

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION
AGENDA SESSION AND REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 7, 2026**

STATE OF TENNESSEE) Agenda Session and Regular Meeting
COUNTY OF HAMILTON) January 7, 2026

BE IT REMEMBERED that on this 7th day of January 2026 at 4:00 PM, an Agenda Session and Regular Meeting of the Hamilton County Board of Commissioners was begun and held at the Courthouse in the City of Chattanooga, in the County Commission Room, when the following proceedings were held, to wit: --

Present and presiding was the Honorable Ken Smith, Chairman. Chief Deputy County Clerk Brooke Weaver called the roll of the County Commission, and the following, constituting a quorum, answered to their names: Commissioner Chip Baker, Commissioner Greg Beck, Commissioner Mike Chauncey, Commissioner Jeff Eversole, Commissioner Joe Graham, Commissioner Lee Helton, Commissioner Steve Highlander, Commissioner Warren Mackey, Commissioner David Sharpe, Commissioner Gene-o Shipley, and Chairman Ken Smith. Total present - 11. Total absent -0.

Also in attendance were County Mayor Weston Wamp, members of his administrative staff, County Attorney Janie Varnell, and County Auditor Chris McCollough.

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Attached hereto is a copy of the Public Notice for this meeting, which was published in a local newspaper and made a matter of record of this meeting.

Commissioner Chauncey introduced former Hamilton County Sheriff Jim Hammond to offer the invocation. Commissioner Chauncey led the pledge to the flag.

PRESENTATION – URBAN STORY VENTURES

1:52

Representatives of Jailhouse Studios, Jimmy White and Kessler Cuffman, presented a concept to redevelop the former Hamilton County jail into a privately funded film, music, and technology production campus. They stated the project would include studio space, education and workforce development opportunities, and related support uses. They noted no County tax dollars would be requested, but a lease of the facility would be required. A copy of the presentation has been filed with the Clerk's Office.

25:35

In response to Commissioner Beck's question, Mr. White stated the project is expected to be completed within 18 months.

29:15

In response to Commissioner Graham's question, Mr. White stated the jail redevelopment would serve as a post-production hub and would be integrated with the Bend development and the Future Ready Institute through coordinated uses and shared workforce and education opportunities.

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31:27 In response to Commissioner Baker's question, American record producer Rodney Jerkins expressed support for the project, citing Chattanooga's strong creative environment. He stated the project would uniquely combine music, film, technology, and education while attracting talent and investment.

33:53 In response to Commissioner Eversole's question, Administrator of Public Works and County Engineer Todd Leamon stated the proposed lease may include the option for County use of office space within the facility, subject to future Commission and County Mayor decisions.

34:50 In response to Commissioner Eversole's question, Mr. White stated the proposed lease term is anticipated to range from 25 to 50 years, with performance-based provisions and extension options.

36:08 In response to Commissioner Eversole's question, Mr. Cuffman stated the project would utilize modern, compact data storage technology that differs from traditional large-scale data centers. He noted the data storage would minimize power usage and environmental impact.

37:30 In response to Commissioner Mackey's question, Mayor Wamp stated the proposed Jailhouse Studios project aligns with his vision for downtown activation and adaptive reuse of the former county jail. He noted the building has been a challenging

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asset for the County and stated the proposal presents a viable private-sector opportunity consistent with broader redevelopment efforts.

40:39

In response to Commissioner Graham’s question, Mr. Cuffman stated EPB is a key partner in the project, supporting advanced quantum technology and data connectivity. He explained the partnership would enable secure data transmission and connectivity between studios, classrooms, and venues, positioning Chattanooga as a leader in innovative media and technology infrastructure.

At this time, several Commissioners expressed support for the project and thanked the presenters for their time and efforts.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

48:13

ON MOTION of Commissioner Sharpe, seconded by Commissioner Highlander, that the minutes of the Recessed Meeting of December 10, 2025, the Agenda Preparation Session of December 10, 2025, and the Regular Meeting of December 17, 2025, be approved, treated the same as read, made a matter of record, and filed. The foregoing Motion was unanimously adopted on a Roll Call vote, with the following members of the County Commission being present and voting as follows:

Commissioner Baker, “Aye,” Commissioner Beck, “Aye,” Commissioner Chauncey, “Aye,” Commissioner Eversole, “Aye,” Commissioner Graham, “Aye,” Commissioner

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Helton, "Aye," Commissioner Highlander, "Aye," Commissioner Mackey, "Aye,"
Commissioner Sharpe, "Aye," Commissioner Shipley, "Aye," and Chairman Smith,
"Aye." Total present – 11. Total absent – 0. Total "Aye" votes – 11. Total "Nay" votes –
0.

