

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 3, 2025**

**STATE OF TENNESSEE**            )  
**COUNTY OF HAMILTON**        )

Regular Meeting  
September 3, 2025

**BE IT REMEMBERED** that on this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of September 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: --

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, 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.

:40

Commissioner Sharpe introduced Jason Gattis, First-Centenary United Methodist Church, to offer the invocation. Commissioner Sharpe led the pledge to the flag.

**ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND CHAIRMAN PRO TEMPORE OF THE HAMILTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS.**

2:07

Chairman Eversole read a statement into the record on holding the election of the Chairman and Chair Pro Tempore positions. He stated, in accordance with the Commission Rules of Order and pursuant to TCA 5-5-103, this County Legislative Body, at its first session on or after September 1 of each year, shall elect a Chair and Chair Pro Tempore.

If more than one (1) Commissioner is submitted for consideration, the commission will vote, by roll-call, with each commissioner stating the name of their choice when the clerk calls the respective commissioner's name.

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If no more than two (2) commissioners are nominated, and no nominee receives six (6) votes on the first (1<sup>st</sup>) ballot, then the lowest vote getter will be eliminated, and a second (2<sup>nd</sup>) Ballot will be cast considering only the remaining nominees. In other words, "Low Person Out".

The same procedure will continue until we have one (1) nominee receiving the necessary six (6) votes. TCA 5-5-109(a)

Chairman Eversole opened the floor for nominations to elect a Chairman for the ensuing year.

Commissioner Highlander nominated Commissioner Smith.

Chairman Eversole asked if there were any other nominations. There were none.

Chairman Eversole stated Commissioner Smith was elected Chairman by acclamation.

4:19

At this time, a round of applause was given.

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Chairman Eversole opened the floor for nominations to elect a Chairman Pro Tempore.

Commissioner Chauncey nominated Commissioner Helton.

Chairman Eversole stated Commissioner Helton was elected Chairman Pro Tempore by acclamation.

5:16 At this time, a round of applause was given.

**OATH OF OFFICE FOR CHAIRMAN AND CHAIRMAN PRO TEMPORE OF THE  
HAMILTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

6:08 General Sessions Court Judge Christie Mahn Sell administered the Oath of  
Office for Commission Chairman to Commissioner Ken Smith; she also administered  
7:47 the Oath of Office for Commission Chairman Pro Tempore to Commissioner Lee Helton.

9:30 Chairman Smith thanked his colleagues for electing him and stated it is a  
tremendous honor to be elected as Chairman. He noted he will serve his role to the best  
of his ability. He also thanked his wife, Cinnamon Smith, former Councilman Darrin  
Ledford, District 1 Councilman Chip Henderson, District 7 Councilwoman Marvene Noel,  
and District 7 Councilwoman Raquetta Dotley in the audience for attending the meeting.

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10:56 Commissioner Helton thanked the commissioners for their trust and support in electing him to his position as Chairman Pro Tempore.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

11:24 **ON MOTION** of Commissioner Baker, seconded by Commissioner Highlander, that the minutes of the Recessed Meeting of August 13, 2025, the Agenda Preparation Session of August 13, 2025, and the Regular Meeting of August 20, 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, "Aya," 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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12:11 **RESOLUTION NO. 925-1 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. 925-1.

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 Eversole, "Aya," 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.

Without objection, Chairman Smith asked for Resolution Nos. 925-2 through 925-  
5 and 925-9 to be read together.

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13:03

**RESOLUTION NO. 925-2 A RESOLUTION MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO  
BAKEWELL COMMUNITY CENTER IN THE AMOUNT OF ONE THOUSAND  
DOLLARS (\$1,000.00) FROM GENERAL FUND TRAVEL DISCRETIONARY  
MONIES, AS ALLOTTED TO DISTRICT ONE.**

**RESOLUTION NO. 925-3 A RESOLUTION MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO  
CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL IN THE AMOUNT OF FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS  
(\$500.00) FROM GENERAL FUND TRAVEL DISCRETIONARY MONIES, AS  
ALLOTTED TO DISTRICT TEN.**

**RESOLUTION NO. 925-4 A RESOLUTION MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO  
CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL IN THE AMOUNT OF FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS  
(\$500.00) FROM GENERAL FUND TRAVEL DISCRETIONARY MONIES, AS  
ALLOTTED TO DISTRICT NINE.**

**RESOLUTION NO. 925-5 A RESOLUTION MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO THE  
SODDY DAISY & MONTLAKE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION IN THE AMOUNT OF  
ONE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$1,500.00) FROM GENERAL FUND  
TRAVEL DISCRETIONARY MONIES, AS ALLOTTED TO DISTRICT ONE.**

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**RESOLUTION NO. 925-9 A RESOLUTION MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO  
CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL IN THE AMOUNT OF FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS  
(\$500.00) FROM GENERAL FUND TRAVEL DISCRETIONARY MONIES, AS  
ALLOTTED TO DISTRICT EIGHT.**

**ON MOTION** of Commissioner Mackey, seconded by Commissioner Beck, to  
adopt Resolution Nos. 925-2 through 925-5 and 925-9.

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 Eversole, "Aya," 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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14:39

**RESOLUTION NO. 925-6 A RESOLUTION TO REAPPOINT TWO (2) MEMBERS TO THE HAMILTON COUNTY INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD TO SERVE A SIX (6) YEAR TERM BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 3, 2025, AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 3, 2031.**

**ON MOTION** of Commissioner Graham, seconded by Commissioner Beck, to adopt Resolution No. 925-6.

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 Eversole, "Aya," 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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15:46

**RESOLUTION NO. 925-7 A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE ANNUAL RENEWAL OF MICROSOFT OFFICE LICENSES FROM INSIGHT PUBLIC SECTOR FROM THE NASPO VALUEPOINT PURCHASING COOPERATIVE AMOUNTING TO \$150,731.92 FOR THE HAMILTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE, AND AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY MAYOR TO SIGN ANY CONTRACTS NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THIS RESOLUTION.**

Commissioner Mackey, Member of the Finance Committee, provided details regarding Resolution No. 925-7 and stated the Finance Committee reviewed and recommended approval.

**ON MOTION** of Commissioner Mackey, seconded by Commissioner Highlander, to adopt Resolution No. 925-7.

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 Eversole, "Aya," 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.

16:54

**RESOLUTION NO. 925-8 A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE FIRM OF FRANKLIN ASSOCIATES ARCHITECTS, INC. FOR DESIGN OF THE HOWARD SCHOOL INDOOR SPORTS PRACTICE FACILITY.**

Commissioner Helton, Chairman of the Building and Economic Development Committee, provided details regarding Resolution No. 925-8 and stated the Building and Economic Development Committee reviewed and recommended approval.

**ON MOTION** of Commissioner Graham, seconded by Commissioner Shipley, to adopt Resolution No. 925-8.

17:33

In response to Commissioner Sharpe’s question, Administrator of Public Works and County Engineering, Todd Leamon, stated there were some allocations of funds in the South Broad. He noted there was an agreement that dictated some improvements at the Howard School.

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In response to Commissioner Sharpe's question, Chief Financial Officer Lee Brouner stated the majority of funds will come from the 2020 bond fund. He noted the funds had been set aside for the project and were assigned by the mayor, with discussion from the commission on how the funds would be spent.

In response to Lee Brouner's statement, Commissioner Sharpe stated he fully supported the project but was under the impression that the South Broad would pay for it. He did not realize the money would come from bond funds.

In response to Commissioner Sharpe's statement, Mr. Brouner stated the funds came with the negotiations and terms within the South Broad TIF agreement. He noted one of the county's obligations was to put capital into Howard School and the surrounding school areas. He stated the city would put an equal amount of funding into roads around the state project.

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.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chairman Smith asked for announcements from members of the Commission.

20:02

Commissioner Shipley stated he would like to speak to the Hamilton County Auditor, Chris McCullough, and publicly apologize for the way he handled his announcements in the previous week’s commission meeting. Commissioner Shipley stated he believed Mr. McCullough, along with himself, could have handled the situation better, but he acknowledged that Mr. McCullough was only doing his job. He also noted the commissioners would be working alongside the auditor for another full year, and would like to work cohesively.

21:34

Commissioner Mackey stated he was looking forward to working with Chairman Smith and Commissioner Helton. He noted he planned to make the commissioners’ mission even more effective.

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21:57 Commissioner Sharpe congratulated Chairman Smith and Vice Chair Helton on their new positions. He noted he was excited about projects on the agenda that were approved for several millions of dollars. He stated new methods needed to be explored for funding education and educational facilities-related projects in Hamilton County. With regard to a local option sales tax, Commissioner Sharpe noted \$1.8 billion of other people's money that was spent in Hamilton County through tourism would equate to \$9 million in revenue for the Hamilton County government. He stated he would like to hear more conversation about using tax revenue to address facility needs in our county schools on an annual basis.

24:46 Commissioner Highlander stated he would like to congratulate their new leaders and offered his support to help Chairman Smith and Vice Chair Helton in their new roles. He noted his appreciation towards Commissioner Shipley for publicly apologizing to the Hamilton County Auditor, Chris McCullough. He also stated the Fund for Excellence is doing a school coupon book fundraiser, the books are \$15, and \$10 of the revenue from each book goes directly to the school it is sold for, as well as to our school's state funding. He noted he would like to see the community support our county's schools through coupon books. He stated the books will be available for purchase from September 5, 2025, through September 22, 2025.

26:34 Commissioner Eversole congratulated Chairman Smith and Vice Chair Helton on their new roles. He announced American Legion Post 257 in Collegedale is having its

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“Be the One” initiative to support veteran suicide awareness and prevention. He noted the event is a 2.2-mile walk or run that will take place at Collegedale Veterans Park on Saturday, September 6, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.

27:18

Commissioner Graham congratulated Chairman Smith and Vice Chair Helton on being elected to their positions. He thanked Commissioner Eversole for his leadership as chairman for the previous two years. He noted his appreciation for District 1 Councilman Chip Henderson, District 8 Councilwoman Marvene Noel, District 7 Councilwoman Raquetta Dotley, Hamilton County Republican Party Chair Gail Greene, and Hamilton County Republican Party Secretary Anne Lowery for attending the meeting. He also stated Commissioner Helton arranged a pancake breakfast to raise funds for a young family that had experienced a tragedy, as well as for East Lake High School, which was in need of football equipment. He thanked Commissioner Helton for all that he accomplished through the pancake breakfasts.

29:18

Mayor Wamp congratulated Chairman Smith and Vice Chair Helton for their new roles.

29:42

Commissioner Graham announced a legal committee meeting will take place next week after the commission meeting. He noted he will still be leading the meeting.

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30:04

Chairman Smith stated he was appreciative of the legislative body and everyone present in the meeting for allowing him to serve as the chairman. He thanked Commissioner Eversole for his two-year service as chairman. He also acknowledged District 1 Hamilton County School Board member, Steve Slater, in the audience.

**DELEGATIONS**

32:02

Chairman Smith asked for delegations on matters other than zoning. There were none.

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There being no further business, Chairman Smith declared the meeting in recess until Wednesday, September 10, 2025, at 9:30 AM.

Respectfully submitted:



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William F. (Bill) Knowles, County Clerk

Approved:

09-17-25     WJK

Date                      Clerk's Initials