

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
JULY 2, 2025**

STATE OF TENNESSEE)
COUNTY OF HAMILTON)

Regular Meeting
July 2, 2025

BE IT REMEMBERED that on this 2nd day of July 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: --

0:15 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 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.

0:33 Commissioner Highlander introduced Dr. Doug Plumlee, Ridgedale Baptist Church, to offer the invocation. Commissioner Highlander led in the pledge to the flag.

3:52 Chairman Eversole stated for almost thirty years, the commission has acknowledged one specific county attorney. He noted that with the beginning of a new decade, we have a new county attorney. He welcomed Attorney Janie Varnell to the team.

4:18 Attorney Varnell stated she was very excited to introduce part of her team to everyone. She noted Deputy County Attorney Tim Clark was present for last week's meeting and will officially start Monday. She introduced Attorney Paige Evatt, who will be a staff attorney and a fiery litigator who comes to the county having worked for Legal Aid of East Tennessee for a very long time and chaired their pro bono department. She introduced Heather Elmore as the Legal Administrative Services Manager and Zack Yanez, a former Assistant City Attorney. She stated they are all very excited to get started.

6:48 At this time, the County Attorney staff shook hands with the commissioners.

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Chairman Eversole thanked Attorney Varnell for introducing her team to everyone.

8:03 Chairman Eversole announced the commission will have direct emails for the first time in history. He noted the previous email addresses went to the Commission Office, and emails on the weekends would have to wait until Monday to get replied to, so this is very exciting for commissioners and their constituents. He noted the new emails will start on July 3, 2025.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

8:59 **ON MOTION** of Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Baker, that the minutes of the Recessed Meeting of June 11, 2025, the Agenda Preparation Session of June 11, 2025, and the Regular Meeting of June 18, 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.

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TRUSTEE REPORT

9:30

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

ORDER OF REAPPOINTMENT

An order reappointing Rebecca Hunter to the Hixson Utility District Board of Commissioners.

9:38

RESOLUTION NO. 725-1 A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE AND ACCEPT APPLICATIONS FOR NOTARY PUBLIC POSITIONS, THE BONDS AND OATHS OF NOTARIES PREVIOUSLY ELECTED, AND THE OATHS OF DEPUTY SHERIFFS.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Baker, seconded by Commissioner Highlander, to adopt Resolution No. 725-1.

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:

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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.

10:12 **RESOLUTION NO. 725-2 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE REAPPOINTMENT OF MARY K. ROBERTS AND THE APPOINTMENT OF DR. ANDREW DENNEY TO THE HAMILTON COUNTY COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS ADVISORY BOARD FOR A TERM ENDING JULY 7, 2027.**

ON MOTION of Commissioner Highlander, seconded by Commissioner Baker, to adopt Resolution No. 725-2.

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

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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.

10:55

**RESOLUTION NO. 725-3 A RESOLUTION TO CONFIRM THE APPOINTMENTS OF
DR. DEREK ANDERSON AND ANGEL MOORE, AND THE REAPPOINTMENTS OF
TERRY TOPPING, DR. MICHELE PICKETT, SEAN RICHARDS, AND MANNY RICO
TO THE HAMILTON COUNTY REGIONAL HEALTH COUNCIL.**

ON MOTION of Commissioner Beck, seconded by Commissioner Highlander, to
adopt Resolution No. 725-3.

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,”

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

11:41

RESOLUTION NO. 725-4 A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE DONATION OF A 2005 FREIGHTLINER MT-55 MOBILE COMMAND CENTER FROM WILLIAM MILLER FAMILY, LLC, 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. 725-4 and stated the Finance Committee reviewed and recommended approval.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Baker, to adopt Resolution No. 725-4.

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,

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“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.

12:22 **RESOLUTION NO. 725-5 A RESOLUTION TO APPROPRIATE A TOTAL OF \$25,000 OF UNRESTRICTED DISTRIBUTOR OPIOID SETTLEMENTS TO THE DOWNTOWN CHATTANOOGA ALLIANCE TO SUPPORT THE HOMEWARD BOUND PROGRAM AND TO AMEND THE FISCAL YEAR 2026 GENERAL FUND REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES OF THE OPIOID ABATEMENT SETTLEMENTS ACCORDINGLY.**

Commissioner Smith, Chairman of the Finance Committee, provided details regarding Resolution No. 725-5 and stated the Finance Committee reviewed and recommended approval.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Shipley, to adopt Resolution No. 725-5.

