

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
OCTOBER 1, 2025**

STATE OF TENNESSEE)
COUNTY OF HAMILTON)

Regular Meeting
October 1, 2025

BE IT REMEMBERED that on this 1st day of October 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: --

0:14

Present and presiding was the Honorable Ken Smith, 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 Jeff Eversole, Commissioner Joe Graham, Commissioner Lee Helton, Commissioner Warren Mackey, Commissioner David Sharpe, Commissioner Gene-o Shipley, and Chairman Ken Smith. Commissioner Mike Chauncey was absent. Commissioner Steve Highlander arrived before the invocation. Total present – 10. Total absent – 1.

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.

0:37

Commissioner Graham introduced Mia Goodwin, Baha'i Faith of Metro Church, to offer the invocation. Commissioner Graham led the pledge to the flag.

**PRESENTATION – UPDATE ON CHATTANOOGA- HAMILTON COUNTY AMERICA
250 COMMITTEE**

1:58

Hamilton County Historian Linda Moss-Mines provided an update on the Chattanooga-Hamilton County America 250 Committee and thanked the Commissioners for allowing her to serve as chair. She stated the committee is hosting a year-long program to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, noting this milestone marks the United States as the longest continuous republic in the world's history. She stated the committee will meet on the second Monday of each month from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Bessie Smith Cultural Center and encouraged all communities in Hamilton County to participate. She noted they also boarded the General in Atlanta, GA, yesterday and were accompanied by Andrew's Raiders all the way to Ringgold, GA, in the commemoration of the first Medal of Honor recipients. Additionally, she noted Chattanooga is hosting the 2025 National Medal of Honor Convention this week. A handout has been filed in the Clerk's Office.

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5:31 Commissioner Mackey thanked Ms. Moss-Mines for her presentation. He stated her words warmed his heart and noted how he hopes the Commissioners will remember Benjamin Franklin's comment, saying, "We have a republic as long as we can keep it."

6:22 Commissioner Highlander thanked Ms. Moss-Mines for her exemplary service to the community.

7:02 Commissioner Sharpe expressed appreciation for Ms. Moss-Mines. He stated he is the seventh grandson of a Revolutionary War veteran, William Sharpe, of Sharps Chapel, Tennessee, and noted how these celebrations are meaningful to him.

8:17 Commissioner Shipley thanked Ms. Moss-Mines and stated Soddy Daisy will be involved in the celebrations with our city and veterans. He noted Soddy Daisy has a strong veteran's organization, the American Legion, which stays involved in supporting our veterans.

8:41 Commissioner Graham stated it is a pleasure when Ms. Moss-Mines attends the commission meetings and thanked her for her service.

9:08 Chairman Smith stated the Commissioners appreciate Ms. Moss-Mines and all of the volunteers who keep these organizations running.

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9:37 At this time, Chairman Smith called for a brief Legal Meeting with Commissioners and County Attorney Varnell.

Chairman Smith called the meeting back in order.

9:47 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 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 Mike Chauncey was absent. Total present – 10. Total absent – 1.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

10:05 **ON MOTION** of Commissioner Baker, seconded by Commissioner Highlander, that the minutes of the Recessed Meeting of September 10, 2025, the Agenda Preparation Session of September 10, 2025, and the Regular Meeting of September 17, 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 Eversole, “Aye,”

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

TRUSTEE REPORT

10:45

The Trustee’s Monthly and Excess Fee Reports for August 2025 were submitted and made a matter of record.

PROCUREMENT PURCHASE ORDER REPORT

Procurement’s reports detailing purchase orders between \$20k and \$50k for August 2025 were submitted and made a matter of record.

10:49

RESOLUTION NO. 1025-1 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 Eversole, seconded by Commissioner Highlander, to adopt Resolution No. 1025-1.

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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 Baker, "Aye," Commissioner Beck, "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 Chauncey was absent. Total present – 10. Total absent – 1. Total "Aye" votes – 10. Total "Nay" votes – 0.

