



Chattanooga City Council
City of Chattanooga, Tennessee
John P. Franklin, Sr. City Council Building
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
October 28, 2025
3:30 PM

CALL TO ORDER

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

Mayor's Office: Darrin Ledford, Deputy Chief of Staff

Office of City Attorney: Phil Noblett, City Attorney

Wastewater: Mark Heinzer, Administrator

CPD: Toby Hewitt, Deputy Chief

Economic Development: Richard Beeland, Administrator

Finance: Brian Smart, Interim Deputy CFO

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

UTC: Dr. Chris Acuff, Associate Professor

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilman Clark led the Assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance and invited Minister Janice Shireen Smith to give an invocation.

APPROVAL OF LAST MINUTES

On motion of Councilwoman Dotley and seconded by Councilman Harvey, the minutes of the last meeting (October 21, 2025) were approved as published.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Thanks to CPD

Vice Chair Noel extended appreciation to the Chattanooga Police Department for their service during the police escort of former councilman Leamon Pierce to his interment.

DISCUSSION AGENDA

RESOLUTIONS:

Agenda Item IX(e) – Public Works (Relative to Traffic Signals System Engineer)

Councilman Elliott inquired about the contract and salary, requesting comparisons to competitive wages and in-house positions. Mr. Ledford agreed to provide information on in-house positions and their salaries for Engineering services. Mr. Noblett confirmed the contractor's salary at \$145,600. Councilman Harvey then inquired about the cost of engineering services. Discussion Ensued. [See [here](#)] Upon no further questions or comments, the issue was closed.

Agenda Item IX(f) – Wastewater (Relative to Amending Resolution No. 31648)

Councilman Elliott posed questions to Mr. Heinzer regarding biosolids, landfills, and the potential use of biosolids as plant fuel. Mr. Heinzer provided the Council with an overview of the biosolids programs, digesters, and the associated processes. Discussion ensued. [See [here](#)] Upon no further questions or comments, the issue was closed.

PURCHASING QUESTIONS:

EMERGENCY PURCHASES:

- **REQ171763 – Public Works (Heritage Landing Drive Culvert Replacement & Roadway Repair)**

Councilman Clark inquired whether the matter concerned events following the August 12th incident on Heritage Landing Drive. Mr. Smart provided details regarding the incident and sinkhole repairs for \$1.3 million [view [here](#)]. Upon no further questions or comments, the issue was closed.

FUTURE CONSIDERATIONS:

Item 1(a) – Economic Development (Resolution relative to RiverCity Storefront Improvement)

Councilman Clark requested clarification regarding the \$500,000 allocation, specifically asking about a project plan or specifications, which had not been previously presented to the Council. Mr. Beeland informed the Council that a presentation would be forthcoming. Councilman Elliott clarified that the presentation would cover the project and the neighbor door corridors plan [view [here](#)]. Upon no further questions or comments, the issue was closed.

Item 8(b) – Police (Relative to Downtown Public Safety Grant)

Councilman Clark inquired about the public downtown safety grant, specifically questioning the \$2.9 million amount. Chief Hewitt and Mr. Ledford addressed the Council and provided details regarding the grant [view [here](#).] Upon no further questions or comments, the issue was closed.

NEXT WEEK'S PROPOSED AGENDA (November 4, 2025)

Agenda Item 9(i) – Attorney Office (Resolution relative to advertising Public Hearing December 9, 2025)

Councilwoman Dotley inquired about the advertising plan for the Public Hearing, to which Mr. Noblett then provided the details [view [here](#)] Upon no further questions or comments, the issue was closed.

BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE

PROCEDURAL NOTE: Vice Chair Noel yielded control of the meeting to Councilwoman Dotley for the Budget and Finance Committee. [View the committee [here](#).]

CALL TO ORDER: Councilwoman Dotley, Committee Chair, called the Budget and Finance Committee to order at 3:59 p.m., with a quorum of seven councilpersons present.