TRUSTEE REPORT

The Trustee's Revised Monthly and Excess Fee Reports for November 2025
were submitted and made a matter of record.

Chairman Smith reminded everyone this is a joint Agenda Session and Regular
Meeting. He stated each item will be read and handled as a committee of the whole.

**RESOLUTION NO. 126-1 A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE AND ACCEPT
APPLICATIONS FOR NOTARY PUBLIC POSITIONS AND THE BONDS AND OATHS
OF NOTARIES PREVIOUSLY ELECTED.**

ON MOTION of Commissioner Graham, seconded by Commissioner Beck, to
adopt Resolution No. 126-1.

There were no questions from the Commissioners or the audience.

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The foregoing Motion was unanimously adopted on a Roll Call vote, with the following members of the County Commission being present and voting as follows: Commissioner Baker, "Aye," Commissioner Beck, "Aye," Commissioner Chauncey, "Aye," Commissioner Eversole, "Aye," Commissioner Graham, "Aye," Commissioner Helton, "Aye," Commissioner Highlander, "Aye," Commissioner Mackey, "Aye," Commissioner Sharpe, "Aye," Commissioner Shipley, "Aye," and Chairman Smith, "Aye." Total present – 11. Total absent – 0. Total "Aye" votes – 11. Total "Nay" votes – 0.

49:52

RESOLUTION NO. 126-2 A RESOLUTION TO CONFIRM THE APPOINTMENT OF JACK KRUESI AND REAPPOINTMENT OF BILL MCGRUFF BY THE COUNTY MAYOR TO THE HAMILTON COUNTY WATER & WASTEWATER TREATMENT AUTHORITY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Sharpe, seconded by Commissioner Highlander, to adopt Resolution No. 126-2.

There were no questions from the Commissioners or the audience.

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The foregoing Motion was unanimously adopted on a Roll Call vote, with the following members of the County Commission being present and voting as follows: Commissioner Baker, "Aye," Commissioner Beck, "Aye," Commissioner Chauncey, "Aye," Commissioner Eversole, "Aye," Commissioner Graham, "Aye," Commissioner Helton, "Aye," Commissioner Highlander, "Aye," Commissioner Mackey, "Aye," Commissioner Sharpe, "Aye," Commissioner Shipley, "Aye," and Chairman Smith, "Aye." Total present – 11. Total absent – 0. Total "Aye" votes – 11. Total "Nay" votes – 0.

50:28

RESOLUTION NO. 126-3 A RESOLUTION MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO CHATTANOOGA OUTREACH IN THE AMOUNT OF ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$1,000.00) FROM GENERAL FUND TRAVEL DISCRETIONARY MONIES, AS ALLOTTED TO DISTRICT TWO.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Mackey, seconded by Commissioner Beck, to adopt Resolution No. 126-3.

There were no questions from the Commissioners or the audience.

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The foregoing Motion was unanimously adopted on a Roll Call vote, with the following members of the County Commission being present and voting as follows: Commissioner Baker, "Aye," Commissioner Beck, "Aye," Commissioner Chauncey, "Aye," Commissioner Eversole, "Aye," Commissioner Graham, "Aye," Commissioner Helton, "Aye," Commissioner Highlander, "Aye," Commissioner Mackey, "Aye," Commissioner Sharpe, "Aye," Commissioner Shipley, "Aye," and Chairman Smith, "Aye." Total present – 11. Total absent – 0. Total "Aye" votes – 11. Total "Nay" votes – 0.

51:09

RESOLUTION NO. 126-4 A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE PURCHASE OF TREND MICRO ANTI-VIRUS AND SECURITY OPERATION CENTER SERVICE LICENSES AMOUNTING TO \$68,974.33 FROM GHA TECHNOLOGIES INCORPORATED FROM THE OMNIA PARTNERS PURCHASING COOPERATIVE FOR THE HAMILTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE AND AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY MAYOR TO SIGN ANY CONTRACTS NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THIS RESOLUTION.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Helton, seconded by Commissioner Highlander, to adopt Resolution No. 126-4.

There were no questions from the Commissioners or the audience.

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The foregoing Motion was unanimously adopted on a Roll Call vote, with the following members of the County Commission being present and voting as follows: Commissioner Baker, "Aye," Commissioner Beck, "Aye," Commissioner Chauncey, "Aye," Commissioner Eversole, "Aye," Commissioner Graham, "Aye," Commissioner Helton, "Aye," Commissioner Highlander, "Aye," Commissioner Mackey, "Aye," Commissioner Sharpe, "Aye," Commissioner Shipley, "Aye," and Chairman Smith, "Aye." Total present – 11. Total absent – 0. Total "Aye" votes – 11. Total "Nay" votes – 0.

