

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
SEPTEMBER 17, 2025**

STATE OF TENNESSEE) Regular Meeting
COUNTY OF HAMILTON) September 17, 2025

BE IT REMEMBERED that on this 17th 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 Ken Smith, Chairman. County Clerk Bill Knowles called the roll of the County Commission, and the following, constituting a quorum, answered to their names: 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. Commissioner Chip Baker and Commissioner Greg Beck were absent. Total present – 9. Total absent - 2.

Also in attendance were members of County Mayor Weston Wamp’s 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.

:56 Commissioner Sharpe introduced Pastor Scotty McCurdy, Church of the Highlands, to offer the invocation. Commissioner Sharpe led the pledge to the flag.

PRESENTATION – PROCLAMATION HONORING JOHN GEORGE SPARKS

3:18 Hamilton County Historian Linda Moss-Mines discussed the commemoration of Constitution Day. She highlighted the significance of the United States Constitution and its role in establishing the system of government. She stated the United States Constitution, serving as the supreme law of the land, creates a system where the power rests with the people. She noted Article 1 of the United States Constitution rests the majority of the power with the legislative branch, which operates closest to the people. Additionally, she stated the United States Constitution is both the shortest written and longest-utilized constitution in the history of the world.

5:40 Bill Norton, Chairman of the Chattanooga Area Veterans Council, spoke about the upcoming American Prisoners of War (POW)/Missing in Action (MIA) Recognition Day event. He informed the audience of the Chattanooga Area Veterans Council's efforts to ensure POWs are returned and MIAs are accounted for. Additionally, he stated the council flies the POW/MIA flag to serve as a constant reminder that so many

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members of military families have not been accounted for. Following his explanation, he introduced John George Sparks to the audience, who he stated was an MIA and later became a POW for five years.

9:01 At this time, Deputy County Clerk Jennifer Smith read the proclamation honoring John George Sparks into the record. The Proclamation declared September 19, 2025, as John George Sparks Day in Hamilton County, Tennessee, in recognition of his courageous service as a former Prisoner of War. A copy of the Proclamation has been recorded with the Clerk's Office.

10:15 A round of applause and a standing ovation were given.

10:28 John George Sparks shared his personal experience as a former POW/MIA and recounted the challenges he faced during his time in captivity. He stated he was introduced to a national group of families of POW/MIA service members following his return home and expressed appreciation for all of the support they offered him. Additionally, he noted the National League of POW/MIA Families is a long-standing organization that supports our POWs/MIAs and stated all donations to them are welcome and greatly needed.

18:55 A round of applause and a standing ovation were given.

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19:17 Ms. Moss-Mines thanked the commission for never forgetting the importance of our history and those who stand on the line to protect our freedom, liberty, justice, and equality forever.

20:00 Commissioner Eversole stated he has a special place in his heart for veterans.

20:52 Commissioner Shipley stated he frequently works with the Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 942, in Soddy Daisy, and commended John George Sparks for his service.

Chairman Smith thanked John George Sparks for his service.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

21:30 **ON MOTION** of Commissioner Highlander, seconded by Commissioner Eversole, that the minutes of the Recessed Meeting of August 27, 2025, the Agenda Preparation Session of August 27, 2025, and the Regular Meeting of September 3, 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 Chauncey, "Aye," Commissioner Eversole, "Aye," Commissioner Graham, "Aye," Commissioner Helton, "Aye," Commissioner Highlander, "Aye,"

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Commissioner Mackey, “Aye,” Commissioner Sharpe, “Aye,” Commissioner Shipley, “Aye,” and Chairman Smith, “Aye.” Commissioner Baker and Commissioner Beck were absent. Total present – 9. Total absent – 2. Total “Aye” votes – 9. Total “Nay” votes – 0.

TRUSTEE UNAUDITED FINANCIALS FOR FY 2025

22:12

The Trustee’s Unaudited Financial Reports for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, were submitted and made a matter of record.

ORDER OF REAPPOINTMENT REPORT

An order appointing Craig Curtis as a Commissioner to the Savannah Valley Utility District Board of Commissioners, with a term beginning September 16, 2025, and expiring September 16, 2029.

22:18

RESOLUTION NO. 925-10 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 THE OATHS OF CHAIRMAN AND CHAIRMAN PRO TEMPORE OF THE HAMILTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS.

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ON MOTION of Commissioner Eversole, seconded by Commissioner Highlander, to adopt Resolution No. 925-10.

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 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." Commissioner Baker and Commissioner Beck were absent. Total present – 9. Total absent – 2. Total "Aye" votes – 9. Total "Nay" votes – 0.

Without objection, Chairman Smith asked for Resolution Nos. 925-11 and 925-12 to be read together.

