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Position

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
JANUARY 18, 2012**

Attached hereto is a copy of the Public Notice of this meeting, which was published in a local newspaper and made a matter of record of this meeting.

0:41 Clerk Knowles was asked to give the invocation. Commissioner Mackey led in the pledge to the flag.

2:16

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**ON MOTION** of Commissioner Mackey, seconded by Commissioner Bankston, that the minutes of the Recessed Meeting of December 29, 2011, the Agenda Preparation Session of December 29, 2011, and the Regular Meeting of January 4, 2012, be approved, treat same as read, made a matter of record and filed. The foregoing Motion was unanimously adopted on a Roll Call vote, with the following members of the County Commission being present and voting as follows:

Commissioner Bankston, "Aye"; Commissioner Beck, "Aye"; Commissioner Boyd, "Aye"; Commissioner Graham, "Aye"; Commissioner Mackey, "Aye"; Commissioner McClure, "Aye"; Commissioner Skillern, "Aye"; and Chairman Henry, "Aye". Commissioner Fields was absent. Total present – 8. Total absent – 1. Total "Aye" votes – 8. Total "Nay" votes – 0.

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2:48 **RESOLUTION NO. 112-14 A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE AND ACCEPT  
APPLICATIONS FOR NOTARY PUBLIC POSITIONS.**

Clerk Knowles indicated there were no additions or deletions to the Resolution.

**ON MOTION** of Commissioner Bankston, seconded by Commissioner McClure, to adopt Resolution No. 112-14. The foregoing Resolution was unanimously adopted on a Roll Call vote, with the following members of the County Commission being present and voting as follows: Commissioner Bankston, "Aye"; Commissioner Beck, "Aye"; Commissioner Boyd, "Aye"; Commissioner Graham, "Aye"; Commissioner Mackey, "Aye"; Commissioner McClure, "Aye"; Commissioner Skillern, "Aye"; and Chairman Henry, "Aye". Commissioner Fields was absent. Total present – 8. Total absent – 1. Total "Aye" votes – 8. Total "Nay" votes – 0.

3:26 **REPORT – JUVENILE COURT CLERK – SEPTEMBER 2011**

The fee report for the month of September 2011 for the Juvenile Court Clerk was submitted as a matter of record of this meeting.

**ORDER OF DESIGNATION**

An order was submitted for the record designating Alan Knowles to sit as the

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County Mayor's representative on the Planning Commission for the meeting of January 9, 2012.

3:42

**RESOLUTION NO. 112-15 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY MAYOR TO TENDER AN OFFER TO THE CINCINNATI, NEW ORLEANS AND TEXAS PACIFIC RAILWAY COMPANY (RAILROAD) FOR THE PURCHASE OF CERTAIN PROPERTY ADJOINING HAMILTON COUNTY-OWNED PROPERTY, KNOWN AS THE HAMILTON COUNTY BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER, LOCATED AT 100 CHEROKEE BOULEVARD.**

Commissioner Mackey stated that the Finance Committee reviewed Resolution No. 112-15 and recommended approval. He noted that there had been lengthy discussion during the Finance Committee meeting, with some Commissioners voicing concerns.

Commissioner Mackey reported that the County had been negotiating with this railroad company for fifteen years to purchase the property. He noted that the negotiated sales price of \$5.00 per square foot plus the costs of closing was under market value.

**ON MOTION** of Commissioner Mackey, seconded by Commissioner Bankston, to adopt Resolution No. 112-15. The motion was not voted on at this time.

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Upon questioning by Commissioner Mackey, Real Property Manager Paul Parker responded that in 2004 the Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) purchased property from the County to be used for parking at the Business Development Center (BDC). That purchase resulted in a loss of approximately 30 parking spaces. The County was compensated \$298,400 for the property. At the time of the purchase in 2004, that property was appraised at approximately \$800,000.

7:37

Commissioner Boyd made reference to the attached offer, which stated that “the premises will be sold as is and where is, without any express or implied representation or warranty with respect to its habitability, condition or suitability for any purpose.” He questioned whether Mr. Parker was certain that no unsuitable conditions would be found on the property that would cause future issues or liabilities to the County. Mr. Parker responded that it would be difficult to be certain unless an environmental test was performed.

10:14

County Engineer Todd Leamon pointed out that to his knowledge testing had been conducted on the building and the property when it was purchased by the County in the early 1980s.

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Mr. Parker, Mr. Leamon, and Finance Administrator Louis Wright responded to additional questioning by members of the Commission regarding parking availability, recovery zone bonds, and renovation of the BDC building.

The foregoing Resolution was adopted on a Roll Call vote, with the following members of the County Commission being present and voting as follows:

Commissioner Bankston, "Aye"; Commissioner Beck, "Aye"; Commissioner Boyd, "Aye"; Commissioner Graham, "Nay"; Commissioner Mackey, "Aye"; Commissioner McClure, "Aye"; Commissioner Skillern, "Aye"; and Chairman Henry, "Aye". Commissioner Fields was absent. Total present – 8. Total absent – 1. Total "Aye" votes – 7. Total "Nay" votes – 1.

16:13

Mayor Coppinger emphasized the importance of the BDC to the community and Hamilton County. He noted that as many as 60 local businesses had occupied space in the BDC at one time. He also pointed out that it was the most successful business incubator in the country, with over a 90% success rate. He thanked the Commission for their show of support by approving this Resolution.

