

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
MAY 7, 2025**

STATE OF TENNESSEE) Regular Meeting

COUNTY OF HAMILTON) May 7, 2025

BE IT REMEMBERED that on this 7th day of May 2025, a 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: --

0:13

Present and presiding was the Honorable Jeff Eversole, Chairman. County Clerk Bill Knowles 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 Joe Graham, Commissioner Lee Helton, Commissioner Steve Highlander, Commissioner Warren Mackey, Commissioner David Sharpe, Commissioner Gene-o Shipley, and Chairman Jeff Eversole. Commissioner Ken Smith was absent. Total present – 10. Total absent -1.

Also in attendance were members of County Mayor Weston Wamp's administrative staff, County Attorney Rheubin Taylor, and County Auditor Chris McCollough.

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.

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0:39

Commissioner Shipley introduced Ed Alexander, Stanley Heights Baptist Church, to offer the invocation. Commissioner Shipley led in the pledge to the flag.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

15:16

ON MOTION of Commissioner Highlander, seconded by Commissioner Baker, that the minutes of the Recessed Meeting of April 9, 2025, the Agenda Preparation Session of April 9, 2025, and the Regular Meeting of April 16, 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 Graham, “Aye,” Commissioner Helton, “Aye,” Commissioner Highlander, “Aye,” Commissioner Mackey, “Aye,” Commissioner Sharpe, “Aye,” Commissioner Shipley, “Aye,” and Chairman Eversole, “Aye.” Commissioner Smith was absent. Total present – 10. Total absent – 1. Total “Aye” votes – 10. Total “Nay” votes – 0.

ORDER OF DESIGNATION

15:57

An Order of Designation was recorded, designating Nathan Janeway or Todd Leamon to sit as the County Mayor’s representative on the Chattanooga Hamilton County Regional Planning Commission meetings for FY25 and FY26.

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ORDER OF REAPPOINTMENT

County Mayor Wamp submitted for the record an order appointing Sean Sims to the Union Fork-Bakewell Utility Board of Commissioners for a term beginning May 7, 2025, and ending May 6, 2029.

Chairman Eversole stated, without objection, he would like to add *Resolution No. 525-18* to the agenda as a late item. There was no objection.

Commissioner Sharpe stated several weeks ago, Commissioner Mackey initiated the recognition of the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga (UTC) Mocs Men's Basketball Team for their historic 2025 National Invitation Tournament (NIT) Championship and acknowledged Coach Dan Earl for his outstanding leadership of the Mocs basketball team. He asked Deputy County Clerk Jennifer Smith to read *Resolution No. 525-18* in its entirety.

LATE ITEM

RESOLUTION NO. 525-18 A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE AT CHATTANOOGA'S OUTSTANDING ACCOMPLISHMENT IN BEING THE NATIONAL INVITATION TOURNAMENT ("NIT") BASKETBALL CHAMPIONS FOR 2025; AND ACKNOWLEDGING COACH DAN EARL FOR HIS OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP OF SAID TEAM.

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ON MOTION of Commissioner Baker, seconded by Commissioner Highlander, to adopt Resolution No. 525-18.

Commissioner Sharped thanked Coach Earl, his coaching staff, players, and Moc fans who followed the team around this season. He stated the men's basketball team had 29 wins this season, which ties them for first for the most wins in program history. He noted they claimed the Southern Conference regular season title with a 15-3 conference record. They finished 29-9 overall and ranked 25th in the NCAA Division 1. He stated the University of Tennessee Chattanooga men's basketball team became the biggest underdog to win the NIT title and the first ever unseeded team to win since its 32-team format returned in 2007. He stated Coach Earl was the 2025 Southern Conference Coach of the year, voted upon by fellow league coaches.

Coach Earl thanked the commission and community for their support throughout the season. He stated his team is comprised of wonderful, high-character young men who play unselfishly in this new world of the transfer portal and NIL. He noted he is very appreciative of his players.

