TOWN OF LOUISVILLE, TENNESSEE
BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN
March 10, 2026
6:00 p.m.

Present: Jill Pugh - Mayor, Daniel Franklin - Vice Mayor, Steven Kelley - Alderman, Lysia Vaught - Alderman, John Loope - Alderman

Absent: None.

Others Present: Rob Goddard - Town Attorney, Caleb Wheeler - Town Recorder, Hailey Russell - Administrative Assistant, Roger Bird - Town Engineer, & 22 citizens

Mayor Pugh called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Vice Mayor Franklin led the invocation

Mayor Pugh led the pledge of allegiance

Approval of the Minutes

Mayor Pugh presented the minutes from the February 10, 2026, Public Hearing and Regular meeting.

MOTION by Alderman Loope to approve the minutes from the February 10, 2026, Public Hearing. Second by Alderman Kelley. VOTE: UNANIMOUS. **MOTION PASSES.**

MOTION by Alderman Kelley to approve the minutes from the February 10, 2026, meeting with changes. Second by Alderman Vaught. VOTE: UNANIMOUS. **MOTION PASSES.**

Mayor's Report

Mayor Pugh reported that a new employee, John Webb, began work at the first of the month and is serving in a part-time capacity assisting in the office. She also announced the appointment of Angela Harrington to the Design Review Committee, noting that Patrick O'Hara's term had expired and he chose not to continue serving.

Mayor Pugh further reported that a new entry system has been installed at Town Hall and that the new gate at Beal Park has been completed. She stated that Town Engineer Roger Bird would provide additional details regarding the project.

In response to a request from the Board at the previous meeting, Mayor Pugh presented a letter from the attorney representing the Town and Planning Commission in the current lawsuit. She also provided the Board with information regarding a complaint received by the State of Tennessee Division of Fire Prevention related to the former Building Official, including the complaint, response, and final decision.

Vice Mayor Franklin questioned the timeline of the complaint and response, noting that the complaint was received on January 21, 2026, and a response was submitted the following day despite a 14-day response period. He also expressed concern that the Board had not been informed earlier and that the response, submitted on Town letterhead, included references to Board members without their knowledge.

Mayor Pugh responded that the employee's response was submitted prior to the end of his employment on February 2, 2026, and that while she was aware of the complaint, she did not bring it forward after the employee's departure. Vice Mayor Franklin stated that the Board should be informed of any state investigations involving employees and should have the opportunity to provide input and consult legal counsel.

Mayor Pugh maintained that the complaint was directed at the employee rather than the Town, and therefore she did not believe Board involvement was necessary. Vice Mayor Franklin disagreed, stating that the matter appeared to involve the Planning Commission and its actions.

Alderman Loope asked Town Attorney Rob Goddard whether he had been informed of the complaint or had reviewed the response. Mr. Goddard stated that he had not seen the materials prior to the meeting. Alderman Loope requested that the attorney review the matter to ensure the Town has no liability. Vice Mayor Franklin added that the response should be evaluated for credibility, even though the complaint had been closed with no action.

Discussion then shifted to communication regarding the ongoing lawsuit. Alderman Loope stated that he had previously requested a meeting with the Town's attorney and expressed concern regarding delays. Mayor Pugh indicated that an update had been provided and could be shared, and noted that separate legal representation had been obtained for the Board of Mayor and Aldermen and the Planning Commission.

Further discussion clarified that an additional update had been received but was not included in the meeting packet due to timing. It was explained that the update would be shared with Board members following the meeting. Alderman Loope expressed concern that the update was not distributed prior to the meeting, while staff indicated they were following the direction provided.

Town Attorney Goddard advised that such updates may be shared with Board members via email and should be treated as confidential. Vice Mayor Franklin suggested including a confidentiality disclaimer when distributing such communications.

Mayor Pugh concluded her report by stating that the Town is currently planning the fall festival and shared that a citizen had proposed dedicating the event to the 250th anniversary of the United States. She noted that the individual is willing to assist and asked if any members of the Board would be interested in participating in the effort.