**RESOLUTION NO. 925-11 A RESOLUTION TO REAPPOINT THREE (3) MEMBERS
TO THE EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS.**

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**RESOLUTION NO. 925-12 A RESOLUTION TO CONFIRM THE APPOINTMENT OF
STEPHANIE HUSKINS TO THE HAMILTON COUNTY REGIONAL HEALTH
COUNCIL.**

ON MOTION of Commissioner Graham, seconded by Commissioner Highlander,
to adopt Resolution Nos. 925-11 and 925-12.

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 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." Commissioner Baker and Commissioner Beck were absent. Total present – 9. Total absent – 2. Total "Aye" votes – 9. Total "Nay" votes – 0.

**RESOLUTION NO. 925-13 A RESOLUTION TO REAPPOINT THREE (3) MEMBERS
TO THE HAMILTON COUNTY EMPLOYEE APPEALS BOARD FOR A TWO (2)**

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YEAR TERM BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 17, 2025, AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 17, 2027.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Highlander, seconded by Commissioner Shipley, to adopt Resolution No. 925-13.

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 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." Commissioner Baker and Commissioner Beck were absent. Total present – 9. Total absent – 2. Total "Aye" votes – 9. Total "Nay" votes – 0.

Without objection, Chairman Smith asked for Resolution Nos. 925-14 through 925-16 to be read together.

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25:00 **RESOLUTION NO. 925-14 A RESOLUTION MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO IVY ACADEMY'S SKILLERN ELEMENTARY INC. IN THE AMOUNT OF ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$1,000.00) FROM GENERAL FUND TRAVEL DISCRETIONARY MONIES, AS ALLOTTED TO DISTRICT ONE.**

RESOLUTION NO. 925-15 A RESOLUTION MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO SODDY DAISY VIETNAM VETERANS FOUNDATION IN THE AMOUNT OF ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$1,000.00) FROM GENERAL FUND TRAVEL DISCRETIONARY MONIES, AS ALLOTTED TO DISTRICT ONE.

RESOLUTION NO. 925-16 A RESOLUTION MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO UNITED COMMUNITY ACTION ALLIANCE IN THE AMOUNT OF EIGHT THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$8,000.00) FROM GENERAL FUND TRAVEL DISCRETIONARY MONIES, AS ALLOTTED TO DISTRICT FIVE.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Mackey, seconded by Commissioner Highlander, to adopt Resolution Nos. 925-14 through 925-16.

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 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." Commissioner Baker and Commissioner Beck were absent. Total present – 9. Total absent – 2. Total "Aye" votes – 9. Total "Nay" votes – 0.

RESOLUTION NO. 925-17 A RESOLUTION TO CHANGE THE TIME OF THE WEEKLY MEETINGS OF THE HAMILTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ON A TEMPORARY BASIS TO 4:00 P.M. ON WEDNESDAYS, EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 5TH, 2025 THROUGH JANUARY 7TH, 2026, IN ORDER TO PROVIDE THE PUBLIC WITH GREATER OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE OUTSIDE OF NORMAL WORKING HOURS, AND TO AMEND THE FISCAL YEAR 2026 EXPENDITURES BUDGET FOR THE GENERAL FUND BY \$48,900 FOR THE COST OF SUCH CHANGE.

Commissioner Helton, Chairman of the Legal Committee, provided details regarding Resolution No. 925-17 and stated the Legal Committee reviewed and recommended approval.

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ON MOTION of Commissioner Eversole, seconded by Commissioner Highlander, to adopt Resolution No. 925-17.

26:57

Commissioner Eversole expressed appreciation towards the legal committee for meeting and is excited about the conversations. He noted he had researched other county commission meeting schedules in Tennessee and provided commissioners with a copy of his research. A copy of the handout has been filed with the Clerk's Office.

29:01

Commissioner Helton stated representatives from most of Hamilton County government's major departments attended the Legal Committee meeting earlier this morning to discuss how the resolution would affect departments and the County budget. He noted the time change would not impose a significant financial burden on the County if it led to greater public involvement. Additionally, he stated the consensus from the Legal Committee was to temporarily change the Commission meetings to 4:00 p.m., beginning November 5, 2025, through January 7, 2026.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Helton, seconded by Commissioner Graham, to change the effective date from November 5, 2025, to January 7, 2026, on a temporary basis.

32:13

Commissioner Mackey stated he did not believe the commissioners had accounted for Hamilton County's size and complexity when comparing our commission

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meeting times to other municipalities' schedules. He asked the commissioners what measurements would be used to determine whether the time change was successful and should be implemented.

In response to Commissioner Mackey's question, Commissioner Helton stated he believed the primary measurement would be general public participation. He noted they would observe the numbers and assess both the Commission's and the public's response to the time change.

33:10

Commissioner Mackey expressed the importance of establishing a valid measurement to confirm whether the time change was successful in an effort to protect every tax dollar. He noted he would reluctantly support this resolution, but stated he would be watching closely to observe whether the time change improved public attendance. Additionally, he noted taxpayer funds should be saved if the time change does not improve Hamilton County's efficiency.

34:44

Commissioner Helton stated he would appreciate Commissioner Mackey's assistance in building a measurable way to monitor the temporary time change's success.

