



Observer Corps Report

Observer: Margaux Cowan-Banker

Meeting Observed: Knoxville City Council

Meeting Date: June 9, 2026

Agenda

<https://knoxvilletn.primegov.com/Portal/Meeting?meetingTemplateId=4214>

Video Recording

<https://knoxvilletn.granicus.com/player/clip/98?redirect=true>

Three Main Observations:

1. Item 11-i: *A resolution approving an appeal filed by David Hamilton thereby overturning the decision of the Board of Zoning Appeals to uphold a determination by the Zoning Administrator that the CareCuts' proposed services qualify as a religious land use and are exempt from the Zoning Code requirements for Special Use approval for the proposed use for property located at 5200 Clinton Highway. C-H-1 (Highway Commercial) Zoning District. Parcel ID 068NE01201. BZA File # BZA-26-0019. (Council District 5) (Requested by Plans Review and Building Inspections Department)* consumed a large portion of this meeting and was ultimately denied by council 7-0, councilman Thomas abstained from voting. This is the 2nd time in 2026 Mr. David Hamilton has appeared before council to appeal decisions made by Zoning, to grant CareCuts land use. Council had much fewer questions than at the previous hearing.

2. Item 12-n: *A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute an agreement with Perdue Brandon Fielder Collins & Mott, LLP to provide collections services for outstanding fines and fees from adjudicated cases in the Knoxville Municipal Court. (Requested by Law Department)* also consumed a large portion of this meeting, with council ultimately passing the resolution 6-2. Initially, postponement was suggested by councilman Grant and councilwoman Parker (and other members), due to what they perceived to be a lack in specific details/language (regarding how collections services would impact citizens and what mechanisms collections services would utilize to collect). Upon bringing forth Judge Tyler Cavanass to answer questions, the majority of council felt confident in proceeding, leaving only Grant and Parker voting against the resolution. Judge Cavanass expressed that without this measure the municipal court is very limited in their ability to collect outstanding fines, therefore it's an essential step to holding habitual violators accountable. Additionally, Judge Cavanass confirmed that the collection service would not have the capability of affecting individuals credit or perusing civil action against citizens who still fail to readily comply.

3. Knoxville Community Media was celebrated with an honorary resolution for its 50th anniversary

Feature Evaluated	Yes	No	Comments
Meeting started on time?	x		
All members		x	Nathan Honeycutt was not in attendance
Members attentive?	x		
Did members come prepared to discuss agenda items?	x		
Agenda posted 72 hours prior to meeting?	x		
Agenda items clearly described what was to be discussed?	x		
Adequate opportunity given for public input?	x		3 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
homelessness	item 11i- see above

Do you recommend League action on any of these issues? Not at this time

Other notes/concerns?

Low attendance overall. Most individuals present were there to support CareCuts.