



City Commission Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, June 17, 2025 at 6:00 PM

The Tom Hardin Room – 100 Public Square, Mount Pleasant, TN

1. Call to Order

Mayor White called the meeting to order.

2. Pledge of Allegiance / Invocation

Commissioner Knowles led the pledge of allegiance. Commissioner Johnston gave the invocation.

3. Roll Call

PRESENT

Mayor Bill White
Vice Mayor Willie Alderson
Commissioner Mike Davis
Commissioner Pam Johnston
Commissioner Loree Knowles

4. Approval / Correction of Minutes from Prior Meetings

A. Study Session - May 15, 2025

Mayor White asked for approval of the minutes from the Study Session on May 15, 2025.

Motion made by Commissioner Johnston to approve the Study Session minutes from May 15, 2025, as presented. Seconded by Vice Mayor Alderson.

Voting Yea: Mayor White, Vice Mayor Alderson, Commissioner Davis, Commissioner Johnston, Commissioner Knowles

B. Regular Session - May 20, 2025

Mayor White asked for approval of the minutes from the Regular Session on May 20, 2025.

Motion made by Commissioner Johnston to approve the Regular Session minutes from May 20, 2025, as presented. Seconded by Vice Mayor Alderson.

Voting Yea: Mayor White, Vice Mayor Alderson, Commissioner Davis, Commissioner Johnston, Commissioner Knowles. All were in favor. Motion passed.

5. Awards/Presentations/Appointments

A. Proclamation for Ms. Julie Tidwell

Mayor White asked Ms. Julie Tidwell, Principal at the Mount Pleasant Elementary School and the Commissioners to come forward and he presented her with a proclamation.

Mayor White thanked her and stated she has been a wonderful addition to Mount Pleasant schools. He attended an event recently over there and to go over there all these years and

interact with all the students and teachers he thanked her and stated they are the next generation of this community.

Ms. Tidwell stated she loves them all every one of the little stinkers. She also thanked the Commissioners. They have a good replacement.

Mayor White read the proclamation and presented it to her.

Ms. Tidwell again thanked them and stated she is not from Mount Pleasant, and she has said this before but when she came here, she bought in and she loves Mount Pleasant, it is her second home and she appreciates all of them who supported her, no matter what happened. She has always felt that she could call on the Firemen or the Police Chief who won't tell you that I call him Big Daddy. He is in her phone as Big Daddy. She appreciates all of them and everything they have done to support us and for the school and our kids which is the reason we are all here. Thank you.

Commissioners discussed. For more details refer to the audio/video recording attached to the agenda.

6. Completion / Review of Unfinished Business from prior meeting

- A. Ordinance 2025-1133 - (Public Hearing/Final Reading) - An Ordinance to amend Ordinance 2024-1125 said ordinance appropriating the revenues and expenses of operating and maintaining the departmental functions of the City of Mount Pleasant, Tennessee for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2025; providing an effective date.

Mrs. Cox stated the budget amendment didn't really change a lot she just amended the general fund, and she added about \$10,000 more into the amendment. Just using revenues nothing is hitting the fund balance to be able to offset some emergency repairs that they had to have on some of the fire trucks. A lot of it was already in the budget but she just wanted to give us some wiggle room and have enough in there in case something else happens in the next few weeks. That is pretty all that changed between the May meeting and June meeting. The rest of the amendment is the same. The purpose of the amendment is really to have enough funds in all of the line items, so we don't overextend anything. When they set the budget, technically the next ordinance when they set the budget it is the law. So, if we overextend any of those appropriations we are breaking the law. We have to make sure we have enough in those budget line items. That is how we get the findings if we don't have enough in those lines.

Commissioners discussed. For more details refer to the audio/video recording attached to the agenda.

Mayor White stated this is a public hearing and the final reading if anyone wants to speak. Let the minutes reflect that no one offered to speak.

Motion made by Vice Mayor Alderson to accept Ordinance 2025-1133 as presented.

Seconded by Commissioner Johnston.

Voting Yea: Mayor White, Vice Mayor Alderson, Commissioner Davis, Commissioner Johnston, Commissioner Knowles. All were in favor. Motion passed.

- B. Ordinance 2025-1134 - (Public Hearing/Final Reading) - An Ordinance of the City of Mount Pleasant, Tennessee adopting the Annual Budget and Tax Rate for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026.

Mayor White stated this is a public hearing and final reading.

Mrs. Cox stated the budget ordinance did not change at all between May and June meetings. The notes are exactly the same she did leave a copy for everyone. The tax rate does not change it is \$1.69 that is what it has been since the last reappraisal. Next year is a reappraisal year so we will probably review some of these numbers at that point.

Commissioners discussed. For more details refer to the audio/video recording attached to the agenda.

Mayor White stated this is a public hearing and final reading. He asked if anyone would like to speak. Let the minutes reflect that no one did.

Motion made by Commissioner Davis in favor of Ordinance 2025-1134 as presented.

Seconded by Commissioner Johnston.

Voting Yea: Mayor White, Vice Mayor Alderson, Commissioner Davis, Commissioner Johnston, Commissioner Knowles. All were in favor. Motion passed.

7. Monthly report from Mayor

Mayor White stated we have had a citizen of this community pass away and it is Mike's brother. Mr. John Davis was the Vice Mayor of Mount Pleasant for a number of years and also, he served on the County Commission forever.

Commissioner Davis stated he thinks twelve years.

Mayor White stated he was always a big part of the community not just the City but was a big part of the community just making sure that it would stay together and he just wanted to take a moment and recognize Mr. John Davis, who was a big part of this community. We have a wreath on the front door for him. He was a good man.

Commissioner Davis stated he appreciated that.

Mayor White stated on the Downtown we had the meeting last Thursday. Substantial completion is supposed to be completed by next Friday. We will find out next Thursday. One thing that is not going to be able to be completed is planting around what you see. Through the TDOT Grant that we got they will not allow us to plant until November through early spring, so you don't lose them. They are going to do some work there so that it is not a fall hazard and get those up a little more level. It is not going to be exactly what we want until we can get there. They are going to assemble one of the picnic tables for us this week, so we can see the size of the tables and understand because there is a bunch of them. One of their requests is that we possibly try until we can get some greenery in to put umbrellas in those tables so that you can at least sit out there and not burn completely up. We have asked Ms. Caroline Rash who is the new lady with Main Street to give us a little help with that. She has been more than willing to do that; she is on vacation this week. He stated we have a lot of those tables, so we have to decide where to put some of them. They weigh 465 pounds apiece. He has heard more compliments about the Downtown in the last week and it's finally good to hear.

Commissioner Johnston asked if the fountain would be operational?

Mayor White stated if you look there is a big concrete pour right there. There is a bunch of wires coming out of it. There is a box that it is supposed to be installed the first part of next week. Once it is installed it controls all of the lights downtown as well as the fountain. Possibly substantial completion by next Friday.

8. Monthly Financial / Budget report

Mrs. Cox stated the budget amendment and the actual budget notes for the year end stuff is the same. Starting year end this is about to be the last week of the fiscal year. So, starting July 1, they will be in a new fiscal year with the budget passing tonight and the next week we are going to submit it to the comptroller's office.

Motion made by Commissioner Knowles to accept the financial and budget report as given.

Seconded by Commissioner Johnston.

Voting Yea: Mayor White, Vice Mayor Alderson, Commissioner Davis, Commissioner Johnston, Commissioner Knowles. All were in favor. Motion passed.

9. Monthly report from City Manager

Mr. Grooms stated he has a few bullet points. He asked Mr. Lee Rogers with TDOT to come give us an update on the bridge progress and gracefully he is here to do that.

Mr. Lee Rogers, Manager for District 38, gave them an update on the bridge progress.

Mr. Grooms did have a couple more items he stated on the Downtown Project, the City Hall parking lot is open. We are doing social media posts to try to make sure we go back to a one-way street. East Merchant Street is finished; the drainage was done by our staff and that section has been paved back over. Arrow Mines bathroom has been started, the foundation, plumbing, the taps have been made.

He stated we did get our rate back on our Health Insurance, it is going up 5%. We budgeted a little more, so we are going to absorb all of that, no change in the plan documents. We are changing our vision and dental to Blue Cross, it is a little better coverage, and we are actually absorbing that to help with benefits for employees.

Mrs. Cox stated we cover 100% of the employee only coverage and the City pretty much covers the majority of the cost on the other plans as well, so employee plus child, employee plus spouse and employee plus family the highest that a person pays is about \$100 a paycheck for family coverage. Which is amazing and unheard of around here. So, if we can absorb that in our budget this is something the City has been doing for years and the other part, we were able to do this year because the increase was so low in switching to Blue Cross Blue Shield. She explained the benefits of this to the Commission.

Mr. Grooms stated the employee recognition this month is Peyton Finley. He started as a seasonal employee and transitioned to full time in the utility department. He just wanted to recognize him for his services. He stated City Hall is closed Thursday for Juneteenth. We are having an event at Gardenia Park from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm with different activities throughout the day. Alyshia has worked hard on putting this together. The last thing is he will be on vacation next week for the whole week.