35:15

Commissioner Sharpe thanked Commissioner Eversole for bringing Resolution No. 925-17. He stated he was pleased to obtain live streaming of the commission

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meetings when he was elected in 2018 and noted accessibility and openness in government are critically important. He advised the commissioners to use caution when measuring participation during November and December because of the holiday season and noted they may experience a greater turnout during budget season. Additionally, he stated he was frustrated when the Commission passed budgets without providing raises for Hamilton County public school teachers. He noted how a time change may bring a room full of teachers when the topic arises again and expressed his support for Resolution No. 925-17.

37:58

Commissioner Shipley stated he would support the temporary time change, but noted he did not believe 4:00 p.m. was the most efficient time. He discussed how other municipalities do not meet until 5:00 p.m. and stated many individuals will not be off from work in time to attend the meetings.

38:45

Commissioner Highlander stated he believed Commissioner Eversole selected 4:00 p.m. for the time change to accommodate churchgoers. He noted other weekdays might conflict with the City Council's afternoon meetings.

39:33

In response to Commissioner Mackey's question, Commissioner Helton stated the Commission will need to reassess the results in one month and will document potential room for improvement.

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40:39 Gary Boles, residing at 5812 Mountain Pass Drive, stated he urged the commissions to vote for Resolution No. 925-17 and noted how a time change would allow more working citizens an opportunity to participate in commission meetings. He encouraged the commissioners to listen to the public's voices when residents attend and speak at commission meetings.

43:43 Monty Bell, a homeless journalist for the Grey-Haired Fox, stated he resides at 727 East 11th Street. He noted he did not believe a 4:00 p.m. time change would make a difference unless the commissioners changed their mindsets to listen to the public's input.

46:19 Commissioner Mackey stated he would like more participation from the public in commission meetings, but noted he was worried the time change may be counterproductive due to heavy traffic around 4:00 p.m.

The foregoing Motion to amend Resolution No. 925-17 was unanimously adopted on a Roll Call vote, with the following members of the County Commission being present and voting as follows: 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." Commissioner Baker and

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Commissioner Beck were absent. Total present – 9. Total absent – 2. Total “Aye” votes – 9. Total “Nay” votes – 0.

47:10 **ON MOTION** of Commissioner Eversole, seconded by Commissioner Highlander, to adopt Resolution No. 925-17 as amended. 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 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.”

Commissioner Baker and Commissioner Beck were absent. Total present – 9. Total absent – 2. Total “Aye” votes – 9. Total “Nay” votes – 0.

RESOLUTION NO. 925-18 A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE PROPOSAL OF CIGNA TO PROVIDE VOLUNTARY DENTAL INSURANCE FOR HAMILTON COUNTY EMPLOYEES AND AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY MAYOR TO SIGN ANY CONTRACTS NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THIS RESOLUTION.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Graham, seconded by Commissioner Highlander, to adopt Resolution No. 925-18.

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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 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." Commissioner Baker and Commissioner Beck were absent. Total present – 9. Total absent – 2. Total "Aye" votes – 9. Total "Nay" votes – 0.

At this time, Chairman Smith announced Commissioner Mackey had left the meeting.

Chairman Smith stated two late items were handed out earlier today, and the County Attorney has briefed everyone on these items.

Without objection, Chairman Smith asked for Resolution Nos. 925-37 and 925-38 to be read together.

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LATE ITEM

48:58

**RESOLUTION NO. 925-37 A RESOLUTION AFFIRMING THE DECISION TO
DECLINE TO DEFEND AND INDEMNIFY MR. DANIEL WILKEY IN THE MATTER OF
MITCHELL v. WILKEY PURSUANT TO THE HAMILTON COUNTY EMPLOYEE
LIABILITY PLAN.**

**RESOLUTION NO. 925-38 A RESOLUTION AFFIRMING THE DECISION TO
DECLINE TO DEFEND AND INDEMNIFY MR. DANIEL WILKEY IN THE MATTER OF
WILSON V. WILKEY PURSUANT TO THE HAMILTON COUNTY EMPLOYEE
LIABILITY PLAN.**

ON MOTION of Commissioner Highlander, seconded by Commissioner
Chauncey, to adopt Resolution Nos. 925-37 and 925-38.

50:01

Attorney Jim Exum, who represents former Deputy Wilkey, and the International
Brotherhood of Police Officers (IBPO) stated Mr. Wilkey was covered under the
Hamilton County Employee Liability Plan during the litigation relating to the 2019
Mitchell case and was entitled to representation. He noted police officers work a
dangerous job and expect the county to have their backs, especially when they are

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sued. He encouraged the commissioners to back Hamilton County deputies and vote against Resolution Nos. 925-37 and 925-38.

There were no questions from the Commissioners.