11:26

**RESOLUTION NO. 1025-2 A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE
ACCOMPLISHMENT OF SIGNAL MOUNTAIN HIGH SCHOOL IN WINNING THE
2025 TENNESSEE SECONDARY SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION (TSSAA)
VARSITY GIRLS' STATE TRACK AND FIELD CHAMPIONSHIP AND AWARDED
FUNDS FROM THE HAMILTON COUNTY SCHOOLS CHAMPIONS' FUND FOR THE
PURCHASE OF CHAMPIONSHIP RINGS.**

ON MOTION of Commissioner Beck, seconded by Commissioner Baker, to adopt Resolution No. 1025-2.

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 Baker, "Aye," Commissioner Beck, "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 Chauncey was absent. Total present – 10. Total absent – 1. Total "Aye" votes – 10. Total "Nay" votes – 0.

Without objection, Chairman Smith asked for Resolution Nos. 1025-3 and 1025-20 to be read together.

12:16 **RESOLUTION NO. 1025-3 A RESOLUTION MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO EAST HAMILTON MIDDLE SCHOOL IN THE AMOUNT OF ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$1,000.00) FROM GENERAL FUND TRAVEL DISCRETIONARY MONIES, AS ALLOTTED TO DISTRICT SEVEN.**

RESOLUTION NO. 1025-20 A RESOLUTION MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO SALE CREEK HIGH SCHOOL IN THE AMOUNT OF TWO THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$2,000.00) FROM GENERAL FUND TRAVEL DISCRETIONARY MONIES, AS ALLOTTED TO DISTRICT ONE.

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ON MOTION of Commissioner Helton, seconded by Commissioner Highlander, to adopt Resolution Nos. 1025-3 and 1025-20.

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 Baker, "Aye," Commissioner Beck, "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 Chauncey was absent. Total present – 10. Total absent – 1. Total "Aye" votes – 10. Total "Nay" votes – 0.

13:09

RESOLUTION NO. 1025-4 A RESOLUTION MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO THE HURRICANE FOOTBALL CLUB IN THE AMOUNT OF TWO THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$2,500.00) FROM GENERAL FUND TRAVEL DISCRETIONARY MONIES, AS ALLOTTED TO DISTRICT SEVEN.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Mackey, seconded by Commissioner Baker, to adopt Resolution No. 1025-4.

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13:35 Commissioner Helton stated he wanted to amend *Resolution No. 1025-4* to add \$500.00 to help fulfill the athletic department's needs.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Helton, seconded by Commissioner Sharpe, to amend Resolution No. 1025-4 to add \$500.00.

The foregoing Motion to amend was unanimously adopted on a Roll Call vote to amend Resolution No. 1025-4, with the following members of the County Commission being present and voting as follows: Commissioner Baker, "Aye," Commissioner Beck, "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 Chauncey was absent. Total present – 10. Total absent – 1. Total "Aye" votes – 10. Total "Nay" votes – 0.

There were no questions from the Commissioners or the audience.

The foregoing Motion to adopt Resolution No. 1025-4 as amended 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 Eversole, "Aye," Commissioner Graham,

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

Without objection, Commissioner Eversole asked for Resolution Nos. 1025-5 and 1025-6 to be read together.

14:56

RESOLUTION NO. 1025-5 A RESOLUTION TO AMEND RESOLUTION 525-14 AND THE RELATED MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH NORTH WEST UTILITY DISTRICT.

RESOLUTION NO. 1025-6 A RESOLUTION TO RELINQUISH HAMILTON COUNTY'S INTEREST IN A 1993 INTERNATIONAL PUMPER/TANKER WITH 52,883 MILES, CO-TITLED WITH TRI-COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT.

Commissioner Eversole, Chairman of the Finance and Budget Committee, provided details regarding Resolution Nos. 1025-5 and 1025-6, and stated the Finance and Budget Committee reviewed and recommended approval.

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ON MOTION of Commissioner Eversole, seconded by Commissioner Highlander, to adopt Resolution Nos. 1025-5 and 1025-6.

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 Baker, "Aye," Commissioner Beck, "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 Chauncey was absent. Total present – 10. Total absent – 1. Total "Aye" votes – 10. Total "Nay" votes – 0.

