

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

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

BE IT REMEMBERED that on this 17th day of December 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: --

0:18

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 Mike Chauncey, Commissioner Jeff Eversole, Commissioner Joe Graham, Commissioner Steve Highlander, Commissioner Warren Mackey, Commissioner David Sharpe, Commissioner Gene-o Shipley, and Chairman Ken Smith. Commissioner Greg Beck arrived during the presentation. Commissioner Lee Helton was absent. 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.

0:49

Chairman Smith introduced Ed Alexander, Stanley Heights Baptist Church, to offer the invocation. Chairman Smith led the pledge to the flag.

**PRESENTATION – HONORING NANCY RUCKER FOR BEING NAMED THE
OUTSTANDING 4-H LEADER FOR TENNESSEE.**

2:04

Commissioner Highlander presented a recognition for Hamilton County Extension Agent Nancy Rucker. Commissioners Sharpe and Commissioner Shipley joined him as members of the agriculture committee. Deputy County Clerk Jennifer Smith read a certificate congratulating Nancy Rucker on receiving the 2025 Meritorious Service Award from the National Association of Extension 4-H Youth Development Professionals Annual Conference. The certificate recognized her as the Outstanding 4-H Leader in Tennessee and commended her exemplary leadership and commitment to the 4-H program.

5:37

Ms. Rucker stated she enjoys serving Hamilton County and its youth. She recognized 4-H families in attendance, introduced her coworker and family members, and thanked Jennifer Duvall for her leadership in 4-H. Ms. Rucker expressed

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appreciation for the Commissioners as well as Mayor Wamp and his staff, and thanked the Commission in connection with her award recognition.

10:32 Chairman Smith recognized District 29 State Representative Greg Vital in the audience.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

10:39 **ON MOTION** of Commissioner Graham, seconded by Commissioner Highlander, that the minutes of the Agenda/Regular Meeting of December 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 Beck, "Aye," Commissioner Chauncey, "Aye," Commissioner Eversole, "Aye," Commissioner Graham, "Aye," Commissioner Highlander, "Aye," Commissioner Mackey, "Aye," Commissioner Sharpe, "Aye," Commissioner Shipley, "Aye," and Chairman Smith, "Aye.". Commissioner Baker stepped out during the vote. Commissioner Helton was absent. Total present – 9. Total absent – 2. Total "Aye" votes – 9. Total "Nay" votes – 0.

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PROCUREMENT PURCHASE ORDER REPORT

11:19 Procurement's reports detailing purchase orders between \$20k and \$50k for November 2025 were submitted and made a matter of record.

**NOTICE OF ORDER – NORTH WEST UTILITY DISTRICT BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS - SEAT 1**

A Notice of Order rejecting the certified list of nominees for Commission Seat 1 of the North West Utility District.

**NOTICE OF ORDER – NORTH WEST UTILITY DISTRICT BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS - SEAT 2**

A Notice of Order rejecting the certified list of nominees for Commission Seat 2 of the North West Utility District Board of Commissioners.

**ORDER OF APPOINTMENT – NORTH WEST UTILIT DISTRICT BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS**

A Report appointing Jeff Templeton as Commissioner of the North West Utility District Board of Commissioners.

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11:22

RESOLUTION NO. 1225-12 A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE AND ACCEPT APPLICATIONS FOR NOTARY PUBLIC POSITIONS, THE BONDS AND OATHS OF NOTARIES PREVIOUSLY ELECTED, AND THE OATH OF DEPUTY SHERIFF.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Graham, seconded by Commissioner Highlander, to adopt Resolution No. 1225-12.

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 Beck, "Aye," Commissioner Chauncey, "Aye," Commissioner Eversole, "Aye," Commissioner Graham, "Aye," Commissioner Highlander, "Aye," Commissioner Mackey, "Aye," Commissioner Sharpe, "Aye," Commissioner Shipley, "Aye," and Chairman Smith, "Aye.". Commissioner Baker stepped out during the vote. Commissioner Helton was absent. Total present – 9. Total absent – 2. Total "Aye" votes – 9. Total "Nay" votes – 0.