51:57 **RESOLUTION NO. 126-5 A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING A DONATION OF \$1,000 FOR THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE FROM THE FAMILY OF MR. ROBERT AND SANDRA PURCELL AND INCREASING THE SHERIFF'S OPERATING BUDGET OF REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES.**

ON MOTION of Commissioner Sharpe, seconded by Commissioner Shipley, to adopt Resolution No. 126-5.

52:22 Hamilton County Sheriff Austin Garrett stated the \$1,000 donation resulted from a funeral escort his office provided at the family's request. He noted the Sheriff's Office does not perform funeral escorts in exchange for donations and does so solely out of respect for the deceased and their family. He stated the donated funds will be used for

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the law enforcement memorial on 600 Market Street to purchase a commemorative plaque.

53:08

Sandra Purcell expressed appreciation to the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office for providing a funeral escort for her grandson, Colt Sinor, following his passing. She described the escort as highly organized and respectful, noting it assisted a large procession traveling from Silverdale Baptist Church to Hamilton Memorial Gardens. Ms. Purcell stated the donation was given as a gesture of gratitude for the Sheriff's Office's professionalism and service.

55:30

In response to Commissioner Baker's question, Chairman Smith stated the funds would be included in the Sheriff's operating budget, allowing Sheriff Garrett to direct their use toward the law enforcement memorial.

55:50

Commissioner Highlander commended Sheriff Garrett for the intended use of the donation and expressed condolences to the family.

There were no questions from the audience.

The foregoing Motion was unanimously adopted on a Roll Call vote, with the following members of the County Commission being present and voting as follows:

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Commissioner Baker, “Aye,” Commissioner Beck, “Aye,” Commissioner Chauncey, “Aye,” Commissioner Eversole, “Aye,” Commissioner Graham, “Aye,” Commissioner Helton, “Aye,” Commissioner Highlander, “Aye,” Commissioner Mackey, “Aye,” Commissioner Sharpe, “Aye,” Commissioner Shipley, “Aye,” and Chairman Smith, “Aye.” Total present – 11. Total absent – 0. Total “Aye” votes – 11. Total “Nay” votes – 0.

RESOLUTION NO. 126-6 A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE COUNTY MAYOR TO ACCEPT THE DONATION OF A PEPPERBALL LAUNCHER FROM PEPPERBALL INCORPORATED WITH AN ESTIMATED VALUE OF \$1,370.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Graham, seconded by Commissioner Highlander, to adopt Resolution No. 126-6.

There were no questions from the Commissioners or the audience.

The foregoing Motion was unanimously adopted on a Roll Call vote, with the following members of the County Commission being present and voting as follows: Commissioner Baker, “Aye,” Commissioner Beck, “Aye,” Commissioner Chauncey, “Aye,” Commissioner Eversole, “Aye,” Commissioner Graham, “Aye,” Commissioner Helton, “Aye,” Commissioner Highlander, “Aye,” Commissioner Mackey, “Aye,”

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Commissioner Sharpe, “Aye,” Commissioner Shipley, “Aye,” and Chairman Smith, “Aye.” Total present – 11. Total absent – 0. Total “Aye” votes – 11. Total “Nay” votes – 0.

57:10

RESOLUTION NO. 126-7 A RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE AUTHORIZED NOT TO EXCEED CONTRACT AMOUNT FOR MCNABB CENTER TO PROVIDE CLINICAL SERVICES AND SUPPORT FOR THE MEDICATION-ASSISTED TREATMENT PILOT AND RE-ENTRY PROGRAM, FROM THE INITIAL APPROVED AMOUNT OF \$175,000 TO A TOTAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$525,000 FOR THE THREE-YEAR PROJECT PERIOD FOR HAMILTON COUNTY ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND THE SHERIFF’S OFFICE AND AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY MAYOR TO SIGN ANY CONTRACTS NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THIS RESOLUTION.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Graham, seconded by Commissioner Shipley, to adopt Resolution No. 126-7.

There were no questions from the Commissioners or the audience.

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The foregoing Motion was unanimously adopted on a Roll Call vote, with the following members of the County Commission being present and voting as follows: Commissioner Baker, "Aye," Commissioner Beck, "Aye," Commissioner Chauncey, "Aye," Commissioner Eversole, "Aye," Commissioner Graham, "Aye," Commissioner Helton, "Aye," Commissioner Highlander, "Aye," Commissioner Mackey, "Aye," Commissioner Sharpe, "Aye," Commissioner Shipley, "Aye," and Chairman Smith, "Aye." Total present – 11. Total absent – 0. Total "Aye" votes – 11. Total "Nay" votes – 0.

