



Spring City Tourism and Events Commission Meeting Minutes

Date: September 23, 2025

Attendees: Robbie Harvey, Ricki Dash, Jody Bauer, Stephanie Strader, Candi Harris, April Kilby, Leon Locke

Guest: Jacob Kilby, Lee Booker, Thomas McCormick, Brenda Dodson

The meeting was called to order at 6:33 pm. A quorum was present.

1) Accept Minutes

- a) July – Jody made a motion to approve, Ricki seconded, all in favor. Approved.
- b) August - Jody made a motion to approve, Ricki seconded, all in favor. Approved.
- c) September - Jody made a motion to approve with updates to correct typo “the” and “Rhea”, Candi seconded, all in favor. Approved.

2) Old Business

- a) Board Seats – Have 2 seats to fill. Jody made a motion to appoint Brenda Dodson as a new member. Ricki seconded the motion. All in favor. Approved. Jody made a motion to appoint Michelle Caldwell-Ray as a new member. Ricki seconded the motion. All in favor. Approved. Voted to accept Kristin Urani’s verbal resignation from the board. Ricki made the motion to approve, and Jody seconded the motion. All in favor. Approved.
- b) TNRL Grant – Grant passed. On October 1 at 12:30pm TN Riverline team will be coming to the Spring City Diamond Sports boat launch. If anyone from leadership is available, please come.



3) Christmas at the Depot 2025

- Vendors begin at 12pm, Parade at 2pm, Lighting at 6pm
- Kid's Music 3:00pm – 3:45pm, Main Band 4pm – 7pm with a break for the lighting of the tree at 6pm.
- High Carbon Steel is confirmed - \$1200
- Santa and Mrs. Claus are confirmed and will be available from 4 – 6pm.
- Checking to see if we have signage that is reusable for the day of to direct people to City Hall for Santa Pictures and Carriage Ride tickets.
- Ask Ava if anyone from the theater would be willing to dress up and walk around in traditional costumes or Christmas themed costumes.
- Lighting the tree at 6:00pm – Johnathan will read the Christmas story.
- Need to order 3 Portable Toilets – Have used American Portables in the past.
- Due to rebranding the event this year and moving forward, we will need to create new signage. We need to get an inventory of existing signage and see what we can do to use it in other areas/towns, so we do not waste it.
- Create an updated Master List of Businesses to call on for Sponsorships, Passport, and Good Neighbor Letter. Divide that list up amongst those committees to work.
- Monday's Coffee will be open later for the event.
- Passport - Will be offered to local businesses within walking distance so passports can be turned in the same day, and pedestrians are in walkable areas only.
- Carriage Rides - Stephanie reached out to Chattanooga Horse Trams (Corey) and is waiting to hear back from them. Cost to us was \$900 each in the past– will get sponsors for 3. Cost to Ride - \$20 each, \$35 per couple, \$60 per full carriage.



4) Other Business

- Alex Fine at Rhea Co Dept of Tourism is creating a postcard of events for the county. If we want to be included, we must notify her of the event dates by October 1st. Spring City Blooms Festival / Laurel Race Days – May 2, 2026, and Christmas at the Depot – November 28, 2026.
- Daughters of the American Revolution will be marking the grave of Private John Thompson as part of America 250 on Saturday at 2:00pm at 2365 Cawood Rd in Spring City if anyone would like to attend.
- America 250 is having their first meeting at the Rhea County Courthouse on Monday, September 29th at 1:00pm on the 3rd Floor.
- Thomas presented options for the \$15,000 TN Downtowns Program grant received. Ideas consisted of 8 Trash Cans, 2 Benches, 2 Picnic Tables, and 14 Banners for our downtown lamp posts. Candi asked that business facades be considered in this round of grants. Thomas is going to ask Bridgett to come to our next meeting to help us better understand our options and requirements, as well as offer her advice for this opportunity.

Next meeting is October 28, 2025.

Adjourned Time: 8:10pm.