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12:01

**RESOLUTION NO. 1225-13 A RESOLUTION TO APPOINT ONE (1) MEMBER TO
THE CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD FOR RECREATION FOR A TWO (2) YEAR
TERM BEGINNING DECEMBER 17, 2025, AND ENDING DECEMBER 17, 2027.**

This resolution will appoint Jamie Fairbanks.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Beck, seconded by Commissioner Highlander, to
adopt Resolution No. 1225-13.

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 Beck, "Aye," Commissioner Chauncey, "Aye," Commissioner Eversole,
"Aye," Commissioner Graham, "Aye," Commissioner Highlander, "Aye," Commissioner
Mackey, "Aye," Commissioner Sharpe, "Aye," Commissioner Shipley, "Aye," and
Chairman Smith, "Aye." Commissioner Baker stepped out during the vote.
Commissioner Helton was absent. Total present – 9. Total absent – 2. Total "Aye" votes
– 9. Total "Nay" votes – 0.

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Without objection, Chairman Smith asked for Resolution Nos. 1225-14 and 1225-29 to be read together.

12:42 **RESOLUTION NO. 1225-14 A RESOLUTION MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO EAST HAMILTON HIGH SCHOOL IN THE AMOUNT OF ONE THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$1,600.00) FROM GENERAL FUND TRAVEL DISCRETIONARY MONIES, AS ALLOTTED TO DISTRICT SEVEN.**

LATE ITEM

RESOLUTION NO. 1225-29 RESOLUTION NO. 1225-29 A RESOLUTION MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL IN THE AMOUNT OF EIGHT HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$800.00) FROM GENERAL FUND TRAVEL DISCRETIONARY MONIES, AS ALLOTTED TO DISTRICT NINE.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Graham, seconded by Commissioner Shipley, to adopt Resolution No. 1225-14 and 1225-29.

13:33 Commissioner Highlander stated the Central High School girls' basketball team currently has only one set of uniforms and no warm-ups, and has been fundraising, but remains approximately \$1,600 short. He invited others to contribute if they are able.

There were no questions from 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 Chauncey, "Aye," Commissioner Eversole, "Aye," Commissioner Graham, "Aye," Commissioner Highlander, "Aye," Commissioner Mackey, "Aye," Commissioner Sharpe, "Aye," Commissioner Shipley, "Aye," and Chairman Smith, "Aye." Commissioner Helton was absent. Total present – 10. Total absent – 1. Total "Aye" votes – 10. Total "Nay" votes – 0.

14:39

RESOLUTION NO. 1225-15 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY CLERK TO RENEW A MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT AND AMEND A PAYMENT PROCESSING AGREEMENT WITH I3 VERTICALS, LLC, DBA BUSINESS INFORMATION SYSTEMS (BIS), TO CONTINUE PROVIDING ANNUAL LICENSING, MAINTENANCE, AND PAYMENT CARD PROCESSING FOR THE COUNTY CLERK'S MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATION AND MISCELLANEOUS TAX SYSTEMS FOR AN ADDITIONAL FIVE YEARS, EXPIRING JUNE 30, 2030, AND AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY CLERK TO SIGN ANY CONTRACTS NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THIS RESOLUTION.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Highlander, seconded by Commissioner Graham, to adopt Resolution No. 1225-15.

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

15:23

RESOLUTION NO. 1225-16 A RESOLUTION OF THE HAMILTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS DISSOLVING THE CHATTANOOGA–HAMILTON COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION AND CREATING THE HAMILTON COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION; PROVIDING FOR TRANSITION, CONTINUED REGIONAL COORDINATION, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

16:01

Commissioner Eversole stated he would like to defer Resolution No. 1225-16 to the March 11, 2026, meeting. He noted after meeting with County Attorney Varnell and members of the mayor's team, additional details need to be finalized to ensure the

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proposal complies with Tennessee law governing planning commissions. He stated he intends to bring the item back before the Commission for consideration.

17:35

Kurt Wells, residing on Vandergriff Road, Gary Boles, residing at 5812 Mountain Pass Drive, Sabrina Daniels, residing at 4410 Maryland Drive, Amy Anderson, residing at 6932 Walker Road, Angela Gardner, residing at 60 Bohr Drive, and Bo Duvall, residing at 1825 Coulterville Road, expressed concerns regarding actions of the current Regional Planning Commission (RPC), citing examples they believe demonstrate failures in protecting public safety, infrastructure, and quality of life in unincorporated Hamilton County.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Eversole, seconded by Commissioner Sharpe, to defer Resolution No. 1225-16 to March 11, 2026.