Staff Reports: Building & Codes, Streets, Administrative

Building & Codes Update:

Permits for February

- 3 New Construction
- 2 Accessory Buildings
- 1 Addition

Totaling $7,210.00 in permit fees

- *Energy Code Adoption*
  - TCA 68-120-101 authorizes cities to adopt energy efficiency standards and implement statewide building standards for newly constructed one and two-family dwellings, including regulation of various structural and safety factors. We have asked the state for an exemption to inspect and enforce the same level of standards that the state enforces. Louisville has been doing that with the exception of the Energy Conservation Code. We are adopting the 2018 edition of the code with amendments adjusted to enforce the 2009 insulation values and visual inspection methodology. This is exactly what the state inspects and enforces for Tennessee. The exemption requires that we enforce no codes more stringent than those the state enforces.
- *Commercial Projects*
  - 2949 Samples Rd (the old dog grooming facility) is done with rough framing and plumbing and insulation
  - 3006 Samples Rd (McCarthy's Market) is still working through excavation. Weather and a slight engineering change to the footers have slowed the project slightly.

Streets Update:

Town Engineer Roger Bird reviewed the road study conducted by CDM Smith on Old Lowes Ferry Road, specifically addressing the curve where the stop signs are currently located. He explained that the study analyzed crash data from the past three years and identified several contributing factors, including weather conditions such as rain.

Mr. Bird noted that a ball bank test was performed to determine a safe speed for the curve. Based on the results, the test indicated that speeds above 30 miles per hour were unsafe, and a recommended speed of 25 miles per hour was established.

He further reported that CDM Smith recommended removing the existing stop signs, as they were not found to be in compliance with MUTCD standards. For short-term improvements, recommendations included enhancing signage with larger chevron signs and installing pavement delineators along the centerline to better guide drivers through the curve while maintaining some existing signage.

For mid-term improvements, Mr. Bird stated that options include applying high-friction surface treatment in the curve and installing radar speed feedback signs, which have already been ordered. Long-term recommendations involve more extensive roadway modifications, such as reconfiguring the curve geometry, widening the roadway, or replacing the existing culvert, which would be the costliest solution.

Mr. Bird concluded his report and asked if there were any questions from the Board.

Alderman Loope asked for clarification on whether the radar speed signs had already been ordered, noting that a motion had been approved at a previous meeting. Mr. Bird confirmed that the signs have been ordered but stated that installation has been delayed until after the Board's review of the road study.

Alderman Loope suggested that the high-friction asphalt could be applied during the Town's summer paving schedule. Mr. Bird responded that, based on discussions with a representative from CDM Smith, the treatment would only need to be applied within the curve itself rather than along the straight sections of the roadway.

Vice Mayor Franklin expressed concerns about limiting the high-friction treatment to only the curve. He noted that due to the downhill approach, vehicles can easily gain speed before reaching the curve, making it difficult for drivers to slow down in time. He stated that by the time drivers reach the area where the high-friction surface would be effective, they may already be traveling at unsafe speeds. Vice Mayor Franklin suggested that the treatment should be extended further up the hill, through the curve, and into the opposite side to better address the issue and reduce the risk of vehicles crossing into oncoming traffic.

Alderman Loope stated that he recalled previous cost estimates for high-friction asphalt and noted that a significant portion of the expense is related to mobilization and transporting materials from out of state. He suggested that, given the high cost, it may be more efficient to extend the treatment over a greater length of roadway to fully address the issue at one time. Alderman Loope added that if the project were to cost approximately $100,000, the Town should ensure the work is done comprehensively to achieve the best possible solution.

Vice Mayor Franklin asked for clarification on the Safe Streets for All grant the town was awarded. Mayor Pugh clarified that the town was awarded $91,000.00 for a safe streets plan. Once the plan is completed the town will then be able to move forward with getting grants to help cover the cost of road improvements.

