Chickasaw City Council

State of Alabama
Mobile, County

The Chickasaw City Council met in a workshop on January 22, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. Present were Mayor Tyran Colvin, Councilmember Ken Sterrett, Kathy Couey, Jennifer White, Jim Trout, and Jim Hanson. City Attorney Nash Campbell was advised that he was not required to attend. City Clerk Michelle Ross was present.

WORK SESSION

Consideration of Transfer of Court Funds to City General Fund

Mayor Colvin reviewed court financial reports and noted that, while court expenditures are reflected, transfers of court funds to the City General Fund are not. He stated that after consulting with current and former mayors and the League of Municipalities, he was advised that court funds are generally remitted to the city and that the court does not independently determine their use. Mayor Colvin noted that court funds have historically been used to purchase police vehicles and expressed a preference for transferring these funds to the City General Fund, with police vehicle purchases requested through the normal budget process. Council discussed whether to change the current method. Councilmember White expressed a desire to maintain the current structure, noting that the funds serve as a dedicated source for police vehicles and could otherwise be absorbed into the General Fund for unrelated uses. No change was made at this time.

Court-Appointed Liaison / Collection of Outstanding Fines

Judge Harrod reported that the court has approximately $562,000 in uncollected fines and proposed appointing Randall Wheeler as a court-appointed liaison to assist defendants with compliance, fine payment, and environmental-related cases. The position would be part-time at $16/hour with no benefits for three months. Mr. Wheeler has been volunteering with the court and is a reserve officer.
Council discussed funding, collection efforts, and alternatives to incarceration. Mayor Colvin supported the proposal, noting its potential to improve compliance and city appearance.
Consensus: Court will hire Randall Wheeler on a part-time basis for three months at $16/hour.

Community Service Program

Judge Harrod stated community service will begin on Friday and discussed alternatives that would not strain the maintenance department. Council discussed liability, supervision, PPE requirements, and cost. Nash advised that the Hold Harmless agreement would likely stand up in court. Councilmembers expressed concerns about the lack of supervision and liability. No final action was taken; discussion to continue pending resolution of liability and supervision concerns.

Environmental Enforcement and Staffing

Councilmembers Couey and Sterrett reported a lack of response from the environmental department despite reporting issues. Mayor Colvin requested that Civil Service create the positions of Chief Inspector, Deputy Inspector, and Code Inspector. Discussion noted training deficiencies despite having capable employees.

Police Department Activity and Enforcement

Councilmember Sterrett questioned the reported call volume; it was clarified that calls average over 600

per month, not 130. Mayor Colvin identified training as an issue. Council discussed whether officers could issue MOT tickets for blight and code violations during day shifts.

Brooks Park Retail Store and Toll Booth Proposal

Daniel Loper proposed constructing a retail building at his own expense and collecting tolls in exchange for operating a bait-and-concession business. Council noted that proposals would need to be opened to other parties and could not be awarded to a single individual without a proposal. Discussion included potential kiosk options, honor-system payment, police enforcement, and existing surveillance cameras. No action was taken. Councilmember Trout was advised that we could not have retail sales at Brooks Park. Councilmember White also believes charging fees will deter the city from receiving grants for Brooks Park.
Consensus: Mayor Colvin will conduct additional research.

Consideration of Tiered Business License Fees:

Discussion held on restructuring the business license fee to encourage small businesses while remaining competitive with surrounding cities. Current fee is $250 plus applicable taxes and fees. Mayor Colvin discussed the potential impact on revenue and the goal of making Chickasaw more attractive to new and small businesses.
Consensus: Mayor Colvin will conduct further research, review models used by other cities, and present a proposal for consideration.

Consideration of Amending Animal Ordinance #21-13:

Discussion focused on enforcement of the existing ordinance, including feeding wild or feral animals and the adequacy of current fines. Options discussed included proof of spay/neuter and stronger enforcement measures. Council agreed that enforcement should be applied uniformly.
Consensus: No new ordinance at this time; focus will be on enforcing the current ordinance. Mayor Colvin expressed concern that existing fines may be insufficient.

Consideration of Amending the Vacant Building Ordinance:

Council discussed blight concerns and the need for stronger enforcement. Possible amendments include requirements for building security, fire alarm systems, and basic utilities. Council noted differences between residential and commercial blight issues.
Consensus: Council will review the ordinance further. Councilmember Sterrett offered assistance in drafting a stronger ordinance for future consideration.

Sign Grant Update:

Grant funding must be completed by June 30, 2026. Contributions include: CDC ($7,500), Historical Society ($4,000), Library ($4,000), and Southern Ionica ($500). Council agreed to proceed, noting the need for a warranty and bond.

Industrial Board Re-Appointment:

Discussion held on reseating the Industrial Board. The initial board will complete its task and resign, allowing the appointment of a new board. The board will consist of seven members, with 60% required to be Chickasaw residents, and will allow non-citizens to serve.

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Martin Fireworks Business License:
Council agreed to deny the business license until the building is brought into compliance with applicable code requirements.

Pool Replastering:
Council discussed an estimated replastering cost of $150,000, with no funding source identified at this time. Without repairs, the pool may not open this season. Alternatives discussed included temporary repairs, consultation with the Board of Health, and potential staffing partnerships with the YMCA.

Caboose:
Repairs are needed, and we have installed barricades. Council agreed to keep the caboose closed until community repairs can be completed.

Budget Review:
Council reviewed the budget and discussed a proposed revision adding approximately $269,000 in additional expenses, along with anticipated additional revenue and expenses.

Exit 10 Liquors Business License:
Council discussed that Exit 10 Liquors does not qualify for a business license under the current city ordinance, and a denial letter has been issued. Council noted the applicant may request a variance. Discussion included ordinance limits on vape and liquor stores and the importance of maintaining diverse commercial development.

ADJOURNMENT—With no further business, Councilmember Sterrett moved to adjourn the workshop meeting at 7:22 pm. Seconded by Councilmember Couey. The motion carried, and so it was ordered.