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, "Aye," Commissioner Graham, "Aye," Commissioner Highlander, "Aye," Commissioner Mackey, "Aye," Commissioner Sharpe, "Aye," Commissioner Shipley, "Aye," and Chairman Smith, "Aye." Commissioner Helton was

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absent. Total present – 10. Total absent – 1. Total “Aye” votes – 10. Total “Nay” votes – 0.

LATE ITEM

33:07

RESOLUTION NO. 1225-27 A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE PROPERTY INSURANCE AND TERRORISM COVERAGE (TRIA) RENEWAL PROPOSAL FROM ARTHUR J. GALLAGHER, INC. AT THE COMBINED PROPERTY RATE OF \$0.0712 PER \$100.00 OF INSURED VALUE FOR AN ESTIMATED ANNUAL PREMIUM OF \$577,327.00 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. 1225-27.

34:21

In response to Commissioner Sharpe’s question, Interim Risk Manager/ADA Coordinator Judith Songy stated this is an annual renewal for insurance coverage on all Hamilton County owned and jointly owned properties for FY 2025–2026. She noted the premium rate is flat compared to last year, and the premium amount is slightly higher. She stated it is being presented before the Commission approval because it requires a contract.

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36:11 In response to Commissioner Sharpe's question, Chief Operating Officer for the Mayor's Office, David Roddy, stated Risk Management falls under the County's compliance function. He noted following the Baker Donelson report, County government is continuing to evaluate its risk management structure in relation to compliance and HIPAA. He stated it is prudent to avoid permanent staffing or organizational changes while that review remains ongoing.

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

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LATE ITEM

37:25 **RESOLUTION NO. 1225-28 RESOLUTION NO. 1225-28 A RESOLUTION AMENDING
RESOLUTION NO. 925-17 TO EXTEND THE TEMPORARY 4:00 P.M. START TIME
OF COUNTY COMMISSION MEETINGS FOR THE JANUARY 14, 2026, AND
JANUARY 21, 2026, MEETINGS, AT WHICH TIME THE COUNTY COMMISSION
WILL ASSESS WHETHER TO IMPLEMENT THIS TIME CHANGE PERMANENTLY.**

ON MOTION of Commissioner Eversole, seconded by Commissioner Sharpe, to
adopt Resolution No. 1225-28.

38:01 Daylen Zaida, residing at 1214 Marijon Drive, stated she initiated the petition to
change the meeting time and questioned why the trial period is being extended. She
noted the extended trial may allow more residents to participate in January, and
observed that recent meetings have had strong attendance, including individuals she
had not seen previously. She urged the Commission to continue the later meeting time
to improve public access for working constituents.

39:52 Commissioner Eversole stated he was unaware of any petition regarding the
meeting time change but appreciated the public input. He noted the time change
originated with his resolution, and the goal was to increase public attendance. He
stated the Commission is receiving numerous emails daily on meeting accessibility and

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other topics. He explained the trial period is being extended to allow the committee, chaired by Commissioner Helton, to review whether the change is increasing participation and whether the meeting time or day should be adjusted further. He acknowledged the change carries a cost to the County but believes the added public access is worth it and thanked residents for attending and communicating with the Commission.

42:46

Commissioner Sharpe referenced a recent committee discussion on meeting accessibility and stated he supports efforts that increase visibility and transparency. He suggested enabling transcription for the Commission's YouTube livestream to improve public understanding and accountability. He noted delaying a final decision on the meeting schedule would provide additional time to evaluate options and allow the whole board to participate before making a permanent change.

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, "Present," Commissioner Chauncey, "Aye," Commissioner Eversole, "Aye," Commissioner Graham, "Aye," Commissioner Highlander, "Aye," Commissioner Mackey, "Aye," Commissioner Sharpe, "Aye," Commissioner Shipley, "Aye," and Chairman Smith, "Aye." Commissioner Helton was

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absent. Total present – 10. Total absent – 1. Total “Aye” votes – 9. Total “Nay” votes – 0. Total “Present” votes – 1.

