



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

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

January 27, 2026

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 Councilpersons Chip Henderson, Jeff Davis, Cody Harvey, Dennis Clark and Raquetta Dotley. Vice Chair Marvene Noel and Councilpersons Jenni Berz and Ron Elliott were not in attendance.

[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

Office of City Attorney: Phil Noblett, City Attorney

Mayor's Office: Kevin Roig, Chief of Staff

Public Works: Jerramy Wood, Administrator

Regional Planning: Karen Rennich, Administrator

Purchasing: Debbie Talley, Chief Procurement Officer

Parks & Outdoors: April Furth, Administrator; Greta Hayes, Director; and Elaine Adams Gossett, Therapeutic Manager

Early Learning-Head Start: Karitsa Jones, Administrator; Maranda Clark, Director; and Jessica Nicolou, Assistant Director

Public Works: Haley Hamblen, Storm Water Specialist

Council Office: Kristal Becker, Administrative Assistant; and Nicole Gwyn, Clerk to Council

WaterWays: Isabelle Legrain, Watershed Project Coordinator

Permaculture: Dorrit Zeigler, Ecologist

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INVOCATION

Councilman Cody Harvey led the Assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance and gave an invocation. He followed with a moment of silence in remembrance of the 81st anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz.

APPROVAL OF LAST MINUTES:

On motion of Councilman Clark and seconded by Councilman Harvey, the minutes of the last meeting (January 20, 2026) were approved as published.

DISCUSSION AGENDA

ORDINANCES – FINAL READING:

Agenda Item VIII(a) – Planning (Case No. 2025-0186 Honest Street Holdings)

Chairwoman Hill, speaking on behalf of Councilwoman Berz, stated she wishes to approve the alternate version of this item, subject to additional conditions. Upon no further comments or questions, the issue was closed.

ORDINANCES – FIRST READING:

Agenda Item VIII(a) – Planning (Case No. 2025-0176 3014 Dodds Avenue)

Chairwoman Hill, on behalf of Vice Chairwoman Noel, requested to defer this item until February 3, 2026. Upon no further comments or questions, the issue was closed.

Agenda Item VIII(b) – Planning (Case No. 2025-0183 511 Rosewood Street)

Chairwoman Hill requested to table this item. Upon no further comments or questions, the issue was closed.

Agenda Item VIII(c) – Planning (Case No. 2025-0144 2802 Curtis Street)

Councilwoman Dotley, on behalf of Vice Chairwoman Noel, informed the Council that she wished to approve the Planning version and add conditions to this item. Upon no further comments or questions, the issue was closed.

RESOLUTIONS:

Agenda Item IX(a) – Economic Development (Relative to \$150,000 fund to Chattanooga Airport)

Councilman Clark, on behalf of Councilwoman Berz, advised that he would moved to approve this item in her district. Upon no further comments or questions, the issue was closed.

Agenda Item IX(d) – Public Works

Councilman Clark asked Mr. Wood to read the clause in the homeowner's agreement related to this item. Mr. Wood read the five entries added to the clause. Councilman Henderson inquired about a requested presentation. Ms. Hamblen advised that they would follow up on the presentation.

FUTURE CONSIDERATIONS:

Item 17(a) – Council office (Resolution relative to new Rules of Operation for Council)

Councilman Harvey requested additional information and clarification on this item. Councilwoman Dotley explained the need to reallocate funds to increase to the Council's budget allocation from \$6,000.00 to \$10,000.00 per Council district.

PARKS, PUBLIC WORKS & WASTEWATER COMMITTEE

PROCEDURAL NOTE: Chairwoman Hill yielded control of the business meeting to Councilman Davis.

CALL TO ORDER: Councilman Davis, Committee Chair, called the committee meeting to order at 3:46 p.m., with a quorum of six councilpersons present. [View the committee [here](#).]

MINUTE APPROVAL: On motion of Councilman Harvey and seconded by Councilwoman Dotley, the minutes of the last meeting of the committee (September 30, 2025) were approved as published.

RainSmart Program Overview:

Councilman Davis, Committee Chairman, yielded the chair of the meeting to Councilman Clark, who introduced Ms. Zeigler for a presentation [view [here](#)] on the RainSmart Program. The presentation touched on the following:

- Before and after of rainfall events
- Installation
- 3 1/2-inch rainfall event
- Program participation
- Native & nonnative plants
- Aesthetics

Ms. Zeigler addressed Council's questions regarding the RainSmart program. Councilman Clark requested further clarification on native versus non-native plants. Chairwoman Hill inquired about the photo used in the presentation and the runoff situation.