Without objection, Commissioner Eversole asked for Resolution Nos. 1025-7 through 1025-9 to be read together.

15:51

RESOLUTION NO. 1025-7 A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE BID OF RHINO DESIGN BUILD, LLC FOR THE TN RIVERPARK BRIDGE #3 REPAIRS PROJECT AMOUNTING TO \$1,247,888.00, SPLIT BETWEEN THE CITY OF CHATTANOOGA, FOR THE HAMILTON COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT, AND

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AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY MAYOR TO SIGN ANY CONTRACTS NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THIS RESOLUTION.

RESOLUTION NO. 1025-8 A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$238,216.54 FOR VARIOUS IMPROVEMENTS AT CHESTER FROST PARK FOR THE HAMILTON COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT AND AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY MAYOR TO SIGN ANY CONTRACTS NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THIS RESOLUTION.

RESOLUTION NO. 1025-9 A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE COUNTY MAYOR TO ACCEPT THE ASSIGNMENT OF CERTAIN LICENSE RIGHTS OF NORFOLK SOUTHERN RAILWAY COMPANY TO STRONG CAPITAL X, LLC FOR THE MAINTENANCE AND OPERATION OF A SEWER FORCE MAIN UNDER THE RAILROAD AT THE RIVERPARK AND TO PAY THE ASSOCIATED FEES FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$2,500 PER YEAR.

Commissioner Eversole, Chairman of the Finance and Budget Committee, provided details regarding Resolution Nos. 1025-7 through 1025-9, and stated the Finance and Budget Committee reviewed and recommended approval.

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ON MOTION of Commissioner Eversole, seconded by Commissioner Beck, to adopt Resolution Nos. 1025-7 through 1025-9.

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 Baker, "Aye," Commissioner Beck, "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 Chauncey was absent. Total present – 10. Total absent – 1. Total "Aye" votes – 10. Total "Nay" votes – 0.

Without objection, Commissioner Eversole asked for Resolution Nos. 1025-10 and 1025-11 to be read together.

RESOLUTION NO. 1025-10 A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE PROPOSAL OF EMPIRICALLY GROUNDED SOLUTIONS, LLC FOR GRANT-FUNDED PROGRAM EVALUATION SERVICES FOR THE OFFICE OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, AND AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY MAYOR TO SIGN ANY CONTRACTS NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THIS RESOLUTION.

17:24

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RESOLUTION NO. 1025-11 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY MAYOR TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION UP TO \$2,000,000 FOR THE 2025 APPALACHIAN REGIONAL COMMISSION'S (ARC) PARTNERSHIPS FOR OPPORTUNITY AND WORKFORCE AND ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION INITIATIVE (POWER) FOR THE SODDY DAISY RAILS TO TRAILS PROJECT AND TO COMMIT THE REQUIRED MATCH OF FUNDS.

Commissioner Eversole, Chairman of the Finance and Budget Committee, provided details regarding Resolution Nos. 1025-10 and 1025-11, and stated the Finance and Budget Committee reviewed and recommended approval.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Eversole, seconded by Commissioner Beck, to adopt Resolution Nos. 1025-10 and 1025-11.

18:19

Commissioner Sharpe stated he will support *Resolution No. 1025-11* and noted the project has an estimated cost of \$8 million. He stated he is curious about the City of Soddy Daisy's level of investment in this project and inquired about who will be responsible for maintenance once the project is completed.

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In response to Commissioner Sharpe's questions, Deputy Director of the Economic and Community Development Department Sarah Spencer stated they have not yet ironed out all of the details on how to line up the funding to complete the project.

19:45 The Parks and Recreation Department Director Matt Folz stated this is a phased approach, working with the city to facilitate these projects. He noted the first step is creating the project and then working with the Parks and Recreation Department to establish an operating plan for maintenance.

20:14 Commissioner Sharpe stated the primary concern of previous Commissioners was the ability to maintain the project once it is completed. He noted the Tennessee Riverwalk and Riverfront development has had a tremendous economic impact of approximately \$2 billion since 2005. He stated he would be interested in seeing those studies on this project and looked forward to voting in support of *Resolution No. 1025-11*.

