

February 2, 2026, BE IT REMEMBERED, that the Hartsville/Trousdale County Commission met pursuant to adjournment with the Honorable Lonnie Taylor, Commission Chairman presiding and the following commissioners present to wit: Beverly Atwood, Tommy Belcher, Linda Bruce, Shane Burton, Alan Carman, Brian Crook, Will Dennis, Jerry Ford, Chris Gregory, Jeff Gregory, T. "Bubba" Gregory, Landon Gulley, Judy Kerr, David Nollner, Lesley Overman, Mark Presley, Amber Russell, David Thomas, and Steve Whittaker.

1. **Open Court** - Sheriff Ray Russell
2. **Invocation** - Chris Gregory
3. **Pledge to the American Flag** - Judy Kerr
4. **Roll Call** - Rita Crowder, County Clerk - **20 PRESENT, 0 ABSENT**

5. **Approval of Minutes**

Motion this court approve these minutes as presented.

Motion by Jerry Ford, Second by Tommy Belcher

VOICE VOTE

MOTION CARRIED

6. **Announcements**

Administrator of Elections, Steve Paxton, spoke to the commission about the deadlines for the upcoming elections. He would be available after the meeting if anyone would like to pull their petitions. Two districts have not had anyone pull a petition at this time.

Chairman Taylor thanked all Emergency personnel and the many linemen that have worked so hard during this recent ice storm.

Kimley-Horn has a display of ten boards downstairs displaying the highlights for the additions to the park. Alicia Eealy, spokesperson for Kimley-Horn, stated that they are working on completing the county-wide Park & Recreation Master Plan that will allow us to be eligible for grants. She went over a few of the highlights and they will be editing the plans before bringing it before the commission for approval of the master plan.

7. **Set the Agenda**

Chris Gregory would like to add to Other Business, creating a subcommittee, to examine the Hospital/Emergency Services Proposal.

Motion was made to set the agenda with this amendment.

Motion by Chris Gregory, Second by David Thomas

VOICE VOTE

MOTION CARRIED

8. **Citizens' Response to Agenda Items** - None Presented.

9. **County Mayor Report** - Jack McCall

-**Recovery Efforts** -Mayor McCall thanked Matt Batey and his EMS Dept. for setting up the emergency warming center @ the community center, Ken Buckmaster and the Volunteer Fire Dept. and everyone that had a hand in the cleanup efforts during this most recent ice storm.

-**Jail** - Should have pretty accurate figures on price by the Work Session on Feb. 17th.

-**Ward School clean-up.** Public Works Dept. has done a great job with cleaning out the building and preparing it for renovations. Construction bids should be out by the end of March. All paperwork should be completed and turned in by Oct. 31st. and the deadline will be Dec. 31st.

-**Kimley-Horn** had the boards downstairs and gave us a great report. We should have the final results in the next couple of weeks.

-**Health Dept.** is almost finished with their renovations. They are finishing the rooms and installing new equipment.

-**Broadway Sidewalk Project** - They are finalizing the environmental phase. When the previous administration applied, we were told it would be \$700,000. When TDOT finally awarded it, it was only \$589,000. Kimley-Horn divided this in to two phases to help with the cost. They have applied for grants, but haven't heard anything yet. Mrs. Thomas is working on finding more funding to finish the project.

10. **Committee/Board Reports - See Attached Minutes**

- A. **Audit** - January 6
- B. **Codes & Zoning** - January 22
- C. **Law Enforcement** - January 5
- D. **First Response Services** - January 5
- E. **Parks & Recreation** - January 15
- F. **Budget & Finance** - January 20
- G. **Other Reports**

11. **Active Business**

A. **Appointments**

1) **Interim Fire Chief** –

Ken Buckmaster - *interim appointment for 90 days beginning January 1, 2026*

2) **Beer Board**

Chris Gregory - *reappointment, 4-year term*

David Nollner - *reappointment, 4-year term*

3) **Housing Authority Board**

William Fergusson - *appointment, 4-year term*

4) **Industrial Development Board**

Helene Singer Cash - *appointment, TCEA Director*

Leah Verville Petty - *reappointment, 4-year term*

Seth Thurman - *reappointment, 4-year term*

5) **Board of Zoning Appeals**

Ron Moreland - *reappointment, 4-year term*

Motion this court approve all new and re-appointments.

Motion by Beverly Atwood, Second by T. "Bubba" Gregory

ELECTRONIC VOTE - 19 YES, 0 NO, 1 ABSTAINED

**Chris Gregory abstained with cause.*

MOTION CARRIED

B. **Resolutions**

1) **Resolution 2026-01-835** ECD Road Name - Cobb Lane, Judy Lane

Motion this court approve this Resolution.

