



## Observer Corps Report

**Observer:** Margaux Cowan-Banker

**Meeting Observed:** Knoxville City Council

**Meeting Date:** Tuesday, January 6, 2026

**Agenda** <https://knoxvilletn.primegov.com/Portal/Meeting?meetingTemplateId=3871>

### Video Recording

### Three Main Observations:

1. This meeting was very brief, 44 minutes to be exact. All agenda items passed without discussion. Councilwoman Parker requested clarification of financial details on item 12p and an explanation of what exactly *Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force* does within the community on item 12r :

*12p A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute an agreement with PFM Financial Advisors LLC to serve as the City's financial advisor to develop and assist with implementation of the City's financial strategies to meet its current and long-term operations, financial obligations and financing needs, and to render assistance concerning potential debt transactions, in an amount not to exceed \$375,000.00 for a three-year term with two optional one-year extensions. (Requested by Finance Department) and*

*12r. A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute any and all documents necessary to apply for and accept a grant award of \$631,577.00, with no local match, from the United States Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, for continued funding of the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force. (Requested by Police Department)*

2. Affordable housing to Knoxvilleians remains a major issue. The Mayor's report highlighted the successful "Transforming Western" project, Councilwoman Adams highlighted the preliminary steps for the "Giffin Square" project and city resident Vivian Shipe spoke at public forum regarding her perceived lack of attention and made the comment to council, "We are watching."

3.

Feature Evaluated	Yes	No	Comments
Meeting started on time?	X		
All members present?	X		

Members attentive?			
Did members come prepared to discuss agenda items?	X		The air of the council was very engaged.
Agenda posted 72 hours prior to meeting?	X		
Agenda items clearly described what was to be discussed?	X		I would advise anyone attending these meetings to fully access the drop down tabs that can be found on the electronic agenda for a better background for each item. I was unaware of this when I first attended meetings.
Adequate opportunity given for public input?	X		
Was there an appearance that some action items were discussed in closed rather than open session?		X	
Was background information available to the public?	X		See my previous comment above.
Facilities adequate (room size, lighting, ventilation, speakers, audible, ADA accessible)?	X		

**Were there any issues on the agenda relevant to LWV positions or programs?**

Not directly in my opinion

**View the League’s [National](#), [State](#), and [LWVKKC](#) policy positions.**

*LWVKKC Policy Positions: Childcare, Land Use, Health, Homeless/Mentally Ill Persons, Urban Forestry, Use of School Facilities by Communities, Teacher Recruitment & Retention*

League Position	Issue

**Do you recommend League action on any of these issues? No**

### **Other notes/concerns?**

The new council members seemed very much appreciative of each other and eager to be there.

Public Forum had to members of the public participate:

Vivian Shipe- (mentioned above) read poetry and spoke on homelessness and lack of affordable housing and get perception that not enough is being done.

Jeff Talman- spoke on the tax increase that was voted down in November 2025 and how he perceived only wealthy citizens voted in support of it. He requested council take efforts to “keep money in the pockets” of the people of Knoxville who need it most.