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

13:11

RESOLUTION NO. 725-6 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY MAYOR TO APPLY TO THE TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (TDOT) AND ACCEPT A LITTER PREVENTION AND TRASH COLLECTION GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$127,400 WITH A CONTRACT PERIOD BEGINNING JULY 1, 2025, AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2026.

Commissioner Smith, Chairman of the Finance Committee, provided details regarding Resolution No. 725-6 and stated the Finance Committee reviewed and recommended approval.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Highlander, to adopt Resolution No. 725-6.

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

13:57

**RESOLUTION NO. 725-7 A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE BID OF
LUMBERJACKS TREE SERVICE FOR ONE (1) YEAR CONTRACT UNIT PRICING,
WITH THE OPTION TO RENEW FOR (3) ADDITIONAL ONE (1) YEAR TERMS,
BEGINNING JULY 15, 2025 THROUGH JULY 14, 2026, FOR TREE TRIMMING AND
REMOVAL SERVICES FOR VARIOUS COUNTY DEPARTMENTS AND
AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY MAYOR TO SIGN ANY CONTRACTS NECESSARY
TO IMPLEMENT THIS RESOLUTION.**

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Commissioner Smith, Chairman of the Finance Committee, provided details regarding Resolution No. 725-7 and stated the Finance Committee reviewed and recommended approval.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Beck, to adopt Resolution No. 725-7.

14:40

In response to Commissioner Mackey's question, Administrator of Public Works and County Engineer Todd Leamon stated there was a new public bid process after the previous contract expired, and Lumberjacks Tree Service was the best response.

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.

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15:50 **RESOLUTION NO. 725-8 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY MAYOR TO ACCEPT A TENNESSEE YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM (YEP) GRANT FROM THE TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$248,113, REQUIRING NO MATCH, AND TO AMEND THE OFFICE OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT'S FY26 REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES BUDGET.**

Commissioner Smith, Chairman of the Finance Committee, provided details regarding Resolution No. 725-8 and stated the Finance Committee reviewed and recommended approval.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Beck, to adopt Resolution No. 725-8.

16:30 Commissioner Highlander stated he is very thankful the county is participating in a fantastic program for young people.

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," 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.

17:11

Commissioner Shipley announced the Soddy Daisy Fireworks Celebration will occur on Saturday, July 5, 2025. He stated the celebration will include a car show, vendors, live music, a veterans ceremony, and fireworks. He noted the live music will start at 4:00 PM and fireworks will begin at 10:00 PM.

18:06

Commissioner Baker stated the June 26, 2025, audit committee report has been distributed. He also shared his experience officiating his niece's wedding in Creed, Colorado.

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19:15 Commissioner Highlander wished everyone a Happy Independence Day.

19:48 Commissioner Graham announced Lookout Valley's 18th annual fireworks display will take place July 4, 2025, at the John A Patton Community Center. He thanked the businesses in Lookout Valley that have donated everything for the celebration. He also expressed his condolences to the Hailey family on Lookout Mountain after the passing of Commissioner Joe Hailey's wife.

21:08 Chief Deputy County Clerk Brooke Weaver requested a copy of the June 26, 2025, audit committee report.

Chairman Eversole stated that Collegedale will have a huge 4th of July Celebration tomorrow, including a pie-eating contest and fireworks.

DELEGATIONS

Chairman Eversole asked for delegations on matters other than zoning.

22:11 Hamilton County Trustee Bill Hullander wished everyone a Happy 4th of July. He stated July is National Beef Month nationwide. He noted Tennessee raises 1.6 million cows with an income of \$5.2 billion, and in Hamilton County, those cows are in A-1 Zoning.

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

Respectfully submitted:



William F. (Bill) Knowles, County Clerk

Approved:

07-16-25

W.F.K.

Date

Clerk's Initials