

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

PROCLAMATION

Mayor and Board of Aldermen presented to Bootsie Weed a Certificate of Proclamation naming April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2026 "Bootsie Weed" day and commemorating her service to the community of Montgomery County through her years of service with the Winona Montgomery County Library.

PUBLIC HEARING

DORIS FIELDS – 610 ALICE LANE: Board held a public hearing to condemn property owned by Doris Fields located at 610 Alice Lane. Ms. Fields spoke to the board about the work that has been done in the yard and requested more time to do additional work on the structure. Code Officer Amber Ware confirmed that yard has been cleaned up. Amber requested the structure be improved. Alderwoman Bays moved to give an additional ninety (90) days to work on the structure; duly seconded by Alderman Herring. Alderman Austin, Alderman Herring, Alderwoman Bays, Alderman Harris, and Alderwoman Purnell moved to allow an additional ninety (90) days. Hearing continued to July 21, 2026 at 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, April 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 Ward 4 Charles Harris, Alderwoman Ward 5 Linda Purnell, City Clerk Tracy Holcomb, 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 gave the invocation.

OPENING OF BIDS: The condemnation for 601 Harper Street needs to be redone because the property address should have been 301 Harper Street. Bids for this property were not opened but held for a later date. Alderman Austin moved to condemn property located at 301 Harper Street and hold a public hearing on May 19, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.; duly seconded by Alderman Herring. Alderman Austin, Alderman Herring, Alderwoman Bays, Alderman Harris, and Alderwoman Purnell voted to condemn property and redo the public hearing.

Bids for 716 Burton Street were opened by Mayor Flowers. MPL Construction, LLC, bid \$3,000 and Underdog bid \$5,400. There was confusion regarding the scope of work to be done so the bids were disregarded, and Code Officer Ware will establish a scope of work and request bids again for the May 19, 2026, board meeting. The work will not include demolition of the structure. Alderwoman Bays moved to disregard bids and rebid the project; duly seconded by Alderman Herring. Alderman Austin, Alderman Herring, Alderwoman Bays, Alderman Harris, and Alderwoman Purnell moved to disregard bids and rebid the project. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor introduced John Lance Gibson, a young man whose family has roots in Winona, Mississippi, and has an interest in attending a City of Winona board meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Alderman Austin moved to approve the minutes from the April 7, 2026, duly seconded by Alderwoman Purnell. Alderman Austin, Alderwoman Bays, Alderman Harris, and Alderwoman Purnell voted to accept the minutes from the April 7<sup>th</sup> board meeting. Alderman Herring moved to approve the minutes from the special call meeting dated April 16<sup>th</sup>; duly seconded by Alderwoman Purnell. Alderman Austin, Alderman Herring, and Alderwoman Purnell voted to approve the special call meeting minutes.

PAYMENT OF REGULAR BILLS: Alderman Harris moved to pay the bills listed on the Docket of Claims, numbered 46429 – 46534 deduction checks authorized by law, all employer contribution checks for social security and retirement for the month of April, and the Water Department refund checks from the customer deposit accounts as listed on the refund check register dated April 2026 be approved for payment, duly seconded by Alderman Herring. Alderman Austin, Alderman Herring and Alderman Harris voted in favor of paying the bills. Alderwoman Bays and Alderwoman Purnell opposed. Motion carried by majority vote.

WATER & SEWER ADJUSTMENT REQUESTS: Batch water and sewer adjustment requests were presented to the Board. Alderman 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 Purnell. Alderman Austin, Alderman Herring, Alderwoman Bays, Alderman Harris, and Alderwoman Purnell voting unanimously in favor of the adjustments. Motion carried unanimously.

6

**RENTAL REIMBURSEMENTS:** Mayor Flowers requested the board to entertain a motion to reimburse community house and community center rental deposits. Alderman Harris moved to reimburse the deposit for the Community House for the following: Winona Yorkrite – Roshaun Daniels, and for the Community Center for the following: Eula McClean and Elizabeth Brown jointly and Rosie Walker individually; duly seconded by Alderwoman Bays. Alderman Austin, Alderman Herring, Alderwoman Bays, Alderman Harris, and Alderwoman Purnell voted in favor of reimbursements. Motion carried unanimously.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**WATER AND WASTEWATER RATES:** No discussion.

