



MINUTES CITY OF MORRISTOWN, TENNESSEE CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING SEPTEMBER 2, 2025

Call to Order and Roll Call

The City Council for the City of Morristown, Hamblen County, Tennessee, met in regular session at the regular meeting place for the Council in the Morristown City Center at 5:00 p.m., Tuesday, September 2, 2025 with the Honorable Mayor Gary Chesney presiding and the following Councilmembers present: Al A'Hearn, Chris Bivens, Bob Garrett, Joseph Senter, Kay Senter and Tommy Pedigo.

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Pr. John Paul Freitag, Morristown Police Department Senior Chaplain led in the invocation. Councilmember A'Hearn led the "Pledge of Allegiance".

Adoption of Agenda

Councilmember A'Hearn made a motion to adopt the September 2, 2025, agenda as presented. Councilmember K. Senter seconded the motion and upon roll call; all voted "aye".

Citizen Comments about Agenda Items Only

Mayor Chesney opened the floor for citizens comments related to Agenda items. Louis Chan spoke.

Approval of Minutes

Councilmember A'Hearn made a motion to approve the August 19, 2025, minutes as circulated. Councilmember K. Senter seconded the motion and upon roll call; all voted "aye".

Second and Final Reading of Ordinance - Title 8 Location of Liquor Stores

Councilmember Pedigo made a motion on second and final reading to adopt an ordinance amending Title 8, Chapter 1, Section 8-108 of the Morristown Municipal Code, which regulates the location of liquor stores within the City except that paragraph (3) as presented should instead read "No closer than one-half (1/2) mile to any existing liquor store." Councilmember A'Hearn seconded the motion and upon roll call; Mayor Chesney and Councilmembers A'Hearn, Bivens and Pedigo voted "yea"; Councilmembers J. Senter and K. Senter voted "nay"; Councilmember Garret "abstained". (Assigned Ordinance No. 4819)

Resolution - Appropriation to Rose Center & Council for the Arts

Councilmember K. Senter made a motion to approve a Resolution of the City Council of Morristown, Tennessee authorizing a disbursement to the Rose Center & Council for the Arts, a Non-Profit Charitable and Civic Organization from the City of Morristown's 2025/2026 Fiscal Year Budget. Councilmember Pedigo seconded the motion and upon roll call; all voted "aye". (Assigned Resolution No. 2025-24)

First Reading of Ordinance - Annexation Request 303 S. Bellwood Road

Councilmember Bivens made a motion on first reading to approve the proposed Ordinance to "Annex certain territory and to incorporate same within the corporate boundaries of the City of Morristown Tennessee. Annexation of properties identified as Lot 1 of the John. D. Bell Subdivision as shown on a plat of same which appears of record in the Register's of Deeds Office for Hamblen County, Tennessee in Plat Book P Page 82" and to schedule a public hearing relative to the final passage of said ordinance on September 16, 2025. Councilmember J. Senter seconded the motion and upon roll call; all voted "aye".

First Reading of Ordinance - Annexation Request Merchants Greene Boulevard/S. Bellwood Road

Councilmember K. Senter made a motion on first reading to approve the proposed ordinance to "Annex certain territory and to incorporate same within the corporate boundaries of the City of Morristown Tennessee -annexation of properties located between Merchants Greene Boulevard and East of S. Bellwood Road" and to schedule a public hearing relative to the final passage of said ordinance on September 16, 2025. Councilmember Bivens seconded the motion and upon roll call; all voted "aye".

First Reading of Ordinance - Landscape Trees

Councilmember A'Hearn made a motion on first reading to approve the proposed ordinance "Being an Ordinance of the City Council of Morristown, Tennessee amending Title 14 Zoning and Land Use Control of the Morristown Municipal Code, Chapter 33 Landscape, Buffer, and Screening, Section 14-3307.1 Canopy Trees, and Section 14-3307.2 Understory Shade Trees" and to schedule a public hearing relative to the final passage of said ordinance on September 16, 2025.. Councilmember Garrett seconded the motion and upon roll call; all voted "aye".

