



Observer Corps Report

Observer: Margaux Cowan-Banker

Meeting Observed: Knoxville City Council

Meeting Date: Tuesday April 14, 2026

Agenda

Video Recording

Three Main Observations:

- 1. Meeting was very brief (28 min total), with minimal public attendance. All agenda items passed with a full 8-0 vote count and no discussion.**

- 2. The Mayor’s Report highlighted that the City of Knoxville has seen zero murders in 2026—lowest crime numbers in half a century. Council members Adams, Parker, Honeycutt, DeBardelaben and Grant highlighted upcoming events and welcomed public attendance.**

- 3. Patty Thomas, citizen of Knoxville, spoke at public forum regarding trees planted by the city that have grown large and damaged her home. Her request was that city engineering replicate the study she had privately done and remedy the situation. It appeared there would be further discussion scheduled to assist Ms. Thomas.**

Feature Evaluated	Yes	No	Comments
Meeting started on time?	x		
All members present?		x	Councilwoman Debbie Helsley was not in attendance
Members attentive?	x		
Did members come prepared to discuss agenda items?	x		This meeting did not include any discussion of agenda items. Councilman Grant requested clarification from Thomas Clabo of city engineering on one item.
Agenda posted 72 hours prior to	x		

meeting?			
Agenda items clearly described what was to be discussed?	x		
Adequate opportunity given for public input?	x		2 members of the public spoke at public forum
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		
Facilities adequate (room size, lighting, ventilation, speakers, audible, ADA accessible)?	x		

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

Other notes/concerns? No additional issues at this time