

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE  
CITY OF ORLINDA, TENNESSEE  
CITY COUNCIL**

**November 13, 2025**

Orlinda City Hall  
Meeting Room  
7501 Highway 52  
Orlinda, Tennessee

The Orlinda City Council met in regular session at 7:00 pm on Thursday, November 13, 2025 in the meeting room located at Orlinda City Hall, 7501 Highway 52, Orlinda, Tennessee.

Members attending were as follows:

Mayor Tabitha Swearingen  
Vice Mayor Ben Ellis  
Commissioner Sherry Carver  
Commissioner Jennifer Johnson

Others present included City Manager Tammie Carey and City Recorder Hannah Wallace as well as members of the public.

Mayor Tabitha Swearingen called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and led with the pledge of allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made by Commissioner Johnson and seconded by Vice Mayor Ellis to approve the minutes as presented of the Orlinda City Council September 11, 2025, regular meeting. A roll call vote was taken. Voting Aye: Swearingen, Ellis, Carver, Johnson. Motion passed unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

City Manager Tammie Carey discussed the financial reports presented for September and October 2025. She said that she had been working with City Recorder Hannah Wallace to put together a budget to actual report which was also given to council at the meeting. There were no questions regarding the financial reports.

FIRE REPORT

Mayor Swearingen shared that Acting Fire Chief Patrick Darrow was not present due to illness. Commissioner Johnson stated that she noticed the changes in the report and asked if that was to

keep it electronic so everyone could access the information. City Manager Carey stated that the reports were being done by Patrick and that she would ask him to use google docs in order to share the information.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Swearingen opened the floor for public comment. She stated that comments must be related to an agenda item and kept to two minutes.

Mayor Swearingen recognized Pastor Cedric Poellnitz.

Pastor Cedric Poellnitz addressed a couple of concerns related to the farm winery. Since he is with a church he asked what kind of zoning is in place related to the distance to a church. He also asked if this is a business or just for farming or some type of commercial issue or residential issue. He stated that he came to observe. He said some members of the church have expressed concerns and he wanted to make sure there was nothing that surprises them as a church body regarding zoning. He also asked about the hours that the business would be in operation.

Mayor Swearingen recognized Shea Smith.

Ms. Smith stated that she was at the August meeting to discuss roads and paving. She was not present at the September meeting to find out the outcome. She said her concern was the major potholes on Haywood Fisher and if they would be addressed. She expressed concern regarding meeting minutes and that they are not up-to-date on the website.

#### OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to discuss.

#### NEW BUSINESS

Tammie Carey was sworn in as the City Manager.

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Mayor Swearingen stated there had been a request from a resident for a slow sign on North Moore Road due to the condition of the road. There was discussion regarding the request for the sign. No action was taken.

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Discussion regarding hydrology study. Mayor Swearingen stated this was related to road paving and that the council had ranked the roads in need of repair. She stated that the top three roads were North Moore, Haywood Fisher and Doss Roads. She also stated that during discussions related to paving that the flooding on Church Street came up and needed to be addressed. She

said the hydrology study would help determine the flow and volume of water so a plan could be made to correct the problem.

Discussions concerning the water issue on North Moore and the need for rip rap to be put in place to help slow the water to prevent further deterioration.

Motion made by Commissioner Carver to proceed with the hydrology study on Church Street and table the study on North Moore. Seconded by Commissioner Johnson. A roll call vote was taken. Voting Aye: Swearingen, Ellis, Carver, Johnson. Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Swearingen asked that we proceed with obtaining quotes for rip rap in the ditch on North Moore.

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Discussion of fire engine repairs. City Manager Carey discussed the quote for engine 2. She stated the truck has a water leak and an air leak. The gauges and valves have been replaced but the truck is leaking water and currently not in use. Concerns were discussed regarding the need for more than one quote on the repair.

Motion made by Commissioner Johnson authorizing the City Manager to approve a quote and spend up to \$4,291.76 for repairs to engine 2 to repair the air leak and the water leak after exhausting all other options to receive additional quotes. Seconded by Vice Mayor Ellis. A roll call vote was taken. Voting Aye: Swearingen, Ellis, Carver, Johnson. Motion passed unanimously.

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Discussion of fire hoses and nozzles. Mayor Swearingen stated that three quotes were in the packet. Testing was done on October 31<sup>st</sup> with 1,300 feet failing. \$10,000 was budgeted for new hose and \$4,800 was budgeted for new nozzles. City Manager Carey stated that all of the quotes received were for more than was budgeted due to the amount of hose that did not pass the test. Carey discussed the options would be to reduce the amount of hose purchased and only purchase the amount that was budgeted or to move money from another line item to fund everything that needed to be replaced.

Commissioner Johnson made a motion to keep the spending at the budgeted amount for new hoses and nozzles which is \$14,800. Seconded by Vice Mayor Ellis. A roll call vote was taken. Voting Aye: Swearingen, Ellis, Carver, Johnson. Motion passed unanimously.