Alderman Loope stated he believes that the town should pay for it out of its own money and not wait for grants. He stated that there are other curves in the town that they could use grant money toward improving. He also stated that Mr. Bird should hold off on placing the reflectors on the double yellow line at this time.

Vice Mayor Franklin stated that he understands the use of the ball bank indicator and when they use it what causes it to move off center. However, he stated that they are recommending the town increase the speed from 20 mph to 25 mph and he is not in favor of that at all. He stated that send the wrong idea to anyone traveling that road and it should be left at 20mph. All other board members were in agreement with his statement to leave the speed at 20mph.

Vice Mayor Franklin also pointed out his confusion driving through that area over the past several days. The stop signs would be missing and then would reappear. Mayor Pugh stated that the signs were taken down and not by anyone employed through the town. She stated that it took a couple of days to get them back up and that the intention of the town is to keep them up until this plan can be put into effect.

Alderman Kelley stated it would be a good idea for the town to purchase signs that indicated a new traffic pattern coming soon to make residents aware of the upcoming change to that section of the road.

Vice Mayor Franklin extended his thankfulness to the highway and streets department for putting the digital radar sign at the top of hill and advised of the difference it has already made. He stated that by seeing the change with just the temporary radar sign he believes that this solution will be a big help to slow drivers down.

Vice Mayor Franklin asked Hailey Russell to ensure this study was put on the website since it was discussed at the meeting. Ms. Russell informed Franklin that she had already placed it on the website with the other meeting materials that morning when she received it.

Mr. Bird concluded his report by updating the Board on a water leak that occurred on Miser Station Road at the bridge over Lackey Creek. He stated that South Blount Utility District (SBUD) repaired the leak, which required removal and replacement of portions of the concrete. As a result, TDOT was contacted to inspect the bridge. TDOT determined that the bridge is structurally sound and functioning as designed to allow water to pass through. However, TDOT advised that any work related to the roadway leading up to and connecting with the bridge would be the responsibility of the Town and SBUD.

Mr. Bird reported that SBUD representative Al Scott recommended that Brian Williamson, a highly regarded individual, could evaluate the area and provide recommendations. Mr. Bird noted that an assessment could cost approximately $1,000. He further explained that, based on discussions with TDOT, the roadway may experience minor settling, potentially resulting in a slight dip of a few inches.

Mr. Bird also shared that he spoke with Barry Loope, who indicated that a similar issue had occurred in the past and was addressed during paving, and that no immediate action may be necessary. Mr. Bird stated that the situation does not appear to be an emergency and that the Board could consider waiting to address the issue. He added that SBUD had discussed potentially assisting with repairs, including labor and partial material costs, but that additional work such as cutting and repaving a section of the roadway would be required.

Mr. Bird concluded by seeking guidance from the Board on whether to proceed with a professional evaluation, take no action at this time, or consider addressing the issue during a future paving project.

Alderman Loope stated that he is not opposed to proceeding cautiously and spending the $1,000 to obtain a professional evaluation. He emphasized the importance of ensuring the Town is taking the appropriate action with regard to the bridge.

BMA Representative Report for Boards and Committees

Alderman Vaught inquired about the possibility of holding a training session on the newly adopted revised Code of Ethics policy to ensure a clearer understanding. She specifically requested guidance on how to handle complaints and what constitutes a violation of the policy. She asked whether Town Attorney Rob Goddard and/or the Town's MTAS consultant would be willing to conduct a workshop to address any questions from Board members.

Alderman Loope recommended scheduling an extended work session, approximately one to one and a half hours in length, to allow sufficient time to thoroughly review the policy and address all questions from the Board.

Responses to Public Comment/Input from Previous Meeting

None.

Public Input on Agenda Items (5 Minute Limit)

Bill Mattison asked whether the ordinance amending the lot size requirement for two residences on a single lot was included on the agenda for a vote. Mayor Pugh responded that it was not an agenda item for this meeting.

