

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

**June 11, 2026**

Orlinda City Hall  
Meeting Room  
7501 Highway 52  
Orlinda, Tennessee

The Orlinda City Council met in regular session at 7:00 pm on Thursday, June 11, 2026 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 Fire Chief Patrick Darrow as well as 3 members of the public.

Mayor Tabitha Swearingen called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm and led with the pledge of allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion was made by Commissioner Carver and seconded by Vice Mayor Ellis to approve the minutes of the Orlinda City Council May 14, 2026 regular meeting. A roll call vote was taken. Voting Aye: All. Motion passed unanimously.

**FINANCIAL REPORTS**

Vice Mayor Ellis asked City Manager Carey about the line item in the financial report titled "property tax". Ellis asked for clarity on why the city is paying property tax when the City does not pay property taxes. City Manager Carey stated that she and the city clerk will investigate further on this matter.

Commissioner Carver asked City Manager Carey to extrapolate on the line item Sports Betting in the financial report. Mayor Swearingen clarified that this is in regard to online betting.

Commissioner Carver asked City Manager Carey to clarify the Mixed Drink Tax paid to Robertson County Schools. Carey explained that the city receives a mixed drink tax payment from the state and is required to pay half of it to the county schools.

## FIRE REPORT

Commissioner Johnson asked Acting Fire Chief Darrow about Volunteer Fire Fighter Aurora Ingram's responses to calls and what her scope of experience is. Johnson stated that it appears that she responds to a lot of calls but has received numerous comments that she does not get out of the truck when responding. Darrow explained that Aurora does go on calls with him and that she has lifesaving skills.

## PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

## OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to discuss.

## NEW BUSINESS

### **Discussion and/or possible action regarding Resolution 2026-03, a moratorium on AI Data Centers within the City of Orlinda**

Mayor Tabitha Swearingen explained the resolution and the concern related to data centers. The resolution would place a moratorium on data centers, within the city of Orlinda, for two years. This would allow the City to have time to investigate what is involved and what kind of safeguards need to be put in place in the community.

Motion was made by Vice Mayor Ellis and seconded by Commissioner Johnson to adopt Resolution 2026-03. Voting Aye: All. Motion passed unanimously.

### **Discussion and/or possible action regarding a Resolution to Authorize the County Mayor to Execute a Renewal E-911 Interlocal Dispatch Agreement**

Mayor Swearingen received information from the County regarding the renewal of the E-911 Interlocal Dispatch Agreement which is renewed every year. The City of Orlinda would continue to pay \$14,845.39 yearly to the County for the 911 service.

Motion was made by Vice Mayor Ellis and seconded by Commissioner Johnson to renew the E-911 Interlocal Dispatch Agreement. Voting Aye: All. Motion passed unanimously.

### **Discussion and/or possible action regarding award of contract for the Haywood Fisher and North Moore Road paving project.**

A bid opening for the paving project of Haywood Fisher and North Moore Road was held on Thursday, June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2026 at 2:00 pm. One bid was received from Crown Paving for \$38,700 to pave Haywood Fisher Road and \$26,800 to pave North Moore Road for a total project cost of \$65,500. The bid documents listed Haywood Fisher Road as the base bid and North Moore Road as an add alternate, meaning the council has the right to award or to not award the North Moore Road bid. The council was asked to award a contract for the paving of both roads to Crown Paving.

After a lengthy discussion from the council regarding the length of the City's responsibility on North Moore Road and whether the roads should be resurfaced with asphalt or chip and tar, the matter was tabled. No action was taken. The bid package for the project is to be revised and the project will be rebid.

**Discussion and/or possible action regarding award of contract for the North Moore Road ditch project.**

A bid opening for the ditch work project on North Moore Road was held on Thursday, June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2026 at 3:00pm. Mayor Swearingen explained that there were a total of 4 bids received for this project. Some bidders did not provide all of the required paperwork.

Commissioner Johnson asked if the city has had prior relationship with any of the bidding companies. Mayor Swearingen stated that the first two bidders listed on the bid tab sheet had done work for the city previously.

Swearingen states the lowest bid with a complete bid packet for this project was from Long Branch for \$12,500. The project is to fix the ditches on the side of North Moore road so that it will not wash out the roadway.

