



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

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

February 25, 2025
3:30 PM

CALL TO ORDER

Council Chairman Chip Henderson called the business meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. A quorum was present that also included Vice Chair Jenny Hill, and Councilpersons Ken Smith, Darrin Ledford, Isiah Hester, Jenni Berz, Raquetta Dotley, Marvene Noel, and Demetrus Coonrod.

[Editor's Note: This meeting was live streamed on YouTube and is available to view in full [here.](#)]

OTHER PARTICIPANTS

Office of City Attorney: Phil Noblett, City Attorney

Early Learning: Karitsa Jones, Administrator; Ikeko Bass, Business Navigator; and Jacqueline Thomas, Community Forward Program Director

Purchasing: Debbie Talley, Chief Procurement Officer

Council Office: Melissa Bardoner, Council Support Specialist

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilwoman Dotley led the Assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance and gave an invocation.

APPROVAL OF LAST MINUTES

On motion of Councilman Smith and seconded by Councilman Ledford, the minutes of the last meeting (February 18, 2025) were approved as published.

DISCUSSION AGENDA

RESOLUTIONS:

Agenda Item IX(d) – Planning (Relative to Special Exceptions Permit for 7354 E. Brainerd Road)

Councilwoman Berz advised she would be seeking to defer this item for two weeks. Upon no further comments or questions, the issue was closed.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Chairman Henderson announced that a public hearing would be held on Tuesday, March 11, 2025, regarding a budget amendment (relative to the Humane Society). Upon no further comments or questions, the issue was closed.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

PROCEDURAL NOTE: Chairman Henderson yielded control of the meeting to Councilwoman Noel for the Education Committee. [View the committee [here](#).]

CALL TO ORDER: Councilwoman Noel, Committee Chair, called the Education Committee to order at 3:35 p.m., with a quorum of all nine councilpersons present.

MINUTE APPROVAL: **On motion of Vice Chair Hill** and seconded by Councilman Ledford, the minutes of the last Education Committee meeting (March 28, 2023) were approved as published.

Department of Early Learning: Update

Ms. Jones briefed the Council on the updates that have occurred since the Department's transition in 2021, when the Office of Early Learning grew into the Department of Early Learning. The presentation may be viewed [here](#) and touched on the following:

- The four divisions contained within the Department:
 - Office of Early Learning
 - Office of Americorp Seniors – Foster Grandparents
 - Office of Head Start & Early Head Start
 - Office of Community Forward
- The goal, mission, and vision of the Department
- How each of the four divisions / Offices within the Department function, as well as the body of work each of them do, and the support & services they each provide
- Basics Chattanooga program
- Future Ready Institute progress: anticipated start date and branded pathway

Afterwards, the floor was opened for questions and comments from the Council. Ms. Jones, Ms. Bass, and Ms. Thomas were the main responders to Council questions, which may be viewed [here](#) and touched on the following:

- The difference between chronic absenteeism and truancy, and the Department's role in functioning as part of the larger, multi-agency care team to help combat those things
- How daycares can sign up for the [Office of Early Learning's] cohort(s) and the prerequisites for doing so
- Contingency plan(s) for if Federal funding is cut for Head Start
- Clarification on the number of early learning seats available
- The Department's collaboration with Hamilton County schools

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

RECESS

Councilwoman Noel adjourned the Education Committee at 4:29 p.m. and recessed the business meeting until 5:00 p.m.

MEETING RECONVENED

Chairman Henderson reconvened the meeting at 5:00 p.m. A quorum as present that also included Vice Chair Hill and Councilpersons Smith, Ledford, Hester, Berz, Dotley, Noel, and Coonrod. Also present were Attorney Noble and Ms. Bardoner.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

ORDINANCES – FINAL READING:

2024-0192
Miken Development c/o Michael Kenner
Alternate Version
District No. 9

On motion of Councilwoman Coonrod and seconded by Councilman Ledford,

ORDINANCE #14203

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHATTANOOGA CITY CODE, PART II, CHAPTER 38, ZONING ORDINANCE, SO AS TO REZONE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 2659 GLASS STREET, FROM RN-1-5 RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORHOOD ZONE TO C-TMU TRANSITIONAL MIXED-USE COMMERCIAL ZONE.

The motion carried.

ACTION: APPROVED

ORDINANCES – FIRST READING:

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

ORDINANCE #14204

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHATTANOOGA CITY CODE, PART II, CHAPTER 14, RELATING TO THE ELECTRICAL CODE.

The motion carried.

