



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

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

August 26, 2025
3:30 PM

CALL TO ORDER

Council Chairwoman Jenny Hill called the business meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. A quorum was present that also included Vice Chair Marvene Noel, and Councilpersons Chip Henderson, Jeff Davis, Cody Harvey, Dennis Clark, Jenni Berz, Raquetta Dotley, and Ron Elliott.

[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: Tim Kelly, Mayor, and Kevin Roig, Chief of Staff

Office of City Attorney: Phil Noblett, City Attorney

Police: John Chambers, Chief

Fire: Terry Knowles, Chief

Regional Planning: Karen Rennich, Interim Administrator

Purchasing: Debbie Talley, Chief Procurement Officer

Council Office: Melissa Bardoner, Council Support Specialist, and Nicole Gwyn, Clerk to Council

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Public Hearing on FY26 Budget Amendment **Alternate Proposal re: Intent to Exceed Certified Tax Rate to \$1.69**

A Public Hearing ensued on the following:

AN ORDINANCE TO STRIKE CERTAIN PORTIONS OF ORDINANCE NO. 14239, ALSO KNOWN AS "THE FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026 OPERATIONS BUDGET," FOR THE CITY OF CHATTANOOGA AND TO SUBSTITUTE THE FOLLOWING PROVISIONS FIXING THE RATE OF TAXATION ON ALL TAXABLE PROPERTIES IN THE CITY; AMENDING ESTIMATED GENERAL FUND REVENUES; 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 3:33 p.m. Councilwoman Dotley then turned the floor over to Councilman Henderson, who presented a brief overview [view [here](#)] of his alternate proposed \$1.69 tax rate.

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 / ORGANIZATION	YOUTUBE LINK
• Lea Anne Wiles	2	View here
• Beeta Baghaevaji	9	View here
• Bob Geier	1	View here
• Sherry Kitts	3	View here
• Kim Murphy	2	View here
• Mike Hickman	2	View here
• Daniel Bradley	1	View here
• Ofc. Justin Cole	6 / Chattanooga Police Dept.	View here
• Anna Golladay	8	View here
• Janice Gooden	8	View here
• Christa Mannarino	Signal Centers	View here
• Ofc. Ryan Blevins	Chattanooga Police Dept.	View here
• Chris Dooley	1	View here
• Eddie Owensby	3	View here
• Dr. Joshua Tyler	6	View here
• Emerson Burch	9	View here
• Edward Hewitt	9	View here
• Shakir Rashed	5	View here
• Jan Purdy	3	View here
• Curtis Lancaster	5	View here
• Lt. Jack Thompson	6 / Chattanooga Fire Dept.	View here
• Capt. Keith Liles	Chattanooga Fire Dept.	View here
• Marie Mott	6	View here
• Erin Mourier	9	View here
• Tamika White	SEIU Local 205	View here
• Trina Coker	9 / Public Works Dept.	View here
• Ryan Ewalt	2	View here
• Sgt. Chris Mullinix	1 / Chattanooga Police Dept.	View here
• Kevin Hayes	5	View here
• Vivian Hershey	1	View here
• Mayor Tim Kelly	Mayor	View here

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 4:41 p.m. and yielded control of the meeting back to Chairwoman Hill.

APPROVAL OF LAST MINUTES

On motion of Vice Chair Noel and seconded by Councilman Elliott, the minutes of the last meeting (August 19, 2025) were approved as published.

DISCUSSION AGENDA

ORDINANCES – FIRST READING:

Agenda Item VIII(a) – Finance (Relative to amending [*or striking & substituting certain portions of*] the FY26 Operations Budget)

Councilwoman Dotley requested clarification on the voting procedure for this item; Attorney Noblett responded, and discussion ensued amongst the Council. Chief Chambers, Chief Knowles, and Mr. Roig all spoke as well, following the Council's requests for input. The discussion may be viewed [here](#) in its entirety, and touched on the following:

- Amending the alternate version to \$1.73 (instead of \$1.69) to account for the additional Fire Station
- Clarification on the voting and amendment procedures for this item, in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order
- The immediate needs of the Police & Fire Departments:
 - Pay increases
 - Police patrol vehicles
 - Ladder 21 Fire Station + the personnel & apparatus to staff it
- Implementing a long-term mechanism to address First Responder pay
- Having a strategic, multi-year economic / financial plan, in addition to the year-to-year budget
- The lack of emphasis on supplemental expenses in the initial budget [passed in June of 2025]

Upon no further comments or questions, the issue was closed.

