



Chattanooga City Council
City of Chattanooga, Tennessee
John P. Franklin, Sr. City Council Building

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

August 19, 2025
3:30 PM

CALL TO ORDER

Council Chairwoman Jenny Hill called the business meeting to order at 3:37 p.m. A quorum was present that also included Vice Chair Marvene Noel, and Councilpersons Chip Henderson, Jeff Davis, Cody Harvey, Raquetta Dotley, Jenni Berz and Ron Elliott. Councilman Dennis Clark arrived later in the meeting.

[Editor's Note: This was a recessed meeting and live streamed on YouTube. View [here](#) prior to the recess and [here](#) after the recess.]

OTHER PARTICIPANTS

Mayor's Office: Kevin Roig, Chief of Staff

Office of City Attorney: Phil Noblett, City Attorney

Purchasing: Debbie Talley, Chief Procurement Officer

Economic Development: Charita Allen, Senior Advisor

Regional Planning: Karen Rennich, Interim Administrator

Council Office: Kristal Becker, Administrative Assistant; Melissa Bardoner, Council Support Specialist; and Nicole Gwyn, Clerk of Council

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilman Davis led the Assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance and gave an invocation.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Public Hearing on FY26 Budget Amendment **Mayor's Proposal re: Intent to Exceed Certified Tax Rate to \$1.93**

A Public Hearing ensued on the following:

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 14239, ALSO KNOWN AS "THE FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026 OPERATIONS BUDGET," FOR THE CITY OF CHATTANOOGA. FIXING THE RATE OF TAXATION ON ALL TAXABLE PROPERTIES IN THE CITY; AMEND ESTIMATED GENERAL FUND REVENUE; AMEND SECTIONS 5 AND 5(A) SO AS TO APPROPRIATE THE SAME FROM GENERAL FUND; AMEND SECTION 7(A) TO REVISE PROVISION FOR SWORN EMPLOYEES; AMEND SECTION 7(E) TO ADJUST AUTHORIZED POSITIONS; AND TO AMEND FIRE AND POLICE PAY PLANS.

Chairwoman Hill yielded the chair of the meeting to Budget & Finance Committee chair, Councilwoman Dotley, for a hearing on the above-captioned ordinance. Councilwoman Dotley called the hearing to order at 3:39 p.m. Councilwoman Dotley then turned the floor over to Mr. Roig, who presented a brief overview [view [here](#)] of the Mayor's proposed \$1.93 tax rate. The presentation touched on the following topics:

Presentation: The Kelly Plan 1.93

- **Reliable services**
- **Community Improvements**
- **Affordable Property Taxes**
- **Current FY26 Projected General Fund Revenue \$345.21m**
- **\$31.5m for Operations**
- **\$13.35 for Capital**
- **\$34/month Median Impact on City Taxpayers**
- **Median Homeowner Increase**
- **Operational Dollars per resident**
- **Comparing Taxes Nationally**

Public Comments for Hearing

[View in full [here](#)]

Councilwoman Dotley inquired if anyone wished to address the Council regarding the ordinance. Seeing several individuals wishing to address the Council, she allotted two minutes per person to speak. She asked Attorney Noblett to read the rules of procedure for those wishing to address the Council. She then recognized the following persons:

Speaker Name	District	
• Donna McConico	(N/A)	View here
• Daniel Bradley	3	View here
• Beta Bagagoyaji	8	View here
• Leanne Wiles	2	View here
• Dr. Ernest Reed	9	View here
• Harriet Whitaker	8	View here
• William Ladd III	8	View here
• Jeremiah Chambers	8	View here
• Emily O'Donnell	7	View here
• Jessica Steward	5	View here
• Michael Whitfield	4	View here
• William Lloyd	4	View here
• Blake Wright	9	View here
• Joe Degatano	2	View here
• Sheronda Brown	8	View here
• Vivian Hershey	1	View here
• Catalina Kay	(N/A)	View here
• Kelvin Scott	8	View here
• Edward Hewitt	9	View here
• Sabrina Daniel	(East Ridge)	View here
• Jeff Miller	Chattanooga Police Department	View here

