

HARTSVILLE/TROUSDALE COUNTY METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT

BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE

BUDGET HEARINGS FY2026

MAY 12, 2025 | 6:00 PM | TC COMMUNITY CENTER

MINUTES

Members Present: 7/7

Landon Gulley, Chair

Chris Gregory

Amy Thomas (*nvm*)

Bubba Gregory, Vice Chair

Jerry Ford

Will Dennis

Lesley Overman

Members Absent: Beverly Atwood

Others in attendance: Mark Beeler, Kris Stafford, Kathy Atwood, Lonnie Taylor, Terri Taylor

Meeting was called to order at 6pm by Commissioner Gulley.

Committee reviewed Property Tax revenue estimates and increase options of 10%, 25%, 38%, and 50%. Also provided was a breakdown on the effect of a tax increase on property owners.

C Gregory noted that the Sheriff and EMS have requested a 10% increase in salaries. He believes the Committee should go through the budget and then decide what salary increases can be considered. Gulley advised the Committee to look through the budget and see what can be considered with expenses at the current rate and to keep in mind salary increases are perpetual.

Committee reviewed the proposed ending fund balances for all budgets. Gulley noted that this is the scenario if we were to earn and spend every cent budgeted. Dennis noted his concerns for the proposed fund balances. He continued that we must take care of our people, the County, and the employees. We cannot make everyone happy. A property tax increase is not a popular action. Surrounding counties pay 9.75% in sales tax while Trousdale still sits at 9.25%. However our residents will continue to go spend money in the other counties. Gulley stated a sales tax increase would amount to around \$350,000. Dennis continued that a Wheel Tax is in other counties. HTC needs to bring this revenue source back to the table if we are going to compete with other counties on salaries and benefits. Gulley agreed to these points. Sales Tax must be passed by referendum; a wheel tax can be passed by Commission.

Commissioner Taylor asked if we have enough in the fund balance to make it through to February when property taxes are due. Ford offered that the discount on the property tax was implemented to encourage the residents to pay early to keep the cash flow up during the winter months. In the past, the County had to borrow money to fund payroll.

Gulley refocused the Committee on the budget at hand.

FUND 151 DEBT SERVICE

No additional debt is being taken this year. Committee may look later in the year on paying off an existing debt if circumstances allow.

Motion to approve Fund 151 Debt Service in its entirety by Overman; seconded by Dennis

FUND 151 IS RECOMMENDED

FUND 101 GENERAL SERVICE FUND

51220 Beer Board – No concerns

Motion to approve 51220 Beer Board by Overman; seconded by B Gregory.

51220 RECOMMENDED

51400 County Attorney – No concerns

Motion to approve 51400 County Attorney by Overman; seconded by C Gregory
51400 RECOMMENDED

51910 County Archives – a \$2,000 increase is requested for a computer.

Motion to approve 51910 County Archives by C Gregory; seconded by B Gregory
51910 RECOMMENDED

52600 Data Processing – C Gregory asked to move #307 Communications to \$60,000

Motion to approve 52600 Data Processing with change by C Gregory; seconded by Overman
52600 RECOMMENDED

58190 Community Development – This function is mainly comprised of grants. The Broadband Ready Communities Grant, CDBG for the Backpack Program, and the THDA HOME Grant Program are the major players. The Industrial Development Board requested \$10,000 for a feasibility study concerning the Hwy 141 expansion, however, it was noted that TCEA may be able to fund this request. If the request comes back to the County, we can reevaluate at that time.

Motion to approve minus the IDB request by B Gregory; seconded by Overman.
58190 RECOMMENDED

57500 Soil Conservation – The department has asked for a 3.5% increase for the positions within their function. This includes a soil technician and an office manager. The office manager is included in the 316 contribution line item as part of the annual contribution to the Soil Conservation Program.

Motion to approve by C Gregory; seconded by Ford
57500 RECOMMENDED

58300 Veteran Services Officer – No increases requested of this department

Motion to approve by Overman; seconded by C Gregory.
58300 RECOMMENDED

58400 Other Charges – This holds several miscellaneous expenses such as shared office supplies, fuel expenses, shared postal expenses, and the premiums for Liability and Workers' Compensation Insurances. The Trustee Commission also resides in this function. The Trustee by statute collects 1% from various revenues from all funds and this amount is funded back to the General Fund.

Motion to approve by Overman; seconded by Dennis
58400 RECOMMENDED

58600 Employee Benefits – This is for unemployment claims and is the only line item in the function. Ms. Thomas stated that it is more than likely overestimated, but that is because there is no other line to cover if it goes over.

Motion to approve by Overman; seconded by B Gregory
58600 RECOMMENDED

58900 Miscellaneous – This function holds the County's annual non-profit contributions and County dues and memberships to different organizations. The non-profits include Chamber of Commerce, HATS, Fix Trousdale, Arts Council, TC Fair Board, and the Help Center.

Motion to approve by Overman; seconded by B Gregory.
58900 RECOMMENDED
Commissioner C Gregory abstained due to his position on the Help Center Board.

90000 Capital Projects – With the Playground in final stages of completion, the only capital project showing is the renovations at the Health Department. This project is funded by state ARPA funds from the Health Department and ELC state funds. However, the ELC funding has been pulled by the federal government. The state officials have stated that they will provide funding to cover the loss of ELC funds.

The Committee would like to see the letter from the State Health Department and have postponed this function until May 22.

54610 County Coroner – No proposed increases.

Motion to approve by Overman; seconded by C Gregory.

FUND 111 – URBAN SERVICES

Committee reviewed revenue estimates. Asked if the waste collection included the proposed \$5 increase; at this time it does not, but can be recalculated at a later time if needed and the budget amended.

Motion to approve revenues by C Gregory; seconded by B Gregory

111 REVENUES RECOMMENDED

56700 Parks – C Gregory asked about proposed projects of renovating the swimming pool and resurfacing the walking track. Ms. Thomas was not aware of these projects, but funding would depend on what funds the Commission wishes to use for these projects whether it be Fund 101, Fund 111, or even the current balance of the ARPA funds. Committee will continue to discuss this on May 14 when they review the public works budgets.

56900 Other Recreation – Function includes Christmas decorations and July 4th fireworks program

Motion to approve by Overman; seconded by B Gregory

56900 RECOMMENDED

58400 Other Charges – This function holds the expenses for street lights in the urban district as well as the insurance premiums for liability and workers' compensation. It also has the contingent line for traffic signals should those need maintenance or be replaced.

Motion to approve by Overman; seconded by C Gregory.

58400 RECOMMENDED

58600 Employee Benefits – This holds the retirement contributions for past city workers. This was a benefit in place at the time of their employment.

Motion to approve by Overman; seconded by B Gregory

58600 RECOMMENDED

62000 Highway and Bridge Maintenance – This is annually funded with \$100,000 for the Highway department to use to repair and maintain roads in the urban district.

Motion to approve by Overman; seconded by Ford.

62000 RECOMMENDED

90000 Capital Projects – There are three projects listed for Urban Services: sidewalks, renovation of Ward School under the CCF grant, and the Broadway sidewalk under the MMAG funding.

Motion to approve by Overman; seconded by Dennis

90000 RECOMMENDED

C Gregory voiced opposition

Gulley encouraged the Committee to have an idea of where they wanted the County to go, review the numbers, and look for sources of revenue.

Hearings concluded at 7:31pm Overman, C Gregory

ADJOURNED