17:46

**RESOLUTION NO. 112-16 A RESOLUTION (1) ESTABLISHING THE MINIMUM BID AMOUNT FOR CERTAIN PARCELS OF PROPERTY ACQUIRED BY HAMILTON COUNTY THROUGH PREVIOUS DELINQUENT TAX SALES, (2) AUTHORIZING THE OFFER OF SAID PARCELS FOR SALE AT THAT MINIMUM BID AMOUNT, AND (3)**

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**AUTHORIZING CERTAIN SAID PARCELS TO BE OFFERED FOR SALE FOR AN  
AMOUNT LESS THAN THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF TAXES, PENALTY, COST, AND  
INTEREST ACCUMULATED AGAINST THE PROPERTY.**

Chairman Henry stated that this item was originally assigned to be heard by the Finance Committee. However, since previous resolutions of this type had been heard by the Delinquent Tax Property Disposition Committee, the item was redirected.

Commissioner Graham, chairman of the committee, stated that Resolution No. 112-16 was extensively reviewed by the committee and recommended for approval.

**ON MOTION** of Commissioner Graham, seconded by Commissioner Mackey, to adopt Resolution No. 112-16. The foregoing Resolution was unanimously adopted on a Roll Call vote, with the following members of the County Commission being present and voting as follows: Commissioner Bankston, "Aye"; Commissioner Beck, "Aye"; Commissioner Boyd, "Aye"; Commissioner Graham, "Aye"; Commissioner Mackey, "Aye"; Commissioner McClure, "Aye"; Commissioner Skillern, "Aye"; and Chairman Henry, "Aye". Commissioner Fields was absent. Total present – 8. Total absent – 1. Total "Aye" votes – 8. Total "Nay" votes – 0.

19:13 **RESOLUTION NO. 112-17 A RESOLUTION CONVEYING THIS COUNTY  
LEGISLATIVE BODY'S REQUEST THAT THE STATE OF TENNESSEE NOT CEASE**

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**YOUTH CORRECTIONS AND RE-DEVELOPMENT OPERATIONS AT THE TAFT  
YOUTH DEVELOPMENT CENTER.**

Chairman Henry reported that this Resolution had been heard by a Committee of the Whole.

**ON MOTION** of Commissioner McClure, seconded by Commissioner Graham, to adopt Resolution No. 112-17. The foregoing Resolution was unanimously adopted on a Roll Call vote, with the following members of the County Commission being present and voting as follows: Commissioner Bankston, "Aye"; Commissioner Beck, "Aye"; Commissioner Boyd, "Aye"; Commissioner Graham, "Aye"; Commissioner Mackey, "Aye"; Commissioner McClure, "Aye"; Commissioner Skillern, "Aye"; and Chairman Henry, "Aye". Commissioner Fields was absent. Total present – 8. Total absent – 1. Total "Aye" votes – 8. Total "Nay" votes – 0.

20:08

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chairman Henry asked for announcements from members of the Commission.

20:16

Commissioner Boyd spoke regarding the recent cookie baking event that various Commissioners had participated in at Eastlake Academy. He distributed a number of

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thank-you cards submitted by Eastlake students to the Commission. He expressed his appreciation to the Commission for their support.

20:55

Commissioner Boyd stated that he recently attended a conference in Houston, TX. He noticed while reading the newspaper that Houston was experiencing some of the same gang violence issues as Chattanooga. He pointed out that the Houston school system had begun holding oratory competition for elementary students, which focused on presentations by the students and resulted in various awards. He expressed his belief that Hamilton County and its youth would benefit from a similar event.

Commissioner Graham stated that he had been asked to provide further details regarding Commissioner Fields heart surgery yesterday. He reported that the surgery had gone very well and Commissioner Fields was recovering. He asked that Commissioner Fields remain in everyone's thoughts and prayers as recovery continued.

Commissioner McClure reminded the Commission that after next week's Agenda Session on Thursday, January 26<sup>th</sup>, a quarterly meeting with the Sheriff's Department would be held at 11:30 AM in the Sheriff's conference room. He noted lunch would be served and invited Commissioners to attend.

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24:30

Commissioner Skillern thanked everyone for the continued support and prayer regarding his son Rees, who is continuing to be treated for cancer.

25:49

Commissioner Beck made comments regarding the recent special leadership Spin Class at the Health and Wellness Center located in the McDaniel Building. He indicated his intent to continue exercising at the center.

27:14

Mayor Coppinger informed members of the Commission that Health Services Administrator Becky Barnes would soon be announcing a date for an upcoming leadership yoga class at the Wellness Center. He would provide further details when they became available.

28:11

**DELEGATIONS**

Chairman Henry asked for delegations on matters other than zoning.

Chairman Henry recognized a group of representatives from Occupy Chattanooga. He reminded them that Commission rules allot 10 minutes of speaking to any delegation addressing a specific topic. The Clerk is to keep time.

28:35

Two individuals representing the Occupy Chattanooga delegation approached the podium. They were Robert Thompson, a resident at 3334 Gundy Drive, and Emily

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Greene, an Alabama resident. Each made comments concerning the protest camp outside the Courthouse building, and the recent federal lawsuit against their group filed by Hamilton County.

There being no further business, Chairman Henry declared the meeting in recess until Thursday, January 26, 2012 at 9:30 AM.

Respectfully submitted:



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William F. (Bill) Knowles, County Clerk

Approved:

02-01-12  
Date

WJK  
Clerk's Initials