



MINUTES CITY OF MORRISTOWN, TENNESSEE CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING SEPTEMBER 1, 2026

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 Morristown City Center at 5:00 p.m., Tuesday, September 1, 2026, with the Honorable Mayor Gary Chesney presiding and the following Councilmembers present: Al A'Hearn, Chris Bivens, Bob Garrett, Tommy Pedigo, Joseph Senter and Kay Senter.

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Robert Montgomery, MFD Chaplain led in the invocation. Councilmember A'Hearn led the "Pledge of Allegiance".

Adoption of the Agenda

Councilmember A'Hearn made a motion to approve the September 1, 2026, agenda as presented. Councilmember Garrett 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 minutes of August 18, 2026, meeting as circulated. Councilmember Pedigo seconded the motion and upon roll call; all voted "aye".

Public Hearing and Adoption of Rezoning Ordinance - 350 Howell Road

A Public Hearing was held relating to the proposed ordinance to rezone 350 Howell Road which is Hamblen County Tennessee Tax Parcel ID # 032048 05500 from A-1 (Agriculture-Forestry District) to RD-2 (Moderate Density Single Family Residential District), R-3 (High Density Residential District), and IB (Intermediate Business District). Dean Howell and Louis Chan spoke. Councilmember Pedigo made a motion to approve the said ordinance. Councilmember Garrett seconded the motion and upon roll call; all voted "aye". (Assigned Ordinance No. 4843)

Public Hearing and Adoption of Plan of Services Resolution and Annexation Ordinance - Panther Springs Road

A Public Hearing was held relating to the proposed resolution establishing a plan of services and the proposed ordinance annexing into the corporate boundaries of the City of Morristown the properties identified as Lots 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, and 16 of the Mr. and Mrs. Earl L. Quarles Property, as shown on a plat of same recorded in the Register of Deeds Office for Hamblen County, Tennessee, in Plat Cabinet C, Slide 111 (formerly Plat Book 10, Page 33), together with a portion of the Panther Springs Road right-of-way extending from W. Andrew Johnson Highway to the northern boundary of Lot 6. No one spoke. Councilmember Bivens made a motion to approve said resolution and ordinance. Councilmember K. Senter seconded the motion and upon roll call; Mayor Chesney, Councilmembers A'Hearn, Bivens, Garrett, Pedigo and K. Senter voted "aye". Councilmember J. Senter abstained. (Assigned Resolution No. 2026-19 & Ordinance No. 4844)

Adoption of Ordinance No Public Hearing Required - Special Use Permit

Councilmember K. Senter made a motion on second and final reading to approve the ordinance amending Title 16, Chapter 1, Section 110 of the Morristown Municipal Code (Street and Sidewalks). Councilmember Bivens seconded the motion and upon roll call; all voted "aye". (Assigned Ordinance No. 4845)

Adoption of Ordinance No Public Hearing Required - Budget Amendment General Fund and Solid Waste Fund

Councilmember K. Senter made a motion on second and final reading to approve the ordinance amending ordinance number 4839, the City of Morristown, Tennessee annual budget for fiscal year 2026-2027 necessary to appropriate funds for the right-of-way acquisitions associated with the Central Church Road and East/West Sidewalk grant projects, the outsourced mowing contract, Fire Department donations received, the Fire Department HMEP Grant and to appropriate funds in the Solid Waste Fund for the General Supervisor position and to establish the funding sources. Councilmember Pedigo seconded the motion and upon roll call; all voted "aye". (Assigned Ordinance No. 4839.03)

Introduction and First Reading of Ordinance - Rezoning from MUD to RP-1 - Phillip Carlyle - 160/Dearing Rd. Signature 92

Councilmember Pedigo made a motion to consider on first reading the proposed ordinance to rezone lots 51 and 52 of the Cedar Ridge Planned Community -- Phase I as recorded as Plat Book J Page 173 in the Hamblen County Register of Deeds Office from MUD (Mixed Use District) to RP-1 (Planned Residential District) and schedule a public hearing relative to the final passage of said ordinance on September 15, 2026. Councilmember K. Senter seconded the motion and upon roll call; all voted "aye".