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 Chauncey, "Aye," Commissioner Eversole, "Aye," Commissioner Graham, "Aye," Commissioner Helton, "Aye," Commissioner Highlander, "Aye," Commissioner Sharpe, "Aye," Commissioner Shipley, "Aye," and Chairman Smith, "Aye." Commissioner Baker, Commissioner Beck, and Commissioner Mackey were absent. Total present – 8. Total absent – 3. Total "Aye" votes – 8. Total "Nay" votes – 0.

**RESOLUTION NO. 925-19 A RESOLUTION TO ALLOCATE THE USE OF
PROCEEDS FROM THE 2024A BOND ISSUE OF UP TO \$500,000 FOR VARIOUS
COMMUNITY RECREATION PROJECTS.**

Commissioner Eversole, Chairman of the Finance and Budget Committee, provided details regarding Resolution No. 925-19 and stated the Finance Committee reviewed and recommended approval.

53:35

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ON MOTION of Commissioner Graham, seconded by Commissioner Shipley, to adopt Resolution No. 925-19.

54:10

Commissioner Sharpe acknowledged Red Bank City Manager Martin Granum and Red Bank Commissioner Jamie Fairbanks-Harvey in the audience. He stated Mr. Granum and Commissioner Fairbanks-Harvey had been working with the Hamilton County Director of Parks and Recreation, Matt Foltz. He noted he was excited to vote for Resolution No. 925-19 and asked Mr. Granum to speak about the project.

54:58

Red Bank City Manager Martin Granum thanked the commissioners for allowing him to speak on Red Bank's transformational project. He stated the project began with Red Bank's city commissioners being intentional and establishing goals, including 10-minute walks to the park, establishing parks and recreation services, and developing unused city-owned properties. He acknowledged Red Bank Parks and Recreation Manager, Jeffrey Grabe, in the audience and thanked him for his efforts in this project. He stated the City of Red Bank currently lacks a single publicly owned basketball court and noted the project centers around the development of a new basketball court and a surrounding park. Additionally, he stated this project will improve Red Bank's walkability score by 12% and thanked the Hamilton County Director of Parks and Recreation, Matt Foltz, for his assistance with the project.

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58:38

Commissioner Sharpe stated the process began with Commissioner Graham visiting the City of Red Bank and putting together a strategic plan. He acknowledged Commissioner Graham's data-driven strategic planning process with the elected officials in Red Bank and commended Red Bank for actively engaging the community in the decision-making process. He noted this collaborative approach exemplifies how the government is supposed to operate. He thanked Red Bank Commissioner Jamie Fairbanks-Harvey for her participation in this project.

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 Chauncey, "Aye," Commissioner Eversole, "Aye," Commissioner Graham, "Aye," Commissioner Helton, "Aye," Commissioner Highlander, "Aye," Commissioner Sharpe, "Aye," Commissioner Shipley, "Aye," and Chairman Smith, "Aye." Commissioner Baker, Commissioner Beck, and Commissioner Mackey were absent. Total present – 8. Total absent – 3. Total "Aye" votes – 8. Total "Nay" votes – 0.

Without objection, Commissioner Eversole asked for Resolution Nos. 925-20 through 925-22 to be read together.

RESOLUTION NO. 925-20 A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE BIDS OF REYNOLDS FENCE & GUARDRAIL, INC., AND ROADWAY SOLUTIONS LLC, FOR ONE (1) YEAR CONTRACT UNIT PRICING, WITH THE OPTION TO RENEW FOR THREE (3)

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ADDITIONAL ONE-YEAR TERMS, BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2025 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2026 FOR GUARDRAIL SERVICES FOR THE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT AND AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY MAYOR TO SIGN ANY CONTRACTS NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THIS RESOLUTION.

RESOLUTION NO. 925-21 A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE PROPOSAL FROM ASPHALT ZIPPER INCORPORATED FOR THE PURCHASE AND DELIVERY OF A 2024 RECLAIMER / STABILIZER MACHINE AMOUNTING TO \$324,460.00 FOR THE HAMILTON COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT AND AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY MAYOR TO SIGN ANY CONTRACTS NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THIS RESOLUTION.

RESOLUTION NO. 925-22 A RESOLUTION TO APPLY AND ACCEPT AN ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN (AMP) GRANT FROM TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION (TDEC) RESOURCE PROTECTION IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$300,000.00 REQUIRING A MATCH OF 20% (\$50,000.00) OF THE TOTAL ASK AND AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY MAYOR TO SIGN ANY CONTRACTS NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THIS RESOLUTION.

Commissioner Eversole, Chairman of the Finance and Budget Committee, provided details regarding Resolution Nos. 925-20 through 925-22, and stated the Finance Committee reviewed and recommended approval.

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ON MOTION of Commissioner Eversole, seconded by Commissioner Shipley, to adopt Resolution Nos. 925-20 through 925-22.

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 Chauncey, "Aye," Commissioner Eversole, "Aye," Commissioner Graham, "Aye," Commissioner Helton, "Aye," Commissioner Highlander, "Aye," Commissioner Sharpe, "Aye," Commissioner Shipley, "Aye," and Chairman Smith, "Aye." Commissioner Baker, Commissioner Beck, and Commissioner Mackey were absent. Total present – 8. Total absent – 3. Total "Aye" votes – 8. Total "Nay" votes – 0.