Commissioner Mackey thanked Coach Earl and Assistant Coach Treakle for everything they do for their players. He stated he knows they are invoking character traits, hard work, and honesty in all of them. He noted he hopes other fine men will be attracted to our university and city.

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Commissioner Highlander stated he was very impressed with two players on the team who spoke at an area Fellowship of Christian Athletes banquet. He noted they were moving with their character, dedication, and to God. He stated he believes the character development helped with their winning percentage and has made them better men.

Chairman Eversole congratulated Coach Earl on his leadership and program-building efforts. He stated his dedication, and what he has done to build and rebuild shows his talents and those of his coaching staff.

There were no questions from 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, "Aye," Commissioner Chauncey, "Aye," Commissioner Graham, "Aye," Commissioner Helton, "Aye," Commissioner Highlander, "Aye," Commissioner Mackey, "Aye," Commissioner Sharpe, "Aye," Commissioner Shipley, "Aye," and Chairman Eversole, "Aye." Commissioner Smith was absent. Total present – 10. Total absent – 1. Total "Aye" votes – 10. Total "Nay" votes – 0.

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16:05

RESOLUTION NO. 525-1 A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE AND ACCEPT APPLICATIONS FOR NOTARY PUBLIC POSITIONS, THE BONDS AND OATHS OF NOTARIES PREVIOUSLY ELECTED, THE OATH OF DEPUTY SHERIFF, AND TO FILE THE BONDS OF HAMILTON COUNTY 911 EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS DISTRICT.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Graham, seconded by Commissioner Highlander, to adopt Resolution No. 525-1.

There were no questions from the 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, "Aye," Commissioner Chauncey, "Aye," Commissioner Graham, "Aye," Commissioner Helton, "Aye," Commissioner Highlander, "Aye," Commissioner Mackey, "Aye," Commissioner Sharpe, "Aye," Commissioner Shipley, "Aye," and Chairman Eversole, "Aye." Commissioner Smith was absent. Total present – 10. Total absent – 1. Total "Aye" votes – 10. Total "Nay" votes – 0.

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16:48 **RESOLUTION NO. 525-2 A RESOLUTION TO CONFIRM, NUNC PRO TUNC, THE REAPPOINTMENT BY THE COUNTY MAYOR OF T. W. FRANCESCON AS THE CHAIRMAN OF THE HAMILTON COUNTY EMPLOYEE APPEALS BOARD FOR A TERM ENDING MARCH 15, 2027.**

ON MOTION of Commissioner Beck, seconded by Commissioner Highlander, to adopt Resolution No. 525-2.

There were no questions from the 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, “Aye,” Commissioner Chauncey, “Aye,” Commissioner Graham, “Aye,” Commissioner Helton, “Aye,” Commissioner Highlander, “Aye,” Commissioner Mackey, “Aye,” Commissioner Sharpe, “Aye,” Commissioner Shipley, “Aye,” and Chairman Eversole, “Aye.” Commissioner Smith was absent. Total present – 10. Total absent – 1. Total “Aye” votes – 10. Total “Nay” votes – 0.

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17:49

**RESOLUTION NO. 525-3 A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT OF
CASEY SMITH TO THE HAMILTON COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTRICAL
EXAMINERS FOR A TERM ENDING MARCH 1, 2027.**

ON MOTION of Commissioner Helton, seconded by Commissioner Shipley, to adopt
Resolution No. 525-3.

There were no questions from the 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, “Aye,” Commissioner Chauncey, “Aye,” Commissioner Graham, “Aye,”
Commissioner Helton, “Aye,” Commissioner Highlander, “Aye,” Commissioner Mackey,
“Aye,” Commissioner Sharpe, “Aye,” Commissioner Shipley, “Aye,” and Chairman Eversole,
“Aye.” Commissioner Smith was absent. Total present – 10. Total absent – 1. Total “Aye”
votes – 10. Total “Nay” votes – 0.