A citizen identified as Patrick (last name unknown) addressed the Board regarding the traffic conditions on Old Lowes Ferry Road. He expressed concern that the previous presentation was difficult to hear and understand. He stated that, in his opinion, a speed of 20 miles per hour is appropriate for traveling down the hill and allows sufficient time for drivers to stop at the stop sign. He further stated that he does not believe additional measures, such as high-friction pavement, are necessary and expressed the opinion that the current roadway conditions and signage are adequate. He suggested that the primary issue is driver behavior and recommended increased law enforcement presence and traffic enforcement in the area, including issuing citations for failure to stop. The citizen also shared his belief that additional spending on roadway modifications is unnecessary and reiterated that compliance with existing traffic laws would address the concerns. He referenced personal observations of drivers failing to stop at the intersection and encouraged stricter enforcement. He concluded by stating that he had previously reported issues with signage to local authorities and expressed a desire for clearer communication regarding any planned changes.

Mayor Pugh responded that the Town is working to address the issue responsibly and to keep the public informed on progress. She stated that the Town has received reports of additional accidents in the area, which prompted the completion of a traffic study. She explained that the Town engaged professional engineers to evaluate the roadway and provide recommendations, which are being followed to ensure proper traffic engineering standards. Mayor Pugh noted that the study has been made available on the Town's website and that copies can be provided upon request. She added that the recommended improvements are part of a three-phase process previously discussed by Mr. Bird and that the Town has been evaluating these options over the past several months to ensure an appropriate solution. During her response, the citizen reiterated concerns regarding prior discussions about removing signage and expressed opposition to the recommendations, particularly the proposed speed adjustments and roadway treatments. He stated that he believed these measures would encourage higher speeds and unnecessary spending. Mayor Pugh thanked the citizen for his comments and reiterated that a copy of the report would be provided for his review. She concluded by stating that the Town's goal is to maintain safe streets and that the Town intends to proceed with implementing the plan recommended by professional engineers, noting that initial steps in that process have already begun. Alderman Loope provided clarification on the high friction asphalt and the success the town has had during a previous use on another section of road within the town.

Anna Gibson addressed the Board and expressed appreciation for the request for ethics training. She stated that she is currently reviewing previously approved meeting minutes and requested that her prior public comments be accurately reflected. She noted a correction to a date, stating that the referenced bill was signed in 2006, and requested that her quoted statement regarding citizens being entitled to an ethical, accountable, and incorruptible government be included in the record. Ms. Gibson also commented on the Board's discussion regarding the complaint previously presented, raising concerns about potential liability and the handling of the matter. She expressed her opinion that earlier action may have impacted the Town's position and questioned the Board's current stance. Additionally, Ms. Gibson raised concerns regarding the use of funds for a state grant project, specifically referencing the cost associated with Kimley-Horn. She questioned the value provided to the community in relation to the amount spent and requested clarification on the benefits of the project.

Tina Fuller addressed the Board regarding conditions and amenities at Poland Creek campground and other Town parks. She expressed concerns about the lack of recreational improvements, particularly for children, and referenced prior discussions about adding features such as a splash pad. She noted that the Town currently has limited playground options and stated that existing facilities can become unusable during hotter parts of the day. Ms. Fuller also discussed her personal investment in the campground, stating that she has been a camper at Poland Creek for several years and contributes financially to the Town through fees. She expressed frustration that, despite ongoing discussions and perceived promises of improvements, she has not seen significant changes at the campground. She also raised concerns about maintenance issues, including past sewer problems, and stated that campers often contribute their own resources to enhance the area. In addition, Ms. Fuller commented on traffic concerns along Old Lowes Ferry Road, stating that she has observed unsafe driving behavior and suggested increased enforcement in the area. She expressed a broader concern that the Town is not adequately prioritizing areas that generate revenue and serve residents. Mayor Pugh responded that the Town has secured grant funding for improvements, including a pavilion at the campground, but noted that funds are distributed over time and have not yet been received. She further explained that the Town has developed a parks and recreation master plan, which includes potential future amenities such as a splash pad, but that additional grant funding is still needed to implement those projects. Mayor Pugh also addressed concerns regarding the installation of a gate at Beal Park, explaining that it was necessary for security purposes following the passing of the individual previously responsible for managing access. She noted that improvements to the campground are planned but will likely occur outside of the active camping season to minimize disruption. Vice Mayor Franklin added that while grant funding is beneficial, it is often a slow process due to state requirements. He stated that improvements to Poland Creek are included in the Town's plans and that funding has been budgeted for certain projects, though implementation has been delayed at times due to difficulties securing contractors. Ms. Fuller reiterated her concerns regarding the pace of improvements and funding priorities. The discussion concluded with acknowledgement of her comments.

