



TO: CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

CC: COUNCIL CLERKS

FROM: MAYOR HUGH D. KEATING

DATE: AUGUST 22, 2025

RE: SPECIAL CALLED MEETING OF COUNCIL
FOR TODAY (AUGUST 22, 2025)

Pursuant to Section 1-41(c) of the City's Code of Ordinances and as Mayor, I am hereby giving notice of a special called meeting of the Gulfport City Council for 3:30 p.m. today (August 22, 2025), in the Council Chambers on the 2nd Floor of Gulfport City Hall (2309 15th Street) for purposes of consideration of the single item identified below (the City's docket of claims).

As you know, this item was previously on the agenda for the City Council's regular Tuesday, August 19, 2025, meeting and on the agenda for the special called meeting that I attempted to call for 2:30 p.m. on Wednesday, August 20, 2025, neither of which meeting, as you are aware, occurred (due to a lack of a majority of the Council to approve the agenda and move forward with a meeting). At no time prior to these failed meetings or since, has any Councilmember approached me to offer any reason or basis for refusing to consider or take up the City's "docket of claims." As some of the more senior-tenured Councilmembers know, this is an item that appears on every Council agenda and involves the payment of debts, fees, and bills owed by the City. In fact, this Council has previously approved the docket of claims on the past several Council agendas.

Some of you informed me after the failed attempt at having the special called meeting this past Wednesday, that you would entertain taking up this item at a special called meeting for today at 3:30 p.m. I am attempting to oblige in exercising the authority conferred upon my office in doing so under Section 1-41(c) of the Code of Ordinances. Otherwise, as you are aware, a majority of the Council can call a special called meeting. Although I do not have a vote, I would respectfully ask that the Council please give due consideration of this docket of claims. Legal advises that failure to address this matter on a timely basis could give rise to claims and litigation as this docket involves, for example, services provided to the City in the past and commodities already acquired by the City. But what is worse is that, even to the casual observer, the failure to address this item clearly sends a message that our City should not be trusted to pay its debts or obligations and is not good to do business with. That is definitely not accurate or what any of us want. If a majority of the Council wants to question items within the docket, I would suggest that the same be taken out of the docket for separate discussion and/or legislative action by the Council. However, refusing to take up and consider this docket (or any for that matter), is adverse to the overall best interests of the City.

*SPECIAL CALLED MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL
(FOR AUGUST 22, 2025)*

1. Docket of Claims – to be approved through August 19, 2025

