

**RECESSED MEETING
HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION
SEPTEMBER 29, 2011**

STATE OF TENNESSEE) Recessed Meeting
COUNTY OF HAMILTON) September 29, 2011

BE IT REMEMBERED, that on this 29th day of September, 2011, a Recessed Meeting of the Hamilton County Board of Commissioners was begun and held at the Courthouse, in the City of Chattanooga, in the County Commission Room, when the following proceedings were held, to wit: --

0:15 Present and presiding was the Honorable Larry Henry, Chairman. Deputy Clerk Michael Clark called the roll of the County Commission and the following, constituting a quorum, answered to their names: Commissioner Bankston, Commissioner Beck, Commissioner Boyd, Commissioner Fields, Commissioner Graham, Commissioner Mackey, Commissioner McClure, Commissioner Skillern, and Chairman Henry. Total present - 9. Total absent – 0.

Also in attendance for the meeting were County Mayor Jim Coppinger, members of his administrative staff, County Attorney Rheubin Taylor, County Auditor Bill McGriff, and County Clerk Bill Knowles.

0:42 Commissioner McClure gave the invocation and led in the pledge to the flag.

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2:34 **RESOLUTION NO. 911-40 A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE COUNTY MAYOR TO SIGN A GREATER CHATTANOOGA REGIONAL GROWTH INITIATIVE PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT.**

ON MOTION of Commissioner McClure, seconded by Commissioner Boyd, to adopt Resolution No. 911-40. The motion was not voted on at this time.

Commissioner Boyd noted that he had only recently received a copy of the Request for Proposal (RFP) for the Greater Chattanooga Regional Growth Plan Initiative, which was dated June 27, 2011. He stated his belief that the RFP was a plan for strategic control rather than strategic planning. He noted that the board overseeing this initiative was self-appointed. Commissioner Boyd shared his opinion that this initiative proceed without the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) grant.

Commissioners Boyd and Skillern shared similar concerns that this Resolution would release decision making power to an entity not accountable to the citizens of Hamilton County. Commissioner Skillern also expressed concern that many of the outlying areas of Hamilton County were not being utilized for growth potential because of lack of water and sewer development by the county. He expressed an interest in making applications for those types of projects if the federal government continues to offer such grants.

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10:07 Commissioner Beck pointed out that the Commission would retain the authority to change directions as the initiative progressed.

12:50 Upon questioning by Commissioner McClure, Chairman Henry responded that language had been added to the partnership agreement which would allow each governmental entity entering into the partnership to subsequently accept or reject the final program as will be recommended.

Mayor Coppinger emphasized that today's Resolution would authorize the County Mayor to apply for a HUD grant in the amount of \$2,500,000. He noted that numerous other entities would be competing to receive this grant. He also stated that decisions regarding land use would always remain with this legislative body.

18:24 Commissioner Fields raised the issue as to which entities would be signing the partnership agreement. Mayor Coppinger stated that the Chattanooga Area Chamber of Commerce, members of the business sector, and surrounding counties and municipalities would be contributing to this initiative. He pointed out that the business sector had contributed approximately \$1,000,000.

The question was raised if the City of Chattanooga had approved a similar resolution. City Councilman Peter Murphy was in attendance, and responded that he did

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not recall when this item was heard by the Council, but it was his recollection that the agreement had already been approved.

35:42 Commissioner Mackey questioned if the County would lose their right to deny federally imposed mandates, if they were awarded the HUD grant.

Mayor Coppinger again emphasized that no local authority would be lost if the HUD grant were awarded to the County. Additionally, the matter would come back before the Commission to approve or reject any future contract.

The foregoing motion to approve Resolution No. 911-40 by Commissioner Bankston, seconded by Commissioner Beck, 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, "Nay"; Commissioner Fields, "Aye"; Commissioner Graham, "Aye"; Commissioner Mackey, "Aye"; Commissioner McClure, "Aye"; Commissioner Skillern, "Aye"; and Chairman Henry, "Aye". Total present – 9. Total absent – 0. Total "Aye" votes – 8. Total "Nay" votes – 1.

There being no further business, Chairman Henry declared the meeting adjourned.

Time Code
Position

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Respectfully submitted:



William F. (Bill) Knowles, County Clerk

Approved:

10-19-11
Date

WJK
Clerk's Initials