MINUTES
of a Regular Meeting of the
Committee of the Whole
August 20, 2026

A previously and publicly announced regular meeting of the Committee of the Whole, a standing committee of Hopkinsville City Council, was convened at 6:00 p.m., Thursday, August 20, 2026 in the Hopkinsville Municipal Center Council Chamber, 715 South Virginia Street, Hopkinsville, Kentucky by Chairman Travis Martin.

ROLL CALL

Besides Chairman Martin, members in attendance were Hon. Jason Bell, Hon. Brittanie Bogard, Hon. Chuck Crabtree, Hon. Elizabeth Draude, Hon. Marie Hughes, Hon. Donald Marsh, Hon. Robert Terry Meek, Hon. Vance Smith, Hon. Clayton Sumner, Hon. Brandi Stallons, and Hon. Michael Velez.

Also in attendance were City Clerk Brittany Byrum, Mayor James R. Knight Jr., City Administrator/ Chief of Staff Troy Body, City Attorney H. Douglas Willen, Deputy Police Chief Erik Pacheco, Fire Chief Steve Futrell, Chief Financial Officer Melissa Clayton, Technology & Public Information Director Amanda Brunt, IT Systems Controller Zach Boehm, Human Resources Director Kenny Grabara, Public Works Director Mike Perry, Assistant Public Works Director Dave Herndon, Parks and Recreation Superintendent Toby Hudson, CDS Executive Director Tom Britton, and CDS Assistant Executive Director Holly Boggess.

Chairman Martin led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilmember Stallons moved to approve the minutes of the July 23, 2026 regular meeting; seconded by Councilmember Marsh. There being no discussion, all members voted aye.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

Hopkinsville Electric System

Hopkinsville Electric System General Manager Jeff Hurd noted HES was in a strong financial state, discussed customer growth, spoke regarding the crypto mining center, their power usage, and how the mining center has helped keep costs lower for customers by avoiding rate increases. Mr. Hurd stated Hopkinsville Electric System supports data center regulations and hopes the city allows them with the proper safeguards in place and then answered questions. Mr. Britton stated Community and Development Services would be bringing a data center zoning text amendment to Council soon. Ms. Spurr discussed Blue Lake and reported recent testing showed the water had not been harmed by the data center.

Fort Campbell IGSA Contract Update

Mr. Herndon gave an update on the Fort Campbell IGSA contracts. He noted the city did not extend the striping contract but still has the salt contract with Fort Campbell.

Departments' Accreditations (Fire, Codes, ECC, and Public Works)

Chief Futrell gave an update on fire and codes accreditations. He noted ECC recently obtained their accreditation, and Public Works was currently working towards obtaining theirs.

Monthly Agency/Board Council Appointee Reports (Ward 7)

Councilmember Sumner gave an update on the South Western Economic Development Council.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Amend Chapter 93: Garbage, Trash and Weeds

Chairman Martin opened the floor for discussion. Councilmember Sumner moved to amend the proposed ordinance by removing the facility fee, leaving the volume discount, and phasing the tonnage rate increase for the landfill over three years, with a $10 increase effective October 1, 2026, a $5 increase effective July 1, 2027, and a $5 increase effective July 1, 2028. Councilmember Sumner's motion further retained the volume discount and phased the tonnage rate increase for the transfer station over three years, with a $10 increase effective October 1, 2026, a $5 increase effective July 1, 2027, and a $5 increase effective July 1, 2028. His motion lastly provided for Hopkinsville Solid Waste Enterprise to return in six months to report on the effect of the changes on revenue and again in one year to determine whether the year-two $5 increases were necessary; seconded by Councilmember Marsh. Following discussion, the motion to amend passed with all members voting aye. Councilmember Marsh moved to forward the proposed ordinance as amended to city council; seconded by Councilmember Sumner. There being no further discussion, all members voted aye.

NEW BUSINESS

Hopkinsville Water Environment Authority – Water & Sewer Rate Adjustments

Hopkinsville Water Environment Authority General Manager Melissa Spurr presented a request to amend Chapters 51 and 53 of the Hopkinsville Code of Ordinances, discussing the need to increase rates with a three-year phase in of the recommended water and sewer rate increases. Councilmember Crabtree made a motion to remove the CPI language and forward the proposed ordinances as amended to city council; seconded by Councilmember Marsh. Following discussion, all members voted aye.

Property Tax Rates

Ms. Clayton presented the 2026 property tax rates noting assessments had decreased by $37,949,686. She recommended the city continue to offer a 2% discount for bills paid by October 31 and recommended taking the compensating rate. Councilmember Marsh moved to forward to city council an ordinance keeping the tax rates the same as the 2025 rates (real property tax rate at 20.2 cents per $100, personal property tax at 23.9 cents per $100, and vehicle tax at 25.1 cents per $100); seconded by Councilmember Bogard. There being no discussion, all members voted aye.

Mid-block Crosswalk - South O'Neal Avenue Request

Mr. Herndon presented a request to add a mid-block crosswalk on South O'Neal Avenue, north of West 7th Street. Councilmember Sumner moved to forward to city council an ordinance authorizing installation of the crosswalk; seconded by Councilmember Crabtree. Following discussion, all members voted aye.

OTHER

None.

CLOSED SESSION:

Chairman Martin announced council needed to go into closed session pursuant to KRS 61.810(1)(c) to discuss pending litigation and KRS 61.810(1)(g) to discuss an economic development proposal. Councilmember Crabtree moved to go into closed session at 7:48 p.m.; seconded by Councilmember Sumner. There being no discussion, all members voted aye.

Councilmember Velez moved to return to open session at 8:24 p.m.; seconded by Councilmember Bogard. There being no discussion, all members voted aye. Chairman Martin indicated no action was taken in closed session.

ADJOURN

Councilmember Marsh moved to adjourn at 8:24 p.m.; seconded by Councilmember Bogard. There being no discussion, all members voted aye.

APPROVAL CERTIFICATION

The foregoing are true and accurate minutes of the regular committee of the whole meeting held on Thursday, August 20, 2026. The minutes were approved on September 17, 2026 on motion by Councilmember Velez; seconded by Councilmember Bogard. All members present voted aye.

City Clerk Brittany Byrum, CMC