• Sgt. Ernest Crow	Chattanooga Police Department	View here
• Ofc. Sydney Casavant	Chattanooga Police Department	View here
• Sgt. Benjamin Piazza	Chattanooga Police Department	View here
• Ofc. Joseph Ogg	Chattanooga Police Department	View here
• Lt. Andrew Peker	Chattanooga Police Department	View here
• Ofc. Dallas Brown	Chattanooga Police Department	View here
• Ofc. Kurtis Bacha	Chattanooga Police Department	View here
• Sgt. Chris Mullinix	Chattanooga Police Department	View here
• Stephen Russell	Wastewater Depart.	View here
• Jon Jon Wesolowski	9	View here
• Frank Collins	1	View here
• Stephen West	Public Works Dept.	View here
• Chris Dooley	1	View here

[Councilman Clark arrived during the above public hearing.]

Councilwoman Dotley confirmed that there were no other persons wishing to address the Council on the proposed budget amendment. Therefore, she closed the public hearing at 4:56 p.m. and yielded control of the meeting back to Chairwoman Hill.

DISCUSSION AGENDA

NEXT WEEK'S PROPOSED AGENDA (August 26, 2025)

Agenda Item 8(a) – Finance (Ordinance relative to amending the FY26 Operations Budget);
Agenda Item 8(b) – Finance (Ordinance relative to striking & substituting certain portions of the FY26 Operations Budget); and
Agenda Item 8(c) – Finance (Ordinance relative to amending the Capital Budget Ordinance No. 14240)

Chairwoman Hill offered additional information about these items [view [here](#)]. Upon no further questions or comments, the issue was closed.

FUTURE CONSIDERATIONS

Item 16(a) – Mayor's Office (Resolution relative to the restructuring of certain Departments to comply with TN Public Chapters 494 and 458 enacted in May 2025)

Councilwoman Dotley requested confirmation that there would be a presentation on this item; Mr. Roig affirmed. Upon no further questions or comments, the issue was closed.

MEETING RECESS

Upon no objections from the Council, at 5:04 p.m., Chairwoman Hill recessed the business meeting until 5:30 p.m.

APPROVAL OF LAST MINUTES

On motion of Vice Chair Noel and seconded by Councilwoman Dotley, the minutes of the last meeting (August 12, 2025) were approved as published.

MEETING RECONVENED

Chairwoman Hill reconvened the meeting at 5:32 p.m. A quorum as present that also included Vice Chair Noel and Councilmembers Henderson, Davis, Harvey, Berz, and Dotley. Councilman Clark and Elliott joined the meeting during vote on the final ordinances. Attorney Noblett and Ms. Gwyn were also present.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

ORDINANCES – FINAL READING:

PROCEDURAL NOTE: With no objection from the Council, Chairwoman Hill instructed the Clerk to group and read the following six ordinances for one Council vote.

2025-0109
Riverton LLC
Planning Commission Version
District No. 2

ORDINANCE #14263

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHATTANOOGA CITY CODE, PART II, CHAPTER 38, ZONING ORDINANCE, SO AS TO REZONE PROPERTY LOCATED IN THE 1000 BLOCK OF LUPTON DRIVE, FROM RN-3 RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORHOOD ZONE TO C-C COMMERCIAL CORRIDOR ZONE, SUBJECT TO CERTAIN CONDITIONS.

2025-0112
John Felkner and Louise Wilkins c/o Wilkins Partners, LP
Planning Commission Version
District No. 4

ORDINANCE #14264

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHATTANOOGA CITY CODE, PART II, CHAPTER 38, ZONING ORDINANCE, SO AS TO REZONE PROPERTIES LOCATED AT 1721, 1723, 1725, AND 1735 JOINER ROAD, FROM C-NT NEIGHBORHOOD TRANSITION COMMERCIAL ZONE AND RN-1-6 RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORHOOD ZONE TO RN-3 RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORHOOD ZONE, SUBJECT TO CERTAIN CONDITIONS.

