

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
JUNE 4, 2025**

STATE OF TENNESSEE)
COUNTY OF HAMILTON)

Regular Meeting
June 4, 2025

BE IT REMEMBERED that on this 4th day of June 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: --

0:11 Present and presiding was the Honorable Jeff Eversole, 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 Joe Graham, Commissioner Lee Helton, Commissioner Steve Highlander, Commissioner Warren Mackey, Commissioner David Sharpe, Commissioner Gene-o Shipley, Commissioner Ken Smith, and Chairman Jeff Eversole. Total present - 11. Total absent -0.

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

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
JUNE 4, 2025**

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.

0:27

Commissioner Baker introduced Pat Branham, Baha’l Faith Metro, to offer the invocation. Commissioner Baker led in the pledge to the flag.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

2:34

ON MOTION of Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Highlander, that the minutes of the Agenda/Regular Meeting of May 14, 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,” Commissioner Smith, “Aye,” and Chairman Eversole, “Aye.” Total present – 11. Total absent – 0. Total “Aye” votes – 11. Total “Nay” votes – 0.

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
JUNE 4, 2025**

TRUSTEE REPORT

3:05

The Trustee's Monthly and Excess Fee Report for April 2025 was submitted and made a matter of record.

3:13

**RESOLUTION NO. 625-1 A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE AND ACCEPT
APPLICATIONS FOR NOTARY PUBLIC POSITIONS AND THE BONDS AND OATHS
OF NOTARIES PREVIOUSLY ELECTED.**

ON MOTION of Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Highlander, to adopt Resolution No. 625-1.

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," Commissioner Smith, "Aye," and Chairman Eversole,

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
JUNE 4, 2025**

“Aye.” Total present – 11. Total absent – 0. Total “Aye” votes – 11. Total “Nay” votes – 0.

3:54

RESOLUTION NO. 625-2 A RESOLUTION TO APPOINT A REGULAR MEMBER TO THE HAMILTON COUNTY INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD TO FILL THE UNEXPIRED TERM OF SILVESTER HARRIS.

Chairman Eversole announced that Resolution No. 625-2 was pulled after the May 28, 2025, Agenda Preparation Session.

4:04

RESOLUTION NO. 625-3 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE HAMILTON COUNTY JUVENILE COURT TO ACCEPT A GRANT FROM THE TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH TO ESTABLISH A SAFE BABY COURT PURSUANT TO TENN. CODE ANN. 37-1-901, AND AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY MAYOR TO SIGN ANY CONTRACTS NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THIS RESOLUTION.

Commissioner Smith, Chairman of the Finance Committee, provided details regarding Resolution No. 625-3 and stated the Finance Committee reviewed and recommended approval.

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
JUNE 4, 2025**

ON MOTION of Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Baker, to adopt Resolution No. 625-3.

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," Commissioner Smith, "Aye," and Chairman Eversole, "Aye." Total present – 11. Total absent – 0. Total "Aye" votes – 11. Total "Nay" votes – 0.

4:55

RESOLUTION NO. 625-4 A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE PROPOSAL FROM VIDEORAY, LLC FOR THE PURCHASE OF A SUBMERSIBLE REMOTE OPERATED VEHICLE (ROV) AMOUNTING TO \$250,831.66 FOR THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE AND AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY MAYOR TO SIGN ANY CONTRACTS NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THIS RESOLUTION.

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
JUNE 4, 2025**

Commissioner Smith, Chairman of the Finance Committee, provided details regarding Resolution No. 625-4 and stated the Finance Committee reviewed and recommended approval.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Baker, to adopt Resolution No. 625-4.

5:33

In response to Commissioner Mackey's question, Sheriff Austin Garrett stated a volunteer organization has a similar device bought off the internet.

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," Commissioner Smith, "Aye," and Chairman Eversole, "Aye." Total present – 11. Total absent – 0. Total "Aye" votes – 11. Total "Nay" votes – 0.

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
JUNE 4, 2025**

6:45

RESOLUTION NO. 625-5 A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE COUNTY MAYOR TO INCREASE THE DESIGN CONTRACT WITH TINKER MA, LLC (FORMERLY ARTECH DESIGN GROUP, INC.) TO INCLUDE REIMBURSABLE EXPENSES FOR DESIGN OF THE NEW FORENSIC CENTER FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$22,500.00.

Commissioner Smith, Chairman of the Finance Committee, provided details regarding Resolution No. 625-5 and stated the Finance Committee reviewed and recommended approval.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Graham, to adopt Resolution No. 625-5.

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," Commissioner Smith, "Aye," and Chairman Eversole,

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
JUNE 4, 2025**

“Aye.” Total present – 11. Total absent – 0. Total “Aye” votes – 11. Total “Nay” votes – 0.

7:20

RESOLUTION NO. 625-6 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AND EXECUTE A LEASE AGREEMENT BETWEEN HAMILTON COUNTY AND THE FORGOTTEN CHILD FUND FOR OFFICE AND STORAGE SPACE LOCATED AT THE HARRISON RECREATION CENTER AT 5637 HIGHWAY TN-58, CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE.

Commissioner Helton, Chairman of the Building and Economic Development Committee, provided details regarding Resolution No. 625-5 and stated the Building and Economic Development Committee reviewed and recommended approval.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Highlander, seconded by Commissioner Smith, to adopt Resolution No. 625-6.

