



Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, May 13, 2026 at 5:30 PM

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

1. Call to Order

Mr. Smith called the meeting to order

2. Pledge of Allegiance / Invocation

3. Roll Call

Mr. Grooms gave the roll call, Mrs. McWilliams, Mrs. Knowles, Mrs. Arnold, and Mrs. Holt, were unable to attend the meeting, Mr. Patton, came in late.

A. Luemma McWilliams - *Chair*

Bedford Smith - *Vice Chair*

Kathy Pepe - *Secretary*

Loree Knowles - *City Commissioner*

Larry Patton - *Member*

Anna Arnold - *Member*

Katrina Holt - *Member*

4. Approval / Correction of Minutes from Prior Meetings

A. Minutes from April 8th meeting

Mr. Grooms recommended that we move the approval of the minutes to the end of the meeting to see if anyone was running late. Mr. Smith agreed.

After all items were discussed Mr. Smith went back and asked for a motion to approve the minutes from last months meeting. Ms. Pepe made the motion to approve the minutes as written and Mr. Patton seconded.

5. Completion / Review of Unfinished Business from prior meeting

A. Movie Night

Ms. Busby stated that the Movie Night Event would be Saturday starting at dark. It would be held at Barker Field and that they would be watching the movie "The Hill". The Baseball League would be having closing ceremonies that night before the movie starts.

B. Juneteenth Celebration

Ms. Busby gave each Member a copy of the review from the last Juneteenth meeting, with dates, times, a list of vendors, and a overview of what will go on that day. She went on to discuss in more detail about the day and the events that will be held on that day.

Mr. Smith mentioned doing an art class at the event and that his wife would be there for help.

C. Back to School Bash

Ms. Busby went over the this event and what had been done so far. The date would be July 25th at the Splash Pad. She spoke with Victoria about the Utilities Department setting up again. They have also ordered crayons to add to the donations. Mrs. McWilliams was not there to give everyone an update on the donations at this time.

D. July 3rd Event

Ms. Busby stated that she had sent out vendor forms and several had already signed up. Flyers have been posted, there will be a DJ for the night, food trucks, splash pad, and games. Mr. Grooms asked about the Bike Parade, Ms. Busby stated that she needed to get the flyer out and mentioned working with the radio station to coordinate music with the fireworks. He also mentioned turning off the lights around the Community Center for the fireworks.

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

A. Parks Report

Ms. Busby, started by reviewing the Doggy Play Day. The day went really well, the turn out was great and all the dogs behaved. She told the Commission about Mrs. Susan Jones, who brought the idea to them about the day and set up donation boxes around town to collect donation for the local animal shelter.

Ms. Busby said that she and Mrs. Jones dropped off 4 almost full boxes of donations the day before and that Mrs. Jones had 2 more to drop off. Ms. Busby also stated that she spoke with the Director of the Shelter about doing an adaption day, and said she was trilled and would love to work with us on that event.

B. City Manager Report

Mr. Grooms stated that he looked at the ordinance and that we could go ahead and approve the minutes from the previous month with the members that were in attendance.

He the went on to discuss the incident at the baseball field that happened the night before. The bleachers at Brewer Field collapsed. Fire, EMS, and Police were called and several minor injures were treated at the scene, one person was taken by ambulance to the hospital. He contacted Public Entity Partners to come and look at all the bleachers on that field and on Barker fields. All other bleachers from Brewer field have been remove, for they too were in poor condition. He would ask for a recommendation on the bleachers on Barker Fields.

He stated that he would would be presenting to the Commissioners in the Budget request for the next physical year, a part time Senior Program Coordinator, because the City will be taking over the Senior Program. \$12,000 a year for Senior program funding, \$50,000 annually for parks projects, and in addition to a full time Parks and Recreation Director.

Mr. Smith, stated that a full time Director was needed.

Ms. Busby heard from the President over the League and stated that gentleman who had to be treated, all scans were clear, he had a concussion but would okay.

Mrs. Willie Alderson then addressed the board about how we need to move forward from here. Hiring a director, is needed and that we also need to come up with a way to make sure the people in this town are safe when they go one of our parks.

The Commission went on to discuss this matter in more details.

7. New Business

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

Mr. Smith asked if there was any new business and Mr. Grooms reminded him of the approval of the minutes.

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

Mrs. Merilee Meschefske, came up and addressed the Commission, she stated that this is a chance for the City to make a statement that, we are moving forward and help make it happen. Hiring a Director will help make the new changes come to life.

9. Board / Staff Comments / Adjournment

Mr. Smith adjourned the meeting