Introduction and First Reading of Ordinance - Abandonment of Howell Road between Alpha Valley Road and Furrow Lane

Councilmember Pedigo made a motion to consider on first reading the proposed ordinance to close and vacate certain rights-of-way within the City of Morristown, being a portion of Howell Road right-of-way between Furrow Drive and Alpha Valley Home Road and schedule a public hearing relative to the final passage of said ordinance on September 15, 2026. Councilmember A'Hearn seconded the motion and upon roll call; all voted "aye".

Introduction and First Reading of Ordinance - CBD Text Amendment - ROW Encroachments

Councilmember K. Senter made a motion to consider on first reading the proposed ordinance amending Chapter 11 (CBD - Central Business District) of the Morristown Zoning Ordinance to allow certain encroachments into the public right-of-way within the Central Business District (CBD) and schedule a public hearing relative to the final passage of said ordinance on September 15, 2026. Councilmember Garrett seconded the motion and upon roll call; all voted "aye".

Storm Water Department Equipment Purchase

Councilmember Bivens made a motion to approve the surplus of one (1) 2016 Vactor 2100 Truck Unit #622 and authorize the purchase of one (1) 900 ECO 12-Yard Combination Sewer Cleaner Truck from JET-VAC Equipment Company, LLC, of Cookeville, Tennessee, through Sourcewell Contract No. #101221-SCA, for a total purchase price of \$549,511.79 including an \$80,000 trade-in allowance for the surplus Vactor truck. Councilmember J. Senter seconded the motion and upon roll call; all voted "aye".

Public Works Dump Truck Purchase - One Single Axle and One Tandem Axle

Councilmember A'Hearn made a motion to authorize the purchase of two (2) 2027 Kenworth T480 Dump Trucks from Worldwide Equipment under statewide contract #200, totaling \$618,453.98. Councilmember Pedigo seconded the motion and upon roll call; all voted "aye".

CDBG Facade Sub-Recipient Grant Awards

Councilmember Pedigo made a motion to authorize the City Administrator to execute CDBG Facade Sub-Recipient Grant Awards with the recommended property owners/applicants. Councilmember Garrett seconded the motion and upon roll call; all voted "aye".

ETPC Lot 10 Sale

Councilmember A'Hearn made a motion to authorize the Industrial Development Board (IDB) to enter into an agreement with an industrial prospect identified as Project Vine for the sale of Lot 10 and its speculative building at the East Tennessee Progress Center for \$6,500,000.00 contingent upon recommendation of the same by the IDB. Councilmember K. Senter seconded the motion and upon roll call; all voted "aye".

Board Appointment - Tree Board

Councilmember J. Senter made a motion to approve Mayor Chesney's nomination to reappoint Chuck Smith and Larry Swinson to the Morristown Tree Board for a three (3) year term to expire on September 18, 2029. Councilmember A'Hearn seconded the motion and upon roll call; all voted "aye".

Board Appointment - Solid Waste Board

Councilmember Bivens made a motion to re-appointment Ventrus Norfolk to the Morristown/Hamblen County Solid Waste System for a three (3) year term to expire on October 1, 2029. Councilmember J. Senter seconded the motion and upon roll call; all voted "aye".

Board Appointment - Solid Waste Board

Councilmember Bivens made a motion to confirm the City Administrator's re-appointment of Councilmember Garrett to the Morristown/Hamblen County Solid Waste System for a three (3) year term to expire on October 1, 2029. Councilmember Pedigo seconded the motion and upon roll call; all voted "aye".

Citizen Comments

Mayor Chesney opened the floor for citizens comments unrelated to the agenda. Louis Chan spoke.

Adjourn

Mayor Gary Chesney adjourned the September 1, 2026, Morristown City Council meeting at 5:46 p.m.

MAYOR

ATTEST:

CITY ADMINISTRATOR