

**SCHEDULED RECESSED MEETING
TUESDAY, JULY 21, 2026
5:00 P.M.**

BE IT REMEMBERED THAT the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the City of Winona, Mississippi met in a regularly scheduled recessed meeting at City Hall, Tuesday, JULY 21, 2026, at 5:00 P.M. with the following officers and members present, constituting a legal quorum, to-wit: Alderman Ward 1 Mickey Austin, Alderman Ward 2 Chris Herring, Alderwoman Ward 3 Katrina Bays, Alderman Charles Harris Ward 4, Alderwoman Ward 5 Linda Purnell, Interim City Clerk Kimberly White, and City Attorney Adam Kirk, with Mayor Jerry Flowers presiding over the meeting, where, and when the following business was had and done, to-wit:

Mayor Jerry Flowers called the meeting to order, and Alderman Austin gave the invocation.

SPECIAL GUESTS:

WENDY RUSHING-LIBRARY: Mrs. Rushing presented the Mayor and Board with an update on the library's activities and events held during the months of June and July as part of the summer program. She reported that the library hosted several successful events and will continue offering programs for all ages, from toddlers to adults. Mrs. Rushing also informed the Board that the library has submitted its wishlist for the 2026-2027 budget request.

LOUISE SHAVERS-NCBA: Mrs. Shavers addressed the Mayor and Board regarding the NCBA Senior Employment Program, which provides employment opportunities for individuals age 55 and older. She explained that the program partners with nonprofit organizations and government agencies by placing eligible senior participants in positions where they can assist with areas of need. She also stated that participants are paid through the NCBA program, and the city would not be responsible for their wages. Participants work up to 20 hours per week at a rate of \$7.25 per hour. She noted that the program is designed to help low-income seniors earn additional income while providing valuable assistance to participating agencies.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM JULY 7TH REGULAR MEETING: Alderman Austin moved to approve the regular board meeting minutes from July 7, 2026. The motion was duly seconded by Alderman Herring. Alderman Austin, Alderman Herring, Alderwoman Bays, and Alderwoman Purnell voted in favor of the motion. Alderman Harris sustained. The motion carried by majority vote.

PAYMENT OF REGULAR BILLS: Alderman Harris moved to pay the bills listed on the Docket of Claims, numbered 47147-47218 deduction checks authorized by law, all employer contribution checks for social security and retirement for the month of July, and the Water Department refund checks from the customer deposit accounts as listed on the refund check register dated July 2026 be approved for payment, duly seconded by Alderman Herring. Alderwoman Purnell and Alderwoman Bays opposed the motion. The motion carried by majority vote.

WATER & SEWER ADJUSTMENT REQUESTS: Batch water and sewer adjustment requests were presented to the Board. Alderwoman Harris moved to issue the following water and sewer adjustments to the accounts based on the factual determination that the customers did not receive the benefit of the utility services, duly seconded by Alderwoman Bays. The motion carried unanimously.

RENTAL REIMBURSEMENTS: Mayor Flowers requested the board to entertain a motion to reimburse community house and community center rental deposit. Alderwoman Bays moved to reimburse the deposit for the Community House for the following: Missy Rias and Elyse White; and the deposit for the Community Center for the following: Zare Walker and Jimmy Daniels; duly seconded by Alderman Harris. Alderman Austin, Alderman Herring, Alderwoman Bays, Alderman Harris, and Alderwoman Purnell voted in favor of reimbursement. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF INVOICES FROM LOOKS GREAT: Alderman Harris moved to approve invoices STM4101, 4103, 4104, 4105, 4106A, 4106B, 4107A, 4107B, 4108, and 4109 in the amount of \$925,339.00. The motion was duly seconded by Alderman Austin. Alderman Austin, Alderman

Herring, Alderwoman Bays, Alderman Harris, and Alderwoman Purnell voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

WATER AND WASTEWATER RATES: No discussion.

OPEN BIDS FOR:

301 North Union St. – Alderwoman Purnell moved to hire Montgomery Tree & Lawn Service to demolish the structure and complete site clean up at 301 North Union Street for \$6,200.00. The motion was duly seconded by Alderman Harris. The motion carried unanimously.

301 Harper Street – Alderwoman Purnell moved to hire Underdog Tree Service to demolish the structure and complete site clean up at 301 Harper Street for \$3,500.00. The motion was duly seconded by Alderman Harris. The motion carried unanimously.

409 Campbell Street – Alderwoman Bays moved to hire Underdog Tree Service to demolish the structure and complete site clean up at 409 Campbell Street for \$2,400.00. The motion was duly seconded by Alderman Harris. The motion carried unanimously.

MAYOR/BOARD MEMBERS/ATTORNEY/DEPT HEADS REPORT

- BARRETT JOHNSON – FIRE CHIEF: Fire Chief Johnson presented a request to amend the City's building regulation to require a building permit for placement of structures on both residential and commercial.

After discussion, Alderwoman Bays moved to approve the amendment, requiring a building permit for all applicable structures on residential and commercial property. The motion was duly seconded by Alderman Harris. The motion carried unanimously.

Fire Chief Johnson also presented Foster Blake's letter of resignation to the Mayor and Board and requested its acceptance.