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Discussion regarding fire department schedule. City Manager Carey discussed possible changes to the fire department schedule. She stated that with the hiring of a full-time maintenance technician and removing the maintenance duties from the fire department staff that it had been

discussed to reduce the fire department salary budget in order to fund the additional hours for the full time position. She stated that she asked Acting Chief Darrow for two options for schedules. Darrow submitted three for review. Discussion regarding the schedule options.

Motion by Commissioner Johnson to approve the proposed schedule B with an annual salary of \$157,248 and include a paid on-call schedule for one person leaving the open position unfilled. Seconded by Vice Mayor Ellis. A roll call vote was taken. Voting Aye: Swearingen, Ellis, Carver, Johnson. Motion passed unanimously.

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Mayor Swearingen said the discussion and/or possible action regarding the farm winery and farm brewery ordinance had been tabled. The Planning and Zoning Commission met earlier and not all members were present. The Commission tabled the discussion and wanted more time to gather information. Discussion regarding the ordinance and that it would be an amendment to the existing zoning regulations. No action was taken.

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Mayor Swearingen said the amendment to the zoning ordinance was also tabled. She said the Planning and Zoning Commission plans to have a planning meeting to discuss ideas and the need for subdivision guidelines to be added to the zoning guidelines. No action was taken.

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## ORDINANCES

Mayor Swearingen provided first summary reading of the following ordinances:

First Summary Reading of Ordinance No. 25-01 entitled: *An ordinance amending title 12, chapter 1 of the Orlinda Municipal Code entitled "building codes"*. Motion made by Vice Mayor Ben Ellis to accept ordinance no. 25-01. Commissioner Carver seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Voting Aye: Swearingen, Ellis, Carver, Johnson. Motion passed unanimously.

First Summary Reading of Ordinance No. 25-02 entitled: *An ordinance amending title 12, chapter 12 of the Orlinda Municipal Code entitled "energy conservation code"*. Motion made by Vice Mayor Ben Ellis to accept ordinance no. 25-02. Commissioner Carver seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Voting Aye: Swearingen, Ellis, Carver, Johnson. Motion passed unanimously.

First Summary Reading of Ordinance No. 25-03 entitled: *An ordinance to amend title 12 of the Orlinda Municipal Code by adding chapter 13 entitled "existing building code"*. Motion made by Vice Mayor Ben Ellis to accept ordinance no. 25-03. Commissioner Carver seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Voting Aye: Swearingen, Ellis, Carver, Johnson. Motion passed unanimously.

First Summary Reading of Ordinance No. 25-04 entitled: *An ordinance amending title 19, chapter 3 of the Orlinda Municipal Code entitled "gas code"*. Motion made by Vice Mayor Ben Ellis to accept ordinance no. 25-04. Commissioner Carver seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Voting Aye: Swearingen, Ellis, Carver, Johnson. Motion passed unanimously.

First Summary Reading of Ordinance No. 25-05 entitled: *An ordinance amending title 12, chapter 4 of the Orlinda Municipal Code entitled "mechanical code"*. Motion made by Vice Mayor Ben Ellis to accept ordinance no. 25-05. Commissioner Carver seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Voting Aye: Swearingen, Ellis, Carver, Johnson. Motion passed unanimously.

First Summary Reading of Ordinance No. 25-06 entitled: *An ordinance amending title 12, chapter 2 of the Orlinda Municipal Code entitled "plumbing code"*. Motion made by Vice Mayor Ben Ellis to accept ordinance no. 25-06. Commissioner Carver seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Voting Aye: Swearingen, Ellis, Carver, Johnson. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion and/or First Summary Reading of Ordinance No. 25-07 entitled: *An ordinance establishing guidelines and allowing for the agricultural expansion of farm wineries and farm breweries in the City of Orlinda* was removed from the agenda.

#### CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Carey reported a few highlights from September and October. She stated the HVAC in the Community Center had been replaced and is operational. She reported that the septic issues at City Hall had been resolved. October in Orlinda went well and attendance was good. The next event will be Christmas in Orlinda on Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup> with the parade at 5:00 pm following the usual route. There will be cookies and cocoa with Santa at City Hall following the parade. She stated that City Hall will be closed on Thanksgiving Day and the day after Thanksgiving. Also, City Hall is now closed for lunch from 12:30 to 1:30 to allow staff to do city business and take a lunch break.


#### MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Swearingen thanked the staff for the hard work over the last three months and is excited for Christmas the lighting of City Hall.

#### ADJOURNMENT

At 8:08 pm Mayor Swearingen adjourned the meeting.

  
Tabitha Swearingen, Mayor  
City of Orlinda, Tennessee

  
Tammie Carey, City Manager  
City of Orlinda, Tennessee