Mayor White stated next Wednesday the 25th is the groundbreaking for Xxentria Technology. This is big a \$45 million investment.

Commissioners discussed. For more details refer to the audio/video recording attached to the agenda.

10. Special reports from other City Departments or Committees if applicable

A. Wastewater Liaison Report - Barge Design Monthly Report

Mr. Grooms stated they have a detailed report in their packets and Matthew with Barge Design was here Thursday night to go over where we are at with the wastewater treatment project. He then discussed the highlights for them.

Commissioners discussed. For more details refer to the audio/video recording attached to the agenda.

B. Mount Pleasant Gas System Report

Mr. Grooms stated the rate study is underway we should know something in the next few months. He stated they worked with engineering over the past few months to get some concepts for those capital projects. Now what we are doing is we met with Zach and Symmetry this week looking at some of those industrial contracts and what we need to do there. We are in the initial stages of that. There have been more requests out there from different industry. That is ongoing and we continue to meet to get the plan in front of you guys in the future.

Commissioners discussed. For more details refer to the audio/video recording attached to the agenda.

11. New Business

(Comments from citizens may or may not be included, dependent on the issues.)

- A. Resolution 2025-4 - A Resolution of the City of Mount Pleasant, Tennessee to authorize the City to enter into a Professional Services Agreement with Civil & Environmental Consultants, Inc. related to Zone Meters.

Mrs. Jones stated the City applied for and received award for Fiscal Year 2024 Infrastructure Planning Grant (IPG). By Resolution 2024-42, the City decided to use half of these grant funds to develop a sewer system analysis. Staff proposes to use the rest of this grant for the engineering and installation of zone meters. Zone meters are large water meters that would be placed in water zones in City of Mount Pleasant's water services areas; they would monitor the amount of water going to each zone, which will help the City identify leaks. The City selected CEC to perform this work. The purpose of this resolution is to enter into a contract with CEC for the development of zone meters.

Mrs. Jones stated the contract, which includes the scope of work is in your packet. The contract includes several different scopes of work; CEC and staff recommend that you select to hire CEC to perform engineering services and installation support for meters 1-3. Both of those are in your resolution as well. The cost of this engineering scope is \$228,000. The project cost will exceed the funding awarded from the planning grant. The Grant is \$209,000, the city covers \$19,000.

Commissioners discussed. For more details refer to the audio/video recording attached to the agenda.

Motion made by Vice Mayor Alderson to accept Resolution 2025-4. Seconded by Commissioner Knowles.

Voting Yea: Mayor White, Vice Mayor Alderson, Commissioner Davis, Commissioner Johnston, Commissioner Knowles. All were in favor. Motion passed.

- B. Resolution 2025-25 - A Resolution authorizing the appropriation of municipal funds for non-profit organization, Mount Pleasant-Maury Museum of Local History.

Mayor White stated the purpose of this Resolution is to appropriate \$2,750 to the Museum of Local History. This amount is included in the budget for next year.

Commissioners discussed. For more details refer to the audio/video recording attached to the agenda.

Motion made by Commissioner Johnston to approve Resolution 2025-25. Seconded by Vice Mayor Alderson.

Voting Yea: Mayor White, Vice Mayor Alderson, Commissioner Davis, Commissioner Johnston, Commissioner Knowles. All were in favor. Motion passed.

- C. Resolution 2025-26 - A Resolution authorizing the appropriation of municipal funds for non-profit organization, Mount Pleasant Forward Foundation/Main Street.

Mayor White stated the purpose of this resolution is to appropriate \$25,000 to the Mount Pleasant Forward Foundation/Main Street. This will be looked at very closely next year. So far Caroline has been excellent to work with. This amount is included in the budget for next year.

Commissioners discussed. For more details refer to the audio/video recording attached to the agenda.

Motion made by Commissioner Davis in favor of Resolution 2025-26. Seconded by Vice Mayor Alderson.

Voting Yea: Mayor White, Vice Mayor Alderson, Commissioner Davis, Commissioner Johnston, Commissioner Knowles. All were in favor. Motion passed.

- D. Resolution 2025-27 - A Resolution authorizing the appropriation of municipal funds for non-profit organization, Mount Pleasant Senior Citizens.

Mayor White stated the purpose of this resolution is to appropriate \$1,750 and use of the office and kitchen at the Community Center to the Senior Citizens. This amount is included in the budget for next year

Commissioners discussed. For more details refer to the audio/video recording attached to the agenda.

Motion made by Commissioner Johnston to approve Resolution 2025-27 as presented.

Seconded by Commissioner Knowles.