Agenda Item VIII(b) – Finance (Relative to amending the FY26 Capital Budget)

Councilman Henderson requested clarification and additional information regarding this item; Mr. Roig responded [view [here](#)]. Upon no further comments or questions, the issue was closed.

OTHER BUSINESS:

• Chairwoman Hill advised there would not be a Council meeting next week [September 2, 2025] in honor of Labor Day.

• Councilman Elliott inquired about adding a resolution, co-sponsored by Councilman Clark, to the next agenda (September 9, 2025) regarding the UAW; Chairwoman Hill responded [view [here](#)]. The councilman agreed to send the draft to the chairwoman and the Clerk.

Upon no further questions or comments, the issues were closed.

PLANNING & ZONING COMMITTEE

PROCEDURAL NOTE: Chairwoman Hill yielded control of the meeting to Councilwoman Berz for the Planning & Zoning Committee. [View the committee [here](#).]

CALL TO ORDER: Councilwoman Berz, Committee Chair, called the Planning & Zoning Committee to order at 5:48 p.m., with a quorum of all nine councilpersons present.

MINUTE APPROVAL: On motion of Vice Chair Noel and seconded by Councilman Elliott, the minutes of the last Planning & Zoning Committee meeting (August 5, 2025) were approved as published.

Items for Tuesday, September 9, 2025

Ordinances – First Reading:

Case No. 2025-0123

Ms. Rennich briefed the Council on this item. Upon no comments or questions, the issue was closed.

Case No. 2025-0122

Ms. Rennich briefed the Council on this item. Afterward, Councilwoman Dotley requested clarification on the number of stories and units; Ms. Rennich responded. Councilwoman Dotley then asked Ms. Rennich to have the developer reach out to her; Ms. Rennich affirmed. The presentation and ensuing discussion may be viewed [here](#). Upon no further comments or questions, the issue was closed.

Case No. 2025-0120 & Case No. 2025-0121

Ms. Rennich briefed the Council on these items at Councilman Elliott's request. Afterwards, Councilman Elliott asked Ms. Rennich to have the applicant get in touch with him; Ms. Rennich affirmed. Upon no further comments or questions, the issues were closed.

Text amendment to the Chattanooga Zoning Ordinance No. 14137 (relative to crematoriums, etc.)

Ms. Rennich briefed the Council on this item. Afterward, Chairwoman Hill suggested the following revisions to the amendment:

- The definition of 'crematorium' be broadened to also include pet / animal remains
- The language in amendment #7 should be corrected to read "*multi-unit developments cannot exceed 25% of total units for short term vacation rentals*"

Ms. Rennich affirmed. [The presentation and ensuing discussion may be viewed [here](#)]. Upon no further comments or questions, the issue was closed.

MEETING RECESS

Councilwoman Berz adjourned the Planning & Zoning Committee at 6:11 p.m. and recessed the business meeting until 7:00 p.m.

MEETING RECONVENED

Chairwoman Hill reconvened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. A quorum as present that also included Vice Chair Noel and Councilmembers Henderson, Davis, Harvey, Clark, Berz, Dotley, and Elliott. Attorney Noblett and Ms. Gwyn were also present.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

ORDINANCES – FINAL READING:

MR-2025-0083

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

District No. 2

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.

MR-2025-0038

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

District No. 8

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.

Councilwoman Berz moved to approve both ordinances. Councilwoman Dotley seconded. The motion carried.

ACTION: ORDINANCES 14269 - 14270 APPROVED

ORDINANCES – FIRST READING:

Regarding agenda item VIII(a), Chairwoman Hill instructed the Clerk to read the Mayor's proposed ordinance to increase the tax rate to \$1.93.

Agenda Item VIII(a):

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. (Mayor's Proposal to Increase The Tax Rate To \$1.93)

Councilwoman Dotley moved to approve. Vice Chair Noel seconded the motion. The motion was open for discussion and debate. **Councilman Henderson moved to amend** the \$1.93 and replace it with the \$1.69 alternate version.