58:02

RESOLUTION NO. 126-8 A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE BID OF SKILLED SERVICES QUALITY CONSTRUCTION, LLC FOR THE ENTERPRISE SOUTH NATURE PARK RESTROOM FACILITY PROJECT FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$422,700.00 FOR THE HAMILTON COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT AND AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY MAYOR TO SIGN ANY CONTRACTS NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THIS RESOLUTION.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Graham, seconded by Commissioner Shipley, to adopt Resolution No. 126-8.

58:44

In response to Commissioner Sharpe's question, Hamilton County Director of Parks and Recreation Matt Folz stated the project will be an upgraded restroom facility

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located at Lot Three and confirmed it will be Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible.

There were no questions from the audience.

The foregoing Motion was unanimously adopted on a Roll Call vote, with the following members of the County Commission being present and voting as follows: Commissioner Baker, "Aye," Commissioner Beck, "Aye," Commissioner Chauncey, "Aye," Commissioner Eversole, "Aye," Commissioner Graham, "Aye," Commissioner Helton, "Aye," Commissioner Highlander, "Aye," Commissioner Mackey, "Aye," Commissioner Sharpe, "Aye," Commissioner Shipley, "Aye," and Chairman Smith, "Aye." Total present – 11. Total absent – 0. Total "Aye" votes – 11. Total "Nay" votes – 0.

1:00:06

RESOLUTION NO. 126-9 A RESOLUTION TO ALLOCATE \$20,000 OF UNRESTRICTED OPIOID DISTRIBUTOR SETTLEMENT FUNDS TO TRANSFORM MINISTRIES IN CONTINUED SUPPORT OF THE INZONE PROGRAM AND TO AMEND THE FISCAL YEAR 2026 GENERAL FUND REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES BUDGETS AND THE OPIOID ABATEMENT SETTLEMENTS ACCORDINGLY.

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ON MOTION of Commissioner Helton, seconded by Commissioner Shipley, to adopt Resolution No. 126-9.

There were no questions from Commissioners or the audience.

The foregoing Motion was adopted on a Roll Call vote, with the following members of the County Commission being present and voting as follows:
Commissioner Baker, "Aye," Commissioner Beck, "Nay," Commissioner Chauncey, "Aye," Commissioner Eversole, "Nay," Commissioner Graham, "Aye," Commissioner Helton, "Aye," Commissioner Highlander, "Pass," Commissioner Mackey, "Pass," Commissioner Sharpe, "Aye," Commissioner Shipley, "Aye," and Chairman Smith, "Aye." Total present – 11. Total absent – 0. Total "Aye" votes – 11. Total "Nay" votes – 0.

1:00:26

RESOLUTION NO. 126-10 A RESOLUTION TO APPROPRIATE \$500,000 FROM THE HOTEL MOTEL FUND FROM THE FISCAL YEAR 2026 BUDGET TO SONGBIRDS FOUNDATION, INC., TO SUPPORT A HAMILTON COUNTY HISTORY EXPERIENCE.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Graham, seconded by Commissioner Shipley, to adopt Resolution No. 126-10.

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1:00:49 Mayor Wamp stated the funding would support an immersive Chattanooga–Hamilton County history experience in partnership with Songbirds Foundation, Inc., local creatives, and students. He noted the program will emphasize education, downtown activation, and community storytelling.

1:04:46 Hamilton County Historian Linda Moss-Mines spoke in support of the project, stating it reflects a thoughtful and responsible approach to preserving local history in recognition of America’s 250th anniversary. She emphasized the value of combining professional scholarship, student involvement, and modern storytelling to ensure the community’s history is shared accurately and meaningfully.

1:06:08 John Edwards III, publisher of the Chattanooga News Chronicle, expressed support for the project. He highlighted the importance of telling Chattanooga’s shared history across racial and cultural groups.

1:08:03 Tom Griscom, former White House communications director, spoke in support of the project. He stated that sharing local history builds community identity, pride, and connection. He emphasized the importance of passing historical knowledge to future generations and encouraging young people to engage with their community’s past.

1:11:34 In response to Commissioner Graham’s question, Mayor Wamp stated the funding is intended as a one-time investment to launch a temporary Chattanooga–

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Hamilton County history experience in recognition of America's 250th anniversary. He explained the project will include a limited production period followed by an approximately one-year public run, with any future operational needs to be considered during a subsequent budget cycle.

At this time, several Commissioners expressed support for the project and thanked the presenters for their efforts in preserving and sharing Hamilton County's history.

There were no questions from the audience.

