

City of Whitwell
Board of Commission
July 9, 2026
6:00 pm

Meeting called to order by Mayor Sandra Crabtree.

Invocation was given by Commissioner David Hudson.

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Vice-Mayor Mike Dillon.

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 with the addition of Puckett Ambulance #4 and Cindy Graham #5 under New Business was made by Commissioner Hudson, and this motion was seconded by Commissioner Nunley. All Commissioners voted yes. Motion carries.

Approval of the June 11, 2026 City Meeting- A motion was made by Vice-Mayor Dillon to approve the minutes from June 11, 2026, and this motion was seconded by Commissioner Nunley. All Commissioners voted yes. Motion carries.

New Business

1. Vacant Commissioners Seat-Mr. Cleek stated two options: The Commission can nominate someone to fill the vacant seat or leave it open. These options were discussed in the workshop. Vice-Mayor Dillon stated that he thinks they should leave the seat open. There should not be any major business in the next few months. Commissioner Hudson stated that he feels the Commission should appoint someone, since it would be December by the time the person is sworn in after the election, and he feels having the fifth person would break a tie vote.

Commissioner Hudson made a motion to fill the vacant seat, and this motion was seconded by Commissioner Nunley. Mayor Crabtree called for a Roll Call Vote and it is as follows: Mayor Sandra Crabtree no, Vice-Mayor Mike Dillon no, Commissioner Jim Nunley yes, and Commissioner David Hudson yes. The voting was 2 yes and 2 no. The result ended in a tie vote. The Commissioners will table this until the next regular meeting.

2. Wi-Fi at City Park-The need for Wi-Fi and internet has been previously discussed. Sandy Tennille said it would be helpful so they could have security cameras to cut down on vandalism and have movies for the park. Also, they would be able to take card payments for events. Mayor Crabtree stated they received a quote from SVEC for \$300 a month with a \$950 installation fee or sign a 3-year contract with no installation fee. Commissioner Hudson made a motion to sign a 3-year contract and pay the \$300 monthly fee with no installation fee, and this motion was seconded by Vice-Mayor Dillon. All Commissioners voted yes. Motion carries.
3. Fireworks on Labor Day-Vice-Mayor Dillon stated that several people had talked to him about the fireworks for Labor Day. The city has worked hard to rebuild our Labor Day Celebration. It was also stated that our previous price limit of \$3,000 has been in place for many years. This buys less every year as prices increase. Commissioner Hudson made a motion to add an additional \$2,000 to make the total amount to \$5,000 for the purchasing of fireworks for Labor Day, and this motion was seconded by Vice-Mayor Dillon. All Commissioners voted yes. Motion carries.
4. Puckett Ambulance-Mr. Nick Holt, Supervisor with Puckett EMS spoke about the importance of working together with police, ambulance and fire departments. He wanted to recognize two officers with good life response skills. In May of this year, Officer Ryan Stephenson was the first to respond to a motor vehicle accident that was life threatening, and Officer Adam Rose administered Narcan to an individual for an overdose that saved a life in January of this year. Both officers were presented a Certificate of Appreciation.
5. Cindy Graham-She introduced herself, and stated she lived at 491 Oak Street. She gave each commissioner and the city manager a written list of questions, and asked that they be addressed at the next meeting. Some of the items were: Why is the park not used for baseball and softball? Use of the concession stand? Why is there no park board? Who elects the park board? Mayor Crabtree told her that they would discuss this at the next workshop to get answers for her.

Old Business

1. Jasper Sewer Bills (Review in June)- Attorney Sarah Willis stated the software is expected to be complete in August. She suggested to table this until the September meeting. The Commissioners agreed.
2. Streetlights (Tracy Steele) Requested Croy to start. Started but not completed. -Mr. Cleek spoke to Croy, and they said they are working together with TDOT to get everything moving.
3. City Shop (Electric & Plumbing Repair Quote) Last quote turned in- Mr. Cleek would like to have more discussion at the next workshop. The Commissioners would like to table until the August meeting.

4. Library (Consider City Operated)-Mr. Cleek said that we are not pushed to make a decision until we see what is going to happen. The next library meeting is scheduled for July 20th. The Commissioners will table at this time.
5. Veterans Park Paving- Table until after tennis court and basketball court is re-done.