2025-0089
Eric Hudson c/o Semnoz Properties, LLC
Planning Commission Version
District No. 6

ORDINANCE #14265

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHATTANOOGA CITY CODE, PART II, CHAPTER 38, ZONING ORDINANCE, SO AS TO REZONE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 7117 BONNY OAKS DRIVE, FROM RN-1-6 RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORHOOD ZONE TO C-NT NEIGHBORHOOD TRANSITION COMMERCIAL ZONE, SUBJECT TO CERTAIN CONDITIONS.

2025-0111
Ben Berry c/o Berry Engineers
District No. 6

ORDINANCE #14266

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHATTANOOGA CITY CODE, PART II, CHAPTER 38, ZONING ORDINANCE, SO AS TO LIFT CONDITION NO. 1 FROM ORDINANCE NO. 13935 OF PREVIOUS CASE NO. 2022-0233 ON PROPERTIES LOCATED AT 4905 AND 4907 PATTENTOWN ROAD, AND TO ADD A NEW CONDITION.

2025-0105
N & R Properties
Planning Commission Version
District No. 7

ORDINANCE #14267

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHATTANOOGA CITY CODE, PART II, CHAPTER 38, ZONING ORDINANCE, SO AS TO REZONE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 3524 BROAD STREET, FROM C-MU1 COMMERCIAL MIXED-USE ZONE TO C-R REGIONAL COMMERCIAL ZONE, SUBJECT TO CERTAIN CONDITIONS.

ORDINANCE #14268

AN ORDINANCE TO APPROVE CORRECTIONS TO THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP AS REFERENCED BELOW.

Councilwoman Dotley moved to approve all six ordinances. Vice Chair Noel seconded. The motion carried.

ACTION: ORDINANCES 14263 - 14268 APPROVED

ORDINANCES – FIRST READING:

MR-2025-0083

City of Chattanooga Wastewater c/o Mark Heinzer, P.E.

District No. 2

On motion of Councilman Elliott and seconded by Councilwoman Dotley,

ORDINANCE #14269

AN ORDINANCE CLOSING AND ABANDONING MULTIPLE SANITARY SEWER EASEMENTS IN THE 1500 BLOCK OF MERCER STREET AND THE 1100 BLOCK OF LUPTONVILLE CROSSING, INCLUDING: (1) A SEWER EASEMENT BEGINNING AT MH #S118N001 THENCE NORTHEASTWARDLY 3,770 FEET TO MH #S118L001; (2) A SEWER EASEMENT BEGINNING AT MH #S118E053 THENCE SOUTHWEST 1,171 FEET TO MH #S118E306; AND (3) PORTIONS OF THIRTY (30”) INCH FORCE MAIN AND FORTY-EIGHT (48”) INCH GRAVITY SEWER EASEMENTS AS DESCRIBED IN THE ATTACHED DOCUMENTATION, TAX MAP NOS. 118E-E-006, 118K-E-004, 007 THRU 020, 118K-E-027, 028, 038, AS SHOWN ON THE ATTACHED MAPS, SUBJECT TO CERTAIN CONDITIONS.

The motion carried.

ACTION: PASSED ON FIRST READING

MR-2025-0038

Joseph Parks c/o March Adams & Associates, Inc.

District No. 8

On motion of Vice Chair Noel and seconded by Councilman Elliott,

ORDINANCE #14270

AN ORDINANCE CLOSING AND ABANDONING A SANITARY SEWER AND EASEMENT IN THE 400 BLOCK OF PALMETTO STREET, BEGINNING TWENTY (20) FEET NW FROM MH #S146A019 THENCE 287 FEET TO MH #S146A020, FOR A TOTAL OF 287 LINEAR FEET, TAX MAP NO. 146A-F-008, AS SHOWN ON THE ATTACHED MAP, SUBJECT TO CERTAIN CONDITIONS.