MINUTE APPROVAL: On motion of Councilman Elliott and seconded by Councilman Harvey the minutes of the last Budget & Finance Committee meeting were approved as published.

Councilwoman Dotley then turned the floor over to Dr. Acuff, who provided a follow up presentation regarding the research initiative proposal from last week [view [here](#).] His presentation touched on the following:

- Scope of Work
- 5 years financial outlook
- 10 Year forecasts
- Fiduciary Fund Analysis
- Grants impact Analysis
- Fiscal Health Assessment
- Peer City Comparisons
- Preliminary Policy recommendations

Afterwards, the floor was opened for questions from the Council. Dr. Acuff responded to the following:

- Strategies to mitigate potential increases (Councilman Elliott)
- Retaining this information for the upcoming budget cycle (Councilman Henderson)
- Scope amounts and Council's authority to amend them (Councilman Clark)
- Rationale for including Councilmembers in the five-year outlook (Councilman Clark)

Councilwoman Berz requested a guide outlining the budget discussion process, a list of required information for administration, and a summary of Council's needs and inquiries. Dr. Acuff agreed to provide their recommendations.

Councilwoman Dotley inquired if the Council was prepared to vote on moving forward with this proposal. **Councilman Henderson moved** to allocate up to \$19,999 for the financial research proposal submitted by Dr. Acuff. Councilman Clark seconded. The motion carried. Upon no comments or questions, the issue was closed. Councilwoman Dotley adjourned the Budget & Finance Committee at 4:12 p.m.

MEETING RECESS

With permission from Vice Chair Noel, Councilwoman Dotley recessed the business meeting until 4:45 p.m.

MEETING RECONVENED

Vice Chair Noel reconvened the business meeting at 4:45 p.m. A quorum was present that also included Councilmembers Henderson, Harvey, Clark, Berz, Dotley, and Elliott. Council Chair Hill and Councilman Davis were not present at this meeting. Attorney Noblett and Ms. Gwyn were also present.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

ORDINANCES – FINAL READING:

On motion of Councilwoman Dotley and seconded by Councilman Elliott,

ORDINANCE #14289

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHATTANOOGA CITY CODE, PART II, CHAPTER 35, SECTION 35-160, BILLING AND CHARGES FOR DISTRICT WRECKERS.

The motion carried.

ACTION: APPROVED

ORDINANCES – FIRST READING: (NONE)

RESOLUTIONS:

On motion of Councilwoman Berz and seconded by Councilman Elliott,

RESOLUTION #32682

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ADMINISTRATOR FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TO ENTER INTO A FIRST AGREEMENT TO EXERCISE OPTION TO RENEW WITH BRIAN M. COTTER, IN SUBSTANTIALLY THE FORM ATTACHED, FOR THE LEASE OF A HOUSE LOCATED AT 324 BASS ROAD ON TAX MAP NO. 158I-C-021.01, AND FURTHER IDENTIFIED AS THE BROWN ACRES RENTAL HOUSE, FOR AN ADDITIONAL TERM OF THREE (3) YEARS, THROUGH JANUARY 31, 2029.

The motion carried.

ACTION: ADOPTED

On motion of Councilman Elliott and seconded by Councilwoman Dotley,

RESOLUTION #32683

A RESOLUTION APPROVING A SECOND AMENDMENT TO THE ECONOMIC IMPACT PLAN FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NORTH RIVER COMMERCE CENTER INDUSTRIAL PARK AND THE REDEVELOPMENT OF NORTH ACCESS ROAD.

The motion carried.

ACTION: ADOPTED

On motion of Councilman Elliott and seconded by Councilwoman Berz,

RESOLUTION #32684

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING REVISIONS TO THE EMPLOYEE INFORMATION GUIDE (EIG) POLICY (9.0 COMPENSATION, SECTION 9.10 ON CALL PAY) TO DOUBLE ON CALL PAY, TO COMPLY WITH BUDGET AMENDMENT PASSED BY CITY COUNCIL ON SEPTEMBER 9, 2025, FOR IMMEDIATE IMPLEMENTATION AND TO BE APPLIED RETROACTIVELY TO JULY 1, 2025.

