richardson
Joe Harrison
Bobby Sheffield

Motion made by Alderman Steele, Seconded by Alderman Lott.
Voting Yea: Alderman Brickson, Alderman Bullock, Alderman Lott, Alderman Nobles, Alderman Steele, Alderman Strickland, Alderwoman Stringer

Request for the following to attend Cyber Fraud Task Force Training in Biloxi, MS on July 28, 2026. Total cost: 0

Joe Lee, David Courtney, Charlie Sims
Motion made by Alderman Nobles, Seconded by Alderman Strickland.
Voting Yea: Alderman Brickson, Alderman Bullock, Alderman Lott, Alderman Nobles, Alderman Steele, Alderman Strickland, Alderwoman Stringer

Request for Jordan Marshall to attend Rope Rescue Tech at the State Fire Academy on July 27-30, 2026. Total cost: \$330.00 (Chief Sims)

Motion made by Alderman Bullock, Seconded by Alderman Nobles.
Voting Yea: Alderman Brickson, Alderman Bullock, Alderman Lott, Alderman Nobles, Alderman Steele, Alderman Strickland, Alderwoman Stringer

Request for Amy Heath and Randy Powell to attend MACE Summer Conference in Biloxi, MS on Aug. 9 - 14, 2026. Total cost: \$2,489.00

Motion made by Alderwoman Stringer, Seconded by Alderman Nobles.
Voting Yea: Alderman Brickson, Alderman Bullock, Alderman Lott, Alderman Nobles, Alderman Steele, Alderman Strickland, Alderwoman Stringer

Request for Michelle Strebeck to attend Fall Court Clerk Conference in Biloxi, MS on Sept. 15-18, 2026. Total cost: \$181.00 (Court Clerk)

Motion made by Alderman Steele, Seconded by Alderman Brickson.
Voting Yea: Alderman Brickson, Alderman Bullock, Alderman Lott, Alderman Nobles, Alderman Steele, Alderman Strickland, Alderwoman Stringer

ORDERS & ORDINANCES

Request to adopt order increasing the rate of pay for Paige Habash to \$17.50 per hour effective 7/22/2026. (City Clerk)

Order
Whereas the Mayor and Board of Aldermen
Of the City of Petal deem it necessary to
Raise the pay rate for Paige Habash In
The Water Department

It is hereby ordered that Paige Habash
Be raised to \$17.50 per hour effective
July 22, 2026

So ordered this the 21st day of July 2026

Motion made by Alderman Steele, Seconded by Alderman Brickson.
Voting Yea: Alderman Brickson, Alderman Bullock, Alderman Lott, Alderman Nobles, Alderman Steele, Alderman Strickland, Alderwoman Stringer

MAYOR'S REPORT

CONSIDERATION OF COMMITTEE, COMMISSION AND BOARD MATTERS

LEGAL

ADJOURN

Ada Madison - Barrontown Water does not provide fire hydrants and they need some more hydrants on Springfield Rd.

Drew Brickson - Shoutout to Petal PD for work on city hall floors.

Motion to adjourn.

Motion made by Alderman Steele, Seconded by Alderman Strickland.

Voting Yea: Alderman Brickson, Alderman Bullock, Alderman Lott, Alderman Nobles, Alderman Steele, Alderman Strickland, Alderwoman Stringer



Melissa Martin, City Clerk


Mayor Tony Ducker

Exhibit “A”

Section 3. Approved Rapid Entry System

The **Knox Box® Rapid Entry System**, manufactured by the Knox Company, I.I.C, is hereby designated as the **official and approved emergency key box system** for use within the City of Petal.

No substitute or alternative emergency key box system shall be installed unless specifically approved in writing by the Fire Chief.

Section 4. Installation

Boxes shall be installed:

- On the street-facing side of the building unless another location has been approved by the Fire Marshal.
- Within 3 feet horizontally to the left of the primary entrance, as viewed from outside the building. This standard location provides a consistent point of access for firefighters. The Fire Marshal may approve an alternate location if installation to the left of the entrance is impractical due to building construction, site conditions, or other approved reasons.
- In a location that is clearly visible, easily accessible, and free from landscaping, signs, decorative features, or other obstructions that could delay emergency access.
Installation height shall be:
 - Minimum: The bottom of the Knox Box shall be no less than 4 feet above the finished grade or door threshold.
 - Preferred: The top of the Knox Box should be approximately 5 feet 6 inches above the finished grade or door threshold whenever practical.

B. The property owner shall purchase and install the Knox Box at their expense.

Section 5. Contents

Each Knox Box shall contain only those items approved by the Fire Chief, which may include:

- Building master keys;
- Access cards or key fobs;
- Elevator keys;
- Fire alarm keys;
- Gate keys;
- Other emergency access devices deemed necessary.

Section 6. Maintenance

The property owner shall:

- Maintain current and operational keys within the Knox Box.
- Notify the Fire Department whenever locks or access devices are changed.
- Update the Knox Box contents within thirty (30) days of any change.