ACTION: PASSED ON FIRST READING

RESOLUTIONS:

On motion of Councilman Clark and seconded by Councilman Elliott,

RESOLUTION #32613

A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT OF RONIKA BRYANT TO THE SPORTS AUTHORITY BOARD FOR DISTRICT 5, FOR A TERM BEGINNING ON AUGUST 20, 2025, AND ENDING ON AUGUST 19, 2031.

The motion carried.

ACTION: ADOPTED

On motion of Councilwoman Dotley and seconded by Councilman Elliott,

RESOLUTION #32614

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ADMINISTRATOR FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TO ENTER INTO AN INDEMNITY, HOLD HARMLESS, AND CONTRIBUTION AGREEMENT WITH DEW JAMES, LLC, IN SUBSTANTIALLY THE FORM ATTACHED, AND TO AUTHORIZE THE PAYMENT OF \$269,000.00 FOR REIMBURSEMENT TO DEW JAMES, LLC FOR THE PLACEMENT OF LIGHTWEIGHT FLOWABLE FILL INTO THE CITY'S RIGHTS-OF-WAYS AT BROAD AND EIGHTH STREETS AS NECESSARY TO MAINTAIN THE STRUCTURAL INTEGRITY OF THE CITY SIDEWALKS AND RIGHTS-OF-WAYS.

The motion carried.

ACTION: ADOPTED

On motion of Councilwoman Dotley and seconded by Vice Chair Noel,

RESOLUTION #32615

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OR HIS DESIGNEE TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE AT CHATTANOOGA PURSUANT TO THE INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT REFERENCED IN RESOLUTION 32562, FOR REAL-TIME TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT AND OTHER EXPENSES RELATED TO THE 2023 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION'S (USDOT) SMART GRANTS PROGRAM AWARD WITH FUNDING THROUGH THE SMART GRANTS PROGRAM.

The motion carried.

ACTION: ADOPTED

On motion of Councilman Harvey and seconded by Councilman Elliott,

RESOLUTION #32616

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ADMINISTRATOR FOR PARKS & OUTDOORS TO APPLY FOR, AND IF AWARDED, ACCEPT A TENNESSEE TOURISM ENHANCEMENT GRANT FOR THE COOLIDGE PARK LIVE AND ELECTRIC PROJECT, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$100,000.00, WITH A FUNDING MATCH NOT TO EXCEED \$100,000.00 FROM LOCAL PRIVATE FOUNDATION SUPPORT.

The motion carried.

ACTION: ADOPTED

On motion of Vice Chair Noel and seconded by Councilwoman Berz,

RESOLUTION #32617

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ADMINISTRATOR FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS TO APPROVE CHANGE ORDER NO. 2 WITH J. BRENNON CONSTRUCTION, INC., OF DALTON, GA, RELATIVE TO CONTRACT NO. E-23-017-201, CITY HALL ANNEX IMPROVEMENTS, FOR WINDOW TRIM REMEDIATION, ROOFTOP DOORWAY WEATHERPROOFING, AND ADA BATHROOM ADDITIONS, FOR AN INCREASE OF \$128,973.27, WITH A CONTINGENCY IN THE AMOUNT OF \$50,000.00, FOR A REVISED AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$2,140,130.75.

The motion carried.

ACTION: ADOPTED

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

[View [here](#)]

Recommended New Purchases

Mr. Harrigan (Purchasing) recommended the following new purchases for Council consideration:

REQ168580 Fleet Management Division, Public Works \$133,564.46

Caterpillar 420 Center-Pivot Backhoe Loader
Lowest/Best Bidder: Stowers Machinery Corporation
4066 S. Access Road
Chattanooga, TN 37406

REQ168626 Fleet Management Division, Public Works \$112,000.00

CNG GoFill Refueler & Maintenance Tech Training
Lowest/Best Bidder: Onboard Dynamics
62958 Layton Avenue Suite 2
Bend, Oregon 97701

