

MINUTES
OF THE
BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN
JANUARY 8th, 2026

The Board of Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Henderson, Tennessee, met in regular session on Thursday, January 8th, 2026, at 7:00 P.M. in the Council Chamber of the City of Henderson City Hall. Present and presiding was Mayor Terry F. Bell. City Recorder Jim E. Garland called the roll, with the following being present:

Aldermen: Mark A. Barber, Donna R. Butler, Buel Maness, Michael Phelps, and Jason Rhodes.
Absent: Keith Smith

Also present at the meeting were: City Recorder Jim E. Garland, Police Chief Gary Davidson, Public Works Director Carter Scales, Building Official Brent Beshires, Utility Director Darryl Green, Fire Chief Doug Acred, and Assistant CMFO Alicia Holder

Mayor Bell called the meeting to order at the appointed time. Bro. Ben Flatt of the Church of Christ gave the invocation, and Mayor Bell led the Pledge of Allegiance. The following proceedings were entered here-to-wit:

The minutes of the previous regular meeting were presented for approval. Ald. Butler asked about the status of the door-to-door campaign for collecting surveys for the CDBG Grant. UD Green stated that they are gathering surveys as residents come in to pay their bills. He will have some of his team start the door-to-door campaign soon. A motion was made by Ald. Butler to approve the minutes of the regular meeting, as presented, duly 2nd by Ald. Maness. Motion carried.

The accumulated accounts were presented for informational purposes. There were no questions about the accounts, and the meeting continued.

The first item on the agenda was a call for delegations to address the board.

1. Police Awards. Police Chief Davidson recognized the following:

Captain Ron Stewart – Supervisor of the Year
Officer Danielle Cook – Chief’s Award of Excellence
Officer Donald Buffin – Officer of the Year

He recognized them at the annual police Christmas party and wanted to acknowledge them publicly. Chief Davidson stated that he was proud of all the officers in the department.

There were no further delegations, so the meeting continued.

The next item on the agenda was to consider passage on the final reading of an ordinance that adds Chapter 6 to Title 9 of the Municipal Code regulating and permitting Mobile Food Vendors. This is the same ordinance that was passed on the first reading last month. Recorder Garland stated that the requested amendments made at the last meeting before the vote on the first reading have been updated. A motion was made by Ald. Barber to approve Ordinance #583 on the final reading, duly 2nd by Ald. Butler. Upon a roll call vote, the following was cast:

Ayes: Mark A. Barber, Donna Butler, Buel Maness, Michael Phelps, and Jason Rhodes.
Absent and not voting: Keith Smith
Noes: None.

Mayor Bell declared Ordinance #583 as approved on the final reading.

The next item on the agenda was to consider an ordinance amending Title 4, Chapter 2, Section 4-205 of the Municipal Code, changing the “Residence Requirements” for Department Heads and Full-Time Firemen. Mayor Bell stated that this change was related to the retirement of UD Green and the start of the search for his replacement. The consensus is that the current requirements are limiting the applicant pool. Recorder Garland stated that, as discussed in the planning session, the proposal was to change department head requirements from residing within five miles of City Hall to residing within ten miles of City Hall, and full-time firemen from residing within ten miles of City Hall to residing within 15 miles of City Hall or within Chester County, like all the remaining full-time city employees. Ald. Rhodes suggested making the residency requirements apply to all employees, including the department heads, to reside within 15 miles of City Hall or within Chester County. A motion was made by Ald. Barber to approve an amended ordinance changing the residence requirements for all full-time employees, including department heads, to reside within 15 miles radius of City Hall or within Chester County within one year of employment, on the first reading, duly 2nd by Ald. Maness. Upon a roll call vote, the following was cast:

Ayes: Mark A. Barber, Donna Butler, Buel Maness, Michael Phelps, and Jason Rhodes.
Absent and not voting: Keith Smith
Noes: None.

The second reading will take place at the next meeting.