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18:12 **RESOLUTION NO. 525-4 A RESOLUTION TO APPOINT ROSE E. DECOSIMO TO
THE HAMILTON COUNTY AUDIT COMMITTEE FOR A THREE-YEAR (3) TERM
BEGINNING JUNE 26, 2025, AND ENDING JUNE 26, 2028.**

ON MOTION of Commissioner Graham, seconded by Commissioner Baker, to adopt
Resolution No. 525-4.

19:05 In response to Commissioner Mackey's question, Commissioner Baker stated they are
meeting quarterly and working closely with Chris Glad. He noted they have staggered terms and
are still in good standing.

19:42 In response to Commissioner Sharpe's question, Commissioner Baker stated when
commissioners appropriate travel discretionary monies, the funds will now come straight from
the Finance Department to the organization receiving them. Commissioners will no longer be
able to take the funds to organizations themselves.

There were no questions from the audience.

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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, “Aye,” Commissioner Chauncey, “Aye,” Commissioner Graham, “Aye,” Commissioner Helton, “Aye,” Commissioner Highlander, “Aye,” Commissioner Mackey, “Aye,” Commissioner Sharpe, “Aye,” Commissioner Shipley, “Aye,” and Chairman Eversole, “Aye.” Commissioner Smith was absent. Total present – 10. Total absent – 1. Total “Aye” votes – 10. Total “Nay” votes – 0.

Without objection, Chairman Eversole asked for Resolution Nos. 525-5 through 525-7 to be read together.

20:51 **RESOLUTION NO. 525-5 A RESOLUTION MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO THE MOUNTAIN EDUCATION FOUNDATION IN THE AMOUNT OF TWO THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$2,500.00) FROM GENERAL FUND TRAVEL DISCRETIONARY MONIES, AS ALLOTTED TO DISTRICT TWO.**

RESOLUTION NO. 525-6 A RESOLUTION MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO THE MOUNTAIN EDUCATION FOUNDATION IN THE AMOUNT OF FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$5,000.00) FROM GENERAL FUND TRAVEL DISCRETIONARY MONIES, AS ALLOTTED TO DISTRICT TWO.

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RESOLUTION NO. 525-7 A RESOLUTION MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO THE WALDEN'S RIDGE EMERGENCY SERVICES IN THE AMOUNT OF TWO THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED FORTY DOLLARS (\$2,640.00) FROM GENERAL FUND TRAVEL DISCRETIONARY MONIES, AS ALLOTTED TO DISTRICT TWO.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Mackey, seconded by Commissioner Highlander, to adopt Resolution Nos. 525-5 through 525-7.

There were no questions from the 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, "Aye," Commissioner Chauncey, "Aye," Commissioner Graham, "Aye," Commissioner Helton, "Aye," Commissioner Highlander, "Aye," Commissioner Mackey, "Aye," Commissioner Sharpe, "Aye," Commissioner Shipley, "Aye," and Chairman Eversole, "Aye." Commissioner Smith was absent. Total present – 10. Total absent – 1. Total "Aye" votes – 10. Total "Nay" votes – 0.

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22:04

RESOLUTION NO. 525-8 A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE PAYMENT OF ONE HUNDRED FORTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$140,000) TO CURT DEARING AND ATTORNEYS, MIKEL & HAMILL, PLLC, FOR FULL AND FINAL SETTLEMENT OF ANY AND ALL CLAIMS ARISING FROM HIS EMPLOYMENT WITH THE HAMILTON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Graham, seconded by Commissioner Baker, to adopt Resolution No. 525-8.

23:01

Commissioner Graham stated that all the resolutions were discussed during last week's Agenda Preparation Session and are now being voted on. He noted several constituents who had never attended a meeting were in the audience and wanted them to understand the process.

There were no questions from the audience.

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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, “Aye,” Commissioner Chauncey, “Aye,” Commissioner Graham, “Aye,” Commissioner Helton, “Aye,” Commissioner Highlander, “Aye,” Commissioner Mackey, “Aye,” Commissioner Sharpe, “Aye,” Commissioner Shipley, “Aye,” and Chairman Eversole, “Aye.” Commissioner Smith was absent. Total present – 10. Total absent – 1. Total “Aye” votes – 10. Total “Nay” votes – 0.