Without objection, Commissioner Eversole asked for Resolution Nos. 925-23 and 925-24 to be read together.

RESOLUTION NO. 925-23 A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE PROPOSAL FROM SLE EQUIPMENT, FOR THE PURCHASE OF A CUSTOMIZED ENCLOSED HAZMAT TRAILER AMOUNTING TO \$62,608.00 FOR THE OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY MAYOR TO SIGN ANY CONTRACTS NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THIS RESOLUTION.

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RESOLUTION NO. 925-24 A RESOLUTION TO WAIVE THE PROCUREMENT RULES AND AUTHORIZE THE COUNTY MAYOR TO RELEASE TWO CO-TITLED VEHICLES WITH HAMILTON COUNTY AND THE HAMILTON COUNTY SPECIAL TACTICS AND RESCUE SERVICES (STARS).

Commissioner Eversole, Chairman of the Finance and Budget Committee, provided details regarding Resolution Nos. 925-23 and 925-24, and stated the Finance Committee reviewed and recommended approval.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Eversole, seconded by Commissioner Graham, to adopt Resolution Nos. 925-23 and 925-24.

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 Chauncey, "Aye," Commissioner Eversole, "Aye," Commissioner Graham, "Aye," Commissioner Helton, "Aye," Commissioner Highlander, "Aye," Commissioner Sharpe, "Aye," Commissioner Shipley, "Aye," and Chairman Smith, "Aye." Commissioner Baker, Commissioner Beck, and Commissioner Mackey were absent. Total present – 8. Total absent – 3. Total "Aye" votes – 8. Total "Nay" votes – 0.

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Without objection, Commissioner Eversole asked for Resolution Nos. 925-25 through 925-27 to be read together.

1:04:18
RESOLUTION NO. 925-25 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY MAYOR ON BEHALF OF HAMILTON COUNTY, TENNESSEE, THE HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES DIVISION OPERATING AS THE HAMILTON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT TO SIGN A NONBINDING MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE CHATTANOOGA HOUSING AUTHORITY (CHA) AND THE HAMILTON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT (PEOPLE PARTNER) TO SUPPORT RESIDENTS OF THE WESTSIDE IN CONNECTION WITH THE ONE WESTSIDE CHOICE NEIGHBORHOODS IMPLEMENTATION GRANT FOR THE PERIOD OF SEPTEMBER 17, 2025 THROUGH JULY 15, 2032 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$270,556.00.

RESOLUTION NO. 925-26 A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE COUNTY MAYOR ON BEHALF OF HAMILTON COUNTY, TENNESSEE, TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT AMENDMENT BETWEEN THE HAMILTON COUNTY HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES DIVISION AND THE TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, FOR THE RAPE PREVENTION AND EDUCATION PROGRAM IN THE AMOUNT OF \$179,900 AND TO INCREASE THE EXPENDITURES AND REVENUES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$35,900 FOR THE PERIOD OF FEBRUARY 1, 2025 THROUGH JANUARY 31, 2027.

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RESOLUTION NO. 925-27 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY MAYOR ON BEHALF OF HAMILTON COUNTY, TENNESSEE, THE HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES DIVISION, OPERATING AS THE HAMILTON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT TO ACCEPT AN AMENDED CONTRACT WITH THE TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH FOR THE PROVISION OF WIC (WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN) SERVICES FOR THE TIME PERIOD OCTOBER 1, 2024 TO SEPTEMBER 30, 2027 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$6,769,462.00 AND TO DECREASE THE REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES FOR FY26 BY \$84,319.

Commissioner Eversole, Chairman of the Finance and Budget Committee, provided details regarding Resolution Nos. 925-25 through 925-27 and stated the Finance Committee reviewed and recommended approval.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Eversole, seconded by Commissioner Highlander, to adopt Resolution Nos. 925-25 through 925-27.

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 Chauncey, "Aye," Commissioner Eversole, "Aye," Commissioner

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Graham, "Aye," Commissioner Helton, "Aye," Commissioner Highlander, "Aye," Commissioner Sharpe, "Aye," Commissioner Shipley, "Aye," and Chairman Smith, "Aye." Commissioner Baker, Commissioner Beck, and Commissioner Mackey were absent. Total present – 8. Total absent – 3. Total "Aye" votes – 8. Total "Nay" votes – 0.

1:06:27

RESOLUTION NO. 925-28 A RESOLUTION TO APPLY AND ACCEPT A BROWNFIELD REDEVELOPMENT AREA GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$400,000, WITH NO MATCH REQUIRED, TO AMEND THE 2026 PARKS AND RECREATION REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES BUDGET, AND TO SIGN ANY DOCUMENTS RELATED TO THIS RESOLUTION.

