



Chattanooga City Council
City of Chattanooga, Tennessee
John P. Franklin, Sr. City Council Building
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
September 17, 2024
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 Council Vice Chair Jenny Hill, and Councilpersons Ken Smith, Darrin Ledford, Carol Berz, Raquetta Dotley, Marvene Noel, and Demetrus Coonrod. Councilman Isiah Hester was not in attendance of this meeting.

[Editor's Note: This meeting was live streamed on YouTube in two parts. Part 1 of this meeting (prior to the recess) is available [here](#). Part 2 of this meeting (after the recess) is available [here](#).]

OTHER PARTICIPANTS

Office of City Attorney: Phil Noblett, City Attorney

Mayor's Office: Jermaine Freeman, Chief of Staff

Regional Planning: Karen Rennich, Deputy Administrator

Finance: Javaid Majid, City Finance Officer, and Debbie Talley, Procurement Officer

Public Works: Jerramy Woods, Administrator, and Bill Payne, City Engineer

Fire Department: Phil Hyman, Fire Chief

Chattanooga Fire and Police Pension Fund: Katrina Abbott, Fund Administrator

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Council Chairman Henderson led the Assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

"Honoring Constitution Day"

By Linda Moss Mines, Local Historian

Chairman Henderson recognized local historian Linda Moss Mines, who in turn introduced the following individuals: Noah Dumitru, President of the Col. Return Jonathan Meigs Society, Children of the American Revolution; and Rory Dumitru, who serves as American History Chair for the Tennessee Society of the Children of the American Revolution. The Dumitru siblings gave a presentation on the Surviving and Founding of the Republic for Constitution Day. [See full presentation [here](#).]

APPROVAL OF LAST MINUTES

On motion of Councilman Smith and seconded by Councilman Ledford, the minutes of the last meeting (September 10, 2024) were approved as published.

DISCUSSION AGENDA

NEXT WEEK'S PROPOSED AGENDA (September 24, 2024)

Item 9(q) – Planning (Resolution relative to establishing a grace period to transition to the new zoning ordinance)

Councilman Ledford questioned how this item would affect Planned Unit Developments (PUDs). Ms. Rennich responded and affirmed the RPA would work with the City Attorney's Office to clarify the language in the item caption. [See full conversation [here](#).] Upon no further comments or questions, the issue was closed.

PARKS & PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

PROCEDURAL NOTE: In the absence of Councilman Hester, Committee Chair, Council Chairman Henderson retained control of the meeting for the Parks & Public Works Committee.

Council Chairman Henderson called the Parks & Public Works Committee to order at 3:41 p.m. with a quorum of eight present that also included Vice Chair Hill, and Councilpersons Smith, Ledford, Berz, Dotley, Noel, and Coonrod. [View the committee [here](#).]

On motion of Councilwoman Berz and seconded by Councilwoman Noel, the minutes of the last Parks & Public Works Committee meeting (September 3, 2024) were approved as published.

Next week, September 24, 2024

Resolutions:

Agenda Item 9(o) – Public Works (Relative to the renewal of On-Call Blanket Contract No. E-22-002-201 with Tower Construction, LLC)

Councilman Ledford requested clarification regarding this item. Mr. Woods and Mr. Payne responded. Upon no further comments or questions, the issue was closed.

PRESENTATION: WALNUT STREET BRIDGE RESTORATION PROJECT

Mr. Woods made introductory remarks before turning it over to Mr. Payne for the presentation, which may be viewed [here](#), and touched on the following:

- Overview of the scope of repair work planned
- Improvements being made to the bridge's electrical infrastructure
- Detour routes for pedestrian & cyclist traffic during the bridge restoration
- Anticipated project schedule & plan for upcoming events that utilize the bridge
- Proposed construction costs

Afterwards, the floor was opened to questions and comments from the Council. Discussion ensued, which may be viewed [here](#), and touched on the following:

- Security cameras and the possibility of a panic button
- Lighting design & strategy
- Concerns about the bridge hand-off for special events
- The website <https://www.walnutstreetbridge.com/>, where constituents can go to receive information & updates on the project, or can sign up to receive text messages regarding the same

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

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

PROCEDURAL NOTE: Council Chairman Henderson yielded control of the meeting to Councilwoman Dotley for the Public Safety Committee.

Councilwoman Dotley, Committee Chair, called the Public Safety Committee to order at 4:01 p.m. with a quorum of eight present that also included Council Chairman Henderson, Vice Chair Hill, and Councilpersons Smith, Ledford, Berz, Noel, and Coonrod. [View the committee [here](#).]