46:23

RESOLUTION NO. 1225-17 A RESOLUTION TO RELINQUISH HAMILTON COUNTY'S INTEREST IN A 1991 INTERNATIONAL 4700 WITH 63,108 MILES, CO-TITLED WITH SALE CREEK FIRE DEPARTMENT.

Commissioner Eversole, Chairman of the Finance and Budget Committee, provided details regarding Resolution No. 1225-17 and stated the Finance and Budget Committee reviewed and recommended approval.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Eversole, seconded by Commissioner Shipley, to adopt Resolution No. 1225-17.

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 Beck, “Aye,” Commissioner Chauncey, “Aye,” Commissioner Eversole, “Aye,” Commissioner Graham, “Aye,” Commissioner Highlander, “Aye,” Commissioner Mackey, “Aye,” Commissioner Sharpe, “Aye,” Commissioner Shipley, “Aye,” and

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Chairman Smith, "Aye." Commissioner Helton was absent. Commissioner Baker stepped away during the vote. Total present – 9. Total absent – 2. Total "Aye" votes – 9. Total "Nay" votes – 0.

Without objection, Commissioner Eversole asked for Resolution Nos. 1225-18 and 1225-19 to be read together.

47:11

RESOLUTION NO. 1225-18 A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE PROPOSAL FROM SPATCO ENERGY SOLUTIONS FOR THE PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF A TURNKEY FUEL ISLAND FOR THE CROMWELL PUBLIC WORKS COMPLEX FOR A TOTAL PROJECT AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$677,743.00, AND AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY MAYOR TO SIGN ANY CONTRACTS NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THIS RESOLUTION.

RESOLUTION NO. 1225-19 A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE EXPENDITURE OF UP TO \$1,356,960 FOR THE PURCHASE OF ELECTRIC VEHICLES AND UP TO \$110,715.20 FOR THE PURCHASE OF OTHER EQUIPMENT, AND AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY MAYOR TO SIGN ANY CONTRACTS NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THIS RESOLUTION.

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Commissioner Eversole, Chairman of the Finance and Budget Committee, provided details regarding Resolution Nos. 1225-18 and 1225-19, and stated the Finance and Budget Committee reviewed and recommended approval.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Eversole, seconded by Commissioner Highlander, to adopt Resolution Nos. 1225-18 and 1225-19.

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, "Aye," Commissioner Graham, "Aye," Commissioner Highlander, "Aye," Commissioner Mackey, "Nay," Commissioner Sharpe, "Aye," Commissioner Shipley, "Aye," and Chairman Smith, "Aye." Commissioner Helton was absent. Total present – 10. Total absent – 1. Total "Aye" votes – 9. Total "Nay" votes – 1.

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48:58 **RESOLUTION NO. 1225-20 A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE PROPOSAL FROM PHILIPS HEALTHCARE, A DIVISION OF PHILIPS NORTH AMERICA LLC, FOR THE PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF A PHILIPS CT SCANNER, AMOUNTING TO \$475,439.05, AND AN EIGHT-YEAR SERVICE CONTRACT WITH A TWO-YEAR EXTENDED WARRANTY AMOUNTING TO \$496,336.32 FOR THE NEW HAMILTON COUNTY FORENSIC CENTER 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 No. 1225-20 and stated the Finance and Budget Committee reviewed and recommended approval.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Eversole, seconded by Commissioner Baker, to adopt Resolution No. 1225-20.

49:47 In response to Commissioner Baker's question, Hamilton County Medical Examiner Dr. Cogswell stated the unit cost of \$296,000 was negotiated down from a typical price of nearly \$1 million. He added the scanner is a standalone unit specifically selected to meet the forensic center's operational needs without purchasing a hospital-grade system beyond what is required.

There were no questions from 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 Chauncey, "Aye," Commissioner Eversole, "Aye," Commissioner Graham, "Aye," Commissioner Highlander, "Aye," Commissioner Mackey, "Aye," Commissioner Sharpe, "Aye," Commissioner Shipley, "Aye," and Chairman Smith, "Aye." Commissioner Helton was absent. Total present – 10. Total absent – 1. Total "Aye" votes – 10. Total "Nay" votes – 0.