Financial Report

Caleb Wheeler presented the financial report from February 2026.

MOTION by Vice Mayor Franklin to approve the February 2026 financial report. Second by Alderman Kelley. ROLL CALL VOTE: UNANIMOUS. **MOTION PASSES.**

Old Business

a. **AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF LOUISVILLE, TENNESSEE AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR BUDGET FOR 2026.**

Mayor Pugh presented the ordinance for amending the fiscal year budget for 2026.

MOTION by Vice Mayor Franklin to approve on the second reading the ordinance to amend the fiscal year budget for 2026. Second by Alderman Kelley. ROLL CALL VOTE: UNANIMOUS. **MOTION PASSES.**

b. **Discussion for a Progress Update on the LPRF Grant Timeline (Town Hall Improvements) and Tourism Enhancement Grant Timeline (Poland Creek Campground Improvements).**

Mayor Pugh reviewed the timeline for both grants.

Alderman Loope requested that Kimley-Horn attend a future meeting to provide an update on the status of the grants and to outline the services they have provided to the Town in support of those projects.

Mayor Pugh responded that Kimley-Horn representatives are expected to be in town soon for site visits at both grant locations. She stated that once a date is confirmed, staff will notify Board members and coordinate attendance for those who wish to participate.

The Board agreed that having Kimley-Horn attend a meeting, either in person or via Zoom, would be beneficial to ensure all members are informed on the current status and progress of the grant projects.

New Business

a. Consideration and Possible Approval of i9 Sports Use of Town Ballfields for 2026 Recreation Leagues.

Mayor Pugh presented a proposal from i9 Sports, a national youth sports organization, regarding the potential use of Town facilities to offer recreational opportunities for local children. She noted that the Parks and Recreation Board had previously reviewed the proposal and expressed support, with the understanding that scheduling would need to remain flexible to accommodate Town events such as the fall festival.

Mayor Pugh explained that i9 Sports is a well-organized program that provides its own equipment, coaches, insurance, and operational structure. She stated that the organization is interested in offering programs such as T-ball, soccer, and flag football, primarily for younger children, and would utilize existing Town facilities including the baseball field and areas at Town Hall Park.

Discussion included considerations regarding field availability, parking limitations, and potential scheduling conflicts with existing users, including travel teams and other local programs. It was noted that i9 Sports typically operates on Saturday mornings and maintains a minimal on-site footprint, bringing in and removing all equipment after use.

Board members discussed program costs, with estimates indicating approximately $109 per participant for T-ball. Some members expressed interest in reviewing fee structures further and considering whether the Town could forgo facility fees in order to help reduce participation costs for local families.

Additional discussion included comparisons to existing local programs and the potential benefits of expanding recreational opportunities for younger children within the community. It was noted that similar programs have operated successfully in nearby areas, including Knoxville.

The Board agreed to gather additional information, including program details, fee structures, and references from other communities, and to coordinate with Parks and Recreation for further evaluation. The item will be revisited at a future meeting for additional consideration.

b. AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN OF THE TOWN OF LOUISVILLE, TENNESSEE ADOPTING THE 2018 INTERNATIONAL ENERGY CONSERVATION CODE

Mayor Pugh presented an ordinance adopting the 2018 International Energy Conservation Code. She explained that during the Town's submission to the State, a routine audit conducted following the appointment of a new Building Official identified that the code had not previously been adopted. Mayor Pugh noted that the proposed ordinance, along with its amendments, aligns with the State's version of the code.

