

July 28, 2025

The Lenoir City Council met its regularly scheduled City Council Meeting at 6:00 P.M. Mayor Tony Aikens and the following Council Members were present: McNabb, Wampler, Kennedy, Shields, Brandon, and Simpson. Amber Scott Kelso, G. Chance Harrison, Walter Johnson, Shawn Bunch, LaVonne Barbour, and Jim Wilburn were also present.

A motion was made by McNabb to move Agenda Item #4 to the first item on the agenda. Motion failed for lack of second/majority.

A motion was made by Shields and seconded by Brandon to approve the minutes of the July 14, 2025 meeting. The following vote was recorded: McNabb, Wampler, Kennedy, Shields, Brandon, and Simpson voting **AYE**.

A motion was made by Brandon and seconded by Shields to accept the agenda as written. The following vote was recorded: Wampler, Kennedy, Shields, Brandon, and Simpson voting **AYE**. McNabb voting **NO**.

Mayor Aikens asked for comments from citizens regarding an item/items on the agenda.

A motion was made by Brandon and seconded by Wampler to accept resignation from G. Chance Harrison for the position of City Attorney. The following vote was recorded: Wampler, Kennedy, Shields, Brandon, and Simpson voting **AYE**. McNabb voting **NO**.

A motion was made by Brandon and seconded by Shields to accept resignation from Walter Johnson for the position of City Judge. The following vote was recorded: Wampler, Kennedy, Shields, Brandon, and Simpson voting **AYE**. McNabb voting **NO**.

A motion was made by Simpson and seconded by Brandon to appoint Walter Johnson to the Office of City Attorney. The following vote was recorded: Wampler, Kennedy, Shields, Brandon, and Simpson voting **AYE**. McNabb voting **NO**.

A motion was made by Simpson and seconded by Shields to approve backpay for City Judge Gregory H. Harrison in light of recent court order. Wampler, Kennedy, Shields, Brandon, Simpson voting **AYE**. McNabb **ABSTAINED**.

A motion was made by Simpson and seconded by Kennedy to grant permission to go to bid for truck in the Street Department. The following vote was recorded: McNabb, Wampler, Kennedy, Shields, Brandon, and Simpson voting **AYE**.

A motion was made by Brandon and seconded by Wampler to fill vacant position in the Police Department and move Jovanny Espinoza from part time to full time status. The following vote was recorded: McNabb, Wampler, Kennedy, Shields, Brandon, and Simpson voting **AYE**.

Mayor Aikens asked for other comments from citizens regarding an item/items not on the agenda.

A motion was made by Wampler and seconded by Shields to approve all bills to be paid when properly approved and funds are available. The following vote was recorded: McNabb, Wampler, Kennedy, Shields, Brandon, and Simpson voting **AYE**.

A motion was made by Kennedy and seconded by Brandon to adjourn the July 28, 2025 meeting. The following vote was recorded: McNabb, Wampler, Kennedy, Shields, Brandon, and Simpson voting **AYE**.


Tony R. Aikens, Mayor


James W. Wilburn III, City Recorder

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July 28, 2025

TO: The Honorable Mayor Tony R. Aikens
& Members of Lenoir City Council

RE: **Letter of Resignation**

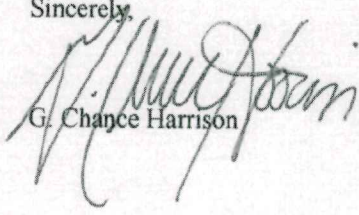
Dear Mayor Aikens and Members of Lenoir City Council,

I would first like to thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Lenoir City Attorney for the past four (4) plus months. It has been a great opportunity to learn and also meet and work with several outstanding members of the Staff.

However, and as you know, my father, Gregg Harrison, will be reassuming the position of Lenoir City Judge for which I am thrilled. Consequently, and because of our relationship, I believe a conflict of interest would exist in my continuing as the City Attorney.

Therefore, and effective July 28, 2025, I am respectfully tendering my resignation as the Lenoir City Attorney. Thank you very much for your support.

Sincerely,


G. Chance Harrison

Walter Johnson

Attorney at Law

P.O. Box 1353, Lenoir City, TN 37771-1353; Telephone 865-335-3869; Email pdbutch@gmail.com

July 28, 2025

Tony Aikens, Mayor
City of Lenoir City, Tennessee
530 Highway 321 North
Lenoir City, TN 37771

Re: Resignation as City Judge

Dear Mr. Mayor:

In light of the recent ruling by Chancellor McFarland declaring Gregg Harrison to be the de facto Judge of City Court, I hereby tender my resignation as City Judge effective upon acceptance by City Council.

Sincerely,


Walter Johnson

Amendment No. 1 to HB0490

Farmer
Signature of Sponsor

AMEND Senate Bill No. 255*

House Bill No. 490

by deleting all language after the enacting clause and substituting:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 16, Chapter 18, Part 2, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

(a) Notwithstanding another provision of law, constitutional provision, or judicial interpretation thereof, a municipal judge who was duly elected or appointed to office prior to March 7, 2025, and who is qualified for such office under the laws and interpretations in effect at the time of such election or appointment, shall not be disqualified or removed from office due to a residency requirement during the term of office to which the municipal judge was elected or appointed.

(b) Any municipal judge described in subsection (a) shall be deemed a de facto officer whose acts, judgments, and decisions are valid and binding during the completion of the municipal judge's term.

(c) The residency requirements established by the Tennessee supreme court in *McNabb v. Harrison*, decided March 7, 2025, shall apply prospectively and shall be enforced beginning with the next regularly scheduled election for any affected municipal judgeship after the effective date of this act.

(d) This section does not exempt municipal judges from any qualification or eligibility requirement other than the residency requirement addressed in the *McNabb v. Harrison* decision.

SECTION 2. This act takes effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.