**GAS USAGE AND TAKE HOME VEHICLES:** Board discussed gas usage and the employees that have take home vehicles. Alderwoman Purnell moved to have only Sukey Curington, Tony Washington, and Barrett Johnson take home vehicles; duly seconded by Alderman Herring in order to continue the discussion. Alderman Herring, Alderwoman Bays, and Alderwoman Purnell voted in favor of those three individuals being able to carry their vehicles home. Alderman Austin and Alderman Harris against it. After further discussion, Alderwoman Bays and Alderman Herring changed their vote to be against the motion, along with the prior votes against by Alderman Austin and Alderman Harris. Motion failed without majority vote.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**DEBRITECH AND LOOKS GREAT INVOICES:** Invoices from Looks Great are in the amount of \$6,677.25 and \$152,244.01, and invoices from DebrITech in the amount of \$19,257.30, \$17,772.34, and \$26,507.14. Alderman Harris moved to pay invoices; duly seconded by Alderman Herring. Alderman Austin, Alderman Herring, Alderwoman Bays, Alderman Harris, and Alderwoman Purnell approved to pay the invoices. Motion carried unanimously.

**BARRETT JOHNSON – FIRE CHIEF:** Chief Johnson reported to the board that three volunteers, Vidal Anderson, Anthony Cobbins, and Nathan Boshers, passed the Volunteer One Class and are now certified level one volunteers. Johnson also reported that Volunteer Two Class is currently underway. Chief Johnson requested the board to pay for this quarter’s volunteer firefighters. Alderman Harris moved to pay the volunteers; duly seconded by Alderman Austin. Alderman Austin, Alderman Herring, Alderwoman Bays, Alderman Harris, and Alderwoman Purnell voted to pay the volunteers. Motion carried unanimously.

Barrett presented to the board gas expenses for the fire department for the past year.

**B. J. EDWARDS – INTERIM POLICE CHIEF:** Interim Chief Edwards requested the board to approve the Winona Police Department to write a letter to DPS requesting surplus vehicles for the department. Board approval is required by DPS for the department to make requests. Alderman Harris moved to approve Edwards to write letter to DPS making request for phased out vehicles; duly seconded by Alderman Herring. Alderman Austin, Alderman Herring, Alderwoman Bays, Alderman Harris, and Alderwoman Purnell approved writing the letter. Motion carried unanimously.

Chief Edwards requested the board hire James David Layton as an investigator. Alderman Austin moved to hire James David Layton; duly seconded by Alderman Herring. Alderman Austin, Alderman Herring, Alderwoman Bays, Alderman Harris, and Alderwoman Purnell approved to hire James David Layton. Motion carried unanimously.

**PATRICIA CURINGTON – WATER & WASTEWATER:** Patricia Curington report that the department recently took scrap metal to Omnisource in Elliott and received a check for \$2,493.81.

**AMBER WARE – CODE ENFORCEMENT:** Amber requested the board approve restarting the condemnation proceedings for the property located at Mark Swindle property located at 100 Old Highway 51. The public hearing will be held on May 19, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. Alderman Harris moved to start condemnation procedure; duly seconded by Alderwoman Bays. Alderman Austin, Alderman Herring, Alderwoman Bays, Alderman Harris, and Alderwoman Purnell voted in favor of condemnation. Motion carried unanimously.

Amber requested the board approve restarting the condemnation proceedings for the property located at Patricia Campbell Castro, et. al., the property is located at 119 Branch Street. The public hearing will be held on May 19, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. Alderman Harris moved to start condemnation procedure; duly seconded by Alderman Herring. Alderman Austin, Alderman Herring, Alderwoman

Bays, Alderman Harris, and Alderwoman Purnell voted in favor of condemnation. Motion carried unanimously.

Amber asked the board for clarification on the condemnation requirements for the Bob Wright property on Applegate. The board stated that they wanted all trailers removed and stored.

RESOLUTION SETTING HEARING TO DETERMINE WHETHER A CERTAIN PARCEL OF LAND OWNED BY MARK SWINDLE LOCATED IN THE CITY OF WINONA IS IN A STATE OF UNCLEANLINESS AND DISREPAIR AS TO BE A MENACE TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY AND PROVIDING FOR NOTICE OF SUCH HEARING. As set forth on Page(s)\_\_\_\_\_.