51:43

RESOLUTION NO. 1225-21 A RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE FISCAL YEAR 2026 GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES BUDGET IN THE AMOUNT OF \$75,000 FROM FUND BALANCE OF THE GENERAL FUND TO BE USED FOR MAINTENANCE NEEDS AT THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT FACILITY LOCATED ON EAST THIRD STREET.

Commissioner Baker, Chairman of the Health and Human Services Committee, provided details regarding Resolution No. 1225-21 and stated the Health and Human Services Committee reviewed and recommended approval.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Baker, seconded by Commissioner Beck, to adopt Resolution No. 1225-21.

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In response to Commissioner Baker's question, Hamilton County Health and Social Services Division Administrator Rebekah Bohannon stated the HVAC and generator repair would be the biggest repairs.

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

52:50

RESOLUTION NO. 1225-22 A RESOLUTION AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 712-13, WHICH ADOPTED A POLICY REGARDING OPENING INVOCATIONS BEFORE MEETINGS OF THE HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION, TO ALLOW COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TO VOLUNTARILY OFFER AND DELIVER THE INVOCATION.

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Chairman Smith, member of the Rules and Legislative Committee, provided details regarding Resolution No. 1225-22 and stated the Rules and Legislative Committee reviewed and recommended approval.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Eversole, seconded by Commissioner Highlander, to adopt Resolution No. 1225-22.

53:32 Commissioner Sharpe stated he supports Resolution No. 1225-22 but has personal reservations about public prayer as a form of religious expression. He referenced differing religious beliefs and noted his view that prayer is typically a private practice. He stated legal standards on the issue have changed in recent years. He emphasized he does not wish to limit anyone's religious expression and asked that his choice not to participate publicly not be interpreted as judgment of others.

57:00 Commissioner Beck stated the key element of the resolution is that participation is voluntary, allowing those who wish to participate to do so.

57:45 Commissioner Highlander stated the proposed prayer practice would remain voluntary and respect Commissioner Sharpe's preference to pray privately. He noted the Commission will continue to invite representatives of the faith community first. He stated when a scheduled representative is unavailable, the policy allows a commissioner to offer the prayer.

Time Code
Position

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59:14 Commissioner Graham stated he appreciates hearing prayers or moments of silence from a variety of faith traditions, noting it has increased his awareness of different religions.

1:00:37 Chairman Smith stated the Commission's practice is to invite ordained representatives from across the county to provide the invocation, but occasional last-minute cancellations have required fill-ins. He noted former County Attorney Rheubin Taylor, previously filled in because he was ordained. He stated the resolution is intended to provide a way to cover invocations when a scheduled speaker is unavailable and does not otherwise change meeting procedures.

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

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1:01:45 **RESOLUTION NO. 1225-23 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AND EXECUTE A MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT WITH THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION, CONCERNING CUMBERLAND TRAIL CROSSINGS AT CERTAIN COUNTY THOROUGHFARES AND THE INSTALLATION AND MAINTENANCE OF TRAIL CROSSING SIGNAGE.**

Commissioner Highlander, Chairman of the Public Works and Zoning Committee, provided details regarding Resolution No. 1225-23 and stated the Public Works and Zoning Committee reviewed and recommended approval.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Chauncey, seconded by Commissioner Sharpe, to adopt Resolution Nos. 1225-23.

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 Chauncey, "Aye," Commissioner Eversole, "Aye," Commissioner Graham, "Aye," Commissioner Highlander, "Aye," Commissioner Mackey, "Aye," Commissioner Sharpe, "Aye,"

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

1:03:00

**RESOLUTION NO. 1225-24 A RESOLUTION TO CLOSE AND ABANDON PUBLIC
RIGHT-OF-WAY IN THE EAST LINE OF THE 6100 BLOCK OF OOLTEWAH-
GEORGETOWN ROAD.**

Commissioner Highlander, Chairman of the Public Works and Zoning Committee, provided details regarding Resolution No. 1225-24 and stated the Public Works and Zoning Committee reviewed and recommended approval.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Highlander, seconded by Commissioner Chauncey, to adopt Resolution No. 1225-24.