On motion of Councilwoman Noel and second by Councilwoman Berz, the minutes of the last Public Safety Committee meeting (August 20, 2024) were approved as published.

Next week, September 24, 2024 **Ordinances – First Reading:**

Agenda Item 8(a) – Fire (Amendment relative to the age of Fire Department applicants)

Fire Chief Hyman explained the context behind this item and delivered the bulk of the presentation before turning it over to Ms. Abbott to discuss the effects this item would have on the pension fund. [Full presentation may be viewed [here](#).]

Afterwards, the floor was opened to questions and comments from Council. Discussion ensued, which may be viewed [here](#), and touched on the following:

- Clarification on the amount increase to the pension plan
- Three-pronged approach to improve recruitment
- Clarification on unfunded liabilities, as well as the impact to the pension fund obligation
- How ‘years of service’ could possibly affect the fund
- If the actuarial projection accounts for 19 & 20 year olds or only 18 year olds

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

RECESS

Councilwoman Dotley adjourned the Public Safety Committee at 4:28 p.m. and recessed the business meeting until 5:00 p.m.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Chairman Henderson reconvened the meeting at 5:00 p.m. A quorum was present that also included Vice Chair Hill and Councilpersons Smith, Ledford, Berz, Dotley, Noel, and Coonrod. Attorney Noblett and Ms. Gwyn were also present. Councilman Hester joined the meeting during the reading of the first two ordinances.

SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS

Chairman Henderson recognized other elected officials present in the Assembly today: Cody Wamp, District Attorney, and Jeff Eversole, Chairman, County Commission.

ORDINANCES – FINAL READING:

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:

MR-2024-0096
Hixson Apartments, LLC/Map Engineering
District No. 3

ORDINANCE #14152

AN ORDINANCE CLOSING AND ABANDONING THE UNOPENED RIGHT-OF-WAY IN PART OF THE 5100 BLOCK OF STRICKLAND CIRCLE, AS DETAILED ON THE ATTACHED MAPS, SUBJECT TO CERTAIN CONDITIONS.

MR-2024-0099
420 E. 16th, LLC
District No. 7

ORDINANCE #14153

AN ORDINANCE CLOSING AND ABANDONING THE OPENED RIGHT-OF-WAY IN THE NORTH AND SOUTH ROW, 400 BLOCK E. 16TH STREET, AS DETAILED ON THE ATTACHED MAPS, SUBJECT TO CERTAIN CONDITIONS.

Councilman Smith moved to approve both ordinances. Councilman Ledford seconded. The motion carried.

ACTION: ORDINANCES 14152 & 14153 APPROVED
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ORDINANCES – FIRST READING: (NONE)

RESOLUTIONS:

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

RESOLUTION #32224

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OR HIS DESIGNEE TO ENTER INTO AN ENCROACHMENT, INDEMNITY, AND HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENT WITH BRAINERD MISSION CEMETERY, IN SUBSTANTIALLY THE FORM ATTACHED, TO ALLOW BRAINERD MISSION CEMETERY TO INSTALL A FENCE ON THE CEMETERY PROPERTY WITH THE FENCE ENCROACHING ONTO PROPERTY OWNED BY THE CITY OF CHATTANOOGA.

RESOLUTION #32225

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ADMINISTRATOR FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS TO AUTHORIZE CHANGE ORDER NO. 1 TO J. REED CONSTRUCTORS, INC., OF BATON ROUGE, LA, FOR THE FIRE TRAINING TOWER CONSTRUCTION, CONTRACT NO. F-23-005-201, TO PROVIDE PROPANE SUPPLY EQUIPMENT AND OTHER MINOR ITEMS, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$84,852.57, WITH A NEW CONTINGENCY IN THE AMOUNT OF \$10,000.00, FOR A TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$1,469,852.57.

RESOLUTION #32226

A RESOLUTION TO PROVIDE HEAD START/EARLY HEAD START SERVICES TO ONE HUNDRED FIFTEEN (115) CHILDREN THROUGH COLLABORATIONS WITH LOCAL CHILDCARE PROVIDERS USING FUNDS PROVIDED BY THE HEAD START/EARLY HEAD START GRANT, INCLUDING THE FOLLOWING CHILDCARE PROVIDERS: (1) NEWTON CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER; (2) CHILDREN'S ACADEMY; (3) PURPOSE POINT LEARNING ACADEMY; AND (4) CHAMBLISS CENTER FOR CHILDREN. THE HEAD START CLASSROOMS WILL SERVE SEVENTY-FIVE (75), THREE (3) AND FOUR (4) YEAR OLD CHILDREN, FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$305,176.20. THE EARLY HEAD START CLASSROOMS WILL SERVE FORTY (40) INFANT AND TODDLER CHILDREN, FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$354,075.60, FOR A TOTAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$659,251.80.