The foregoing Motion was unanimously adopted on a Roll Call vote, with the following members of the County Commission being present and voting as follows: Commissioner Baker, "Aye," Commissioner Beck, "Aye," Commissioner Chauncey, "Aye," Commissioner Eversole, "Aye," Commissioner Graham, "Aye," Commissioner Helton, "Aye," Commissioner Highlander, "Aye," Commissioner Mackey, "Aye," Commissioner Sharpe, "Aye," Commissioner Shipley, "Aye," and Chairman Smith, "Aye." Total present – 11. Total absent – 0. Total "Aye" votes – 11. Total "Nay" votes – 0.

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1:19:46 **RESOLUTION NO. 126-11 A RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE HAMILTON COUNTY
AIR POLLUTION CONTROL REGULATION BY PROVIDING FOR INCREASED
PERMIT AND CERTIFICATE FEES.**

ON MOTION of Commissioner Graham, seconded by Commissioner Shipley, to
adopt Resolution No. 126-11.

There were no questions from Commissioners or the audience.

The foregoing Motion was unanimously adopted on a Roll Call vote, with the
following members of the County Commission being present and voting as follows:
Commissioner Baker, "Aye," Commissioner Beck, "Aye," Commissioner Chauncey,
"Aye," Commissioner Eversole, "Aye," Commissioner Graham, "Aye," Commissioner
Helton, "Aye," Commissioner Highlander, "Aye," Commissioner Mackey, "Aye,"
Commissioner Sharpe, "Aye," Commissioner Shipley, "Aye," and Chairman Smith,
"Aye." Total present – 11. Total absent – 0. Total "Aye" votes – 11. Total "Nay" votes –
0.

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1:20:26 **RESOLUTION NO. 126-12 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY MAYOR TO ACCEPT A TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (TNECD) GRANT FOR FUNDS FROM THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT FOR DISASTER RELIEF RELATED TO THE 2020 EASTER TORNADOES TO BE ADMINISTERED BY THE SOUTHEAST TENNESSEE DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT.**

ON MOTION of Commissioner Helton, seconded by Commissioner Highlander, to adopt Resolution No. 126-12.

1:21:34 Mayor Wamp stated Hamilton County is the first county to successfully unlock and deploy these grant funds, noting the process required extensive coordination due to strict eligibility requirements. He stated the approved projects will support Emergency Management and infrastructure improvements across multiple districts, with additional projects anticipated.

1:23:35 Commissioner Highlander expressed appreciation to Mayor Wamp's staff, including Director of Economic and Community Development Alexa LeBoeuf, Director of Development Services Nathan Janeway, and Bob White, for their work.

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There were no questions from the audience.

The foregoing Motion was unanimously adopted on a Roll Call vote, with the following members of the County Commission being present and voting as follows: Commissioner Baker, "Aye," Commissioner Beck, "Aye," Commissioner Chauncey, "Aye," Commissioner Eversole, "Aye," Commissioner Graham, "Aye," Commissioner Helton, "Aye," Commissioner Highlander, "Aye," Commissioner Mackey, "Aye," Commissioner Sharpe, "Aye," Commissioner Shipley, "Aye," and Chairman Smith, "Aye." Total present – 11. Total absent – 0. Total "Aye" votes – 11. Total "Nay" votes – 0.

1:24:20 **RESOLUTION NO. 126-13 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE OFFICE OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TO APPLY FOR AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION (EDA) FY25 DISASTER SUPPLEMENTAL GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$50 MILLION WITH A 20% MATCH REQUIRED.**

ON MOTION of Commissioner Graham, seconded by Commissioner Chauncey, to adopt Resolution No. 126-13.

1:25:20 In response to Commissioner Sharpe's question, Director of Economic and Community Development Alexa LeBoeuf stated the proposed EDA grant application is in the early planning stages and is intended to support workforce development

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initiatives. She noted the Franklin Future Ready Institute is a primary focus and explained the grant may fund both capital and programmatic expenses. She added the required 20% match could include in-kind contributions and partner support, rather than solely County funds.

1:26:08 Commissioner Graham thanked staff for bringing the proposed grant application to the Commission prior to submission. He stated he appreciates receiving advance notice when grants require a substantial match, allowing the Commission to plan accordingly.

There were no questions from the audience.

The foregoing Motion was unanimously adopted on a Roll Call vote, with the following members of the County Commission being present and voting as follows: Commissioner Baker, "Aye," Commissioner Beck, "Aye," Commissioner Chauncey, "Aye," Commissioner Eversole, "Aye," Commissioner Graham, "Aye," Commissioner Helton, "Aye," Commissioner Highlander, "Aye," Commissioner Mackey, "Aye," Commissioner Sharpe, "Aye," Commissioner Shipley, "Aye," and Chairman Smith, "Aye." Total present – 11. Total absent – 0. Total "Aye" votes – 11. Total "Nay" votes – 0.