MOTION by Alderman Loope to approve the ordinance adopting the 2018 International Energy Conservation Code on the first reading. Second by Alderman Kelley. ROLL CALL VOTE: UNANIMOUS. **MOTION PASSES.**

c. AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN OF THE TOWN OF LOUISVILLE, TENNESSEE AMENDING THE 2018 INTERNATIONAL RESIDENTIAL CODE

The board reviewed the proposed ordinance amending the 2018 International Residential Code with the recommended changes from the State.

MOTION by Vice Mayor Franklin to approve the ordinance adopting the 2018 International Residential Code on the first reading. Second by Alderman Loope. ROLL CALL VOTE: UNANIMOUS. **MOTION PASSES.**

d. A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN OF THE TOWN OF LOUISVILLE, TENNESSEE, ADOPTING RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR POLAND CREEK CAMPGROUND

Mayor Pugh presented the resolution to the Board and stated that the Campground Manager and Hailey Russell worked collaboratively to update the rules and regulations.

Hailey Russell explained the revisions made, noting that several updates were implemented for clarity and consistency. She also advised the Board that she consulted with the Town Attorney throughout the process to ensure that all provisions were appropriate and properly aligned with applicable requirements.

MOTION by Alderman Kelley to approve the resolution adopting rules and regulations for Poland Creek Campground. Second by Alderman Vaught. VOTE: UNANIMOUS. **MOTION PASSES.**

e. A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN OF THE TOWN OF LOUISVILLE, TENNESSEE, CALLING FOR THE ELECTION OF MAYOR AND TWO ALDERMEN

Mayor Pugh presented the resolution to the board.

MOTION by Vice Mayor Franklin to approve the resolution calling for the election of Mayor and two Aldermen. Second by Alderman Kelley. VOTE: UNANIMOUS.

Public Input Not on Agenda Items (5 Minute Limit)

Libby Young addressed the Board with questions regarding the operation and security of the park gate. She described a recent incident in which an individual remained in the park after closing and exhibited unusual behavior, prompting her to contact dispatch. Ms. Young asked for guidance on when it is appropriate to contact law enforcement if similar situations occur and expressed concerns about safety and potential misuse of the park after hours. She also inquired about the gate schedule and whether it operates on a timer. Mayor Pugh responded that the gate is on a timer, generally operating from sunrise to sunset, and noted that the timing has recently been adjusted. She advised Ms. Young to contact dispatch whenever she feels uncomfortable or observes concerning activity. Ms. Young further asked whether law enforcement is able to access the park after the gate is closed. Hailey Russell explained that the emergency vehicle siren-activated gate opener is currently not functioning as intended, though manual openers are available to allow access when needed. Ms. Young reiterated her concerns about after-hours activity in the park and emphasized the importance of maintaining safety and proper use of the facility.

Anna Gibson addressed the Board and expressed concerns regarding her interactions with Town officials and staff. She stated that she believes she has experienced retaliation in response to her participation in local government, including her public comments and records requests. Ms. Gibson referenced prior instances in which she felt her statements were mischaracterized and expressed concern about how public records requests and related interactions were handled. She also raised concerns regarding the accuracy and completeness of meeting minutes, stating that she believes some of her previous public comments were not fully reflected. Additionally, Ms. Gibson commented on the enforcement of public comment procedures, including time limits, and expressed her opinion that they have not been applied consistently. She also raised concerns about the process for requesting public records and associated requirements. Ms. Gibson concluded by expressing dissatisfaction with how she has been treated and urged the Board to ensure fair and consistent treatment of all citizens.

Adjournment

MOTION by Alderman Kelley to adjourn the meeting. Second by Vice Mayor Franklin. VOTE: UNANIMOUS. **MOTION PASSES.** The meeting adjourned at 7:39 p.m.

J Pugh
Jill Pugh, Mayor

Caleb K Wheeler
Caleb Wheeler, Recorder