

MINUTES OF MARCH 23, 2026, SPECIAL MEETING

On this, the 23rd day of March 2026, the City Council convened in special session in the City Council Room. The special meeting being open to the public and notice of said meeting having been given as prescribed by Chapter 51 of the Government Code with the following being present and in attendance to wit:

Mayor Joe Davis, Council Members Zack Altman, Jill Cromwell, Leslie Ivy, Woody Richardson, Lloyd Roberts, and Mark Sweatt. Council Members Winfred McQueen and Melisa McIntosh were absent. Employees present were City Administrator Jack Owens and City Secretary Amalia Gaxiola.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND INVOCATION

Mayor Davis called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and noted a quorum present. He asked Alderman Richardson to voice the invocation and Alderman Roberts to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

No comment.

3. OLD BUSINESS

a. MOTION TO REMOVE TABLED ITEM OFF THE TABLE

Alderswoman Cromwell made the motion to remove tabled item off the table, seconded by Alderswoman Ivy. The vote passed with 6 in favor.

b. CONSIDER REQUEST TO PURCHASE NEW POLICE DEPARTMENT GUNS

Alderman Altman mentioned Police Chief Plants email of withdrawing his agenda items, and they will use the city Glocks, and they will personally buy the new guns. Administrator Owens added that if they are going to use the Glocks then there is money in the budget for night sights. Alderman Sweatt would like to get an approved list of firearms that city officers can use and get with Attorney Matthew Murray on approval. Alderman Altman would like an inventory of the weapons in the storage container. No action.

4. NEW BUSINESS

a. CONSIDER MEMPHIS LITTLE THEATRE PLAY PRACTICE DAYS TO BE ADDED TO THE FREE USE OF COMMUNITY CENTER LIST

Alderman Sweatt asked how often they use the building. Secretary Gaxiola added that they said they use it about 4 times per week for a month but if someone rents the building then they cannot use it for that day which Marla gives them a courtesy call. Gaxiola mentioned

CONTINUATION OF SPECIAL MINUTES MARCH 23, 2026

when Cindy was still here last year it was discussed in office on charging them for play practice days since they are not on the free use list. Secretary Gaxiola added that just because something has always been done a certain way it does not make it right which is why it was discussed to charge for play practice days since they are not on the free list. Alderman Altman mentioned not wanting to upset anyone since Little Theatre gives a lot back and Administrator Owens agreed with Altman except if you do it for them then what about others. The consensus of the council agreed with both sides. Administrator Owens added that a ten dollar per play practice days tried to be implemented which is similar to Lions Club weekly Wednesday usage and Little Theatre was not okay with it since it will take away from them giving and they also mentioned that they have made substantial contributions to the community center. Alderman Altman made a motion to table this item, seconded by Alderman Richardson. No votes so more discussion was had. Alderman Sweatt made the motion to allow Memphis Little Theatre free use of the community center for play practice days for this year only and reevaluate free list later for all, seconded by Alderwoman Ivy. The vote passed with 6 in favor.

b. CONSIDER LISTING SALE OF DELINQUENT TAX PROPERTIES

1. **204370 – 511 N 9TH ST**
2. **204315 – 1506 W MAIN ST**
3. **205320 – MAGNOLIA/BLUFF ST**
4. **203484 – 502 NOEL ST (RITZ THEATRE)**
5. **203410 – 611 W MAIN ST (TEXAS THEATRE)**

The council went over the detailed list showing property information. City Administrator mentioned that we've had substantial amount of phone calls and interest in the properties that have been cleaned up so Secretary Gaxiola put together a detailed information report which includes expenses the city has on each property. Administrator Owens asked if the council would like to add a minimum bid for each property. Alderwoman Ivy made the motion to consider listing sale of delinquent tax properties with the minimum bids as presented and to publish it – 511 N 9th, minimum bid of \$5,200 – 1506 W Main, minimum bid of \$2,800.00 – Magnolia/Bluff Street, minimum bid of \$2,463.00 – 502 Noel Street, minimum bid of \$300.00 – 611 W Main Street, minimum bid of \$300.00, seconded by Alderman Roberts. The vote passed with 6 in favor.

c. CONSIDER ACCEPTING RESOLUTION 3-23-26A FOR APPLICATION FOR TEXAS DEPT OF AGRICULTURE COMMUNITY BLOCK DEVELOPMENT GRANT

Administrator Owens went over a couple changes. Alderman Sweatt made the motion to proceed with Resolution 3-23-26A, seconded by Alderman Richardson. The vote passed with 6 in favor.