AN ORDINANCE TO STRIKE CERTAIN PORTIONS OF ORDINANCE NO. 14239, ALSO KNOWN AS "THE FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026 OPERATIONS BUDGET," FOR THE CITY OF CHATTANOOGA AND TO SUBSTITUTE THE FOLLOWING PROVISIONS FIXING THE RATE OF TAXATION ON ALL TAXABLE PROPERTIES IN THE CITY; AMENDING ESTIMATED GENERAL FUND REVENUES; 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. *(Alternate Version to Increase the Tax Rate to \$1.69) (Sponsored by Councilmen Henderson and Davis)*

Councilman Davis seconded the motion by Councilman Henderson. Councilman Harvey expressed his intent to amend the amendment. Councilman Henderson had no objection to Councilman Harvey's amendment. **Councilman Harvey moved** to amend the alternate version to a millage rate of \$1.73. His amendment added: *The additional revenue of \$4,308,000 will be appropriated to the Chattanooga Fire Department for the specific purpose to fund a new ladder truck and ladder company at Fire Station 21 in district 4.*

The Clerk read the Alternate Version as well as the Councilman Harvey's amendment to the alternate version into the records. The motion on the secondary amendment carried upon roll call vote as follows:

Henderson	YES
Davis	YES
Harvey	YES
Clark	YES
Berz	YES

Dotley	NO
Elliott	YES
Noel	NO
Hill	YES

YES – Seven; NO – Two (2)

Councilman Henderson moved to approve the **Alternate Version as amended**. Councilman Davis seconded. The motion failed upon roll call vote as follows:

Henderson	YES	Dotley	NO
Davis	YES	Elliott	NO
Harvey	YES	Noel	NO
Clark	NO	Hill	YES
Berz	NO		

YES – Four (4); NO – Five (5)

Chairwoman Hill called for the vote on the main motion to approve the Mayor's proposed budget amendment. *[Editor's Note: As a reminder, the motion for the Mayor's proposal had been made by Councilwoman Dotley, with Vice Chair Noel as a second.]*

ORDINANCE #14271

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. (MAYOR'S PROPOSAL TO INCREASE THE TAX RATE TO \$1.93)

The motion carried upon roll call vote as follows:

Elliott	YES	Davis	NO
Dotley	YES	Henderson	NO
Berz	YES	Noel	YES
Clark	YES	Hill	NO
Harvey	NO		

YES – Five (5); NO – Four (4)

ACTION: ORDINANCE 14271 PASSED ON FIRST READING
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On motion of Councilwoman Dotley and seconded by Vice Chair Noel,

ORDINANCE #14272

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CAPITAL BUDGET ORDINANCE NO. 14240, KNOWN AS "THE FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026 CAPITAL BUDGET," APPROPRIATING, AUTHORIZING, OR ALLOCATING FUNDS TO THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026 TO INCREASE THE CAPITAL BUDGET BY \$13,350,000.00 FROM GENERAL FUND OPERATIONS.

The motion carried upon roll call vote as follows:

Elliott	YES	Davis	NO
Dotley	YES	Henderson	YES
Berz	YES	Noel	YES
Clark	YES	Hill	YES
Harvey	YES		

YES – Eight (8); NO – One (1)

ACTION: ORDINANCE 14272 PASSED ON FIRST READING

RESOLUTIONS:

On motion of Councilman Clark and seconded by Councilman Elliott,

RESOLUTION #32618

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TO APPLY FOR, AND IF AWARDED, ACCEPT THE OLDER AMERICAN ACT SENIOR CENTER SERVICES GRANT BY THE SOUTHEAST TENNESSEE DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT/SOUTHEAST TENNESSEE AREA AGENCY ON AGING AND DISABILITY FOR SENIOR COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES FOR A GRANT PERIOD OF JULY 1, 2025, THROUGH JUNE 30, 2026, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$20,000.00.

The motion carried.

ACTION: ADOPTED

On motion of Councilman Harvey and seconded by Councilwoman Dotley,

RESOLUTION #32619

A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT OF JONATHAN MASON TO THE HEALTH, EDUCATIONAL, AND HOUSING FACILITY BOARD FOR DISTRICT 4, WITH A TERM BEGINNING ON AUGUST 27, 2025, AND ENDING ON AUGUST 26, 2031.

The motion carried.