The motion carried.

ACTION: ADOPTED

On motion of Councilman Elliott and seconded by Councilwoman Dotley,

RESOLUTION #32685

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ADMINISTRATOR FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PARKS & OUTDOORS TO APPLY FOR, AND IF AWARDED, ACCEPT A LIFE FLOOR'S SIXTH ANNUAL MAKE A SPLASH GRANT FOR THE DONATION AND INSTALLATION OF 2,000 SQ. FT. OF LIFE FLOOR TILES FOR THE SPLASH PAD AT WARNER PARK, WITH A VALUE OF \$65,000.00.

The motion carried.

ACTION: ADOPTED

On motion of Councilman Clark and seconded by Councilman Harvey,

RESOLUTION #32686

A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE INSIGHT GLOBAL, LLC STATEMENT OF WORK AND CONTRACT WITH PATRICK BETHEA FOR TRAFFIC SIGNALS SYSTEM ENGINEER FOR A PERIOD OF OCTOBER, 31, 2025, THROUGH OCTOBER 30, 2026.

The motion carried.

ACTION: ADOPTED

On motion of Councilman Elliott and seconded by Councilman Harvey,

RESOLUTION #32687

A RESOLUTION AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 31648 TO ALLOW PAYMENT TO CAPITAL WASTE SERVICES FOR RHEA COUNTY LANDFILL AND TO REPUBLIC SERVICES FOR BRADLEY COUNTY LANDFILL, FOR THREE (3) YEARS THROUGH NOVEMBER 11, 2026, FOR BRADLEY COUNTY OR RHEA COUNTY LANDFILL DISPOSAL OF BIOSOLID SLUDGE AND OTHER SPECIAL WASTE, FOR A TOTAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$400,000.00.

The motion carried.

ACTION: ADOPTED

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

PROCEDURAL NOTE: Mr. Smart (Finance) presented the new purchases, emergency purchase, and sole source purchase as one package for approval consideration [view [here](#)].

Recommended New Purchases

Mr. Smart recommended the following new purchases for Council consideration:

200714 Treasurer's Office, Finance	\$350,000.00
Commercial Banking Services	
Lowest/Best Bidders:	
1. Truist Bank-736 Market Street, Chattanooga, TN 37402	
2. First Horizon Bank - Market Street, 2nd Floor, Chattanooga, TN 37402	
3. First Data Merchant Services aka FISERV-P.O Box 88310, Madison, WI 53288	
REQ170242 Parks and Outdoors	\$131,990.94
Playground for Provence Park	
Lowest/Best Bidder: Kompan Inc	
605 W Howard Lane, Ste 101	
Austin, TX 78753	
200840 Traffic Operations, Citywide Services, Public Works	\$80,000.00
Guardrail Installation & Repair Services	
Lowest/Best Bidder: Tennessee Guardrail Inc	
2620 Pickel Lane	
Knoxville, TN 37914	
REQ172084 Chattanooga Fire Department	\$500,000.00
Firefighter Protective Gear	
Lowest/Best Bidder: NAFECO	
1515 West Moulton Street	
Decatur, AL 35601	

Emergency Purchase

Mr. Smart reported on the following emergency purchase:

DATE	DEPT.	SUPPLIER	ITEM DESCRIPTION	COST	DOCUMENTS
10/22/25	Public Works	Wright Brothers Civil Construction, LLC 1500 Lauderdale Memorial Highway Charleston, TN 37310	Heritage Landing Drive Culvert Replacement and Roadway Repair	\$1,331,000.00	REQ171763
EXPLANATION/OTHER NOTES					
On August 12, 2025. approximately 6.42" of rain fell across portions of Chattanooga resulting in catastrophic flooding. Subsequently, the 48" drainage pipe beneath Heritage Landing Drive failed causing a significant section (40' x 15' x 15') of the pavement to collapse or lose support across the full width of the pavement requiring the complete closure of Heritage Landing Drive. Residents, deliveries, buses, and emergency services are utilizing a maintenance entrance to the subdivision for emergency ingress/egress.					