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1:27:01 **RESOLUTION NO. 126-14 A RESOLUTION TO ALLOCATE EXPENDITURES OF UP TO \$3,688,739.07 FROM PROCEEDS FROM THE 2024A BOND ISSUE TOWARD CERTAIN PUBLIC SAFETY PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES.**

ON MOTION of Commissioner Shipley, seconded by Commissioner Beck, to adopt Resolution No. 126-14.

1:27:29 Sheriff Garrett stated the bond funding represents a significant capital investment in the Sheriff's Office facilities. He reported the Sheriff's office was awarded a \$1.6 million no-match grant, previously approved by the Commission, to construct a combined law enforcement and corrections training facility. He noted the funding will also support facility renovations, consolidation of operations at the Highway Department property, and additional patrol, corrections, and traffic positions. He thanked the Commissioners and Mayor Wamp for their support.

In response to Commissioner Graham's question, Chief Financial Officer Lee Brouner confirmed the funding is part of the \$260 million 2024A bond issue.

There were no questions from the audience.

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The foregoing Motion was unanimously adopted on a Roll Call vote, with the following members of the County Commission being present and voting as follows: Commissioner Baker, "Aye," Commissioner Beck, "Aye," Commissioner Chauncey, "Aye," Commissioner Eversole, "Aye," Commissioner Graham, "Aye," Commissioner Helton, "Aye," Commissioner Highlander, "Aye," Commissioner Mackey, "Aye," Commissioner Sharpe, "Aye," Commissioner Shipley, "Aye," and Chairman Smith, "Aye." Total present – 11. Total absent – 0. Total "Aye" votes – 11. Total "Nay" votes – 0.

1:30:56

RESOLUTION NO. 126-15 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY MAYOR TO SIGN A CONTINUATION CONTRACT BETWEEN THE TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HAMILTON COUNTY HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES DIVISION DOING BUSINESS AS THE HAMILTON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT FOR THE FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2026 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2027 IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$1,171,400.00 TO PROVIDE CARE COORDINATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH'S COMMUNITY HEALTH ACCESS AND NAVIGATION IN TENNESSEE (CHANT) MODEL AND GUIDELINES.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Helton, seconded by Commissioner Beck, to adopt Resolution No. 126-15.

There were no questions from the Commissioners or the audience.

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The foregoing Motion was unanimously adopted on a Roll Call vote, with the following members of the County Commission being present and voting as follows: Commissioner Baker, "Aye," Commissioner Beck, "Aye," Commissioner Chauncey, "Aye," Commissioner Eversole, "Aye," Commissioner Graham, "Aye," Commissioner Helton, "Aye," Commissioner Highlander, "Aye," Commissioner Mackey, "Aye," Commissioner Sharpe, "Aye," Commissioner Shipley, "Aye," and Chairman Smith, "Aye." Total present – 11. Total absent – 0. Total "Aye" votes – 11. Total "Nay" votes – 0.

1:31:52

RESOLUTION NO. 126-16 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE HAMILTON COUNTY HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES DIVISION OPERATING AS THE HAMILTON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT TO APPLY, AND IF AWARDED, ACCEPT A TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH INJURY PREVENTION PROGRAM GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$10,000.00 FOR THE CONTINUATION OF THE CHILD SAFETY PROGRAM TO DISTRIBUTE CAR SEATS TO PARENTS OF INFANTS AND CHILDREN WHO ARE UNABLE TO AFFORD RESTRAINT DEVICES, FOR THE PERIOD OF JULY 1, 2026, TO JUNE 30, 2027.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Graham, seconded by Commissioner Highlander, to adopt Resolution No. 126-16.

There were no questions from the Commissioners or the audience.

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The foregoing Motion was unanimously adopted on a Roll Call vote, with the following members of the County Commission being present and voting as follows: Commissioner Baker, "Aye," Commissioner Beck, "Aye," Commissioner Chauncey, "Aye," Commissioner Eversole, "Aye," Commissioner Graham, "Aye," Commissioner Helton, "Aye," Commissioner Highlander, "Aye," Commissioner Mackey, "Aye," Commissioner Sharpe, "Aye," Commissioner Shipley, "Aye," and Chairman Smith, "Aye." Total present – 11. Total absent – 0. Total "Aye" votes – 11. Total "Nay" votes – 0.