ACTION: ADOPTED

On motion of Councilman Elliott and seconded by Councilwoman Dotley,

RESOLUTION #32620

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DEPARTMENT OF PARKS & OUTDOORS TO APPLY FOR, AND IF AWARDED, ACCEPT A BLUECROSS HEALTHY PLACES GRANT FOR THE RENOVATION OF PAVILION PARK, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2 MILLION.

The motion carried.

ACTION: ADOPTED

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

RESOLUTION #32621

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ADMINISTRATOR FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS TO AWARD CONTRACT NO. Y-25-007-201, CARVER COMMUNITY CENTER GYM FLOOR REPLACEMENT, TO WILDER CONTRACTING, LLC, OF CHATTANOOGA, TN, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$128,968.00, WITH A CONTINGENCY IN THE AMOUNT OF \$3,207.00, FOR A TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$132,175.00.

RESOLUTION #32622

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ADMINISTRATOR FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS TO AWARD CONTRACT NO. E-21-022-201, WATKINS BUILDING ACM ABATEMENT AND MOLD REMEDIATION, TO E. LUKE GREENE COMPANY, INC., OF NEW MARKET, TN, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$94,542.55, WITH A CONTINGENCY IN THE AMOUNT OF \$9,450.00, FOR A TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$104,042.55.

Vice Chair Noel moved to approve both resolutions. Councilwoman Dotley seconded. The motion carried.

ACTION: RESOLUTIONS 32621 & 32622 ADOPTED

On motion of Councilman Henderson and seconded by Councilwoman Berz,

RESOLUTION #32623

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CHIEF OF POLICE TO APPLY FOR, AND IF AWARDED, ACCEPT A GRANT FROM THE HAMILTON COUNTY DISTRICT 3 HOMELAND SECURITY COUNCIL, THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY, OFFICE FOR DOMESTIC PREPAREDNESS STATE HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM 2024 AWARDED HAMILTON COUNTY, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$182,406.46, WHICH WILL BE ADMINISTERED TO THE CHATTANOOGA POLICE DEPARTMENT AND OTHER MUNICIPALITIES, WHEREIN THE CHATTANOOGA POLICE DEPARTMENT WILL RECEIVE \$33,261.50 TO PURCHASE EQUIPMENT, FOR A GRANT PERIOD ENDING JANUARY 31, 2027.

The motion carried.

ACTION: ADOPTED

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

Recommended New Purchases

[View [here](#)]

Ms. Talley (Purchasing) recommended one new purchase for Council consideration:

REQ168943 Fleet Management Division, Public Works \$264,457.64

Two (2) Caterpillar Backhoe Loaders

Lowest/Best Bidder: Stower Machinery Corporation

4066 S. Access Road

Chattanooga, TN 37406

Councilwoman Dotley moved to approve. Councilman Elliott seconded. The motion carried.

ACTION: NEW PURCHASE REQ168943 APPROVED

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

[View [here](#)]

Affordable Housing Committee

Councilwoman Dotley (No report)

Budget and Finance Committee

Councilwoman Dotley reported:

- The public hearing took place today on the Mayor's proposal for the \$1.69 certified tax rate; that tax rate did pass first reading today.
- Thanks for everyone's participation and engagement in the process.
- The Council would not be meeting next week (September 2) due to the holiday.

Economic Development Committee

Councilman Elliott (No report)

Education Committee

Councilman Harvey (No report)

Equity and Community Development Committee

Councilman Clark (No report)

Legislative Committee

Vice Chair Noel (No report)

Planning and Zoning Committee

Councilwoman Berz reported:

- The committee meeting that was originally scheduled for next week took place earlier today. Cases scheduled for hearings on September 9th were reviewed.
- She commended the case presentations from Karen Renick (RPA).

Parks and Public Works Committee

Councilman Davis (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
• Jade Maholski	(N/A)	View here <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Councilwoman Berz emphasized the importance of getting the message out to everyone who had flood damage to report their information and damages to council-clerk@chattanooga.gov. The councilwoman also asked the speaker to help spread the word.
• Jon Jon	9	View here
• Rev. Ann Pierre	9	View here
• Andrew Jones	2	View here
• Monty Bell	(N/A)	View here
• Blake Wright	9	View here
• Sandra Ayala	(N/A)	View here

ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Councilman Henderson, Chairwoman Hill adjourned the meeting of the Chattanooga City Council until next **Tuesday, September 9, 2025**, at 3:30 p.m.

COUNCIL CHAIR

CLERK OF COUNCIL