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Jackson City Council

Regular Meeting

February 10, 2026

The city council held a regular meeting on February 10th at 10am. Discussions/Public comments will be at the end and I'll just go through and highlight the important bits. Scan the top left code to see the full meeting and the top right code to join the email list! All the quotes next to each item are phrases I came up with to help summarize what the topic was about, not given by council members.

Item 19 "The Unhoused from Elsewhere" This ordinance was aimed at people who will pick up houseless people in other parts of the state and drop them off on the doorstep of shelters in Jackson with no idea of whether or not the shelter can take them in. The council made it clear they view this practice as inhumane and destructive to the city. Ordinance 19 makes it a \$1,000 fine for any individual caught doing so. A couple members of the council shared their opinion that a \$1,000 fine was not enough to properly deter people and asked for guidance on other options. They were informed that \$1,000 is the largest monetary penalty they could put on the offender, but they also were told they could add a 1 year jail sentence. They moved to amend the language of the penalty to be "a \$1,000 fine and/or up to a year in jail." It passed 7-0.

Item 18 "Medical Cannabis Restrictions": This was an introduction of an ordinance that will change rules the city made regarding all facets of the Medical Cannabis industry. It will be discussed and voted on at a later date, likely the next city council meeting, however there was talk of a public hearing to discuss. The ordinance claims to amend Article V of Chapter 114 of the code of ordinances. That text can be read in full at library.municode.com and includes a lot of rules and regulations. I'll be looking forward to the public hearing, I know dispensary owners will as well. When answering questions about the amendment, Drew Martin, the city attorney, mentioned it will ease restrictions that it feels were improperly placed on owners of local businesses.

Item 32 "Surveillance Cameras": This decision approved the payment for surveillance cameras that have already been received by JPD. I couldn't find if there was anywhere specific they planned on installing them. The decision passed. Chief Tyree Jones has said there are over 1,200 cameras operating throughout the city currently tied to the JPD command center.

"Kellogg Helps with Housing": Mayor Horhn wanted to promote a meeting on April 13th, hosted by the Kellogg Foundation that aims to deal with blight elimination, unhoused people, and connecting foundations with organizations in the city that can collaborate on getting resources to develop affordable housing. More details of the meeting will be announced.

Item 20 "No more shelters in Ward 5": This ordinance was introduced by Ward 5 Councilmember Hartley and places a stop for 6 months on development of any new organizations whose aim is to provide shelter, food, or living assistance for unhoused or struggling individuals. There was a spirited discussion

about the need to address houselessness in the city with the agreement that the burden should be shared equally among the wards. Mr Hartley claims, with no pushback, that his ward has the highest concentration of these facilities, and that residents petitioned to bring this before the council. The ordinance passed. 6 approved, with 1 abstention.

Item 44 “Ads on Buses”: This authorizes JTRAN buses to advertise on the interior and exterior of the buses. Councilmember Stokes introduced this and said it's a travesty to see people sitting on the ground or leaning on a post waiting on the bus. He's sick of telling people there's nothing they can do to get better amenities, when they could at least do this.

Item 24 “Chase Bank at the Plate”: This item officially makes Chase Bank the new holder of the cities funds. There will be approximately 1 million dollars transferred from their current accounts to JP Morgan Chase and work with them from here on out. There were concerns raised about the fact that it was an out of state bank, and they'd rather deal with an in-state bank to keep the money in-state and have more local branches available. The council was informed that no in-state bank, Trustmark included, bid on the opportunity.

Item 41 “Civil Suit Settlement”: This item approved all final settlements in the case of Christopher Brown vs The City of Jackson

Item 45 “Road Renaming”: A local leader in the Indian community, Surinder Singh, spoke to inform the council about the person they want to rename the street after in front of their temple. The new name will be Guru Tegh Bahadur Marg Road, and must be approved by the state legislature, but they are asking for a recommendation by the city council to help their case. The council asked for a little more information on the person before they decided. Mr. Singh told them a bit about the Guru, and that he was most famous for standing up against oppression and religious persecution and was ultimately beheaded for it. They hope his legacy will inspire peace within the community for generations to come.

Public Comment:

Listen to the comments/discussions by scanning the “Full Video” code up top and go to the timestamp below.

Ms Shante Wallace spoke about her son who she said is being sex trafficked and would like to press criminal charges on the officers she says are involved. She's made pamphlets to help inform the public. The full comment starts at 00:05:40.

Discussions:

Prostitution/trafficking on Hwy 18: Discussion begins at 1:44:31

Taking JXN Water to Court: Discussion begins at 1:36:51

Announcements:

- Cade Chapel is having an event to help Jr's and Sr's get prom dresses on Saturday, February 21st. I couldn't find many details but you can text 601HPC to 55444 to register.
- Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) sites will be available for free tax filing for individuals and families that have an income less than \$69,000.
- Hinds is starting an Evening Learning Series covering many different subjects. It'll be tuesday evenings from 5:30 - 8:30. What's special about this program is that it includes dinner and childcare.
- The Association of South Jackson Neighborhoods is having their annual parade in April and are accepting applications to have a table/food truck at their festival they have at the end of the parade. Contact them directly for more info.
- There is a community baby shower on April 25th for any new expecting mothers to get support and resources that are available, presented by Ready Nation Mississippi in conjunction with the Magnolia Medical Foundation. It will start at 10am at 6531 Dogwood View Parkway.
- Roll off dumpster day is Valentines Day february 14th. Councilmember Parkinson reminds us we cannot drop off our ex, no matter how "trash" they may be.