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 Baker, “Aye,” Commissioner Beck, “Aye,” Commissioner Chauncey, “Aye,” Commissioner Eversole, “Aye,” Commissioner Graham, “Aye,” Commissioner

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

1:03:40 **RESOLUTION NO. 1225-25 A RESOLUTION TO REZONE FROM R-5 SINGLE-WIDE MANUFACTURED HOME DISTRICT AND M-1 INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT TO R-1 SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT FOR THE PROPERTY LOCATED IN THE 6200 BLOCK OF OOLTEWAH-GEORGETOWN ROAD.**

Commissioner Highlander, Chairman of the Public Works and Zoning Committee, provided details regarding Resolution No. 1225-25 and stated the Public Works and Zoning Committee reviewed and recommended approval.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Highlander, seconded by Commissioner Baker, to adopt Resolution No. 1225-25.

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

1:04:25

RESOLUTION NO. 1225-26 A RESOLUTION GRANTING A SPECIAL PERMIT FOR A RESIDENTIAL PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT AMENDMENT FOR PROPERTIES LOCATED IN THE 6000, 7000, AND 7100 BLOCKS OF ARBURY WAY, THE 7000 BLOCK OF CHESTERTON WAY, 9400 BLOCK OF HAVILAND WAY, 9400 BLOCK OF KINGSHEDGE COURT, 6100 THROUGH 6300 BLOCK OF OOLTEWAH GEORGETOWN ROAD, 9400 BLOCK OF PURBECK LANE, AND 9400 BLOCK OF TRAVISTOCK WAY.

Commissioner Highlander, Chairman of the Public Works and Zoning Committee, provided details regarding Resolution No. 1225-26 and stated the Public Works and Zoning Committee reviewed and recommended approval.

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ON MOTION of Commissioner Highlander, seconded by Commissioner Baker, to adopt Resolution No. 1225-26.

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

1:05:57 In response to Commissioner Sharpe, Chief Deputy County Clerk Brooke Weaver stated that if there is no objection, the clerical error on Resolution No. 1225-13 of the appointee's name can be corrected from "Jamie Fairbanks" to "Jamie Fairbanks-Harvey."

1:08:19 In response to Commissioner Beck's question, Chief Deputy County Clerk Brooke Weaver suggested using the next resolution number and introduce a separate resolution for the \$800 contribution to Central High School.

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LATE ITEM

**RESOLUTION NO. 1225-30 A RESOLUTION MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO
CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL IN THE AMOUNT OF EIGHT HUNDRED DOLLARS
(\$800.00) FROM GENERAL FUND TRAVEL DISCRETIONARY MONIES, AS
ALLOTTED TO DISTRICT FIVE.**

ON MOTION of Commissioner Beck, seconded by Commissioner Highlander, to
adopt Resolution No. 1225-30.

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

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1:10:17 Chief Deputy County Clerk Brooke Weaver stated once Resolution No. 1225-30 is received at the Clerk's Office, she would make sure a copy is sent to all Commissioners.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Smith asked for announcements from members of the Commission.

At this time, several Commissioners wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

1:10:53 In response to Commissioner Mackey's question, Chief Financial Officer Lee Brouner stated the FY26 budget is tight, expenditures have generally increased over time, and spending would be adjusted to match revenues, with any shortfall covered by fund balance. Commissioner Mackey expressed concern about anti-growth sentiment and asked how the Commission would balance rising costs without new revenue, urging discussion of private property rights and the appropriate role of government.

1:14:37 Commissioner Sharpe stated the Commission approved more than \$2 million in capital expenditures that do not directly benefit District 6, despite constituents contributing to the cost. He reiterated his request to explore conducting a tax equity

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study. He stated such a study would help the Commission better understand revenue sources and expenditures and support informed decision-making moving forward.

1:24:45

Commissioner Eversole recognized Chief Duane Pitts of the Tri-Community Volunteer Fire Department, noting his 50 years as fire chief and more than 60 years of total service. He highlighted that the department has responded to over 3,000 calls this year and is second to the City of Chattanooga, despite being a volunteer organization. He thanked Chief Pitts and his team for their exceptional service and dedication to public safety. A round of applause was given.