21:14 Commissioner Shipley stated the project is only in its beginning stages. He noted his understanding is that the funding for this project will come entirely from grant money, with some grants that can be used as match funds. Additionally, he stated he believed there would be no county funds for this project once the grants are awarded, but noted this will depend on further development. He stated the project can be a large asset to North Hamilton County and a significant turning point in terms of connectivity.

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23:02 In response to Commissioner Shipley, Mr. Folz stated connectivity is a large part of the project, aiming to connect different trails and communities. He noted this has been a 20-year project and stated he believed they could share the details of its economic impact. Additionally, he noted this \$2 million would hopefully be matched with two other grants, allowing them to obtain \$4 million of non-county funds. He stated they will return to the Commission to inform them of how they did on the grant applications.

23:41 Commissioner Graham thanked the staff for coming to the Commission before applying for grants, noting they appreciate understanding where the funding is coming from ahead of time.

24:30 Commissioner Highlander stated he agreed with Commissioner Shipley's statement that the project will help the north end of Hamilton County. He noted he believes the project's impact will extend across the entire County and neighboring areas. Additionally, he thanked the staff for making the project's financial details readily available and visible to 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 Baker, "Aye," Commissioner Beck, "Aye," Commissioner Eversole, "Aye," Commissioner Graham, "Aye," Commissioner Helton, "Aye," Commissioner Highlander, "Aye," Commissioner Mackey, "Aye," Commissioner Sharpe, "Aye," Commissioner

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ShIPLEY, "Aye," and Chairman Smith, "Aye." Commissioner Chauncey was absent. Total present – 10. Total absent – 1. Total "Aye" votes – 10. Total "Nay" votes – 0.

25:27

**RESOLUTION NO. 1025-12 A RESOLUTION TO APPROPRIATE UP TO \$13,595,500
IN 2024A BOND FUNDS TO THE HAMILTON COUNTY SCHOOLS FOR PHASE 4
OF DEFERRED MAINTENANCE AND FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS.**

Commissioner Eversole, Chairman of the Finance and Budget Committee, provided details regarding Resolution No. 1025-12 and stated the Finance and Budget Committee reviewed and recommended approval.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Eversole, seconded by Commissioner Mackey, to adopt Resolution No. 1025-12.

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 Baker, "Aye," Commissioner Beck, "Aye," Commissioner Eversole, "Aye," Commissioner Graham, "Aye," Commissioner Helton, "Aye," Commissioner Highlander, "Aye," Commissioner Mackey, "Aye," Commissioner Sharpe, "Aye," Commissioner

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Shipley, "Aye," and Chairman Smith, "Aye." Commissioner Chauncey was absent. Total present – 10. Total absent – 1. Total "Aye" votes – 10. Total "Nay" votes – 0.

Without objection, Commissioner Eversole asked for Resolution Nos. 1025-13 through 1025-15 to be read together.

26:18 **RESOLUTION NO. 1025-13 A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE PURCHASE OF VEHICLES FROM TENNESSEE STATEWIDE CONTRACT SWC-209 IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$119,000.00 FOR THE HAMILTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE, AND AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY MAYOR TO SIGN ANY CONTRACTS NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THIS RESOLUTION.**

RESOLUTION NO. 1025-14 A RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT A GRANT FOR THE HUMANE TRANSPORT OF PATIENTS FROM THE MENTAL HEALTH TRANSPORT PROGRAM FOR THE HAMILTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$833,844 TO BE EXPENDED UNTIL THE FUNDS ARE EXHAUSTED.

RESOLUTION NO. 1025-15 A RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT A DONATION FROM DEFENDERS FOR CHILDREN TO THE HAMILTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE IN THE ESTIMATED VALUE OF \$20,000 INCLUDING A CERTIFIED CANINE AND ASSOCIATED EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES.

