

METROPOLITAN KNOXVILLE AIRPORT AUTHORITY

Minutes of the Board of Commissioners

Date: January 21, 2026

Place: Henrietta Grant Board Room
McGhee Tyson Airport

The Board of Commissioners of the Metropolitan Knoxville Airport Authority met pursuant to notice at 4:02 p.m. on Wednesday, January 21, 2026, in the Henrietta Grant Board Room at McGhee Tyson Airport (TYS) with the Board Chairman, Howard Vogel, presiding.

Roll call developed that Board members present, in addition to Chairman Vogel, were Markus Chady, Charlie Harr, Caryn Hawthorne, Maribel Koella, and Allison Page. Also present were Patrick Wilson, President of the Airport Authority, and members of his staff; Mark Mamantov, legal counsel; and other visitors.

BUSINESS AGENDA

I. Announcements. Chairman Vogel reminded those in attendance that a sign-up sheet was available for members of the audience who would like to address the Board of Commissioners as to an item on the agenda or speak during the public forum at the conclusion of the meeting.

Mr. Vogel also paused to acknowledge the passing of Natalie Haslam on January 16, 2026. He noted that Mrs. Haslam exemplified the true meaning of the volunteer spirit and left a lasting impact on the community through her generosity, leadership, and service.

II. Minutes. The minutes of the regular meeting of November 19, 2025, had been distributed with the agenda materials. Upon motions duly seconded, the minutes were approved as presented by a unanimous voice vote.

III. Resolution No. 26-01: A Resolution Expressing Appreciation to Tom Aiken for His Service As Director of Public Safety at the Airport Authority. Mr. Wilson recognized Chief Tom Aiken on his retirement after more than 46 years of dedicated service to the Airport Authority. The Board commended his distinguished career and longstanding leadership as Director of Public Safety and approved the dedication and naming of the Public Safety Building as the *W. Tom Aiken Public Safety Building*. Resolution No. 26-01 was unanimously adopted by voice vote of the Board of Commissioners formally approving the commendation and dedication, which resolution will be incorporated into the Board's official minutes. Following the vote, Mr. Wilson invited all attendees to proceed to the Public Safety Building at the conclusion of the meeting to surprise Chief Aiken with the formal dedication.

IV. President's Report and Financial Report. President Wilson provided the Board with an overview of the activity report, project updates, and financial information included in the agenda materials.

V. New Business.

A. Consideration of Approval of Airport Lease and Use Agreement between the Airport Authority and Southwest Airlines Co. at TYS. Susan Gennoe, the Vice President of Finance at the Airport Authority, explained that Southwest Airlines Co. desires to obtain an Airport Lease and Use Agreement at TYS and begin operations on March 5, 2026. The agreement is identical with the agreements signed by the other signatory airlines at TYS that went into effect on July 1, 2018, and that has been extended on a month-to-month basis via letter dated May 30, 2023. The agreement was prepared by the Airport Authority's legal counsel. It was moved by Mr. Harr, seconded by Ms. Page, that the Airport Lease and Use Agreement with

Southwest Airlines Co. be approved. Following discussion, the motion was unanimously approved by a voice vote.

B. Consideration of Approval of Work Authorization Number 23-156D with CHA Consulting, Inc. and Associated Equipment Purchases for the New Gate and Passenger Boarding Bridge Addition at TYS. Bryan White, the Vice President of Planning and Development at the Airport Authority, informed the Board that the proposed work authorization and equipment purchases relate to the new gate and passenger boarding bridge at TYS. The work authorization with CHA Consulting, Inc. includes construction administration, progress inspections, quality assurance, project closeout, and supplemental design development for aircraft gate position marking layouts and additional design elements for the holdroom and the boarding bridge connection. The total cost of the work authorization is \$276,470. To ensure the new gate and boarding bridge are fully operational, supplemental equipment must also be purchased directly by the Airport Authority from existing vendors. These items include access control components and cameras, audio/visual systems to include a dedicated paging zone, paging stations at the gate counter and boarding bridge, gate information display system monitor, cabling and programming, network switches and phones, and airport common use system hardware and installation. The total cost of this equipment is \$150,451. The Airport Authority intends to use passenger facility charges to fund both the work authorization and equipment purchases upon approval from the Federal Aviation Administration. It was moved by Ms. Page, seconded by Ms. Koella, that Work Authorization Number 23-156D with CHA Consulting, Inc. along with the related equipment purchases, be approved as presented. The motion was unanimously approved by a voice vote.

VI. Staff Reports. Mr. White updated the Board on the construction progress for the new parking garage.

VII. Public Forum. Chairman Vogel announced that the business agenda had been completed and that two individuals wished to address the Board. Doug Colclasure reported that the Oak Ridge City Council has approved a new feasibility study for a general aviation airport in Oak Ridge. Jesse Katz expressed concerns about Signature's liability insurance requirements. Stephen Abrew raised issues regarding the condition of his hangar leased from Signature. Michael Dilulio also voiced concerns about Signature's liability insurance requirements as well as the terms of his new hangar lease agreement with Signature.

VIII. Adjournment. Thereupon, upon motion duly seconded and unanimously approved, the meeting was adjourned at 4:31 p.m.

Asst. Secretary 