Section 7. Security

Only authorized members of the Petal Fire Department shall possess keys or electronic devices capable of opening Knox Boxes installed pursuant to this ordinance. All Knox Keys will be stored on each apparatus in a Knox key secure system.

ORDINANCE 2026 (153)

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF PETAL, MISSISSIPPI, REQUIRING THE INSTALLATION OF KNOX BOX® RAPID ENTRY SYSTEMS FOR CERTAIN BUILDINGS AND PROPERTIES TO PROVIDE EMERGENCY ACCESS FOR THE PETAL FIRE DEPARTMENT; ESTABLISHING STANDARDS FOR INSTALLATION, MAINTENANCE, AND ENFORCEMENT; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

WHEREAS the City of Petal finds that delayed access to secured buildings during fire, medical, hazardous materials, and other emergency incidents can result in increased property damage, injury, or loss of life; and

WHEREAS the use of a standardized emergency key box system improves firefighter and emergency responder access while minimizing unnecessary damage to buildings and property; and

WHEREAS the City Council desires to establish a single standardized emergency key box system to be used throughout the City,

WHEREAS, many properties are equipped with automatic alarm systems and/or sprinkler/standpipe systems, and these automatic systems may cause the fire companies of the City of Petal Fire Department to be summoned at a time when the building or business is not occupied or when the occupant is not available to provide entry for the fire department; and

WHEREAS the City of Petal wishes to prevent damage from forceful entry into structures and provide swift entry into structures by the Fire Department; and

WHEREAS, the International Fire Code – 2024 edition, Section 506 provides that any Fire Department may require certain occupancies to maintain a Rapid Access system as prescribed by the Fire Department; The City of Petal Fire Department finds a need to establish such a Rapid Entry System for the City of Petal, and any areas covered by the City of Petal Fire Department.

Now, therefore, be it ordained by the Board of Alderman for the City of Petal, MS,

Section 1. Purpose

The purpose of this ordinance is to provide the Petal Fire Department with rapid, secure access to buildings and other properties during emergencies while reducing property damage caused by forced entry.

2. Applicability

A Knox Box shall be required for:

1. All new commercial, industrial, institutional, educational, and multi-family buildings.
2. Existing commercial or industrial buildings, whenever required by the Fire Code Official due to restricted access or other life safety concerns.
3. Buildings protected by automatic fire sprinkler systems or monitored fire alarm systems.
4. Gated communities, security gates, or facilities where emergency vehicle access may be delayed.
5. Any building or occupancy determined by the Fire Code Official to require emergency key access.

Those present and voting “NAY” or against the adoption of Sections 1, 2,3,4,5,6,7, 8, 9, 10, 11, & 12 of the foregoing Ordinance:

None

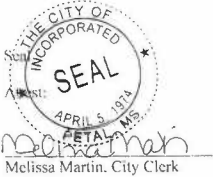
Those present and voting “AYE” and in favor of the adoption of the foregoing ordinance as a whole:

ALDERMAN DREW BRICKSON
ALDERMAN CRAIG BULLOCK
ALDERMAN MIKE LOTT
ALDERMAN BLAKE NOBLES
ALDERMAN GERALD STEELE
ALDERMAN CRAIG STRICKLAND
ALDERWOMAN KIM STRINGER

Those present and voting “NAY” or against the adoption of the foregoing Ordinance as a whole:

None

WHEREUPON, the above and foregoing Ordinance be, and the same is hereby passed, adopted and approved on this the 21ST day of July, A.D., 2026.


Melissa Martin, City Clerk


Mayor Tony Ducker

Section 8. Enforcement

The Fire Chief or Fire Code Official is authorized to enforce this ordinance.

Failure to comply may result in:

1. Written notice of violation.
2. A compliance period not exceeding thirty (30) days unless otherwise approved.
3. Enforcement actions authorized under the adopted Fire Code and applicable City ordinances.

Section 9. Appeals

Any person aggrieved by a decision of the Fire Code Official may appeal in accordance with the City's adopted Fire Code appeals process.

Section 10. Severability

If any provision of this ordinance is determined to be invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remaining provisions shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 11. Repealer

All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with this ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict.

Section 12. Effective Date

This Ordinance shall take effect and be in full effect and force in thirty (30) days after its adoption. The Mayor of the City of Petal is hereby authorized and directed to give notice of the adoption of this Ordinance as required by the provisions of Section 21-19-25 and Section 21-10-25 of the Mississippi Code Annotated, (1972, as amended).

The above and foregoing Ordinance having been reduced to writing, the same was introduced and read, and a vote was taken thereon, first section by section, and then upon the ordinance as a whole with the following results:

Those present and voting “AYE” and in favor of the passage, adoption, and approval of Section 1,2,3,4,5,6,7, 8, 9, 10, 11, & 12 of the foregoing Ordinance:

ALDERMAN DREW BRICKSON
ALDERMAN CRAIG BULLOCK
ALDERMAN MIKE LOTT
ALDERMAN BLAKE NOBLES
ALDERMAN GERALD STEELE
ALDERMAN CRAIG STRICKLAND
ALDERWOMAN KIM STRINGER

This
Page
Left
Blank
Intentionally