8:14

In response to Commissioner Graham’s question, Administrator of Public Works and County Engineer Todd Leamon stated he will update the commission on how the process works so they can utilize it in the future.

8:34

Commissioner Sharpe stated this project continues to evolve. He noted this may affect various school populations differently than what was originally attended. He

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
JUNE 4, 2025**

stated some schools in the Hixson area are experiencing substantial growth and crowding issues, and would like an update. He noted there have been conversations suggesting the closing of the Rivermont School will not happen due to growing student body populations in schools in the Hixson area. He stated the county has neglected to address its multipurpose room, which they tried to build several years ago. He noted he wants this conversation to come back up very soon.

9:57 Commissioner Helton stated he could contact the school system and see if they could come in and give the commission an update.

10:18 Commissioner Highlander commended Commissioner Sharpe for looking out for his district and the children's best interests.

10:39 Commissioner Smith stated it would be a great idea to get an update, because there may be some different information floating around. He noted he reached out to the School Board Chairman, Joe Smith, and was told there were no conversations about keeping that school open. He stated it is a good idea to ensure everyone is on the same page.

There were no questions from the audience.

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
JUNE 4, 2025**

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," Commissioner Smith, "Aye," and Chairman Eversole, "Aye." Total present – 11. Total absent – 0. Total "Aye" votes – 11. Total "Nay" votes – 0.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Eversole asked for announcements from members of the Commission.

11:31

Commissioner Shipley announced District 1 will hold a Plan Hamilton Meeting on Monday night, June 9, 2025, for the Sale Creek and Bakewell areas. He stated he is fortunate to have low density in his area since there is no sewer, but knows what decentralized systems can do. He also spoke about Commissioner Sharpe speaking on overpopulated schools and stated he has one school with good capacity, and the rest are getting to the limit. He noted the Plan Hamilton process will start next week. He cautioned everyone that they would build schools and buy portable buildings to place students in. He stated he hopes that when discussing Plan Hamilton next week,

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
JUNE 4, 2025**

everyone will look at it in a manner that keeps growth going, but also with enough infrastructure to keep our schools in a decent working manner. He also wished his wife a Happy 70th Birthday and said she received good news yesterday.

At this time, several Commissioners wished Commissioner Shipley's wife a happy birthday and expressed excitement about the good news she received.

14:22 Commissioner Baker announced he will hold a meeting on June 17, 2025, on Plan Hamilton. He noted they will discuss coal mine shafts on Signal Mountain. He thanked the Executive Director of Chattanooga-Hamilton County Regional Planning Agency, Dan Reuter, for his patience during this entire process.

16:05 Commissioner Smith thanked Mr. Kirk for his continued involvement in our community. He stated he invited a recent graduate from Hixson High School to the meeting and is always ensuring we have opportunities for our youth to be engaged around the community and in our civil process.

16:59 Commissioner Helton welcomed his friend, Jerry Peterson, to the County Commission meeting.

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
JUNE 4, 2025**

17:23 Commissioner Highlander recognized District 1 School Board member Steve Slater and District 9 School Board member Gary Kuehn in the audience. He also commended Commissioner Shipley for looking at the cost of growth.

18:12 Commissioner Graham welcomed his friend, Hugh Marrow, to the County Commission meeting.

18:35 Mayor Wamp announced the State Legislative Delegation will be at the Riverfront with Governor Lee at 9:30 AM, June 5th, 2025, to announce the state's investment in the riverfront. He stated it is going to be an exciting day for our community. He announced a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Birchwood Community Center will take place Saturday, June 7, 2025, at 11:00 AM. He commended the Parks and Recreation Department Director Matt Folz and his team for their fantastic job with this project. He also wanted to clarify the rumor about the school being in the design phase in Hixson. He stated that it is just a rumor with no truth. He noted the plans for Rivermont closing and entering a brand new school are just as they have been.

20:41 Chairman Eversole congratulated the Highway 58 Fire Department on its 50th anniversary. He stated our firefighters do a remarkable job and that it takes a special person to be a volunteer firefighter. He reminded everyone that the General County Government budget hearing will start after the adjournment of today's Regular Meeting.

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
JUNE 4, 2025**

He stated the purpose of the budget hearings is to help everyone work together to find answers and achieve common goals.

DELEGATIONS

Chairman Eversole asked for delegations on matters other than zoning.

25:40

In response to Gerald Peterson's questions, Ken Smith, Chairman of the Finance Committee, stated there will be no public comment during the Budget Hearing.

Chairman Smith encouraged Mr. Peterson to make his budget comments during today's delegations. Mr. Peterson, residing at 1019 Central Drive, spoke about President Trump's efforts to reduce the size of government and would like the commission or the county to do the same. He also spoke about eliminating nonprofit organizations, term limits on commissioners, and eliminating how the dog pound is operated.

28:30

Glenda Pappu, residing in Birchwood, thanked the commission for reviewing all the budgets. He encouraged all commissioners to ask the hard questions during this process. She noted the people in Hamilton County want accountability for the citizens' tax dollars.

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
JUNE 4, 2025**

There being no further business, Chairman Eversole declared the meeting in recess until Wednesday, June 11th, 2025, at 9:30 AM.

Respectfully submitted:



William F. (Bill) Knowles, County Clerk

Approved:

06-18-25

W.F.K.

Date

Clerk's Initials