ACTION: PASSED ON FIRST READING

RESOLUTIONS:

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

RESOLUTION #32414

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE OFFICE OF COMMUNITY HEALTH TO APPLY FOR FUNDING FROM THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD IN THE AMOUNT OF \$50,000.00, AND IF AWARDED, USE THE FUNDS TO INITIATE THE CITY ON THE HILL DIGITAL EQUITY WORKSHOP PILOT PROGRAM, A 16-WEEK WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP FOR YOUTH AGES 16-21.

RESOLUTION #32415

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE OFFICE OF COMMUNITY HEALTH TO APPLY FOR FUNDING FROM THE NATIONAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$93,750.00, AND IF AWARDED, USE THE FUNDS TO INITIATE THE CHATTANOOGA GROWS URBAN AGRICULTURE INITIATIVE, FUNDS TO HIRE A DIRECTOR OF URBAN AGRICULTURE WHO WILL BE TASKED WITH DEVELOPING A COMPREHENSIVE, ACTIONABLE PLAN TO PROMOTE URBAN AGRICULTURE IN CHATTANOOGA.

Councilwoman Dotley moved to approve both resolutions. Councilman Hester seconded. The motion carried.

ACTION: RESOLUTIONS 32414 & 32415 ADOPTED

Ankur Patel
District No. 3

On motion of Councilman Smith and seconded by Councilman Ledford,

RESOLUTION #32416

A RESOLUTION APPROVING A NEW SPECIAL EXCEPTIONS PERMIT CHANGING OWNERSHIP FOR A LIQUOR STORE LOCATED AT 5301 HIGHWAY 153, CHATTANOOGA, TN.

The motion carried, with Chairman Henderson voting “No.”

ACTION: ADOPTED

Kiara Corporation
District No. 6

AGENDA ITEM IX(d):

A RESOLUTION APPROVING A NEW SPECIAL EXCEPTIONS PERMIT FOR A NEW LIQUOR STORE LOCATED AT 7354 E. BRAINERD ROAD.

Councilwoman Berz moved to defer this item for two weeks [to March 11, 2025]. Councilman Ledford seconded. The motion carried.

ACTION: DEFERRED TO MARCH 11, 2025

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

[View [here](#)]

Recommended New Purchases (2)

Ms. Talley (Purchasing) recommended the following new purchases for Council consideration:

PA100176 Chattanooga Fire Department \$90,000.00
 Firefighter’s Protective Leather Boots
 Lowest/Best Bidder: Siddons-Martin Emergency Group, LLC
 1362 East Richey Road
 Houston, Texas 77073

PUR146603 Chattanooga Fire Department \$126,316.14
 Gas Detection System
 Lowest/Best Bidder: All Safe Industries
 10711 Electron Drive
 Louisville, KY 40299

Vice Chair Hill moved to approve. Councilman Dotley seconded. The motion carried.

ACTION: BOTH NEW PURCHASES APPROVED

Sole Source Purchase (1)

Ms. Talley also reported the following sole source purchase:

DATE	DEPT.	SUPPLIER	ITEM DESCRIPTION	EXPLANATION	COST	DOCUMENTS
2/17/25	Wastewater	Trihedral, Inc 7380 W Sand Lake Road, Suite 100 Orlando, FL 32819	VT Scada Licenses	VT Scada license renwal.	\$38,955.75	REQ160194

[No Council action was required for this report.]

OTHER BUSINESS

Attorney Noblett presented the Certificate of Compliance for **Northgate Liquor LLC d/b/a Northgate Liquor, 5301 Highway 153, Chattanooga, TN (District 3)** due to a change in the principal owner. He advised that signatures from five councilpersons had been secured, as required, for the certificate.

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, Chairman Henderson recognized the following individuals:

Speaker Name	District	Primary Topics:
• Monty Bell	N/A	Government corruption
• Cole Harper	N/A	The need for societal unity

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Affordable Housing Committee

Vice Chair Hill (No report)

Budget and Finance Committee

Councilman Ken Smith (No report)

Economic Development Committee

Councilwoman Coonrod (No report)

Education Committee

Councilwoman Noel reported:

- The committee met today and received a presentation from the Department of Early Learning.

Equity and Community Development Committee

Councilwoman Coonrod – addressed ongoing complaints about recreation & community centers (view discussion [here](#)).

Legislative Committee

Councilman Smith (No report)

Planning and Zoning Committee

Councilman Ledford reported:

- The committee has been moved to March 11th, due to the March 4th local election.

Parks and Public Works Committee

Councilman Hester – gave a tribute to District 5 active community member Ezra Harris, who recently passed.

Public Safety Committee

Councilwoman Dotley (No report)

ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Councilwoman Dotley, Chairman Henderson adjourned the meeting of the Chattanooga City Council until Tuesday, March 11, 2025, at 3:30 p.m.

COUNCIL CHAIR

CLERK OF COUNCIL