Voting Yea: Mayor White, Vice Mayor Alderson, Commissioner Davis, Commissioner Johnston, Commissioner Knowles. All were in favor. Motion passed.

- E. Resolution 2025-28 - A Resolution authorizing the appropriation of municipal funds for non-profit organization, Kids Place.

Mayor White stated the purpose of this resolution is to appropriate \$1,000 to Kids Place. This amount is included in the budget for next year.

Commissioners discussed. For more details refer to the audio/video recording attached to the agenda.

Motion made by Vice Mayor Alderson to accept Resolution 2025-28 as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Knowles.

Voting Yea: Mayor White, Vice Mayor Alderson, Commissioner Davis, Commissioner Johnston, Commissioner Knowles. All were in favor. Motion passed.

- F. Resolution 2025-29 - A Resolution to approve a Service Agreement with Online Utility Exchange for Collection Services.

Mrs. Cox stated we have had ACSI for a very long time. We have been trying to get a grip on some of the old debt and trying to see if we could get a better collection agency. We have communicated with a couple of other utility companies in the area and this service came back as something that was going to be more hands on and try to collect on some of the old accounts. We try to collect internally for a good 90 days before we turn anybody over to collection. The good thing about this company is if we wanted to expand the services for a soft credit check in the future or if we need to do this just to see if somebody was in good standing this company is able to do those type of things as well. As we grow this company could grow with us. The other company she thinks collected one account since she has been here. Which is nothing compared to what we really need them to do. She explained this to them. She is looking forward to working with this company.

Commissioners discussed. For more details refer to the audio/video recording attached to the agenda.

Motion made by Vice Mayor Alderson to accept Resolution 2025-29 as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Johnston.

Voting Yea: Mayor White, Vice Mayor Alderson, Commissioner Davis, Commissioner Johnston, Commissioner Knowles. All were in favor. Motion passed.

- G. Resolution 2025-30 - A Resolution of the City of Mount Pleasant, Tennessee to authorize the City to enter into a Professional Services Agreement with Barge Design Solutions, Inc. for a Water and Wastewater System Asset Management Plan.

Mrs. Jones stated the purpose of this resolution is to enter into a professional services agreement with Barge to develop an Asset Management Plan for the water and wastewater systems. This plan is required to retain eligibility under the American Rescue Plan Grant. The proposed Asset Management Plan will catalog and characterize the water and wastewater system components, provide planning support for future equipment replacement strategies

and maintenance, and provide the platform for future development of work order tracking and maintenance records. The cost of these engineering services is \$58,000. The proposed Professional Services Agreement is in your packet and online.

Commissioners discussed. For more details refer to the audio/video recording attached to the agenda.

Motion made by Commissioner Davis in favor of Resolution 2025-30 as presented. Seconded by Vice Mayor Alderson.

Voting Yea: Mayor White, Vice Mayor Alderson, Commissioner Davis, Commissioner Johnston, Commissioner Knowles. All were in favor. Motion passed.

- H. Resolution 2025-31 - A Resolution approving Change Order #5 to the Construction Contract with BH Craig Construction Co., Inc. for the 2021 WWTP Improvements Project.

Mrs. Jones stated this involves the construction contract for the Wastewater Treatment Plant project. As you know, we learned that the quality of the City's mixed liquor was not in alignment with the membrane manufacturer's standards. This required additional piping to be installed, and critical path activities were delayed. The City authorized additional work in March; with the understanding that a change order would be presented to you – this is that change order. The change order adds \$36,305 to the contract and 158 days. The purpose of this resolution is to approve that change order. Also, this is contingent on approval from the USDA Rural Development.

Commissioners discussed. For more details refer to the audio/video recording attached to the agenda.

Motion made by Commissioner Johnston to approve Resolution 2025-31 as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Knowles.

Voting Yea: Mayor White, Vice Mayor Alderson, Commissioner Davis, Commissioner Johnston, Commissioner Knowles. All were in favor. Motion passed.

- I. Resolution 2025-32 - A Resolution to approve a contract with Samsara for the Camera System for the Trash Truck.

Mrs. Jones stated the purpose of this resolution is to renew the existing sanitation truck camera system. This contract is for 3 years. The cost is approximately \$1,100 per year.

Commissioners discussed. For more details refer to the audio/video recording attached to the agenda.

Motion made by Vice Mayor Alderson to accept Resolution 2025-32 as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Johnston.

Voting Yea: Mayor White, Vice Mayor Alderson, Commissioner Davis, Commissioner Johnston, Commissioner Knowles. All were in favor. Motion passed.