1:32:42

RESOLUTION NO. 126-17 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AND EXECUTE A "WAIVER OF RIGHT OF REVERSION AS TO SPECIFIC PROPERTY, IMPROVEMENTS, AND OWNER DOCUMENT" RELATIVE TO PROPERTY LOCATED AT 4609 RESOURCE DRIVE IN THE BONNY OAKS INDUSTRIAL AND OFFICE PARK.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Chauncey, seconded by Commissioner Beck, to adopt Resolution No. 126-17.

1:33:12

In response to Commissioner Graham's question, Chief Financial Officer Lee Brouner explained the right of reversion was included in the original sale to ensure timely construction and fulfillment of commitments made to the County. He stated the property was sold in 1990, all required improvements were completed, and the

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reversion clause has effectively expired but remains on the deed. He noted the waiver is requested to clear title for resale purposes and stated similar waivers have been approved when all conditions were satisfied.

The foregoing Motion was unanimously adopted on a Roll Call vote, with the following members of the County Commission being present and voting as follows: Commissioner Baker, "Aye," Commissioner Beck, "Aye," Commissioner Chauncey, "Aye," Commissioner Eversole, "Aye," Commissioner Graham, "Aye," Commissioner Helton, "Aye," Commissioner Highlander, "Aye," Commissioner Mackey, "Aye," Commissioner Sharpe, "Aye," Commissioner Shipley, "Aye," and Chairman Smith, "Aye." Total present – 11. Total absent – 0. Total "Aye" votes – 11. Total "Nay" votes – 0.

1:35:57

Commissioner Eversole stated he previously brought forward the request to move the Commission meeting times. He noted he has continued to receive public feedback, including numerous emails and calls from residents across multiple districts, expressing interest in revisiting meeting times. He stated the trial period was extended before the holidays and requested further discussion regarding future meeting scheduling.

1:37:47

Commissioner Helton stated a committee meeting will be held next week to further discuss Commission meeting times. He noted the committee will consider public

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input and Commissioner feedback and develop potential scheduling options moving forward.

1:38:26 Commissioner Highlander stated he has received feedback from constituents indicating a strong preference for afternoon or later meeting times. He noted he has not received any requests in favor of morning meetings and emphasized the importance of accommodating public participation despite the challenges to County staff.

1:39:10 Commissioner Shipley stated he has not observed an increase in public attendance or received significant constituent feedback supporting the change in meeting times. He expressed concern about the cost to the County and potential safety issues related to evening meetings. He noted he believes changing meeting times may negatively impact other community obligations and questioned whether the change would meaningfully increase public participation.

1:41:34 Commissioner Baker stated he has received constituent feedback favoring later meeting times. He suggested considering a consistent start time of approximately 5:30 PM and encouraged the committee to develop multiple scheduling options for Commission consideration, emphasizing the importance of flexibility to improve public participation.

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1:44:44 In response to Commissioner Sharpe’s question, Chairman Smith stated the Commission must take action on meeting times during next week’s January 14, 2026, recessed meeting. He noted if no action is taken, Commission meetings will automatically revert to the 9:30 AM start time.

Commissioner Sharpe stated he believes the Commission should take formal action regarding meeting times. He noted receiving public feedback in support of evening meetings and emphasized the importance of providing working residents with greater opportunities to participate. He expressed interest in exploring alternative meeting structures and stated the Commission should deliberate and vote on available options rather than allowing the meeting time to revert without action.

1:50:29 Commissioner Beck stated his opposition to changing the Commission’s meeting time. He noted meetings have been held at 9:30 AM for approximately 47 years, and expressed his view that the current schedule is not broken. He shared concerns about changing a long-standing practice that has worked well for staff, security, and operations, and urged the Commission to allow the meeting time to revert back once the trial period ends.

1:54:32 Commissioner Graham stated he supports continued discussion regarding meeting times but expressed concern about changing the meeting day. He noted Wednesday evenings allow him to attend community meetings on other weekdays and

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emphasized the importance of remaining accessible to constituents. He also opposed reducing the number of monthly meetings, stating weekly meetings are necessary to address County business in a timely manner and avoid delays or confusion.

1:57:50 Commissioner Shipley stated he supported retaining Wednesday meetings and four meetings per month, suggesting evening meetings could be held selectively for controversial issues.

1:59:30 In response to Commissioner Highlander's question, Chairman Smith confirmed state law requires public comment at regular and recessed meetings where action is taken, but not at agenda sessions.

2:01:05 In response to Commissioner Shipley's question, County Attorney Varnell confirmed the Chairman has the authority to call a special-called meeting, including scheduling it at a different time if needed, to accommodate public participation on controversial issues.

2:02:10 Commissioner Helton noted the estimated cost of holding evening meetings is approximately \$1,600–\$1,700 per session.