Sole Source Purchases

Mr. Smart also reported on the following sole source:

DATE	DEPT.	SUPPLIER	ITEM DESCRIPTION	COST	DOCUMENTS
10/14/25	Library	Audacy Operations, Inc 2400 Market St, 4th Fl Philadelphia, PA 19103	Advertising	\$25,000.00	REQ171870
EXPLANATION/OTHER NOTES					
Audacy Operations will provide monthly radio, streaming, and social media advertisements for the Chattanooga Public Library's PR campaign from September 2025 to June 2026. This sole source purchase will be awarded to Audacy Operations in the amount of \$25,000.00.					

~Sole source purchases continued on next page~

10/21/25	Technology Services	Lucid Software Inc 10355 S. Jordan Gateway #150 South Jordan, UT 84095	Lucid Suite & Cloud Accelerator	\$27,756.19	REQ172195
EXPLANATION/OTHER NOTES Lucid Suite and Cloud Accelerator offers citywide organization mapping, workflows, administrative planning, and specialized network mapping. This will be a four (4) year agreement with an estimated annual spend of \$27,756.19. This sole source agreement will be awarded to Lucid Software.					

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

ACTION: ALL NEW PURCHASES, EMERGENCY PURCHASE, AND SOLE SOURCE PURCHASES APPROVED AS A PACKAGE

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Affordable Housing Committee
Councilwoman Dotley (No report)

Budget and Finance Committee
Councilwoman Dotley reported:

- The meeting was held to discuss the research initiative proposed by Councilman Henderson. The committee passed this proposal and approved the proposal up to \$19,999.00 for Dr. Acuff of UTC to conduct the research. The Council looks forward to receiving a preliminary report in January.
 - She asked Councilmembers to send any questions regarding the initiative to Councilman Henderson or the Council Clerk.
 - She explained that the intent of the research is to create a framework for the Council as the Administration gears up for the FY27 budget.
- The committee also discussed some follow-up items, including:
 - MTAS training (“Understanding Governmental Budgeting”). She asked the Council Clerk to look up the dates for this training.
 - A subsequent budget strategic planning session to work on a guide and produce information to share with Administration as budget season approaches.

Economic Development Committee

Councilman Elliott reported:

- The committee will meet next week on the following topics:
 - Update on the Northgate Mall public hearing
 - Neighborhood retail corridor plan presentation
 - River City presentation on storefront and retail improvement initiatives

Education Committee

Councilman Harvey (No report)

Community Development Committee

Councilman Clark (No report)

Legislative Committee

Vice Chair Noel (No report)

Planning and Zoning Committee

Councilwoman Berz reported:

- The committee will meet next week. Councilmembers should have received the case reports and may let her know if there is a special presentation needed.

Parks and Public Works Committee

Councilman Davis (No report)

Public Safety Committee

Councilman Henderson (No report)

OTHER BUSINESS

Request Regarding Northgate Mall

[View [here](#)]

Councilwoman Berz requested the dates of the upcoming meetings relative to the Northgate property proposals, including the public meetings and public hearings, from the Department of Economic Development. Mr. Roig (Mayor's Office) agreed. Councilman Elliott also offered to get them for the Council.

Point of Personal Privilege

[View [here](#)]

Vice Chair Noel made comments and expressed thanks about her time serving as "acting chair" of the Council during the month of October.

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, Vice Chair Noel recognized the following persons:

Speaker Name	District/Organization	Link to YouTube Comments
• Nathan Griffin	(Save Enterprise South Nature Park group)	View here
• Elizabeth Hare	(Save Enterprise South Nature Park group)	View here
• Charles Tanner	(County)	View here
• Steve Patterson	(N/A)	View here

ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Councilwoman Dotley, Vice Chair Noel adjourned the meeting of the Chattanooga City Council until next Tuesday, November 4, 2025, at 3:30 p.m.

COUNCIL CHAIR

CLERK OF COUNCIL