Motion by Landon Gulley, Second by Chris Gregory

ELECTRONIC VOTE - 20 YES, 0 NO

MOTION CARRIED

C. **Ordinances**

PUBLIC HEARING

- 1) **Ordinance 338-2025-25** Rezone A1 to R1 | Parcel 028 032.04 | Old Hwy 25

Motion this court close this Public Hearing.

Motion by Landon Gulley, Second by Chris Gregory

VOICE VOTE

MOTION CARRIED

SECOND READING

- Ordinance 338-2025-25** Rezone A1 to R1 | Parcel 028 032.04 | Old Hwy 25

Motion this court approve this Ordinance - 2ND Reading

Motion by Landon Gulley, Second by Beverly Atwood

ELECTRONIC VOTE - 20 YES, 0 NO

MOTION CARRIED

FIRST READING

- 2) **Ordinance 339-2026-01** Rezone C2 to R1 | Parcel 018 009.00 | Hwy 25 W

Motion this court approve this Ordinance - 1ST Reading

Motion by Chris Gregory, Second by Beverly Atwood

ELECTRONIC VOTE - 20 YES, 0 NO

MOTION CARRIED

D. **Budget Amendments**

FUND 101 - GENERAL SERVICES

101-09G	TCI Training Grant - Jail	\$	14,080
101-10R	Opioid Contribution		65,000

FUND 116 - SOLID WASTE

116-03F	Convenience Center - 2026 Chevrolet Silverado	\$	45,000
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FUND 118 - AMBULANCE SERVICES

118-03G	EMS - TNRMT Safety Grant	\$	10,329
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FUND 141 - GENERAL PURPOSE SCHOOLS

141-09 (26)	Healthier Schools Challenge	\$	8,000
141-10 (27)	Fergusson Memorial Trophies		5,000
141-11 (28)	TCHS Gym Scoreboards		14,130
141-12 (29)	Insurance Recovery		18,700

Motion to take and approve all Budget Amendments together.

Motion by Beverly Atwood, Second by Landon Gulley

ELECTRONIC VOTE - 20 YES, 0 NO

MOTION CARRIED

E. **Public Notary Applications Approval**

Julia C. Griffin - Carman Surveying

Jennifer Barber - Hartsville Health and Rehab

Andrea Cardenas - Athena Care

Motion this court approve these applicants.

Motion by Chris Gregory, Second by Amber Russell

VOICE VOTE

MOTION CARRIED

12. **Other Business**

A. **Wheel Tax Proposal**

We are just in the discussion phase and are needing to decide what we need to send to County Attorney, Brandon Bellar. We need to decide how or if to divide it up into different funds and sunset date/no sunset date. County Clerk, Rita Crowder has compiled a list of counties in TN with a wheel tax. She will be working on a list of how each one is broken down just for comparison. Comm. Thomas wanted to reiterate that a wheel tax is not a revenue source, that it is in fact a tax on the people. Amber Russell would like to see the full amount go towards the Jail. Chris Gregory agreed with her, or maybe even an 80/20 split with the jail and the school. Much more discussion on having a sunset date or not to have one. Chris Gregory thinks without one, it will never pass. He also would like to see the county commission vote it in as opposed to it being voted on as a referendum. Landon Gulley did say that down the road, there would be a need for more schools and that once the Mayor has more definite figures on the cost for the jail, we'll know more about how it needs to be split. Alan Carman mentioned part of it be assigned to a building fund, to be used on anything we have to build. Jerry Ford stated that Enbridge should start up in 2027 and that will be good revenue for the county, but we need to remember that what we receive will be controlled by the state. Chairman Taylor stated that a lot of our property tax payers are retired and to some, the higher property taxes could be very hard on them on a fixed income. The wheel tax would be the more fair tax.

B. **Other**

Concerning the EMS/Hospital proposal that was previously talked about, it was suggested in work session that a subcommittee be formed to look in to this proposal and try and figure out what is best for the county and the hospital.

Motion was made to form a subcommittee to explore the Hospital/Ems options with at least one or more members from the EMS on this subcommittee.

Motion by Chris Gregory, Second by David Thomas

ELECTRONIC VOTE - 12 YES, 7 NO, 1 ABSTAINED

MOTION CARRIED

13. **Public Comment** - None presented.

14. **Adjourn**

Motion this court adjourn.

Motion by Jerry Ford, Second by Amber Russell

VOICE VOTE

MOTION CARRIED