Commissioner Eversole, Chairman of the Finance and Budget Committee, provided details regarding Resolution No. 925-28 and stated the Finance Committee reviewed and recommended approval.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Eversole, seconded by Commissioner Shipley, to adopt Resolution No. 925-28.

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:

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Commissioner Chauncey, “Aye,” Commissioner Eversole, “Aye,” Commissioner Graham, “Aye,” Commissioner Helton, “Aye,” Commissioner Highlander, “Aye,” Commissioner Sharpe, “Aye,” Commissioner Shipley, “Aye,” and Chairman Smith, “Aye.” Commissioner Baker, Commissioner Beck, and Commissioner Mackey were absent. Total present – 8. Total absent – 3. Total “Aye” votes – 8. Total “Nay” votes – 0.

1:07:40

RESOLUTION NO. 925-29 A RESOLUTION TO APPROPRIATE THE BALANCE OF \$27,500 FROM THE 2022 NATIONAL CENTER FOR STATE COURTS (NCSC) EVICTION DIVERSION INITIATIVE GRANT FROM THE HAMILTON COUNTY GENERAL SESSIONS GRANT TO COURT INDIGENT MEDIATION SERVICES (CIMS) AT THE CHATTANOOGA BAR ASSOCIATION (CBA) IN ORDER TO IMMEDIATELY EXPAND MEDIATION OFFERINGS FROM EVICTION COURT CASES TO QUALIFYING CASES ACROSS GENERAL SESSIONS, CHANCERY, AND CIRCUIT COURTS TO TRANSITION A SUCCESSFUL PILOT PROGRAM FROM THE COUNTY COURTS TO AN OUTSIDE NONPROFIT AGENCY.

Commissioner Eversole, Chairman of the Finance and Budget Committee, provided details regarding Resolution No. 925-29 and stated the Finance Committee reviewed and recommended approval.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Chauncey, seconded by Commissioner Highlander, to adopt Resolution No. 925-29.

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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 Chauncey, "Aye," Commissioner Eversole, "Aye," Commissioner Graham, "Aye," Commissioner Helton, "Aye," Commissioner Highlander, "Aye," Commissioner Sharpe, "Aye," Commissioner Shipley, "Aye," and Chairman Smith, "Aye." Commissioner Baker, Commissioner Beck, and Commissioner Mackey were absent. Total present – 8. Total absent – 3. Total "Aye" votes – 8. Total "Nay" votes – 0.

1:08:51

RESOLUTION NO. 925-30 A RESOLUTION TO APPROPRIATE UP TO \$135,395.83 OF HOTEL MOTEL FUNDS TOWARD ENHANCED LAW ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS IN THE CHATTANOOGA DOWNTOWN AREA, AND TO AMEND THE FISCAL YEAR 2026 GENERAL FUND REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES BUDGETS FOR THE SHERIFF, AND THE FISCAL YEAR 2026 HOTEL MOTEL EXPENDITURES BUDGET ACCORDINGLY

Commissioner Eversole, Chairman of the Finance and Budget Committee, provided details regarding Resolution No. 925-30 and stated the Finance Committee reviewed and recommended approval.

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ON MOTION of Commissioner Eversole, seconded by Commissioner Graham, to adopt Resolution No. 925-30.

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 Chauncey, "Aye," Commissioner Eversole, "Aye," Commissioner Graham, "Aye," Commissioner Helton, "Aye," Commissioner Highlander, "Aye," Commissioner Sharpe, "Aye," Commissioner Shipley, "Aye," and Chairman Smith, "Aye." Commissioner Baker, Commissioner Beck, and Commissioner Mackey were absent. Total present – 8. Total absent – 3. Total "Aye" votes – 8. Total "Nay" votes – 0.

1:09:49

RESOLUTION NO. 925-31 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE TO APPLY AND ACCEPT A GRANT FROM THE TENNESSEE CORRECTIONS INSTITUTE.

Commissioner Eversole, Chairman of the Finance and Budget Committee, provided details regarding Resolution No. 925-31 and stated the Finance Committee reviewed and recommended approval.

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ON MOTION of Commissioner Eversole, seconded by Commissioner Highlander, to adopt Resolution No. 925-31.

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 Chauncey, "Aye," Commissioner Eversole, "Aye," Commissioner Graham, "Aye," Commissioner Helton, "Aye," Commissioner Highlander, "Aye," Commissioner Sharpe, "Aye," Commissioner Shipley, "Aye," and Chairman Smith, "Aye." Commissioner Baker, Commissioner Beck, and Commissioner Mackey were absent. Total present – 8. Total absent – 3. Total "Aye" votes – 8. Total "Nay" votes – 0.

1:10:31

RESOLUTION NO. 925-32 A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE PROPOSAL FROM FLEX FINANCIAL, A DIVISION OF STRYKER SALES, LLC FOR A LEASE AGREEMENT TO PROVIDE REPLACEMENT CARDIAC MONITORS AND AUTOMATIC EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATORS, TO INCLUDE ASSOCIATED PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE, REPAIR, AND BATTERY SERVICE PLANS FOR HAMILTON COUNTY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AND AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY MAYOR TO SIGN ANY DOCUMENTS NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THIS RESOLUTION.

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Commissioner Eversole, Chairman of the Finance and Budget Committee, provided details regarding Resolution No. 925-32 and stated the Finance Committee reviewed and recommended approval.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Eversole, seconded by Commissioner Shipley, to adopt Resolution No. 925-32.

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 Chauncey, "Aye," Commissioner Eversole, "Aye," Commissioner Graham, "Aye," Commissioner Helton, "Aye," Commissioner Highlander, "Aye," Commissioner Sharpe, "Aye," Commissioner Shipley, "Aye," and Chairman Smith, "Aye." Commissioner Baker, Commissioner Beck, and Commissioner Mackey were absent. Total present – 8. Total absent – 3. Total "Aye" votes – 8. Total "Nay" votes – 0.

Without objection, Commissioner Shipley asked for Resolution Nos. 925-33 and 925-34 to be read together.

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1:11:36

RESOLUTION NO. 925-33 A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE COUNTY MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AND EXECUTE A CONTRACT WITH HK ARCHITECTS FOR PROGRAMMING SERVICES ASSOCIATED WITH DESIGN OF THE NEW HAMILTON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$80,000.00.

RESOLUTION NO. 925-34 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY MAYOR TO EXECUTE A QUITCLAIM DEED AND TO SIGN ANY NECESSARY DOCUMENTS TO CONVEY TO THE CITY OF CHATTANOOGA, HAMILTON COUNTY'S INTEREST IN FOUR (4) PARCELS JOINTLY OWNED BY HAMILTON COUNTY AND THE CITY OF CHATTANOOGA.

Commissioner Shipley, Chairman of the Building and Economic Development Committee, provided details regarding Resolution Nos. 925-33 and 925-34, and stated the Building and Economic Committee reviewed and recommended approval.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Shipley, seconded by Commissioner Eversole, to adopt Resolution Nos. 925-33 and 925-34.

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 Chauncey, "Aye," Commissioner Eversole, "Aye," Commissioner Graham, "Aye," Commissioner Helton, "Aye," Commissioner Highlander, "Aye," Commissioner Sharpe, "Aye," Commissioner Shipley, "Aye," and Chairman Smith, "Aye." Commissioner Baker, Commissioner Beck, and Commissioner Mackey were absent. Total present – 8. Total absent – 3. Total "Aye" votes – 8. Total "Nay" votes – 0.

RESOLUTION NO. 925-35 A RESOLUTION TO REZONE FROM R-2A RURAL RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT TO A-1 AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT FOR THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 2423 CEDAR CREEK DRIVE.

Resolution No. 925-35 was withdrawn by the applicant during the September 10, 2025, Zoning Committee Meeting.

RESOLUTION NO. 925-36 A RESOLUTION GRANTING A SPECIAL PERMIT FOR A HALFWAY HOUSE OR SIMILAR USE FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 2423 CEDAR CREEK DRIVE.

Resolution No. 925-36 was withdrawn by the applicant during the September 10, 2025, Zoning Committee Meeting.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Smith asked for announcements from members of the Commission.

1:13:07

Commissioner Shipley announced there will be a press conference held on Friday morning at Benjamin Park about the fishing docks and the outdoor project. He urged everyone to join.

1:13:56

Commissioner Helton thanked the commissioners for their plans to participate in his golf tournament on Friday, September 26, 2025, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. He noted the golf tournament will support the Family Justice Center, which assists survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence. Additionally, he announced the Friends of East Brainerd and Apison will be having their monthly pancake breakfast event this Saturday, September 20, 2025. He stated Pastor Macil Duncan runs the Apison Food Pantry and will be attending the event to speak about all of the good things they do.

1:14:45

Commissioner Chauncey announced East Ridge's annual fall festival will begin this Saturday, September 20, 2025. He stated the second week of the festival, on Saturday, September 27, 2025, will feature petting zoos, food trucks, and craft vendors from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Additionally, he announced Jones Memorial United Methodist Church will be hosting its 47th annual barbecue and bake sale this Saturday, September 20, 2025, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

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1:15:32 Commissioner Highlander announced the Fund for Excellence Coupon Book sale is still taking place. He stated the coupon books will be sold until September 30, 2025, for \$15, with \$10 from each sale going directly to the elementary school. He added the remaining \$5 helps fund grants for the schools. Additionally, he thanked the Parks and Recreation Department and County Mayor Weston Wamp for allowing students who participate in selling the coupon books to preview the county fair on Thursday, September 18, 2025, before it officially begins.

1:16:55 Commissioner Eversole stated the assassination of Charlie Kirk this week is not the answer to our nation's differences. He noted the stillness of a funeral reminds us of how truly valuable and precious life is. He encouraged everyone to focus on what is truly important in life.

