

City of Whitwell
Board of Commission
September 10, 2026
6:00 pm

Meeting called to order by Mayor Sandra Crabtree.

Invocation was given by Vice-Mayor Mike Dillon.

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner David Hudson.

Certification of the Sunshine Law was met.

Roll Call-As follows:

1. Mayor Sandra Crabtree- Present
2. Vice-Mayor Mike Dillon- Present
3. Commissioner Jim Nunley- Present
4. Commissioner David Hudson- Present
5. City Manager- Lonnie Cleek- Present
6. City Recorder-Carol Condra-Present
7. City Attorney Sarah Willis-Present

Approval of the Agenda- A motion to approve the agenda was made by Commissioner Hudson, and this motion was seconded by Vice-Mayor Dillon. All Commissioners voted yes. Motion carries.

Approval of the August 13, 2026 City Meeting- A motion was made by Commissioner Nunley to approve the minutes from August 13, 2026, and this motion was seconded by Vice-Mayor Dillon. All Commissioners voted yes. Motion carries.

New Business

1. Surplus Property- Mr. Cleek had given the Commissioners a list of the surplus property, and stated that this would need to be approved for the auction company. Vice-Mayor Dillon made a motion to approve the list and declare as surplus for a bid auction, and this motion was seconded by Commissioner Nunley. All Commissioners voted yes. Motion carries.
2. Hooper Drug Store Property, take-out Old-School Property from Auction-Last month the Commissioners voted on real estate to be placed to auction. This included the old school building on North Main Street, and did not include the old Hooper Drug building. After some

discussion, it has been decided to take the old school off the list for auction, and add the Hooper Drug. Vice-Mayor Dillon made a motion to remove the old school building from the list to auction, and add the Hooper Drug building to the list, and this motion was seconded by Commissioner Hudson. All Commissioners voted yes. Motion carries. Also, it was mentioned about giving Mr. Cleek the authority to look at all options and any proposals for the school property from now to January 1, 2027. A motion was made by Vice-Mayor Dillon to allow Mr. Cleek to have authority to look at all options for the school property, and this motion was seconded by Commissioner Nunley. All Commissioners voted yes. Motion carries.

3. Ordinance #387 Planning Commission -This was requested by the Planning Commission to amend municipal zoning. Vice-Mayor Dillon explained the location of the property. This is a request for short-term rentals. A motion to approve the 1st reading of Ordinance #387 was made by Vice-Mayor Dillon, and this motion was seconded by Commissioner Nunley. All Commissioners voted yes. Motion carries.

Old Business

1. Jasper Sewer Bills (Review in Sept)- Attorney Willis said the Town of Jasper is still having problems with the new system. The Commissioners will table until the October meeting.
2. Streetlights (Tracy Steele) Requested Croy to start- Mr. Cleek stated the study is complete, and they are waiting to hear from TDOT. After we hear from TDOT, we will need an estimate of the cost of what the study has shown.
3. City Shop (Electric & Plumbing Repair Quote) -Table until after the auction.
4. Library (Consider City Operated)-Mayor Crabtree spoke with Ms. Kate Huddleston from the State of Tennessee concerning if the city takes control of the library, and she said the city should receive \$94,200 plus the city's MOE of \$35,266. The library would not require a separate audit; it would be included in our city's audit as a separate department. The city would be required to have a library board made up of 7, 9 or 11 members. Mayor Crabtree thinks that we can set up a 7-member board. The city would be required to go before the county and formally ask the county. If approved, we would then be required to meet state guidelines. Vice-Mayor Dillon stated that there has been already been too much drama concerning the library, and he would like to make a motion for the City of Whitwell to take over the Orena Humphrey's Library, and this motion was seconded by Commissioner Nunley. All Commissioners voted yes. Motion carries. After the motion, Mayor Crabtree read a letter from William Shell, MD written on May 25, 1968 in reference to the dedication of the library and books.
5. Veterans Park Paving- The paving is tabled until after grant work is completed at the park.

City Manager's Report-given by Lonnie Cleek

1. Mowing (Zero & Tractor)- He stated there is a light at the end of a tunnel. The mowing has slowed since it has stopped raining every day.

2. Early Voting Whitwell City Hall October 26 and 27- will be held at the Whitwell City Hall on October 26th and 27th from 8:00 to 4:00 pm.
3. Labor Day- He would like to thank all of the city employees who worked at the park on Labor Day due to the shortage of volunteers.
4. LPRG (Local Parks and Recreation Grant) -The contract has been signed. We are ready for bids, and getting survey started.
5. Still Meeting with City Attorney (Possibly Resolved Sewer Billing)- working with city attorney to resolve sewer billing
6. New City Vehicle Fleet- All of the vehicles have been purchased; lights and signage have been put on. They look great! The employees are proud to have them.
7. Quotes for building, wiring and plumbing- Tabled until after the auction.
8. Croy to begin study for streetlights (Waiting on Study) (Started but not completed) (Spoke to Harry on both projects to see where we are)- streetlights are not complete

City Recorder's Report given by Carol Condra

1. Mrs. Condra explained that the Tennessee Comptroller of the Treasury requires that each member of the governing body receives a copy of the Capital Outlay Note, and it must be presented at our city meeting within 45 days of the note being signed. Because the Capital Outlay Note is guaranteed by the state, items purchased were not placed as collateral against the note. If for any reason, the city could not make our payment, the state would come in making the payment and then taking over our office. This was a first note of this type for Cindy at CTCB so a learning experience. She did make a statement that while doing their research of city credit, the City of Whitwell ranked in high standards per audit and debit.
2. Audit of 2025/2026 is scheduled for September 22nd and 24th.
3. Mrs. Condra also stated that she had included a detail of all expenditures from the loan proceeds in the package that they received. She then briefly described the totals. Note: Our Library MOE yearly agreement is in the amount of \$35,266.00. If we go over this amount, it resets the amount for the following year. This year 2025/2026, we have under spent. One of our orders did not come in by the deadline. Mrs. Black had talked to me about some other needs, but with the additional temporary position placed on Mrs. Black and the talk of library changes, we just did not get the items ordered.