23:26

RESOLUTION NO. 525-12 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY MAYOR TO ACCEPT A DONATION FROM WALDEN SECURITY, RONNIE BARNES, AND STEVE HOLMES TO THE HAMILTON COUNTY VETERAN'S TREATMENT COURT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,200 TO PURCHASE 300 CHALLENGE COINS AND TO AMEND THE OFFICE OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT'S FY25 REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE BUDGET ACCORDINGLY.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Graham, seconded by Commissioner Sharpe, to adopt Resolution No. 525-12.

There were no questions from the Commissioners or the audience.

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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, “Aye,” Commissioner Chauncey, “Aye,” Commissioner Graham, “Aye,” Commissioner Helton, “Aye,” Commissioner Highlander, “Aye,” Commissioner Mackey, “Aye,” Commissioner Sharpe, “Aye,” Commissioner Shipley, “Aye,” and Chairman Eversole, “Aye.” Commissioner Smith was absent. Total present – 10. Total absent – 1. Total “Aye” votes – 10. Total “Nay” votes – 0.

25:15

RESOLUTION NO. 525-9 A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE BID OF ROBERT ROBERTS, LLC FOR THE JUVENILE COURT ADDITION PROJECT AMOUNTING TO \$2,152,964.00, FOR HAMILTON COUNTY JUVENILE COURT AND AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY MAYOR TO SIGN ANY CONTRACTS NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THIS RESOLUTION.

Commissioner Baker, Member of the Finance Committee, provided details regarding Resolution No. 525-9 and stated the Finance Committee reviewed and recommended approval.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Beck, seconded by Commissioner Graham, to adopt Resolution No. 525-9.

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There were no questions from the 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, “Aye,” Commissioner Chauncey, “Aye,” Commissioner Graham, “Aye,” Commissioner Helton, “Aye,” Commissioner Highlander, “Aye,” Commissioner Mackey, “Aye,” Commissioner Sharpe, “Aye,” Commissioner Shipley, “Aye,” and Chairman Eversole, “Aye.” Commissioner Smith was absent. Total present – 10. Total absent – 1. Total “Aye” votes – 10. Total “Nay” votes – 0.

26:21 **RESOLUTION NO. 525-10 A RESOLUTION APPROVING A SOFTWARE SUPPORT AND MAINTENANCE CONTRACT FROM ESRI, INC., FOR ONE (1) YEAR, BEGINNING JUNE 9, 2025, THROUGH JUNE 8, 2026, FOR THE GEOSPATIAL TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT AMOUNTING TO \$116,025.00, AND AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY MAYOR TO SIGN ANY CONTRACTS NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THIS RESOLUTION.**

Commissioner Baker, Member of the Finance Committee, provided details regarding Resolution No. 525-10 and stated the Finance Committee reviewed and recommended approval.

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ON MOTION of Commissioner Graham, seconded by Commissioner Beck, to adopt Resolution No. 525-10.

There were no questions from the 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, “Aye,” Commissioner Chauncey, “Aye,” Commissioner Graham, “Aye,” Commissioner Helton, “Aye,” Commissioner Highlander, “Aye,” Commissioner Mackey, “Aye,” Commissioner Sharpe, “Aye,” Commissioner Shipley, “Aye,” and Chairman Eversole, “Aye.” Commissioner Smith was absent. Total present – 10. Total absent – 1. Total “Aye” votes – 10. Total “Nay” votes – 0.

RESOLUTION NO. 525-11 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY MAYOR TO SIGN A GRANT AGREEMENT WITH A TERM BEGINNING JULY 1, 2025, AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2026, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$201,000 WITH THE TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES.

Commissioner Baker, Member of the Finance Committee, provided details regarding Resolution No. 525-11 and stated the Finance Committee reviewed and recommended approval.

27:10

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ON MOTION of Commissioner Graham, seconded by Commissioner Shipley, to adopt Resolution No. 525-11.