The next item on the agenda was to consider the purchase of a Gate Operator for the Utility Operations Building on Record Drive. UD Green stated they were nearing the completion of the renovations at 60 Record Drive. We fenced the site when we moved in, and it included a sliding gate. For added security, he is asking to purchase the Gate Operator from Gross Fence Co. for \$6,975.00. Funding will come from the building and improvement budget line item. A motion was made by Ald. Butler to approve the purchase from Gross Fence Co. for \$6,975.00, duly 2nd by Ald. Rhodes. Motion carried.

Any other Business:

1. Approve the revised Utility Director Job Description. Recorder Garland stated that, based on the residence requirement change earlier, that would need to be changed after the final reading. All present board members agreed to the job description as presented.
2. Mayor Bell stated that the vacation accrual process has been questioned to allow employees to accrue during the first year of employment. Recorder Garland stated that

he was going to bring this up at the next department head meeting to get input for a proposition to present to the board at budget review time.

Police Chief Davidson stated that he would like to discuss the sick leave policy for police officers. Currently, the policy states that a doctor's note is needed for all sick leave periods in excess of two consecutive work days or for any sick leave in excess of 16 hours during a calendar month. Since police officers work 12-hour shifts, he would like it clarified in the personnel policy.

He then stated that there are new rules from the state regarding the sale of seized cars. The funds from the sale can only be used for maintenance and repair on the impound lot. They sold cars last week for approximately \$11,000.00. The fence around the impound lot needs repairs. He received two quotes to repair the fence. The cheapest quote for the repairs is for \$4,108.00. A motion was made by Ald. Barber to accept the low quote from West TN Fence for fence repair at the impound lot, duly 2nd by Ald. Butler. Motion carried.

UD Green gave a project update. The East Lagoon cleaning is approximately 75% complete. They have most everything on one side of the curtain complete, and if they have some good working days, the project should be complete soon.

The switch gear for the water plant came in, and they are inspecting and getting a game plan together to start back at the end of January with a targeted completion around the first of March.

Fire Chief Acred thanked the board for considering the changes to the vacation accrual. He also stated that they had the HFD Year in Review in their packet. He stated that the call volumes continue to go up. He recognized Captain Foster for the work that he does, dealing with data. Chief Acred stated that he tries to be as transparent as possible.

Chief Acred then stated that the remaining windows at the station need to be replaced. They discussed this during the budget meetings, and there are funds available to complete the project. A motion was made by Ald. Butler to approve the purchase from Dyersburg Glass Company for \$5,110.90, duly 2nd by Ald. Rhodes. Motion carried.

Mayor Bell noted that they would like to revisit the false call policy during the budget meetings. The policy has not been updated since 2000.

They met last Wednesday with Barry Alexander and Wade Electric about the preemption system that causes everything to go red at 45 and Main. It appears that it is working reasonably well currently. They would also be addressing a Temple battery backup that costs around \$10,000.00. They will gather more information to present to the board.

Recorder Garland stated that Utility Training is needed for some of the Aldermen. He has a form to complete for them to sign at the next meeting.

He handed out a printout for an MTAS training opportunity that includes the TBOUR regulations. He offered his help in getting an MTAS account set up.

He handed out an audit report for the aldermen to review. Matt Wood with ATA will be at the next meeting to review the audit and answer any questions.

A project he is working on is updating the Municipal Code from start to finish. They need to let him know how they prefer that he present the updates to them. He will be working on section by section.

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Ald. Phelps stated that he loves the city and working with everyone. He told everyone to be careful.

Ald. Barber congratulated the three individuals in the police department for their accomplishments. He stated that he appreciates everyone on every team.

Ald. Butler thanked everyone.

Mayor Bell invited any one who is interested to the Animal Control Advisory Board meeting at 6:00 at the Public Works Building.

He also invited everyone to the Martin Luther King Jr Celebration on January 18th.

He stated that there is an informal Beautification Committee to work on beautifying the downtown area.

He will be asking for everyone's assistance in working on the America 250 Celebration.

There being no other business, a motion was made by Ald. Barber to adjourn, duly 2nd by Ald. Maness. Motion carried.

APPROVED: _____
Signed: Terry F. Bell
MAYOR

ATTEST: _____, CITY RECORDER
Signed: Jim E. Garland