Alderman Harris moved to accept Foster Blake's letter of resignation effective August 12, 2026. The motion was duly seconded by Alderwoman Bays. The motion carried unanimously.

- JOHNNY HARGROVE – INTERIM CHIEF: Chief Johnny Hargrove presented a recommendation to appoint Officer Thomas as a k-9 handler. The recommendation included providing an additional four hours of pay per week for K-9 related duties, along with overtime compensation for all other hours worked beyond regular schedule.

Alderwoman Purnell moved to approve Officer Thomas as the new K-9 handler with additional 4 hours per week for the K-9 duties, along with overtime compensation for all other hours worked beyond regular schedule. The motion was duly seconded by Alderwoman Bays. The motion carried unanimously.

Chief Hargrove presented to the Board to hire Joshua McGaughlin as an uncertified police officer at a starting pay rate of \$18.00 per hour.

Alderman Harris moved to hire Joshua McGaughlin as an uncertified police officer at the starting rate of \$18.00 per hour. The motion was duly seconded by Alderman Herring. The motion carried unanimously.

- MAYOR: The mayor presented an invoice from NCPDD in the amount of \$15,740.00 related to the ARC Brister Drive Life Station for board approval.

Alderman Herring moved to pay the invoice from NCPDD in the amount of \$15,740.00. The motion was duly seconded by Alderman Harris. The motion carried unanimously.

The mayor presents a letter from the property owner at 610 Alice Lane requesting additional days to complete cleanup of the property.

Alderwoman Bays moved to grant the owners at 610 Alice Lane an additional 28 days to complete the cleanup, with an update to be provided at the August 18, 2026, board

meeting. The motion was duly seconded by Alderman Harris. The motion carried unanimously.

The mayor presented the hiring of Patricia Curington as the City of Winona Water & Wastewater Operator under the new PERS update on July 1, 2026. As a retiree under the updated PERS guidelines, Mrs. Curington will be allowed to earn up to 80% of the previous Water & Wastewater Operator salary of \$65,000.00.

After discussion, Alderman Harris moved to hire Patricia Curington as a Water & Wastewater Operator employee at a rate of \$25 per hour, equivalent to \$52,000 annually, under the new PERS bill effective July 1, 2026. Mrs. Curington's employment start date will be July 30, 2026. The motion was duly seconded by Alderman Herring. Alderman Austin, Alderman Herring, Alderwoman Bays, Alderman Harris, and Alderwoman Purnell voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Mayor entertains a motion to go into executive session. Everyone was asked to leave the meeting except for the Mayor, Board, City Attorney, Interim Chief Johnny Hargrove, and Interim City Clerk Kimberly White. Alderwoman Bays moved to go into Executive Session to discuss a legal matter, duly seconded by Alderman Harris. Alderman Austin, Alderman Herring, Alderwoman Bays, Alderman Harris, Alderwoman Purnell voted in favor of executive session. Attorney Adam Kirk notified the spectators that the Board had gone into Executive Session.

Mayor, board, and attorney discussed the legal matters. At the conclusion of the discussion, Alderman Harris moved to conclude the Executive Session and resume the open meeting, duly seconded by Alderwoman Bays. Alderman Austin, Alderman Herring, Alderwoman Bays, Alderman Harris, and Alderwoman Purnell voted in favor of exiting the executive session. The open meeting then resumed.

Alderman Austin moved to hire Attorney Todd Bulter, pending action of litigation matters with the Police Department. The motion was duly seconded by Alderman Harris. Alderman Austin, Alderman Herring, Alderwoman Bays, Alderman Harris, and Alderwoman Purnell voted in favor for the motion.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Mayor entertains a motion to go into executive session. Everyone was asked to leave the meeting except for the Mayor, Board, City Attorney, Interim Chief Johnny Hargrove, and Interim City Clerk Kimberly White. Alderman Harris moved to go into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter, duly seconded by Alderwoman Purnell. Alderman Austin, Alderman Herring, Alderwoman Bays, Alderman Harris, Alderwoman Purnell voted in favor of executive session. Attorney Adam Kirk notified the spectators that the Board had gone into Executive Session.

Mayor, board, and attorney discussed the legal matters. At the conclusion of the discussion, Alderwoman Harris moved to conclude the Executive Session and resume the open meeting, duly seconded by Alderwoman Bays. Alderman Austin, Alderman Herring, Alderwoman Bays, Alderman Harris, and Alderwoman Purnell voted in favor of exiting the executive session. The open meeting then resumed.

Alderman Harris moved to increase Interim Chief Johnny Hargrove's pa rate to \$40 per hour, effective immediately. The motion was duly seconded by Alderwoman Purnell. Alderman Austin, Alderman Herring, Alderwoman Bays, Alderman Harris, and Alderwoman Purnell voted in favor for the motion.

ADJOURN: Alderwoman Harris moved to recess meeting; duly seconded by Alderwoman Bays. Alderman Austin, Alderman Herring, Alderwoman Bays, Alderwoman Purnell voted to

adjourn. It was ordered that the meeting be recessed until next appointed time unless it becomes necessary to reconvene before that time.

SEAL




Jerry A. Flowers, Mayor

ATTEST:



Kimberly White, Interim City Clerk