City Manger's Report-given by Lonnie Cleek

1. Mowing (Zero & Tractor)-Mowing is continuous at this time. The rain and hot weather increase it. We have caught up most areas that were behind due to two tractors being down.
2. Branches and Trash-This is everyday work.
3. Meeting with Chair of County Commission (Money for Senior Center) (Presented to Budget and Finance) Follow up! (Trying for \$10,000)- Lonnie spoke with Mayor Jackson, and the \$10,000 has been approved.
4. LPRG Local Parks and Recreation Grant (Contract Signed & almost Ready for Bids) (Survey Started)- The surveying has started, and we should be able to request bids by next month.
5. Still Meeting with City Attorney (Possible Resolved Sewer Billing)-Mrs. Willis previously discussed.
6. Working on Bank Loan-The bank loan has been approved, and we will be able to proceed.
7. Quotes for building, wiring and plumbing-Building discussion has been tabled.
8. Interviews conducted for Police Chief-We had 5 applicants. The interviews are complete, and I will announce the new chief on July 10th.
9. Croy to begin study for streetlights (Waiting on Study) (Started but not complete) (Spoke to Harry on both projects to see where we are)- We are waiting on Croy to report study.
10. Scan- Webpage-It was decided that the City of Whitwell would provide a web page for information purposes only. Harley Dalton will set everything up and Lonnie or Carol will approve the information.

City Recorder's Report given by Carol Condra

1. All 2026-2027 budget information, tax information and budget amendment has been submitted to the comptroller.
2. I am not able to give you a year-end report for 2025-2026 at this time. Any invoice that is paid in July for the month of June must be pushed back into the year-end.
3. I have been working on the application for insurance renewal for the new year, preparing for the Worker's Comp. Audit, and continuing getting the application submitted for the Senior Citizens grant funds.
4. Set up for the new year.

Departmental Reports

1. Police Department-No report given.
2. Fire Department given by Chief Davis-The monthly report for June, 2026 is as follows: total calls 4, average response time 6 minutes, average manpower response 9, total hours on scene 6, in-house training was 4 hours. The department has received a \$2,500 grant from Colonial Pipeline. Chief Davis has not decided what need will be filled with this, but Mr. Cleek has the authority to approve the spending of this amount.
3. Library Report- given by Cathy Black- This is for the month of June, 2026. Total Circulation 1,421, READS Online 456, Computer Users 40, Wireless Users 131, New Cards Issued 48, People Count 509, Reference Transactions 36, Inter Library Loan (loaned) 30, Inter Library Loan (borrowed) 4, Programs & Events Sponsored by the library 15, Number reached at programs inside the library 44, Events not sponsored by the library 8, Number reached at programs outside the library 238, Overall total of library patrons with unexpired library cards 681. She discussed the events and programs that they have been doing. They have a part-time position open, and she received 35 applications. They interviewed 25 and hired someone. Cathy was also told that she would be filling in for the Marion County Library Director until someone was hired for the position.
4. Senior Citizens Report-given by Sandy Tennille-They are still looking for a van. She has a quote on new ceiling tile for the center, and is needing to get an engineer to inspect a wall to see if there is a solution for repairs. This grant is up to \$50,000 and application is due by August. They need donated items for Bingo auction planned in August. Looking for artisans and educators to do presentations for the senior members. She completed the application and approval process for the SETAAD senior center grant from the state, and the contract has been signed for another 3 years. Mobile MOC medical unit is at the center the first Monday of every month to offer health care for seniors 60 and older as well as their caregivers.
5. Saddle Club-No report given.

Committee/Board/Commission Reports

1. Parks and Recreation-given by Sandy Tennille-She has been working on getting Wi-Fi for the park, speaking with people about working and repairs on the ballfields, plans for painting the concession stand and bleachers. Some of the baseball teams have been thankful to use the fields this season. They raised \$595 at the Get Soaked at the Park event. Labor Day planning is pretty much complete, but she still needs volunteers. She may have to discontinue the movies in the park if participation doesn't pick up. She is currently working on getting grants for an inclusive playground. Basic playground equipment is \$58,000, and an all-inclusive one is \$161,000.
2. Planning Commission Board- The next meeting will be July 28, 2026 at 4:00 pm.
3. Neighborhood Nuisance Board- Mr. Cleek said the owner of the RVs on Cedar Street has been cited to court, and he is waiting to hear from the judge for a deadline. The owners of the RVs on Main Street have received a verbal warning, and the next step would be an official letter stating they need to be moved.

Legal- Not currently

Community Comments-

1. Patrick Childs-He is running as a candidate for Marion County Mayor, and he and his wife are teachers at Whitwell High School. He is a navy veteran, and would greatly appreciate the vote.
2. Corey Blevins- He is running as a candidate for the Marion County Clerk's Office. He said the office is currently opened from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm Monday thru Friday, which he feels is not convenient to the working people. He would like to open from 8:00 to 12:00 on Saturday, and he will be able to do this at no additional cost to the taxpayers. He would like to live stream the county meetings and post budget information, and he will be more informative to public of scheduled days off and office closings. He is known as the "Voice of the Tigers" and will volunteer if needed. Please vote to turn the courthouse around!
3. Joe Sisti- He is a retired police officer who has moved to Whitwell, and he loves our area. He is interested in running for city commissioner.

Announcements-. Mr. Cleek announced that you can early vote at the City of Whitwell on July 27th and 28th from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. The next city meeting will be August 13th at 6:00 pm. On September 5th, an event will be held with all proceeds going to the Heritage Foundation, and tickets may be purchased at city hall starting August 1st.

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