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Commissioner Eversole, Chairman of the Finance and Budget Committee, provided details regarding Resolution Nos. 1025-13 through 1025-15, and stated the Finance and Budget Committee reviewed and recommended approval.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Eversole, seconded by Commissioner Baker, to adopt Resolution Nos. 1025-13 through 1025-15.

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 Baker, "Aye," Commissioner Beck, "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 Chauncey was absent. Total present – 10. Total absent – 1. Total "Aye" votes – 10. Total "Nay" votes – 0.

Without objection, Commissioner Shipley asked for Resolution Nos. 1025-16 and 1025-17 to be read together.

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27:47 **RESOLUTION NO. 1025-16 A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE COUNTY MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AND EXECUTE AN INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH THE TOWN OF WALDEN AND HAMILTON COUNTY TO PROVIDE BUILDING INSPECTION SERVICES.**

RESOLUTION NO. 1025-17 A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE COUNTY MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AND EXECUTE AN INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF RIDGESIDE AND HAMILTON COUNTY TO PROVIDE BUILDING INSPECTION SERVICES.

Commissioner Shipley, Chairman of the Building and Economic Development Committee, provided details regarding Resolution Nos. 1025-16 and 1025-17, and stated the Building and Economic Development Committee reviewed and recommended approval.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Shipley, seconded by Commissioner Baker, to adopt Resolution Nos. 1025-16 and 1025-17.

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 Eversole, "Aye," Commissioner Graham, "Aye," Commissioner Helton, "Nay," Commissioner Highlander, "Nay," Commissioner Mackey, "Pass," Commissioner Sharpe, "Aye," Commissioner Shipley, "Aye," and Chairman Smith, "Aye." Commissioner Chauncey was absent. Total present – 10. Total absent – 1. Total "Aye" votes – 7. Total "Nay" votes – 2. Total "Pass" votes – 1.

Per the Commission's Rules of Order, any member having announced "Pass" on the first call of the vote should subsequently be called on by the Clerk to vote a second time.

Chief Deputy Clerk Brooke Weaver called the roll of the members, having previously announced "Pass". Commissioner Mackey announced, "Aye" on the second call of the vote. Total present – 10. Total absent – 1. Total "Aye" votes – 8. Total "Nay" votes – 2.

29:05

RESOLUTION NO. 1025-18 A RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE "MASTER LIST OF ROADS AND SPEED LIMITS" BY CHANGING THE DISTANCE ON WHITTENBURG STREET FROM 0.13 MILES TO 0.149 MILES.

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Commissioner Highlander, Chairman of the Public Works and Zoning Committee, provided details regarding Resolution No. 1025-18 and stated the Public Works and Zoning Committee reviewed and recommended approval.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Eversole, seconded by Commissioner Helton, to adopt Resolution No. 1025-18.

30:04

In response to Commissioner Graham's question, Administrator of Public Works and County Engineer Todd Leamon stated *Resolution No. 1025-18* is fixing a clerical error. He noted this is an extension of an existing county road that we currently and historically maintain.

There were no questions from 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 Baker, "Aye," Commissioner Beck, "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 Chauncey was absent. Total present – 10. Total absent – 1. Total "Aye" votes – 10. Total "Nay" votes – 0.

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**RESOLUTION NO. 1025-19 A RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE THE HAMILTON
COUNTY HAZARDOUS MATERIALS DEPARTMENT AS A FIRE DEPARTMENT
PURSUANT TO TENNESSEE CODE ANNOTATED § 68-102-302.**

Resolution No. 1025-19 was pulled during last week's Agenda Preparation Session.

31:47 Chairman Smith stated he has requested County Attorney Varnell to meet with the fire chiefs to discuss their concerns and ensure all are suitably addressed.

32:49 Commissioner Beck stated *Resolution No. 1025-19* will be under the auspices of the Public Safety Committee.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Smith asked for announcements from members of the Commission.

33:11 Commissioner Sharpe wished his son, Collier Sharpe, a happy 11th birthday.

33:36 Commissioner Helton expressed appreciation to commissioners who sponsored golf holes for the tournament he hosted in support of the Family Justice Center.

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Additionally, he welcomed Zeta Peta, an exchange student from Hungary currently attending East Hamilton High School, who was present in the audience and shadowing him for the day.