Upon no further questions or comments, Councilman Davis asked Ms. Furth to give a presentation on the Parks and Outdoors Annual Report.

Parks & Outdoors Annual Report by April Furth:

The presentation may be viewed [here](#) in its entirety and touched on the following:

- 2,890 Youth Sports Program participants
- 1,767 Adult sports program participants
- 92,370 rounds of golf
- 36, 128 people served in indoor/outdoor pools
- 20, 555 Fitness Center participants
- 9,790 Therapeutics Recreation program participants
- 70 National and Regional Tournaments
- 5,642 Program Participants
- 832 Park Reservations
- 50 weeks of activities with only 2 without activities
- 842 Trees Planted
- \$4 Million in grants & donations
- 1st National Park City in America
- 2026 Park Openings

After which, Ms. Furth yielded the floor to Ms. Gossett, who gave a presentation on Therapeutic Recreation. The presentation may be viewed [here](#) in its entirety and touched on the following:

- Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation
- New Grit Jr. Freedom Chairs
- Adult Grit Chairs
- Grant Funding
- Adaptive Kayaks
- Inclusion of individuals with disabilities

Afterward, Ms. Gossett yielded the floor to Ms. Hayes, who expressed thanks to the Council and the Mayor. She presented Chairwoman Noel, who was not present, with a framed jersey for hosting the Athletes Unlimited Women's Pro softball team. She awarded Councilman Elliott, who was also not present, and Councilman Clark with softballs for their support.

Discussion ensued, with Chairwoman Hill requesting a list of data points from the video and inquired about the economic impacts. Ms. Furth informed the Council that a written annual report will be provided next week. Councilman Clark expressed his support for the Economic Impact and Expanding Opportunities. Councilman Harvey thanked the Parks and Outdoors team for the inclusion of individuals with disabilities. Councilman Davis gave a special acknowledgement to Mr. Wood and Public Works for their work during the weather events this past week. Upon no further comments or questions, the issue was closed.

Councilman Davis adjourned the Parks and Public Works Committee at 4:15 p.m. yielded control of the meeting to Councilman Harvey for the Education Committee.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

PROCEDURAL NOTE Councilman Davis adjourned the Parks and Public Works Committee at 4:15 p.m. yielded control of the meeting to Councilman Harvey for the Education Committee meeting. [View the committee [here](#).]

CALL TO ORDER: Councilman Harvey, Committee Chair, called the Education Committee to order at 4:15 p.m., with a quorum of six Councilpersons present.

MINUTE APPROVAL: **On motion of Clark** and seconded by Councilwoman Dotley, the minutes of the last Education Committee meeting were approved as published.

Head Start Program Update Presentation by Karitsa Jones: [View [here](#)]

Councilman Harvey, Committee Chairman, asked Ms. Jones to present on the Head Start Program and provide an update. Ms. Jones then introduced Ms. Clark, who delivered the presentation which touched on the following:

- Serving Children & Families since 1965
- Federal Grant Funding
- Early Learning
- Health
- Well-being

- 2025- 2026 Enrollment/ waitlist Data
- 585 Total seat enrollments
- Child outcomes
- Family and Community Engagement
- Community Partners
- Staff retention and wages
- Professional Development & Career Pathways
- Fiscal Accountability

After the presentation, the Committee Chairman Council Harvey opened the floor to questions from the Council.

- Funding sources and how the city contributes (Chairwoman Hill)
- Barriers to filling child positions in Head Start centers (Chairwoman Hill)
- The 585 seats and child placements at James A. Henry Center (Councilwoman Dotley)
- Expanding hours and the strategic framework (Councilman Clark)

Ms. Jones and Ms. Clark responded to Council questions and invited Ms. Nicolou to address questions about the program and development percentages.

Upon no further questions or comments, Councilman Harvey opened the floor to Mr. Roig, who presented a 311 Update.

311 Update/ Overview

Mr. Roig gave a presentation [view [here](#)] that included 311 updates, recapped the progress made in 2025, offered a refresher of the 311 city services, and informed the Council about plans for 2026. His presentation touched on the following:

- What happened
- What is being done
- What is coming next
- Centralized Service Center
- People, Processes, Technology
- Brief History of 311
- Top Topics by Districts
- Optimizing Service Requests (SR) Types
- Explanatory Governance

After the presentation, Councilman Harvey opened the floor for questions from Council, to which Mr. Roig and Mr. Wood responded. Discussion touched on the following:

- Route systems and their effectiveness (Councilman Clark)
- User-friendliness of the 311 app (Councilman Henderson)
- Timely responses, types of live service requests, and the documenting process (Chairwoman Hill).
- Where to find available routes and times (Councilman Harvey)

In addition, Councilwoman Dotley requested the pickup dates and times for distribution in her district. Also, Councilman Harvey requested a work session with the Council, Public Works, and Administration. Mr. Roig and Mr. Wood agreed to schedule a work session with the Council.