Departmental Reports

1. Police Department given by Chief Engle-The police stats for August, 2026 are as follows: 132 Calls for service, 5 Crashes, 76 Business checks/ community assists, 32 Stops, 9 Citations, 1 Field Interview, 9 Warrant Services and 9 Arrest. He wanted to thank the city for the new vehicles. He stated that he felt the department did a good job with the traffic control on Labor Day even though it was a long day. The officers are doing business checks. We had twice the calls and stops in August as in July. He asked if any of the Commissioners had any questions in regards to the August 18th incident, and there were no comments from the Commissioners.

2. Fire Department given by Chief Davis-The monthly report for August, 2026 is as follows: total calls 16, average response time 6 minutes, average manpower response 7, total hours on scene 21, in-house training was 4 hours.
3. Library Report- given by Cathy Black- This is for the month of August, 2026. Total Circulation 881, READS Online 462, Computer Users 26, Wireless Users 204, New Cards Issued 17, People Count 217, Reference Transactions 13, Inter Library Loan (loaned) 34, Inter Library Loan (borrowed) 2, Programs & Events Sponsored by the library 0, Events not sponsored by the library 12, Number reached at programs outside the library 54, Number reached at programs outside the library 0. Overall total of library patrons with unexpired library cards 708. She discussed the events and programs that they have been doing. She said that they have added Mrs. Barbara Vaughn as a new member to the Marion County Library Board from Whitwell, and that Mrs. Rochelle Davis from Crossroads had to resign due to family obligations, and Mrs. LeAnne Higdon has consented to take the vacant seat. The Marion County Library Board is now full.
4. Senior Citizens Report-given by Sandy Tennille-The report for the month of August, 2026 is as follows: they are up to 12 Meals on Wheels, 6 of which also receive weekend meals, they had the bingo bucks auction with lots of good prizes, they have decided the trip will be to the Gaylord Opryland Hotel to the production of "ICE", and ride on the Delta riverboat for Christmas, and lunch at the Rainforest Café'. We will be having a chili luncheon fundraiser in October to try and raise the rest of the money we need to pay everyone's entry fees. Legal Aid of TN will be at the center on Sept 14th at 11:00 for anyone 60 or over to do wills, advance directives, POA etc. at no cost.
5. Saddle Club-No report given.

Committee/Board/Commission Reports

1. Parks and Recreation-given by Sandy Tennille-She stated that Labor Day went well. The people who were bringing the mechanical bull stood her up, and the musical entertainment cancelled the morning of the event. The total made for the day was \$6,375 before cost. The balls for our new games were stolen, this is why we can't have anything nice. She appreciated the support from the fire and police departments for helping with traffic control this year. Grant list with 15 possible grants. Some are very small, but every penny counts. She is looking for local businesses and companies or individuals willing to pledge in kind money. Fall movie event in the park planned with lots of free activities so watch for that to be announced. The trash cans did not get ordered before Labor Day so she would like to order 8 more to replace the old metal ones under the big pavilion. She is working on getting multiple estimates for mulch for both playgrounds, looking like the minimum will be \$3,000 so far considering we must have it 3 inches deep. Again, she is asking for some possible donations on some part of it. She has someone who has agreed to haul it. She will be purchasing paint for cooler weather. She is planning for Labor Day next year and will begin in a couple of weeks.
2. Planning Commission Board- The next meeting will be September 22, 2026 at 4:00 pm.
3. Neighborhood Nuisance Board /Ladies about RV's cited to court (have until next court date to comply). Mr. Cleek said that Rollins' Service Station is looking better. He also stated that he has plans to meet with Judge Raines to discuss codes concerning the property on North Cedar where

the campers were cited. He thought the judge had given extra time to clean up because they had a dumpster set up for cleaning the property and their court date is coming up soon. Mr. Cleek is in the process of sending an additional letter to the other people living in their campers on Main Street. Mr. Tommy Thomas on Spring Street is letting the mortgage company take his property back, and Mr. Cleek is trying to obtain information so he could contact them concerning the cleanup.

Legal- Not currently

Community Comments-

1. Christy Frizzell- Mayor Crabtree reminded her that she could speak for 3 minutes about her issue. Mrs. Frizzell spoke about the park board and she thinks more transparency would help. She also would like for baseball to be brought back to Whitwell because she believes the kids are getting knocked out of chances to get scholarships from the Dizzy Dean Organization. Mayor Crabtree thanked her for her comments, and the Commissioners explained that there hasn't been a park board in several years, and that they have tried to work with the ball teams. They do have great plans for the park in the future.

Announcements-. Early voting will be at City Hall on October 26th and 27th from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. The next city meeting will be October 8th at 6:00 pm.

Adjournment- A motion to adjourn was made by Vice-Mayor Dillon, and this motion was seconded by Commissioner Hudson. All Commissioners voted yes. Motion carries.

Mayor

City Recorder