RESOLUTION #32227

A RESOLUTION TO PROVIDE HEAD START/EARLY HEAD START SERVICES TO SEVENTY-TWO (72) CHILDREN THROUGH COLLABORATIONS WITH LOCAL CHILDCARE PROVIDERS USING FUNDS PROVIDED BY THE EARLY HEAD START-CHILD CARE PARTNERSHIP GRANT, INCLUDING THE FOLLOWING CHILDCARE PROVIDERS: (1) NEWTON CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER; (2) CHAMBLISS CENTER FOR CHILDREN; AND (3) MAURICE KIRBY DAY CARE CENTER. THE EARLY HEAD START CLASSROOMS WILL SERVE SEVENTY-TWO (72), THREE (3) AND FOUR (4) YEAR OLD CHILDREN, FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$806,925.60.

Councilwoman Berz moved to approve the four resolutions. Councilman Ledford seconded. The motion carried.

ACTION: RESOLUTIONS 32224 – 32227 ADOPTED

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

RESOLUTION #32228

A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING MAYOR KELLY'S APPOINTMENT OF JONATHAN CHAMBERS AS CHIEF OF POLICE.

The motion carried. After the confirmation, Chief Chambers was honored with a standing ovation from the Assembly. He addressed the Council on the highlights from his career and the goals of his leadership. [Hear his full comments [here](#).]

Chairman Henderson later acknowledged Interim Chief Harry Sommers for his service to the city. He noted that Chief Sommers will be retiring later this week.

ACTION: ADOPTED

On motion of Councilman Hester and seconded by Councilman Smith,

RESOLUTION #32229

A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING MAYOR KELLY'S APPOINTMENT OF JERRAMY WOOD AS ADMINISTRATOR FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS.

The motion carried. After the confirmation, Mr. Wood was honored with a standing ovation from the Assembly. He addressed the Council to express his thanks. [Hear Mr. Wood's full comments [here](#).]

ACTION: ADOPTED

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

Recommended New Purchases

[View [here](#)]

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

REQ153989 Fleet Management Division,	\$434,970.00
Street Maintenance Division, Public Works	
2025 Petersen TL3 Knuckleboom Trucks	
Lowest/Best Bidder: CMI Equipment Sales, Inc	
P.O. Box 1528	
Goodlettsville, TN 37070	
PA100358 Technology Services	\$412,759.38
Cityworks Software & Maintenance	
Lowest/Best Bidder: Azteca Systems LLC	
11075 South State Street # 24	
Sandy, UT 84070	

PA100563, PA100564 Street Maintenance Division, Public Works \$1,000,000.00
Concrete

Lowest/Best Bidders:

1. Ready Mix USA 604 Hudson Road Chattanooga, TN 37405
2. TNT Concrete LLC 996 County Road 20 Calhoun, TN 37309

Councilwoman Berz moved to approve. Councilman Ledford seconded. The motion carried.

ACTION: ALL NEW PURCHASES APPROVED

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

[View [Here](#)]

Affordable Housing Committee

Vice Chair Hill (No report)

Budget and Finance Committee

Councilwoman Berz (No report)

Economic Development Committee

Councilwoman Coonrod (No report)

Education and Innovation Committee

Councilwoman Noel (No report)

Equity and Community Development Committee

Councilwoman Coonrod (No report)

Legislative Committee

Councilman Smith (No report)

Planning and Zoning Committee

Councilman Ledford reported:

- The committee will meet in two weeks (October 1).

Parks and Public Works

Councilman Hester reported:

- The committee met today, with thanks to Chairman Henderson for chairing that committee in his absence.

Public Safety Committee

Councilwoman Dotley reported:

- The committee met today to discuss a resolution on next week's agenda (September 24) to change the age of Fire Department applicants to 18.

City Attorney Report

[View [here](#)]

Attorney Noblett announced a settlement of \$78,000.00 in case no. 23-c-1302, Delicia Martin v. The City of Chattanooga, for a motor vehicle accident involving the city.

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 persons:

Speaker Name	District No.	Primary Topics:
• Josh Branum	(N/A)	GCAR's August 2024 housing statistics for the city/Announcing upcoming GCAR events
• Monty Bell	(N/A)	Case against a local journalist/Demand for settlement from the 11 th Judicial District Court

ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Councilwoman Dotley, Chairman Henderson adjourned the meeting of the Chattanooga City Council until next Tuesday, September 24, 2024, at 3:30 p.m.

COUNCIL CHAIR

CLERK OF COUNCIL