Councilman Harvey adjourned the Education Committee meeting at 5:37 p.m.

MEETING RECESS

With permission from Chairwoman Hill, Councilman Harvey recessed the business meeting until 6:30 p.m.

MEETING RECONVENED

Chairwoman Hill reconvened the meeting at 6:30 p.m. A quorum was present that also included Councilpersons Henderson, Davis, Harvey, Clark, and Dotley. Attorney Noblett and Ms. Gwyn were also present. Vice Chair Noel and Councilwoman Berz were not present at this meeting. Councilman Elliott did not rejoin the meeting after the recess.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

ORDINANCES – FINAL READING:

2025-0186
Honest Street Holdings
District No. 6
Alternate Version

ORDINANCE #14321

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHATTANOOGA CITY CODE, PART II, CHAPTER 38, ZONING ORDINANCE, SO AS TO REZONE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 5920 PINE GROVE TRAIL, FROM RN-3 RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORHOOD ZONE TO I-L INDUSTRIAL LIGHT ZONE, SUBJECT TO CERTAIN CONDITIONS.

Councilman Henderson moved to approve the Alternate Version, which contained a new fifth condition: *The property must be used only for a car parking area and no oversized vehicles will be allowed.* Councilwoman Dotley seconded. Discussion ensued. Attorney Noblett advised that since the fifth condition represented a substantial change to the ordinance, this item would return to first reading, requiring a second reading next week. The motion carried.

ACTION: ALTERNATE VERSION PASSED FIRST READING

ORDINANCES – FIRST READING:

2025-0176
Amalia Jacinto Ramirez
Planning Commission Version
District No. 8

Agenda Item VIII(a):

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHATTANOOGA CITY CODE, PART II, CHAPTER 38, ZONING ORDINANCE, SO AS TO REZONE PROPERTY

LOCATED AT 3014 DODDS AVENUE, FROM I-H HEAVY INDUSTRIAL ZONE
TO C-C COMMERCIAL CORRIDOR ZONE.

Councilwoman Dotley moved to defer to February 3, 2026. Councilman Davis seconded. The motion carried.

ACTION: DEFERRED UNTIL FEBRUARY 3, 2026

2025-0183

Wayne Williams c/o Workshop Architecture

Planning Commission Version

District No. 2

Agenda Item VIII(b):

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHATTANOOGA CITY CODE, PART II, CHAPTER 38, ZONING ORDINANCE, SO AS TO REZONE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 511 ROSEWOOD STREET, FROM RN-1-5 RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORHOOD ZONE TO TRN-1 TRADITIONAL NEIGHBORHOOD RESIDENTIAL ZONE, SUBJECT TO CERTAIN CONDITIONS.

Councilman Harvey moved to table. Councilwoman Dotley seconded. The motion carried.

ACTION: TABLED

2025-0144

Joshua A. Murphy

Planning Version #2

District No. 8

ORDINANCE #14322

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHATTANOOGA CITY CODE, PART II, CHAPTER 38, ZONING ORDINANCE, SO AS TO REZONE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 2802 CURTIS STREET, FROM RN-1-5 RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORHOOD ZONE TO TRN-2 ZONE.

Councilwoman Dotley moved to amend by adding the following condition: *"All parking for both existed and new units shall be located in the rear alley, also known as Brown Alley. There should be no parking on Curtis Street."* Councilman Harvey seconded. **Councilwoman Dotley moved** to approve as amended. Councilman Harvey seconded. The motion carried.

**ACTION: AMENDED WITH ONE CONDITION;
PLANNING VERSION #2 PASSED FIRST READING**

RESOLUTIONS:

On motion of Councilman Clark and seconded by Councilman Harvey,

RESOLUTION #32785

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TO PROVIDE \$150,000.00 FROM THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FUND TO THE CHATTANOOGA AIRPORT AS SUPPORT FOR THE SMALL COMMUNITY AIR SERVICE DEVELOPMENT GRANT TO

FACILITATE NON-STOP SERVICE FROM UNITED AIRLINES (OPERATED BY SKYWEST AIRLINES, INC.) FROM THE CHATTANOOGA AIRPORT (CHA) TO HOUSTON'S GEORGE BUSH INTERCONTINENTAL AIRPORT (IAH) BEGINNING ON MARCH 20, 2026.