There were no questions from the 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, “Aye,” Commissioner Chauncey, “Aye,” Commissioner Graham, “Aye,” Commissioner Helton, “Aye,” Commissioner Highlander, “Aye,” Commissioner Mackey, “Aye,” Commissioner Sharpe, “Aye,” Commissioner Shipley, “Aye,” and Chairman Eversole, “Aye.” Commissioner Smith was absent. Total present – 10. Total absent – 1. Total “Aye” votes – 10. Total “Nay” votes – 0.

28:06 **RESOLUTION NO. 525-13 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND HOMELAND SECURITY TO APPLY FOR AND ACCEPT IF AWARDED A 2025 NORFOLK SOUTHERN RAILROAD SAFETY FIRST GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$15,000.00 (FIFTEEN THOUSAND DOLLARS).**

Commissioner Baker, Member of the Finance Committee, provided details regarding Resolution No. 525-13 and stated the Finance Committee reviewed and recommended approval.

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ON MOTION of Commissioner Graham, seconded by Commissioner Beck, to adopt Resolution No. 525-13.

There were no questions from the 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, “Aye,” Commissioner Chauncey, “Aye,” Commissioner Graham, “Aye,” Commissioner Helton, “Aye,” Commissioner Highlander, “Aye,” Commissioner Mackey, “Aye,” Commissioner Sharpe, “Aye,” Commissioner Shipley, “Aye,” and Chairman Eversole, “Aye.” Commissioner Smith was absent. Total present – 10. Total absent – 1. Total “Aye” votes – 10. Total “Nay” votes – 0.

28:53

RESOLUTION NO. 525-14 A RESOLUTION TO PROVIDE FUNDING TO NORTH WEST UTILITY DISTRICT, BAKEWELL UTILITY DISTRICT, AND HIXSON UTILITY DISTRICT FOR FIRE HYDRANT INSTALLATION AND MAINTENANCE AMOUNTING TO A TOTAL OF \$125,000.00 FROM THE OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT, AND AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY MAYOR TO SIGN ANY CONTRACTS NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THIS RESOLUTION.

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Commissioner Baker, Member of the Finance Committee, provided details regarding Resolution No. 525-14 and stated the Finance Committee reviewed and recommended approval.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Helton, seconded by Commissioner Shipley, to adopt Resolution No. 525-14.

There were no questions from the 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, “Aye,” Commissioner Chauncey, “Aye,” Commissioner Graham, “Aye,” Commissioner Helton, “Aye,” Commissioner Highlander, “Aye,” Commissioner Mackey, “Aye,” Commissioner Sharpe, “Aye,” Commissioner Shipley, “Aye,” and Chairman Eversole, “Aye.” Commissioner Smith was absent. Total present – 10. Total absent – 1. Total “Aye” votes – 10. Total “Nay” votes – 0.

29:41

**RESOLUTION NO. 525-17 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SOUTHEAST
TENNESSEE DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT TO APPLY FOR A GRANT
ADMINISTERED BY THE TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FOR FUNDS FROM THE UNITED STATES**

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**DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT FOR DISASTER
RELIEF RELATED TO THE 2020 EASTER TORNADOES.**

Commissioner Baker, Member of the Finance Committee, provided details regarding Resolution No. 525-17 and stated the Finance Committee reviewed and recommended approval.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Graham, seconded by Commissioner Highlander, to adopt Resolution No. 525-17.

There were no questions from the 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, "Aye," Commissioner Chauncey, "Aye," Commissioner Graham, "Aye," Commissioner Helton, "Aye," Commissioner Highlander, "Aye," Commissioner Mackey, "Aye," Commissioner Sharpe, "Aye," Commissioner Shipley, "Aye," and Chairman Eversole, "Aye." Commissioner Smith was absent. Total present – 10. Total absent – 1. Total "Aye" votes – 10. Total "Nay" votes – 0.

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Without objection, Commissioner Mackey asked for Resolution Nos. 525-15 and 525-16 to be read together.