- J. Resolution 2025-33 - A Resolution of the City of Mount Pleasant, Tennessee to approve a High Spending Vendor List.

Mrs. Cox stated the majority of this is utilities there is not a lot of the general fund stuff in here. Some of these may have been bid, some may be internal, but a lot of these are not, they may just be vendors that we spend a lot of money with. Our employees usually, internally if they are spending \$5,000 or more with a vendor, they will do research on it because that is our purchasing policy. Chemicals or meters some of that stuff is proprietary, some of it comes from the same person we have been buying from for years. Putting it all together is vendors that internally we need to eventually at some point look at and try to make sure we are still getting the best deal from buying from the same people over and over again. Internally some of the departments have already done some of the research on pricing every so often to make sure we are getting the best deal by going with the same vendor that they have been using. If not, they will switch. She just wanted to present this because the purchasing policy does say that if

we spend \$25,000 or more with a vendor, we bring it to them, but these are projects or things that have happened all year. It is not one single project. The majority of the time one single project does come to them for approval. This is just stuff that is collected in a fiscal year. The list is in front of you if there are any questions.

Commissioners discussed. For more details refer to the audio/video recording attached to the agenda.

Motion made by Commissioner Davis in favor of Resolution 2025-33 as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Johnston.

Voting Yea: Mayor White, Vice Mayor Alderson, Commissioner Davis, Commissioner Johnston, Commissioner Knowles. All were in favor. Motion passed.

K. Resolution 2025-34 - A Resolution to approve a City Manager Employment Agreement with Arnold Phillip Grooms.

Mrs. Jones stated we did talk about this at the Study Session. All of the changes that were made are highlighted. We will take the highlights off before you sign it if approved.

Mayor White asked if there were any questions. He told Phillip he was doing a heck of a job. It is a pleasure to work with you.

There were no City Commissioner questions.

Mr. Grooms stated as he said Thursday night, when he first took this, he did not want it. He had no intentions of really staying after a year, but it has been a pleasure working for you five for the last 11 or 12 months now. The job is challenging, it is hard, sometimes they are beating their heads against the wall everyday about something, but it has been a pleasure working with you. Let's move forward.

Commissioner Johnston stated he has gone above and beyond, we all knew you could do a great job, you have done more than a great job. It shows in the staff; you can just feel it. People are really excited to be a part of the City again so thank you.

Commissioner Knowles stated she really appreciates the transparency.

Mr. Grooms stated one thing he has learned through 25 years of local government is that it is okay to say I don't know. I don't know everything, but I will find out or try to find out.

Mayor White stated that is okay.

Vice-Mayor Alderson stated he is doing a wonderful job, and she appreciates what he is doing for the City and the employees. You are always listening and taking our phone calls, and she appreciates it.

Commissioner Davis stated he knows how much he appreciates him.

Commissioners discussed. For more details refer to the audio/video recording attached to the agenda.

Motion made by Commissioner Knowles that we approve Resolution 2025-34 for Arnold Phillip Grooms. Seconded by Vice Mayor Alderson.

Voting Yea: Mayor White, Vice Mayor Alderson, Commissioner Davis, Commissioner Johnston, Commissioner Knowles. All were in favor. Motion passed.

12. General comments from citizens (May be limited in time and/or number of comments.)

There were no citizen comments.

13. Board / Staff Comments / Adjournment

Mayor White asked if there were any more comments from the Board or the staff. He thanked them for everything they are doing. He was at the topping out ceremony today at Columbia State and he can assure them there are a whole lot of communities that surround us that are not in the shape that we are in financially or with the employees. He can assure you of that.

Commissioner Knowles wanted to thank Chavers Funeral Home for giving us the card to wish us a Happy Juneteenth.

Commissioner Davis stated he doesn't know if they saw in the paper about what Spring Hill is doing now. We might as well get ready because it is coming south more than what we thought it probably would, because what he understands is what they have now in Spring Hill is good to go, but anything else is questionable. He just hopes we say we have got to look at this.

Mayor White stated we are putting the break on it. He was in a meeting last Thursday morning and the Mayor spoke up and said we are not issuing anymore sewer permits.

Mr. Grooms stated and he thinks Dale will agree that we look at it from an engineering perspective and we have standards that we have to stay with and when it comes to that point, we have to say no.

Commissioners discussed. For more details refer to the audio/video recording attached to the agenda.

Motion made by Commissioner Davis to adjourn. Seconded by Vice Mayor Alderson.

Voting Yea: Mayor White, Vice Mayor Alderson, Commissioner Davis, Commissioner Johnston, Commissioner Knowles. All were in favor. Motion passed.