1:18:31 Commissioner Graham expressed appreciation to Hamilton County Historian Linda Moss-Mines for her contributions to the commission meetings. Additionally, he stated that he had read in the newspaper that his dear friend, Clerk Knowles, had decided not to seek reelection. He acknowledged Clerk Knowles as a fixture of Hamilton County, noting that Clerk Knowles's department does an excellent job because of his leadership and efforts. He stated he always called on Clerk Knowles for assistance when he first entered politics and still calls on him often. He noted Clerk Knowles will answer the phone, regardless of the time or day, to provide any information needed. He stated he wanted to celebrate Clerk Knowles and Mrs. Marlene Knowles for Clerk

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Knowles's retirement. He thanked him for his 52 years of excellent service and for setting the County up for success in the future.

1:20:45 Clerk Knowles thanked Commissioner Graham and stated he has attended more commission meetings than anyone in the County.

1:21:25 Chairman Smith asked Chief Deputy County Clerk Brooke Weaver if she had received an updated copy of the committee assignments.

In response to Chairman Smith's question, Chief Deputy Weaver confirmed the Clerk's Office has received the updated committee assignments. She noted they will be filed in the Clerk's Office and added to the website.

Chairman Smith reminded the audience not to call commissioners out directly during public comments. He noted the public is encouraged to speak in the best interest of items presented before the legislative body, but stated accusations against any colleagues will not be tolerated. Additionally, he announced he read the article about Clerk Knowles's retirement with tears in his eyes. He stated the Commission will experience significant changes in Hamilton County as they sit through a new clerk for the first time in a long time. He noted he cannot imagine sitting on the dais without seeing Clerk Knowles smiling back at him or correcting him during commission meetings. He stated he will relish the remaining time they have with Clerk Knowles and

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expressed deep congratulations for Clerk Knowles and Mrs. Marlene Knowles as they move forward to enjoy their time together. Additionally, he requested Clerk Knowles thank Mrs. Marlene Knowles from the deepest part of his heart for all the time and support she has offered for 52 years of her life. He stated their political roles would not be possible without strong support at home and noted that 52 years of support is truly remarkable.

1:25:31

Clerk Knowles thanked Chairman Smith and stated Mrs. Marlene Knowles's health factored into his decision not to seek reelection. He stated he would appreciate prayers for Mrs. Knowles and thanked the commission for all they have done for the County Clerk's Office over the years.

1:26:18

Commissioner Highlander stated one of Clerk Knowles's virtues, prayer, had not yet been mentioned. He noted Mr. Knowles graciously prayed during commission meetings when they did not have a minister present. He stated it is evident Clerk Knowles prays regularly and maintains close communication with the Lord. He encouraged everyone to continue lifting Clerk Knowles and Mrs. Marlene Knowles up in prayer, acknowledging them as prayer warriors for all of the commissioners. He stated Clerk Knowles's prayers have meant a great deal to him during his time serving as a commissioner.

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1:27:05 Commissioner Sharpe stated he felt led by the Spirit to express appreciation to Clerk Knowles. He noted he has always been kind, patient, and generous with his time to help him, adding how he has witnessed him do the same for everyone in the County. He stated Clerk Knowles has experienced times in Hamilton County where a Republican could not get elected, and now serves in a time where it is difficult for a Democrat to get elected. He expressed his desire to reach a time when Republicans and Democrats can work together in a spirit of bipartisanship. He then shared a story, informing everyone of how Clerk Knowles is a part of the Sharpe household daily. He stated his family uses a campaign sign from one of Clerk Knowles's previous elections as a board for crafts, noting how the sign warmly reminds him of the Knowles family daily. He then stated Clerk Knowles and his family are in his thoughts and prayers and expressed deep appreciation for his service to our County.

1:29:50 Chairman Smith stated Clerk Knowles is one of the kindest people he has ever met. He noted he misses Clerk Knowles already and misses seeing Mrs. Marlene Knowles attending the commission meetings. He stated his service to Hamilton County, as well as Mrs. Marlene Knowles's support, is unmatched.

DELEGATIONS

Chairman Smith asked for delegations on matters other than zoning.

Time Code
Position

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1:30:48 Monty Bell, a homeless journalist for the Grey-Haired Fox, stated he resides at 727 East 11th Street. He noted his open records request has not been complied with and encouraged the commissioners to be more receptive to the public's voices.

1:34:12 Michaela Winter, residing in District 8, stated Resolution No. 925-17 is a great step forward in Hamilton County. She expressed excitement and gratitude towards the commissioners for approving a temporary time change. Additionally, she encouraged the commissioners to establish specific, measurable outcomes for the time change.

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There being no further business, Chairman Smith declared the meeting in recess until Wednesday, September 24, 2025, at 9:30 AM.

Respectfully submitted:



William F. (Bill) Knowles, County Clerk

Approved:

10-01-25 WJK

Date Clerk's Initials