30:56

RESOLUTION NO. 525-15 A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE HIGHEST AND BEST BID FOR CERTAIN PARCELS OF PROPERTY ACQUIRED BY HAMILTON COUNTY THROUGH PREVIOUS DELINQUENT TAX SALES AND AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AND EXECUTE DEEDS CONVEYING SAID PARCELS TO INDIVIDUALS LISTED HEREIN BELOW.

RESOLUTION NO. 525-16 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY MAYOR TO EXECUTE ALL DOCUMENTS RELATIVE TO A RELEASE AND TERMINATION OF REVERSIONARY RIGHT AND RESALE PROVISION ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 2121 WILSON STREET, IDENTIFIED AS STATE TAX MAP NO. 136M-C-003, AS OWNED BY THE CITY OF CHATTANOOGA.

Commissioner Mackey, Chairman of the Delinquent Tax Property Committee, provided details regarding Resolution Nos. 525-15 and 525-16, and stated the Delinquent Tax Property Committee reviewed and recommended approval.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Mackey, seconded by Commissioner Mackey, to adopt Resolution Nos. 525-15 and 525-16.

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32:08

In response to Commissioner Graham’s question, Commissioner Mackey stated this will get all these properties back on the tax roll and generate revenue for property taxes.

There were no questions from 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, “Aye,” Commissioner Chauncey, “Aye,” Commissioner Graham, “Aye,” Commissioner Helton, “Aye,” Commissioner Highlander, “Aye,” Commissioner Mackey, “Aye,” Commissioner Sharpe, “Aye,” Commissioner Shipley, “Aye,” and Chairman Eversole, “Aye.” Commissioner Smith was absent. Total present – 10. Total absent – 1. Total “Aye” votes – 10. Total “Nay” votes – 0.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Eversole asked for announcements from members of the Commission.

33:19

Commissioner Mackey spoke about Chattanooga Boys Prep School and how they had been threatened with shutting the school down. He noted their men’s basketball team has won two state championships in a row and plans to recognize them during next week's meeting. He

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stated they are in a district where test scores are generally not that strong, but are looking good for this particular school.

34:09 Commissioner Beck recognized former District 9 Chattanooga Councilwoman Demetrius Coonrad in the audience.

34:29 Commissioner Baker recognized former District 2 Commissioner Jim Fields in the audience.

34:51 Commissioner Sharpe announced he needed to clear the air after much media attention to comments made a week ago regarding a referendum for a local sales tax increase. He noted his conversation about a referendum was not to address budgetary shortfalls. He stated a referendum for a sales tax increase would occur during a November election, when most people go to the polls, and an already scheduled election, which would be in 2026. He noted he has been discussing a local option sales tax for years to address facility needs in Hamilton County Schools. He stated this would help us to achieve the goals of having modern, safe, quality facilities across Hamilton County. He noted in no shape, form, or fashion was he suggesting having a referendum for a sales tax to satisfy budgetary needs in this budget. He also questioned if the county can afford to add another school building to our operational budget, given how tight the budget will be this year.

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40:58 Commissioner Chauncey announced the Regional Planning Commission will meet on Monday, March 12, 2025, at 1:00 PM for its regular scheduled meeting and a special plan meeting at 5:00 PM specifically for Plan Hamilton.

41:48 Commissioner Highlander spoke highly about this county's Volunteer Fire and Volunteer STARS Departments. He noted he does not know what we would do without them.

42:29 Commissioner Sharpe recognized District 6 School Board Member Ben Conner in the audience.

42:49 Commissioner Graham recognized former District 9 Chattanooga Councilwoman Demetrius Coonrad, former District 2 Commissioner Jim Fields, and Ms. Wilson in the audience. He also sent his thoughts and prayers to Commissioner Smith and his family as they go through a family situation.

43:38 Attorney Taylor stated he would bring a resolution forward next week to fix a clerical error in *Resolution No. 225-5*. He noted a mistake in the map description and parcel number and wanted to bring it to the commission's attention for the record, so it does not impede the actual conveyance.