First Reading of Ordinance - Vesting Rights for Site Plans

Councilmember Pedigo made a motion on first reading to approve the proposed ordinance "Being an ordinance of the City Council of Morristown, Tennessee amending Title 14 Zoning and Land Use Control of the Morristown Municipal Code, Title 14 Chapter 19, Administration and Enforcement, Section 14-1907.1 Vesting Rights." and to schedule a public hearing relative to the final passage of said ordinance on September 16, 2025. Councilmember A'Hearn seconded the motion and upon roll call; all voted "aye".

First Reading of Ordinance - Rezone 119 Evans Avenue from LB to IB

Councilmember Pedigo made a motion on first reading to approve the proposed ordinance "Entitled an Ordinance to amend the Municipal Code of the City of Morristown, Tennessee, Appendix B. Rezoning of 119 Evans Avenue (parcel ID: 0320341 O 00100) from LB (Local Business) to IB (Intermediate Business District" and to schedule a public hearing relative to the final passage of said ordinance on September 16, 2025. Councilmember Garrett seconded the motion and upon roll call; all voted "aye".

Asphalt Rejuvenation

Councilmember K. Senter made a motion to acknowledge receipt of bid for Asphalt Rejuvenation, accept the bid from Pavement Technology, Inc. as the best and lowest bid, and authorize the City Administrator to enter into a contract with Pavement Technology, Inc. through September 1, 2026. Councilmember Garrett seconded the motion and upon roll call; all voted "aye".

Sugar Hollow Rail Crossing Project - Supplement #1 to Railroad Agreement

Councilmember A'Hearn made a motion to approve Supplement #1 to Railroad Agreement for the Sugar Hollow Rail Crossing project (Contract No. CRR070562 - Highway-Rail Grade Crossing DOT No. 731-373S). Councilmember Garrett seconded the motion and upon roll call; all voted "aye".

Surplus - Vehicles, Trailers and Motorcycles

Councilmember Bivens made a motion to declare surplus twenty-five (25) vehicles, two (2) trailers and three (3) motorcycles that have been seized, recovered or evidence. Councilmember J. Senter seconded the motion and upon roll call; all voted "aye".

TEMA Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) Grant

Councilmember K. Senter made a motion to acknowledge the Fire Department's application for a FY26 Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) Grant through the TN Emergency Management Agency (TEMA). Councilmember Pedigo seconded the motion and upon roll call; all voted "aye".

Global R4Air Mechanical Sweeper for Public Works

Councilmember A'Hearn made a motion to authorize purchase of one (1) Street Sweeper for Public Works, in the amount of \$438,760 from Jet-Vac Equipment Company via a Sourcewell purchase. Councilmember K. Senter seconded the motion and upon roll call; all voted "aye".

2026 Tennessee Highway Safety Office (THSO) Grant

Councilmember Bivens made a motion to authorize the acceptance of a 2026 Tennessee Highway Safety Office Grant in the amount of \$36,000 and authorize the execution of a contract for the same. Councilmember Garrett seconded the motion and upon roll call; all voted "aye".

Board Appointment - Tree Board

Councilmember Pedigo made a motion to approve the reappointment of Nancy Renner to the Morristown Tree Board for a three (3) year term to expire on September 18, 2028. Councilmember A'Hearn seconded the motion and upon roll call; all voted "aye".

Appointment of Fire Chief

Councilmember K. Senter made a motion to appoint Brian Shepard to the position of Chief for the Morristown Fire Department. Councilmember Pedigo seconded the motion and upon roll call; all voted "aye".

Adjourn

Mayor Chesney adjourned the September 2, 2025, Morristown City Council meeting at 5:36 p.m.

MAYOR

ATTEST:

CITY ADMINISTRATOR