RESOLUTION SETTING HEARING TO DETERMINE WHETHER A CERTAIN PARCEL OF LAND OWNED BY PATRICIA CAMPBELL CASTRO LOCATED IN THE CITY OF WINONA IS IN A STATE OF UNCLEANLINESS AND DISREPAIR AS TO BE A MENACE TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY AND PROVIDING FOR NOTICE OF SUCH HEARING

As set forth on Page(s)\_\_\_\_\_.

RESOLUTION SETTING HEARING TO DETERMINE WHETHER A CERTAIN PARCEL OF LAND OWNED BY IVORY BUTTS LOCATED IN THE CITY OF WINONA IS IN A STATE OF UNCLEANLINESS AND DISREPAIR AS TO BE A MENACE TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY AND PROVIDING FOR NOTICE OF SUCH HEARING. As set forth on Page(s)\_\_\_\_\_.

RESOLUTION SETTING HEARING TO DETERMINE WHETHER A CERTAIN PARCEL OF LAND OWNED BY CHARLES D. KENDLE AND KIMBERLY L. PURNELL LOCATED IN THE CITY OF WINONA IS IN A STATE OF UNCLEANLINESS AND DISREPAIR AS TO BE A MENACE TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY AND PROVIDING FOR NOTICE OF SUCH HEARING

As set forth on Page(s)\_\_\_\_\_.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Alderwoman Bays moved to go into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter pertaining to the Water and Wastewater Department. All persons were asked to leave the meeting except for the Mayor, Board, City Attorney, City Clerk, and department head Patricia Curington. Alderman Harris moved to go into Executive Session, duly seconded by Alderwoman Bays. Alderman Austin, Alderman Herring, Alderwoman Bays, Alderman Harris, and Alderwoman Purnell voted in favor of executive session. Attorney Adam Kirk notified the spectators that the Board had gone into Executive Session.

Mayor, board, department head, and attorney discussed the matter concerning two (2) employees with the Water and Wastewater Department. No official action was taken during the session. At the conclusion of the discussion, Alderwoman Bays moved to conclude the Executive Session and resume the open meeting, duly seconded by Alderman Harris. 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 terminate the employment of two (2) employees of the Water and Wastewater Department, namely Zacchaeus Bailey and Reanna Purnell; duly seconded by Alderman Harris. Alderman Austin, Alderman Herring, Alderwoman Bays, and Alderman Harris voted to terminate the two (2) employees. Alderwoman Purnell voted against. Motion carried by majority vote.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Alderman Harris moved to go into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter pertaining to the Police Department. All persons were asked to leave the meeting except for the Mayor, Board, City Attorney, City Clerk, and department head B. J. Edwards. Alderman Austin moved to go into Executive Session, duly seconded by Alderwoman Bays. Alderman Austin, Alderman Herring, Alderwoman Bays, Alderman Harris, and Alderwoman Purnell voted in favor of executive session. Attorney Adam Kirk notified the spectators that the Board had gone into Executive Session.

Mayor, board, department head, and attorney discussed the matter concerning an employee of the Winona Police Department. No official action was taken during the session. At the conclusion of the discussion, Alderman Harris moved to conclude the Executive Session and resume the open meeting, duly seconded by Alderman Herring. Alderman Austin, Alderman Herring, Alderwoman Bays, Alderman Harris, and Alderwoman Purnell voted in favor of exiting the executive session. The open meeting then resumed.

9

Alderman Austin moved to terminate employment of Sgt. Devarius D. Smith; duly seconded by Alderwoman Purnell. Alderman Austin, Alderman Herring, Alderwoman Bays, Alderman Harris, and Alderwoman Purnell voted to terminate the employee. Motion carried unanimously.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Alderwoman Purnell moved to go into Executive Session to discuss a legal matter concerning water usage. All persons were asked to leave the meeting except for the Mayor, Board, City Attorney, City Clerk, and department head Patricia Curington. Alderman Austin moved to go into Executive Session, duly seconded by Alderwoman Bays. Alderman Austin, Alderman Herring, Alderwoman Bays, Alderman Harris, and Alderwoman Purnell voted in favor of executive session. Attorney Adam Kirk notified the spectators that the Board had gone into Executive Session.

Mayor, board, department head, and attorney discussed the legal matter regarding water usage and charges. No official action was taken during the session. 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.

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



*Tracy Holcomb*  
Tracy Holcomb, City Clerk

*Jerry A. Flowers*

Jerry A. Flowers, Mayor