CONTINUATION OF SPECIAL MINUTES MARCH 23, 2026

d. CONSIDER ACCEPTING RESOLUTION 3-23-26B FOR TEXAS SMARTBUY MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM

Administrator Owens mentioned this resolution is to get blood kits for the police department. Secretary Gaxiola added that this resolution is needed in order to be able to purchase the blood kits. Owens reiterated that the email Chief Plant provided to the council also read that he conceded to the blood kits and will find one when needed. No action.

e. DISCUSS CITY OF MEMPHIS PERSONNEL MATTERS

Alderman Altman made the motion to convene into executive session, seconded by Alderman Roberts. The vote passed with 6 in favor. Mayor Davis called the meeting into executive session at 7:14 p.m. under Texas Gov't Code, Sec. 551.074 Personnel Matters; Closed Meeting.

Mayor Davis stated City Council is back in regular session at 8:00 p.m. Mayor Davis addressed that the council has received letters of resignation and retirement from Brian Watson, Rex Plant, and Eric Gruwell. The consensus of the council agreed to accept Animal Control Officer/Code Enforcement Brian Watson's resignation, Police Chief Rex Plants retirement, and Police Officer Eric Gruwell's resignation.

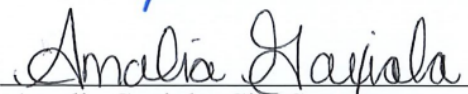
f. MAYOR AND COUNCIL ITEMS OF COMMUNITY INTEREST

No comments.

g. ADJOURN

Alderman Altman made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Alderman Roberts. The vote passed with 6 in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

Approved: 
Joe Davis, Mayor

Attest: 
Amalia Gaxiola, City Secretary

RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF MEMPHIS, TEXAS, DESIGNATING THE CITY'S DOWNTOWN DISTRICT AND AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF A TEXAS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM APPLICATION TO THE TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FOR THE 2026 RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION PROGRAM.

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Memphis desires to develop a viable community, including decent housing and a suitable living environment and expanding economic opportunities, principally for persons of low-to-moderate income; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary and in the best interests of the City of Memphis to apply for funding under the Texas Community Development Block Grant Program;

WHEREAS, the City Council of City Memphis has reviewed and evaluated the city for identification of pedestrian centered economic activity and is formally designating the area identified by the following boundaries and outline on the map attached, as its official Downtown District

Boundaries of the Downtown District

North: Brice Street

South: Robertson Street

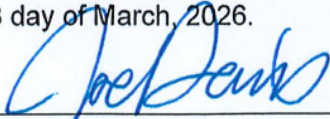
East: Highway 287

West: 8th Street

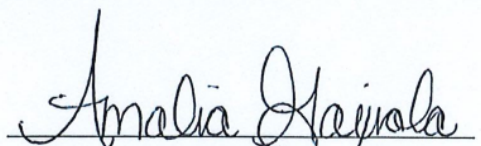
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF MEMPHIS, TEXAS,

1. That a Texas Community Development Block Grant Program application for the Downtown Revitalization Program is hereby authorized to be filed on behalf of the City with the Texas Department of Agriculture, and to be placed in competition for funding under the Downtown Revitalization Program.
2. That the City of Memphis commits to selecting an eligible project in the designated downtown areas that meets either the National Program Objective to Eliminate Slum and Blighted Conditions or to Benefit Low- to Moderate-Income Persons.
3. That all funds will be used in accordance with all applicable federal, state, local and programmatic requirements including but not limited to procurement, environmental review, labor standards, real property acquisition, and civil rights requirements.
4. That the City of Memphis is committing to provide \$50,000.00 in matching funds toward the application's activities, with the specific usage and funding source to be determined prior to any award of grant funding.

Passed and approved this
23 day of March, 2026.



Joe Davis, Mayor
City of Memphis, Texas



Attest: Amalia Gaxiola, City Secretary
City of Memphis, Texas