REQ168959 Fleet Management Division, Public Works \$521,523.21
 (3) 2026 International MV607 Chassis Dump Trucks
 Lowest/Best Bidder: Lee-Smith Company
 2600 8th Avenue
 Chattanooga, TN 37407

REQ169188 Fleet Management Division, Public Works \$179,000.00
 New Holland TS6120 Tractor with Tiger Bengal 22
 Turn Key Roadside Mower
 Lowest/Best Bidder: Chattanooga Tractor & Equipment Inc
 2034 E. Polymer Drive
 Chattanooga, TN 37421

PA100266 Fleet Management Division, Public Works \$170,000.00
 Petersen Knuckleboom Loader OEM Parts & Service
 Lowest/Best Bidder: CMI Equipment Sales Inc
 P.O. Box 78098
 Nashville, TN 37207

REQ169004 Wastewater \$66,759.50
 Dezurik Plug Valves
 Lowest/Best Bidder: Eco-Tech, Inc.
 PO Box 956
 Holly Springs, GA 30142

RFP FORMAT RECOMMENDATION

Ms. Talley requested to issue the following RFP for Council approval:

DEPARTMENT	SUMMARY	DOCUMENTATION LINK
Human Resources - Risk Management	Risk Management is seeking a Third Party Claims Administrator for Injury on Duty and Occupational Health Programs.	REQ164598

Councilwoman Berz moved to approve the new purchases and issuing of the RFP. Vice Chair Noel seconded. The motion carried.

**ACTION: ALL NEW PURCHASES APPROVED;
REQ164598 APPROVED TO ISSUE**

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

[View [here](#)]

Affordable Housing Committee
 Councilwoman Dotley (No report)

Budget and Finance Committee

Councilwoman Dotley reported [view [here](#)]:

- At the meeting today, the Council discussed upcoming votes on two proposals to exceed the certified tax rate, with the Mayor proposing a rate of 1.93 and Councilman Henderson proposing 1.69 for FY26. Both proposals will be voted on next week, August 26, and the final decision will be made on September 9.

Economic Development Committee

Councilman Elliott reported [view [here](#)]:

- Thanks city staff, first responders, public works, and parks employees for their support and efforts during the recent floods.
- Informed the public to continue submitting assessments for those impacted, aiming to secure relief funds from agencies such as FEMA. Information can be sent directly to council office at council-clerk@chattanooga.gov or through the mayor's pathway, with the hope of securing assistance for affected community members.

Education Committee

Councilman Harvey (No report)

Community Development Committee

Councilman Clark reported [view [here](#)]:

- His gratitude to various city officials and staff for assisting and supporting the recent flood relief efforts at the Brainerd Community Center.
- Residents affected by floods are encouraged to submit assessments for possible financial assistance through the mayor's office or council offices.
- His appreciation for first responders, public works, and parks staff for their dedication to the community during the past week.

Legislative Committee

Vice Chair Noel (No report)

Planning and Zoning Committee

Councilwoman Berz announced [view [here](#)]

- The District 6 Town Hall will take place on this Thursday, August 21, at 6:00 p.m., in the Tyner Community Center, 6900 Ty Hi Drive.

Parks and Public Works Committee

Councilman Davis announced [view [here](#)]:

- The District 3 Town Hall will take place on this Sunday, August 24, at 2:00 p.m. in the Hixson Community Center, 5401 School Drive.

Public Safety Committee

Councilman Henderson (No report)

RECOGNITION OF PERSONS WISHING TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

[View [here](#)]

Attorney Noblett read the rules of procedure for persons wishing to address the Council. After which, Chairwoman Hill recognized the following persons:

Speaker Name	District	Link to YouTube Comments
• Monty Bell	(N/A)	View here

ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Councilman Elliott, Chairwoman Hill adjourned the meeting of the Chattanooga City Council until next Tuesday, August 26, 2025, at 3:30 p.m.

COUNCIL CHAIR

CLERK OF COUNCIL