

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

July 9th, 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, July 9, 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, City Recorder Erinn Scates and Acting Fire Chief Patrick Darrow as well as members of the public.

Mayor Tabitha Swearingen called the meeting to order at 7:06 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 of the Orlinda City Council June 11, 2026 regular meeting. A roll call vote was taken. Voting Aye: All. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Johnson and seconded by Vice Mayor Ellis to approve the minutes of the Orlinda City Council June 25th, 2026 Special Called meeting. A roll call vote was taken. Voting Aye: All. Motion passed unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

No further discussion.

FIRE REPORT

No questions were asked.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to discuss.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion and/or possible action regarding establishment of Food Truck Fridays

Mayor Swearingen stated she collaborated with City Manager Carey regarding food trucks. She said most cities have some sort of ordinance for food trucks. Carey has put together an ordinance to have food trucks in the City of Orlinda. This ordinance will ensure that the prospective food trucks are up to code for health requirements and establish guidelines before allowing food trucks to set up within the city limits.

This would allow for public spaces to be utilized not just for annual events such as "October in Orlinda."

Mayor Swearingen goes on to explain; an ordinance would put guidelines in place to protect local brick and mortar restaurants. A portion of the sales tax collected from a brick-and-mortar restaurant comes back to the city. The sales tax collected from a food truck goes to the city where the truck is licensed and/or based.

Commissioner Johnson stated that she disagrees with the rule for disallowing additional signage and flags for food trucks as this would restrict further information food trucks could give to potential patrons.

City Manager Carey stated that overall no action should be taken tonight regarding the food truck ordinance and it should be tabled to allow for further discussion. She asked council members to review the ordinance and make suggestions for revisions.

Mayor Swearingen stated that the city has come up with the idea for a city sponsored event called Food Trucks Fridays, where food trucks would come weekly and set up around the pavilion near city hall.

No action was taken on this matter.

Discussion and/or possible action regarding Resolution 26-04 authorizing sale of surplus property

Discussion regarding the proposed sale of an older tanker truck and the related purchase of a new fire truck. Commissioner Johnson proposed that the two decisions should be considered together because of their financial and operational impacts.

Commissioner Johnson questioned the need to surplus the existing tanker truck. She then asked about the purchase of a new, fully equipped fire truck. Johnson noted that the city already owns equipment that could potentially be transferred between trucks which could save approximately \$100,000. Johnson also raised concerns about whether both engine 1 and engine 2 could be adequately stored in Station 2.

Fire Chief Patrick Darrow explained that the two trucks would fit inside Station 2, although both could not be removed at the same time. He also outlined the intended roles for each vehicle, if stored at Station 2:

- Engine 2 would serve as the primary rescue and interstate response unit.
- Engine 1 would function as an engine and reserve tanker, primarily serving as a water supply vehicle.

Darrow then explained that Engine 2 lacks the equipment needed to serve as a primary engine for all emergencies. He stated that Engine 1 is currently the department's best-equipped apparatus and should remain equipped because it may also be the first unit to arrive at certain incidents. Darrow emphasized that Engine 2's current equipment is specialized for rescues, vehicle accidents, and car fires rather than structural firefighting.

Commissioner Johnson remained concerned about the overall cost of purchasing a new fire truck without grant funding and the expense to fully outfit another vehicle. Johnson questioned whether maintaining several engines and rescue vehicles would create unnecessary long-term maintenance and operating expenses for a city the size of Orlinda. Chief Darrow responded that any apparatus intended for active service must be fully equipped to meet ISO and NFPA safety standards and cannot safely operate without the required equipment. He also noted that the department's two existing trucks have experienced reliability issues, and there are times when neither is fully equipped and ready to respond. Commissioner Johnson requested an inventory of the fire department's equipment and testing of the existing trucks to make sure engine 1 and engine 2 would both fit in Station 2.

Continued discussion about whether to sell the old tanker truck, the potential cost savings from transferring existing equipment to the new truck instead of purchasing new equipment, the operational roles of Engine 1 and Engine 2, compliance with ISO and NFPA equipment standards, long-term maintenance and operating costs of an expanded fleet.

Motion was made by Vice Mayor Ellis to adopt Resolution 2026-04 to surplus the 1992 GMC Topkick. Motion seconded by Commissioner Carver. A roll call vote was taken. Voting Aye: All. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion and/or possible action regarding the purchase of a truck for the Fire Department

Motion to purchase the HME Ahrens Fox 1871-W truck pending final measurement length of vehicle was made by Vice Mayor Ellis and seconded by Commissioner Carver. A roll call vote was taken. Voting Aye: All Motion passed unanimously.

ORDINANCES

Discussion and/or possible First Summary Reading of Ordinance No. 26-02 entitled: *An ordinance to amend Title 9, by adding Chapter 5 to the City of Orlinda, code of ordinances, so as allow self-contained mobile food vehicles to operate in the City of Orlinda.*

No action taken. This item was tabled for discussion at a later time.

Discussion and/or Second Summary Reading of Ordinance No. 26-01 entitled: *An ordinance of the City of Orlinda, Tennessee, adopting the annual budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027.*

Motion by Commissioner Carver to adopt Ordinance 26-01, seconded by Vice Mayor Ellis. A roll call vote was taken. Voting Aye: All. Motion passed unanimously

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

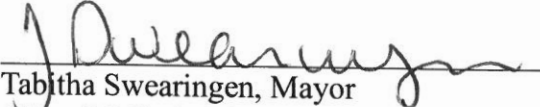
City Manager Carey reported that a job description for a part-time maintenance position which includes mowing the roadsides and doing maintenance, as needed, has been created and will be posted on the website later this week. The old mower was sold on GovDeals for \$1,300. A gentleman from Canada drove down and picked it up on June 15th. Erinn passed her 4th CMFO test on June 25th. It covered Debt & Capital Projects. The office will be closed on July 16th.

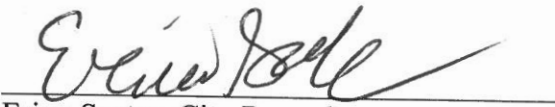
MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Swearingen did not have anything to report on until next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:36 pm Mayor Swearingen adjourned the meeting.


Tabitha Swearingen, Mayor
City of Orlinda, Tennessee


Erinn Scates, City Recorder
City of Orlinda, Tennessee