1:27:59

Commissioner Graham congratulated District 1 on the new plans for Soddy Daisy Middle School and voiced continued support for the project. He raised concerns about school design renderings showing flat roofs, urging the County to prioritize sloped metal roofs for durability and long-term cost savings. He also shared the Lookout Valley Christmas Parade, community events at the recreation center, and the first annual tree lighting were highly successful, and thanked Mayor Wamp and his staff for their support. Finally, he commended Chief Financial Officer Lee Brouner and County staff for maintaining the County's AAA bond rating while supporting major capital projects, noting County employees are what make Hamilton County great.

1:32:32

Mayor Wamp stated he appreciates the ongoing discussions with Commissioners Eversole, Commissioner Baker, and Chairman Smith regarding the planning

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commission proposal. He noted County Attorney Janie Varnell has identified numerous legal and procedural issues /that need to be addressed. He referenced Commissioner Helton's point that the current meeting formatting can leave citizens waiting too long before County business is reached. Mayor Wamp stated the issue is more complex than initially expected, clarified that the Regional Planning Commission primarily covers Chattanooga and unincorporated Hamilton County, and suggested there may be an opportunity to pursue a more truly "regional" planning approach. He added staff will study options over the holidays, including what changes would look like at the staff level.

1:34:23

Chairman Smith stated Commission will not meet for the next two Wednesdays due to the Christmas and New Year's holidays. He noted the next meeting is scheduled for January 7, 2026, at 4:00 PM.

DELEGATIONS

Chairman Smith asked for delegations on matters other than zoning.

1:34:57

Adrian Turner, residing at 4006 Deermont Court, addressed the commission about Enterprise South Nature Park. He stated he opposes any removal of deed restrictions or industrial development on any portion of Enterprise South Nature Park,

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regardless of changes to the County's proposal, citing concerns about precedent and public trust. He invited Commissioners to a Saturday hike, including a visit to the historic Summit Community Cemetery, and wished everyone a Merry Christmas. commission

1:37:28 Melissa Ray, residing at 4006 Deermont Circle, stated she is opposed to any development at Enterprise South Nature Park, stating it is public parkland and "everyone's backyard." She said growth should occur elsewhere and warned that developing protected parkland could generate public backlash and harm the reputation of any company involved.

1:40:37 Glenda Pappu, residing in Birchwood, commended the Commission's prayer resolution and encouraged the Commission to allow constituents to offer public prayers. She said she has not heard anyone ask to stop growth, but rather to manage it responsibly with infrastructure in place. She also criticized the public comment rules, stating that it restricts free speech.

1:43:30 Greg Boles, residing at 5812 Mountain Pass Drive, addressed the commission's recent discussions about relying on growth and property taxes, which overlook long-term costs, citing a recent study by a UTC professor that concluded property tax revenue barely covers road improvements and does not cover ongoing needs like maintenance and schools. The speaker urged the Commission and state legislators to

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pursue new revenue options, stating the county needs a better way to fund infrastructure and school needs.

1:45:25

Jeff Vandergriff, residing at 5614 Pearl Street, stated he is familiar with the Commission through his father's service in the 1990s and expressed appreciation for the time Commissioners dedicate to their duties. He noted he walks frequently in Enterprise South and urged it to receive permanent protection similar to McDonald Farm.

1:46:28

Sabrina Daniel, residing at 4410 Maryland Drive, thanked the Commission for opening meetings with prayer. She stated she appreciates the practice as a Christian and believes it invites God's blessing on the County. She also encouraged other boards, including the School Board, to consider doing the same.

1:47:25

Jennifer Duvall, residing at 1825 Coulterville Road, stated participation in the invocation is voluntary and referenced Matthew 18:20 in support of prayer. She urged continued protection and thoughtful long-term planning for McDonald Farm, emphasizing agritourism and ecotourism as economic opportunities, and encouraged the use of local farm resources to support future planning.

Time Code
Position

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There being no further business, Chairman Smith declared the meeting in recess until Wednesday, January 7, 2026, at 4:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

William F. (Bill) Knowles, County Clerk

Approved:

01-07-26 W.F.K.

Date Clerk's Initials