Motion was made by Vice Mayor Ellis and seconded by Commissioner Carver to award the contract to Long Branch for the North Moore Road Ditch Project. Voting Aye: All. Motion passed unanimously.

**Discussion and/or possible action regarding award of contract for the Church Street Drainage project.**

City Manager Carey explained that following the bid opening last Thursday, a discussion took place about the drainage project on Church Street. Paving Manager Kevin Breeding met some of the contractors on site to look at it. Carey shared that the report gives recommendations for replacing the two tiles with 18-inch tiles that would help with a 10-year rain event. In the February meeting, when the engineering report was presented, it was discussed that the tiles should be replaced with 24-inch tiles which should accommodate a 50-to-100-year rain event.

Carey explained that two quotes had been received for installation of 18-inch tiles. If 24-inch tiles are preferred then bid specs will need to be written and the formal bid process followed.

After some discussion from the council, a motion was made by Commissioner Johnson and seconded by Vice Mayor Ellis to award the contract to Long Branch Construction for the Church Street Drainage Project for \$9,995. Voting Aye: All. Motion passed unanimously.

**Discussion and/or possible action regarding investment property.**

Mayor Swearingen stated that she has been approached by a property owner asking if the City was interested in purchasing a property. Due to a confidentiality request by the property owner, the location and price were not disclosed.

There was a discussion of minor renovation and on-going costs associated

Swearingen expressed concern over purchasing this property and if the cost of this building is justifiable.

Commissioner Johnson states that the library takes priority over purchasing this building as the library is a historic building and there is a tenant who lives in the apartment above the library.

Vice Mayor Ellis states that he leans more towards purchasing the building and using it for library space as the building in question is more structurally sound and spacious. It could provide more opportunities for visitors, at least while the current library is currently is being renovated.

After much deliberation, no action was taken.

**Discussion and/or possible action regarding 2026-2027 Fiscal Year Budget.**

Mayor Swearingen stated that instead of a first reading of the budget this evening, the council would discuss the budget and a special-called meeting would be held in two weeks to have the first reading of the budget, so that it can be passed in July.

After much discussion, council requested changes be made to the budget before first reading. The changes included a reduction in the budget for the fire department due to the purchase of a new firetruck and include lighting on the tennis courts.

**CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

City Manager Carey shared that City Clerk Erinn Scates passed her third CMFO test on May 28<sup>th</sup> which covered Internal Control & Auditing. She said City Hall would be closed on Friday June 12<sup>th</sup> and Friday June 19<sup>th</sup> in observance of Juneteenth. The Summer Reading Program began on June 1<sup>st</sup> and will run through July 31<sup>st</sup>. The program encourages children and adults to spend at least 20 minutes a day reading or listening to a book. For every 10 days they read or listen, they receive a small prize and are entered in a drawing for a larger prize.

Carey also stated that information was included in February's agenda packet with the financial report, where she shared that she had hired Sallie Starks as a consultant to help with bookkeeping. This was done because a large discrepancy between the bank balance and the

QuickBooks balance was discovered in January and she needed assistance with W-2's. Carey stated that, she reviewed the procurement policy and felt this was an emergency purchase due to the tight timeline required to get W-2's out. Because we were without a city clerk for 3½ months she felt the salary budgeted for the clerk was more than enough to cover the expense of the part time consultant. Sallie has worked intermittently for the last 5 months to help get the bookkeeping reconciled and withholding reports filed. Carey thanked the council for the support given during this time of transition.

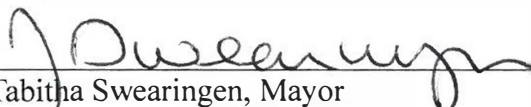
#### MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Swearingen shared that she had discovered some artifacts as well as an interesting photo to potentially use in a museum for the city of Orlinda. She stated that the rent is for Senor Fajitas is past due and the city will need to evaluate further steps. Council asked Carey to notify the owner of the restaurant and give them a designated time limit to pay the past due balance.

Mayor Swearingen extended thoughts and prayers to the Johnson Family in the passing of Nancy Johnson. Nancy was a long time employee of the City of Orlinda and a valuable member of Orlinda's community.

#### ADJOURNMENT

At 9:38 pm Mayor Swearingen adjourned the meeting.

  
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Tabitha Swearingen, Mayor  
City of Orlinda, Tennessee

  
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Erinn Scates, City Recorder  
City of Orlinda, Tennessee