2:04:08 Commissioner Graham reminded the audience that agenda items are publicly available in advance of Commission votes. He stated agendas are posted at least 48

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hours before the agenda session and remain available for approximately ten days prior to the voting meeting, allowing constituents time to review items and provide input.

2:06:20

Chairman Smith directed County Attorney Varnell to prepare a resolution for consideration at the recessed meeting the following week to determine future Commission meeting times. He stated options would be discussed at next week's committee meeting and voted on during the January 14, 2026, recessed meeting.

The foregoing Motion was unanimously adopted on a Roll Call vote, with the following members of the County Commission being present and voting as follows: Commissioner Baker, "Aye," Commissioner Beck, "Aye," Commissioner Chauncey, "Aye," Commissioner Eversole, "Aye," Commissioner Graham, "Aye," Commissioner Helton, "Aye," Commissioner Highlander, "Aye," Commissioner Mackey, "Aye," Commissioner Sharpe, "Aye," Commissioner Shipley, "Aye," and Chairman Smith, "Aye." Total present – 11. Total absent – 0. Total "Aye" votes – 11. Total "Nay" votes – 0.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Smith asked for announcements from members of the Commission.

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2:06:19 Commissioner Shipley thanked County staff for their work on projects discussed during the meeting and recognized Deputy Chief of Staff for the Mayor's Office, Mary Francis Hoots, for her contributions.

At this time, several Commissioners expressed condolences on the passing of former Hamilton County Board of Education member Janice Boydston, noting her dedication to public service, strong advocacy for education, and lasting impact on the community.

2:08:20 Commissioner Helton announced a January 20, 2026, community meeting at East Hamilton High School for District 7 constituents.

2:08:50 Commissioner Highlander announced members of the Education Committee will meet with the Hamilton County School Board for a legislative luncheon on January 15, 2026, at 11:30 AM. He expressed appreciation for his constituents, fellow Commissioners, and medical staff for their support following his recent knee replacement surgery. He stated that he looks forward to continuing to serve the County and to working collaboratively with the Commission.

2:11:27 Commissioner Eversole announced his upcoming "Coffee with the Commissioner" events in District 10. He stated the events will be held January 17, 2026, at the Highway 58 Fire Training Center; January 24, 2026, at the Apison Tri-Community

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Training Center; and January 31, 2026, at Collegedale Chestnut Hall, providing residents with an opportunity for informal discussion and feedback.

2:15:00 Chairman Smith expressed appreciation to Hamilton County Director of Property Management Mike Kirk for his significant efforts in coordinating tours and supporting the presentation regarding Jailhouse Studios.

DELEGATIONS

Chairman Smith asked for delegations on matters other than zoning.

Nathan Griffin, residing at 5500 Hidden Oaks Lane, stated he is a co-founder of the grassroots organization Save Enterprise South Nature Park. He emphasized the park is a publicly owned asset with significant recreational, historical, and cultural value. He thanked Commissioners who engaged with the public during the process and stated the organization will continue advocating for transparency and the permanent protection of the park.

2:18:05 Melissa Ray, residing at 4006 Deermont Court, addressed the Commission to celebrate the decision to retain protections at Enterprise South Nature Park. She thanked community members and officials for their involvement and support in

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preserving the park. She stated the organization will continue efforts related to preservation, education, and long-term stewardship.

2:21:15

Gary Boles, residing at 5812 Mountain Pass Drive, discussed Commission meeting times and agenda items. He stated routine items rarely receive public comment, while issues such as zoning, infrastructure, and education draw greater public interest and should be scheduled at times accessible to working residents. He encouraged the Commissioners to consider community needs when making a final decision on Commission meeting times.

2:23:33

Greg Lewis, residing at 5555 Hunter Road, spoke about Commission meeting times. He referenced prior benchmarking data indicating most counties hold meetings at 5:00 PM or later and encouraged Commissioners to consult with other counties about their experiences. He also suggested considering a ballot measure to formally gather public input on preferred meeting start times.

2:24:59

Antonio Boston, residing at 2005 North Chamberlain Avenue, discussed a property he purchased at a county auction. He stated after completing payment and clearing the property, he was informed the sale was invalid due to a county error and a deed would not be issued. Mr. Boston requested the County resolve the matter and issue the deed.

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2:27:09

Audrey Ramsey, residing in District 8, spoke about growth and planning in Hamilton County. She stated growth should be balanced with stronger oversight of building codes, inspections, and developer accountability. She encouraged planning that prioritizes infrastructure and community well-being.

There being no further business, Chairman Smith declared the meeting in recess until Wednesday, January 14, 2026, at 4:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

William F. (Bill) Knowles, County Clerk

Approved:

1-21-2026 W.F.K

Date Clerk's Initials