

**Minutes**  
**Biloxi Beautification Commission**  
**Wednesday, April 1, 2026**  
**11 a.m.**  
**Biloxi City Hall, City Council room**

**In attendance**

- **Commissioners:** Chair Lara Bernich Alley, Stacey Eleuterius Barber, Susan Cain, Vincent Creel and James McClendon. Roll taken by Commissioner Creel; quorum established.
- **Others present:** Ward 4 Councilmember Jamie Creel and Ward 6 resident Rhett Taylor.

**Agenda approved**, with addition of BNews Monthly measure, properly motioned, seconded, 5-0 vote.

**Minutes from March 18, 2026 approved**, properly motioned, seconded, 5-0 vote.

**Comments from commissioners**

- Commissioner Cain reported on attending meeting of Biloxi Main Street. Earth Day activities would be self-coordinated. Upcoming events included Yard Sale, First Friday, and Elvis in Biloxi event, May 14.
- Chair Alley reported that an informational video about the importance of beautification is now being produced, with April delivery for online use. Chair Alley also contacted Parks & Recreation Director Jamie Lee to arrange for report from City Beautification Superintendent Tommy Searight.
- Commissioner McClendon reported that Councilman Marshall is arranging pressure washing of exterior portions of civic center.
- Commissioner Creel reported that citizens attending the Ward 5 meeting were given a brief overview of duties and responsibilities of the commission, and they were given the three-page draft of the plan, which outlined specific responsibilities for the city and property owners, as well as outlined potential rights-of-way and landmarks that could be suitable for adoption by individuals, families, youth or church groups, civic groups or businesses.

**Comments from Public**

- Councilman Creel gave updates on several issues: The comprehensive beautification plan would be formally accepted by the City Council at its second meeting in April, April 21, after Legal review. The commission would be advised of any proposed revisions during the process. Wards 6 and 7 would soon have commission members in place. Councilman Creel also reported that the requested Keep Biloxi Beautiful fund would be established as a line-item in City Council

budget to accommodate donations and approved expenditures. Councilman Creel also said councilmembers would be calling for continuation of the monthly mailing of the city newsletter.

- Tommy Searight, a 24-year employee of the city and currently serving as Beautification Superintendent in the Parks & Recreation Department, appeared before the commission to provide background and context of the city's beautification efforts over the years. During its heyday, the Beautification Division had 12 employees, with three water trucks working East, West and North Biloxi. Workers were either planting or watering somewhere in the city on a daily basis. Beds containing a variety of perennials were throughout Vieux Marche, as well as in West Biloxi and other areas, such as city facilities or parks. Post-Katrina, the Beautification Division was not a priority. COVID further reduced the staffing. Today, the Beautification Division has two employees and a water truck. Work is primarily downtown, and first priority is keeping grass cut throughout the city, supporting Streets & Drainage in cutting ROW and supporting Parks & Rec in cutting parks. The key to success is having a dedicated and motivated employees, Searight said in response to questions. Irrigation systems at sites would help sustain plantings. Additionally, there was a time that badge-earning Scouts and other volunteers would contribute in coordinated beautification or anti-litter projects. Such efforts by the commission would be welcome and encouraged, Searight said. Commissioners thanked Searight for his knowledgeable briefing and dedication to the city. He was emailed a draft of the comprehensive beautification plan for review.

### **Business/updates**

- **Fred Haise Landing:** Harrison County has repaired and re-opened the beachfront sidewalk near the Moonwalk. Now, crews are using heavy equipment to pump sand into the area as part of the county beach replenishment area. Once completed, work would begin on restoration of the mural. In April, the anniversary of Apollo 13 in 1970 and Fred Haise riding in the Biloxi Mardi Gres parade in 1996, the commission will seek council permission to formally apply for grants for the project and have the area south of the Biloxi Lighthouse also recognized as Fred Haise Landing.

**Meeting adjourned** 12:05 p.m. Next meeting is Wednesday, April 15, 11 a.m., Biloxi City Hall, second floor.

See agendas, minutes and background on Beautification Commission online at <https://biloxi.ms.us/biloxi-beautification-commission/>