The motion carried.

ACTION: ADOPTED

On motion of Councilman Davis and seconded by Councilwoman Dotley,

RESOLUTION #32786

A RESOLUTION AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 32678 ADOPTING A REVISED RECORDS RETENTION SCHEDULE FOR THE CITY OF CHATTANOOGA TO INCLUDE RETENTION REQUIREMENTS FOR THE FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER.

The motion carried.

ACTION: ADOPTED

On motion of Councilwoman Dotley and seconded by Councilman Harvey,

RESOLUTION #32787

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ADMINISTRATOR OF PARKS & OUTDOORS TO ACCEPT A FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION FROM A PRIVATE NON-PROFIT ENTITY, IF AWARDED, UP TO AN AMOUNT OF \$3 MILLION FOR THE RENOVATIONS TO THE CHATTANOOGA SKATEPARK.

The motion carried.

ACTION: ADOPTED

On motion of Councilman Davis and seconded by Councilman Dotley,

RESOLUTION #32788

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ADMINISTRATOR FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS TO ENTER INTO A THREE-YEAR AGREEMENT WITH WATERWAYS, A NON-PROFIT EDUCATIONAL ORGANIZATION, TO CONTINUE PROVIDING ADMINISTRATION OF THE CITY'S RAINSMART YARDS AND ADOPT-A-WATERWAY PROGRAMS, FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$192,000.00.

The motion carried.

ACTION: ADOPTED

On motion of Councilman Harvey and seconded by Councilwoman Dotley,

RESOLUTION #32789

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE, AUTHORIZING THE USE OF THE CONSTRUCTION MANAGER AT-RISK (CMAR) CONTRACT DELIVERY METHOD UNDER CERTAIN SPECIFIED WASTEWATER UTILITY AND PUBLIC WORKS INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS, CONSISTENT WITH TENNESSEE CODE ANNOTATED § 12-4-107, AND ESTABLISHING IMPLEMENTATION AND OVERSIGHT GUIDELINES FOR SUCH PROJECTS IN THE FORMS ATTACHED.

The motion carried.

ACTION: ADOPTED

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

Recommended New Purchases

[View [here](#)]

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

PA100409 Solid Waste Division, Public Works \$754,000.00

Grinding of Wood, Brush, Leaf Material & Removal Services

Lowest/Best Bidder: Big Woody's Tree Service

4018 Alabama Road

Apison, TN 37302

PA100387 Technology Services \$79,875.00

Amplifund Grant Management Software

Lowest/Best Bidder: Amplifund

812 Huron Road E.

Suite 550

Cleveland, OH 44115

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

ACTION: ALL NEW PURCHASES APPROVED

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

[View [here](#)]

Affordable Housing Committee

Councilwoman Dotley (No report)

Budget and Finance Committee

Councilwoman Dotley reported:

- The committee will meet on February 10 on the following agenda topics:
 - A discussion on updated financial policies, which she aims to distribute to the Council by February 3;
 - A presentation from PFM regarding a bond report or announcement; and
 - A preliminary report from Dr. Acuff regarding a study he is compiling for the Council.

Economic Development Committee

Councilman Elliott (Not present)

Education & Innovation Committee

Councilman Harvey reported:

- The committee met today for a 311 System update. Mr. Roig will lead a work session regarding the city's 311 system.
- Ms. Jones and Ms. Clark (Early Learning) gave a presentation on the Head Start program.

Community Development Committee

Councilman Clark (No report)

- Councilman Clark debated bringing back the Community Development meeting that had been cancelled for the month of February. After some discussion, he announced that the topic of the next Community Development meeting would be "Administration's Response to Homelessness," then determined that it would be better suited for a work group or work session format rather than a standard committee hearing. He agreed to work with Chairwoman Hill to coordinate a new date for the rescheduled meeting or work session.

Legislative Committee

Vice Chair Noel (Not present)

Planning and Zoning Committee

Councilwoman Berz (Not present)

Parks, Public Works & Wastewater Committee

Councilman Davis reported:

- The committee met today for a discussion on the city's RainSmart Program and for a presentation on the Parks and Outdoors annual report.

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
• Evelina Kertay	8	View here
○ Chief Chambers [view here] was invited to respond to the questions posed by the speaker.		
• Blake Wright	9	View here

ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Councilman Harvey, Chairwoman Hill adjourned the meeting of the Chattanooga City Council until next Tuesday, February 3, 2026, at 3:30 p.m.

COUNCIL CHAIR

CLERK OF COUNCIL