34:27 Chief Deputy County Clerk Brooke Weaver requested a revised copy of *Resolution No. 1025-4* to be filed with the Clerk's Office.

34:42 Commissioner Highlander welcomed Mr. Peta to the meeting, noting he has had several exchange students in the past. He also thanked Hamilton County Historian Linda Moss-Mines for her work with the Chattanooga-Hamilton County America 250 Committee.

35:28 Commissioner Graham announced the Lookout Valley annual car show will take place at 9:00 a.m. on October 11, 2025, at the John A. Patton Center. He stated the Lookout Valley Lions Club hosts two fundraisers each year, noting the proceeds are used to buy toys and food baskets for community members in need. He stated the car show has been changed after 17 years to honor Jerry S. "Gov" Walls, a longtime member of the Lookout Valley Lions Club who passed away this year. Additionally, he wished Commissioner Sharpe's son a happy birthday. He also stated he would like to sponsor a resolution before the next legislative session, requesting that a portion of Tennessee's lottery funds be allocated to K-12 school building infrastructure and technology to help address local needs. He noted he believed this idea could encourage

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the other 94 counties in Tennessee to make similar requests, helping to improve school infrastructure and technology across the state.

40:02

Commissioner Highlander expressed appreciation for Commissioner Graham's idea, noting several million dollars are left unused each year and are instead allocated to state funding. He stated he believes the excess funds unclaimed by the state's universities should be redirected to K-12 schools.

40:39

Commissioner Beck stated he would support laying the groundwork to obtain the funds and noted he hoped the commissioners would support this idea.

41:22

Commissioner Helton suggested commissioners discuss this with the other 94 counties during the County Services meeting next week to advocate for and initiate this idea.

41:50

Commissioner Graham stated he brought this idea up during the Region Commission meeting in Cleveland last Monday and hoped they would bring it up in next week's County Services meeting.

42:10

Mayor Wamp stated he brought greetings on behalf of the Commissioners and Hamilton County during the opening of a facility at Bethel Bible Village. Additionally, he noted the day marked the beginning of activities surrounding the Medal of Honor, with

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the National Medal of Honor Conference taking place in our community. He stated there is a declining number of living Medal of Honor recipients and encouraged everyone to participate and attend this historic national gathering.

44:04 Chairman Smith reminded the audience there will not be a meeting on October 8, 2025, or October 22, 2025. He stated an agenda session and regular meeting will be held together on October 15, 2025.

44:21 Commissioner Sharpe noted if the state funded public schools at the same per-pupil rate as it funds private school vouchers, Hamilton County would receive approximately \$11 million more per year for public school students, in addition to what is currently being obtained. He stated the County will continue to struggle with school facilities if public dollars continue to be used to support families who already send their children to private schools. Additionally, he noted the state spends approximately \$250 more per student for vouchers than it does for public school students.

45:54 Commissioner Highlander reminded the public of the 4:00 p.m. meeting time change effective on November 5, 2025.

46:15 Commissioner Graham announced the opening of Culver's in Hixson, Tennessee, and stated their food is excellent.

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DELEGATIONS

Chairman Smith asked for delegations on matters other than zoning.

47:21 Terry Yoder, residing at 6865 Villa Terrace, spoke about the use of math textbooks to assist students in learning. She noted she has tutoring experience and stated she believes students benefit more from printed textbooks than from online textbooks accessed through their iPads.

48:26 Mayor Wamp stated Walden Mayor Lee Davis sends his gratitude for the interlocal agreement, noting it is a big help to Walden for continuing to provide that service.

49:25 Monty Bell, a homeless journalist for the Grey-Haired Fox, stated he resides at 727 East 11th Street. He spoke about docket number 25C919 in Circuit Court.

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
OCTOBER 1, 2025**

There being no further business, Chairman Smith declared the meeting in recess until Wednesday, October 15, 2025, at 9:30 AM.

Respectfully submitted:



William F. (Bill) Knowles, County Clerk

Approved:

10-15-25

WFK

Date

Clerk's Initials