44:17 Chairman Eversole announced Baker Donelson is conducting its audit. He asked that County staff refrain from adding to compliance until this audit is completed to see what

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recommendations it will make. Chief Operating Officer for the Mayor's Office, David Roddy, stated that any expansion relative to staff or anything in compliance is budget-related, so they will wait for a new budget for any expansion. He noted they are hopeful and expect Baker Donelson's report to contribute to that endeavor.

45:37

In response to Commissioner Graham's question, Attorney Taylor stated the property that the county conveyed to the Chattanooga Room in the Inn did have a reversionary clause on all four lots.

Commissioner Graham announced they will have a Legal Committee Meeting in the Commission Conference Room after the adjournment of the Regular Meeting.

46:24

Chairman Eversole announced Budget Hearings begin today. He stated it is going to be a tough budget year. He noted the commission has a responsibility to ensure that taxpayer money is spent correctly. He stated he does not agree with any tax increase and believes it is the wrong direction. He also noted that charging people more does not fix problems because the general public works hard for their money daily.

48:11

In response to Commissioner Mackey's question, Chairman Eversole stated he has always seen a budget for the county. He noted it is the commission's role and responsibility to ensure that county funding is spent in the right direction and goes where it needs to go, no matter whose district it is.

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DELEGATIONS

Chairman Eversole asked for delegations on matters other than zoning.

49:24 Sabrina Daniels, residing at 4410 Maryland Drive, spoke about decisions regarding budget concerns for the Hamilton County Department of Education (HCDE). A copy of her handout has been filed in the Clerk's Office.

53:00 Josh Branum, the Government Affairs Director for the Real Estate Association, who has an office at 2963 Amnicola Highway, introduced Jakamo Gunnison, the 2025 Chairman of the scholarship committee for Greater Chattanooga Realtors. Mr. Gunnison stated the committee was established to give realtors a meaningful way to give back to the community since the program's launch in 2022. They have awarded \$32,500.00 in scholarships supporting incoming first-year college students pursuing higher education at accredited universities or trade schools.

55:16 Commissioner Highlander thanked the realtors for everything they do for young people and for their support for education.

55:43 Commissioner Shipley congratulated everyone receiving a scholarship from Greater Chattanooga Realtors to further their education.

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56:15 Jannelle Davis, residing at 1015 North Moore Road Apartment A, expressed her concerns about bus drivers. She stated they are not appropriately trained, and the children's lives are in danger. She noted further training is needed to protect the children in Hamilton County. She also spoke about how bus drivers are underpaid.

1:03:25 Former District 9 Chattanooga Councilwoman Demetrius Coonrad, residing at 8907 Heritage Drive, spoke about poor communities, schools, and neighbors that are constantly underresourced and chronically underfunded and often stuck in a revolving door of state takeovers and rebrands. She noted a tax increase without accountability, transparency, and targeted reinvestment is not the answer. She stated we need to stop pretending we can tax our way out of decades of intentional neglect and address the root cause of what is happening in our communities. She also spoke about a heavy influx of undocumented kids coming to our schools, which prevents a lot of students from being able to learn.

1:07:06 Commissioner Mackey advised Ms. Coonrad that he needs her to continue speaking the truth. He stated they have some things in the works and will desperately need her as a partner and a voice to be heard.

1:07:38 In response to Commissioner Sharpe's question, Ms. Coonrad stated if you are undocumented and do not have any documentation, we are told you have to allow that kid to enter into the system and cannot deny them access to be educated.

Time Code
Position

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
MAY 7, 2025**

1:09:09

Melanie Stover, a retired citizen who lives at 4620 Florida Avenue, spoke about the struggle of paying property taxes. She also discussed the disarray in the school system and the need for safety in public schools. She stated that American citizens need to be educated first. Lastly, she spoke about how cuts must be made to the Central Office of the Department of Education.

There being no further business, Chairman Eversole declared the meeting in recess until Wednesday, May 14th, 2025, at 9:30 AM.

Respectfully submitted:



William F. (Bill) Knowles, County Clerk

Approved:

05-14-25

WJK

Date

Clerk's Initials