

City of Crossville

392 North Main Street
Crossville, Tennessee 38555



Minutes

Tuesday, October 7, 2025

5:00 PM

Council Chambers

Call for Special Meeting

Mayor R.J. Crawford
Council Member Art Gernt
Council Member Mike Turner
Council Member Mark A. Fox
Council Member James Mayberry
City Manager Valerie Hale
City Clerk Baylee Rhea

Call to Order

The Crossville City Council met for a Special Called meeting on Tuesday, October 8, 2025 at Crossville City Hall. Mayor Crawford was present and presiding. He called the meeting to order at 5 p.m.

Roll Call

Present 5 - Mayor R.J. Crawford, Council Member Art Gernt, Council Member Mike Turner, Council Member Mark A. Fox, and Council Member James Mayberry

Others present were City Manager Valerie Hale, City Clerk Baylee Rhea, City Attorney Randy York, Lee Lawson, Nathan Clouse, Karen Shanks, Sue York, Gene Tollett, Jerry Brownstead, Andy Hardin, Connie Hardin, Melinda Kelsey, Tom Isham, Hollis Marr, Brian Tompkins, Robert Terraforte Jr., Brooke Shaffer, Jennifer Turner, S.R. Frantzen, Beth Davis, Courtney Allred, Keisha Woolbright, Tim Vandever, Chris South, Bruce Wyatt, Kayde Johnson, Mickey Eldridge, John Eldridge, Colton DeMoss, Olivia Lowden, Chris Miller, Caitlin Miller, John Miller, MiKaela Berlingeri, Craig Clark, Terry Potter, Warren Takalar, Denny Savage, Roy Buttery, Tim Johnson, Koby Wilson, Chris Kemmer, Kelly Kemmer, Cody Reagan, Alexis Reagan, Jessie Brooks, Chris Kendrick, Steve Mullinax, Heidi Turner, Casen Turner, Jamie Adams, Barb Duncan, Dick Del Frate, Kevin Music, Joe Kerley, Jeff Dyer, Rick Haven, Kyleen Turner, Danny Wyatt, Eric Ritzman, Jonathan Miller, Cheryl Duncan, Colleen Mall, Deborah Hollbrook, M. Buxbaum, B. Buxbaum, Ron Webb, Christian Kerley, Braxton Lowe, Taylor Lowe, Wayne Shadden, Serena Vasudeva, Karen Gernt, Lou Morrison, Amy Houston, Fred Houston, Charles Dixon, Jonelle Cochran, Shea James, Chad Christopher, Sean Christopher, Larry Kidwell, Tyler Clark, Cheri Carson, Sandy Tindal, Vicki Smith Upchurch, Gordon Atchley, Gale Wakert, Gary Wakert, Tracey Barnes, Jim Wojcik, Tom Looney, Ethan Hadley, Paul Douglas, Sheryl Webb, Michael Webb, Hunter Webb, Joe Burns, Jan Burns, John Peters, Carolyn Jazowiak, Rob Harrison, Tom Flynn, Glenna Cady, D. Franks, Charles Seis, Javi Kimesdes, Wendy Smith, Roger Baker Sr., Roger Baker Jr., Leah Crockett, Tim Begley, and Henry Hunnicutt.

Public Comment

A motion was made by Mayor R.J. Crawford, seconded by Council Member James Mayberry, to suspend the rule during Public Comment allotting for only 15 minutes. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Mayor R.J. Crawford, Council Member Art Gernt, Council Member Mike Turner, Council Member Mark A. Fox and Council Member James Mayberry

Ron Webb is a local property owner who questioned the need for a duplicate service and the financial strain it would cause.

Janelle Cochran, a County resident, questioned if there is the deficiency of current EMS program, and if there is a deficiency, asked Council why they cannot work with

the County to resolve the problem? She stated Cumberland County EMS is highly rated and efficient. She encouraged Council to rescind their previous vote.

Tom Isham, a County Commissioner, presented a resolution signed by all 18 Commissioners opposing the City-run service. He stated citizens and businesses do not want higher taxes. He encouraged working together to fix any issues together.

Randy Davis, Covenant Health CEO/President, praised the strong partnership with the Cumberland County EMS and stated he was unaware of any problem that needed solving.

Craig Clark, a County resident, shared his testimony regarding Cumberland County EMS saving his life during a massive heart attack. He requested Council to rescind the vote and pursue collaboration with Cumberland County.

Roger Baker, a local business owner, doesn't want taxes raised for this service. He praised Cumberland County EMS for providing great service.

Bruce Wyatt, a City resident, expressed concern over the lack of cooperation between City and County officials, recalling past animosity that hurt the community. He urged elected officials to work together.

Jerry Brownstead, a City resident, is against a tax increase due to many citizens being on a fixed income. He commended Cumberland County EMS for doing an outstanding job.

Asa Reese, a Downtown business and property owner, warned that doubling property taxes could force businesses like his out of the area.

Cheri Carson, a City resident, argued the proposal does not represent the people, solve a problem, or make an improvement, and called on two Council members to recuse themselves from future votes due to personal interests.

1. Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Mayor Pro-tem Art Gernt, seconded by Council Member James Mayberry, to approve Consent Agenda items 1 A-F. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Mayor R.J. Crawford, Council Member Art Gernt, Council Member Mike Turner, Council Member Mark A. Fox and Council Member James Mayberry

Ordinances on Third Reading

a. Ordinance approving the abandonment Right-of-Way for a portion of Shepherd's Way, Central Baptist Church

Central Baptist Church is currently developing a master plan for their campus. A portion of that plan is to increase parking capacity. While they are just in the design and planning phase of the plan, they foresee needing to close a portion of the right of way of Shepherd's Way for use of parking and for the safety of their congregation in walking from their cars to the church. There have been some complaints about through traffic traveling Shepherd's Way at higher rates of speed. At this time, they are

seeking a guarantee from the City, that if they meet all the requirements that have been explained by Planning Staff (platting, construction of a cul-de-sac, and the survey work required by the City to abandon Right-of-way) that the City will then abandon the right-of-way for the church. They do not want to move forward in spending the required funds to meet all the requirements and then the City to deny the right-of-way closure. They anticipate the formal request to close the right-of-way within a year.

City Staff conducted a traffic count of Shepherd's Way at both ends, near the intersection of Dunbar Lane and the intersection of Highway 127 S. From the traffic count, it does appear that most traffic on the road is on Sundays and Wednesdays and most of the traffic does use the Highway 127 entrance over the Dunbar Lane side. Average Daily Traffic counts being:

- Dunbar Lane Side: 389*
- Highway 127 South Side: 1,007*

Staff recommends that the Crossville City Council move forward with the passage of an Ordinance closing/abandoning the right-of-way between the edge of the proposed cul-de-sac and Highway 127 South, contingent upon all the requirements of plats, construction of the new cul-de-sac be completed within 3 years of the 3rd reading of the Ordinance, as well as a financial guarantee be provided to the City of Crossville for any damage to the existing portion of Shepherd's Way that may require maintenance or upkeep during the construction phase of the cul-de-sac. The amount of the financial guarantee to be determined by City Staff and agreed upon by the church before the passing of the Ordinance. The ordinance would be rescinded and the right-of-way would remain public should any requirements not be met.

This Ordinance was adopted on third reading.

b. Ordinance amending §18-304 Design Criteria

An ordinance amending §18-304 Design Criteria is recommended by staff to reference the International Plumbing Code for grease traps rather than an outdated appendix.

This Ordinance was adopted on third reading.

Ordinances on Second Reading

c. Ordinance amending Title 2, Chapter 2 Sports Council

The current Chapter establishes the Sports Council. By amending the ordinance, this establishes a Leisure Services Committee to combine multiple boards/committees working towards similar goals.

This Ordinance was approved on second reading.

d. Ordinance amending §14-1104 - Review process, fees, and financial guarantees

An ordinance amending §14-1104 is recommended for approval. This amendment would allow for a financial guarantee to be required by Planning Commission at the time of site plan review.

This Ordinance was approved on second reading.

e. Ordinance amending Title 14, Chapter 10 - Multi-family Development

An ordinance amending Title 14, Chapter 10 is recommended for approval. This adds the definition for "maintenance agreement" and adds a section regarding multi-family cluster housing development requirements for fire lines.

This Ordinance was approved on second reading.

f. Ordinance amending FY 25/26 Budget - Misc. Equipment

A budget amendment is necessary for Miscellaneous Equipment for the Police Department's HVAC repair/replacement.

This Ordinance was approved on second reading.

2. Other Business

a. Discussion and action regarding City EMS with updated budget review and next steps

Finance Director Nathan Clouse presented budgetary options regarding purchases necessary to move forward with Fire based EMS. He recommended a tax increase along with options for financing.

This item was discussed.

b. Discussion and action regarding rescinding and/or modifying motion regarding City EMS

The previous motion stated: "Crossville begins transport EMS under the direction and oversight of the Crossville Fire Department using the phase-in guide to start on or around July 1st, 2026." Mayor Crawford discussed rescinding the motion at this time based on the information provided by the Finance Director.

A motion was made by Mayor R.J. Crawford, seconded by Council Member James Mayberry, to rescind the motion regarding City run EMS made at the September 9, 2025 meeting. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 3 - Mayor R.J. Crawford, Council Member Art Gernt and Council Member James Mayberry

Nay: 2 - Council Member Mike Turner and Council Member Mark A. Fox

A motion was made by Mayor R.J. Crawford, seconded by Council Member Mike Turner, to hold a referendum in November 2026 regarding Fire-based EMS. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 4 - Mayor R.J. Crawford, Council Member Art Gernt, Council Member Mike Turner and Council Member James Mayberry

Nay: 1 - Council Member Mark A. Fox

Adjournment

A motion was made by Mayor Pro-tem Art Gernt at 6:41 p.m., seconded by Council Member James Mayberry, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously.