

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION
AGENDA PREPARATION SESSION
DECEMBER 1, 2011**

0:40 **PRESENTATION –COMPANY LAB – SHELDON GRIZZLE – TECHNOLOGY
PRESENTATION**

Mayor Coppinger introduced Sheldon Grizzle, Founder of Company Lab, and Charlie Brock, Executive Entrepreneur. He noted that during the November 16th Commission Meeting, he had spoken regarding a 48 Hour Launch event he had attended. This event was hosted by Company Lab and was aimed at accelerating startup entrepreneurial companies in the area. He pointed out that after the Electric Power Board (EPB) installed fiber optics in the County, the nation-leading gigabit internet speed continued to encourage new business to Chattanooga.

Mr. Grizzle and Brock provided details regarding the three 48 Hour Launch events that had occurred in Chattanooga over the past two years. Mr. Grizzle noted that attendance had nearly tripled each year. Additionally, Mr. Brock gave a description regarding the business accelerator services provided by Company Lab.

Mr. Grizzle distributed a company brochure to members of the Commission at this time. A copy was also obtained by the Clerk's office for the record.

11:52 Upon questioning by Commissioner Mackey, Mr. Brock responded that Company Lab was currently interfacing with the Chamber of Commerce on several

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initiatives. He pointed out that Chamber board member Cheryl Millsaps would also serve on their board. He stated that during the past two years, business acceleration companies such as Company Lab were growing throughout the nation.

Commissioner Graham commended Mr. Grizzle for his efforts with both the Company Lab and the Highland Park Commons, which after experiencing some delays, had broken ground several months ago.

15:05 **PRESENTATION – KEN HAYES – MAINX24**

Ken Hayes addressed the Commission to announce the upcoming MainX24 festival to be held throughout downtown Chattanooga on Saturday, December 3rd. He invited everyone to attend. He also passed out a schedule of events to the Commission and Clerk's office for the record. He pointed out that Commissioners Graham and Mackey would be in attendance to participate in the festival's parade.

16:18 **PRESENTATION – OOLTEWAH HIGH SCHOOL DANCE TEAM – “THE RED HOTS”**

Commissioner Bankston presented Certificates of Congratulations to the Ooltewah High School Dance Team, “The Red Hots,”. This dance team recently won 1st place in the Varsity High Kick Division at the TSSAA State Dance Competition on

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November 12, 2011. He noted that team members were excellent students with a cumulative GPA of 3.68

18:38 Principal Mark Bean thanked the Commission for their show of support for this achievement. He introduced team coaches Krissy Sussdorff and Donna Tate who were in attendance.

Team Captains Kelsey Grant and Julianne Watters introduced members of the team in attendance. Each member was personally congratulated and shook hands with the Commission.

24:33 **COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS**

Chairman Henry indicated the upcoming agenda items would be considered as follows:

- Resolution No. 1211-1 was the usual County Clerk item regarding notaries, etc. This required no committee assignment.
- An Order of Appointment to the Sale Creek Utility District would be submitted as a matter of record.
- Resolutions No. 1211-2 and 1211-3 were board appointments requiring no committee assignment.
- Resolutions No. 1211-4 through 1211-8 were assigned to the Finance Committee chaired by Commissioner Skillerm. Public Works Administrator Dan Wade later pointed out that Resolution No. 1211-6 should be assigned to the Roads Committee, chaired by Commissioner Bankston.

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- Resolution No. 1211-9 was assigned to the Legal Committee chaired by Commissioner Fields.
- Resolutions No. 1211-10 through 1211-13 were assigned to the Finance Committee chaired by Commissioner Skillerm.
- Resolutions No. 1211-14 and 1211-15 were assigned to a Committee of the Whole.

25:49

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - RESOLUTION NO. 1211-14

Commissioners Beck and Mackey spoke in support of Resolution No. 1211-14, which would express the Commission's disapproval with the passage of Tennessee Code Annotated Section 2-2-141 et seq., relative to the requirement that all voters in elections possess a State-approved photo identification and to request the Hamilton County Legislative Delegation to initiate steps in the 107th Tennessee General Assembly to repeal said Act. Commissioner Beck stated his opinion that it was often a hardship on senior citizens to coordinate transportation and other means to visit an office where these IDs were issued.

31:08

Commissioners Boyd and Graham spoke in opposition to the resolution indicating their support of the State initiative designed to decrease the amount of fraudulent and illegal voting.

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Commissioners Skillern and McClure also spoke in support of the law and the safeguards to citizen's rights it provided. Chairman Henry also expressed approval of the new law.

44:58

Upon questioning by Commissioner McClure, Clerk Knowles stated that since October 17th, his office had issued approximately 140 picture ID upgrades. He noted that he had volunteered to assist the Tennessee Department of Safety in upgrading non-photo driver's licenses for citizens not having other approved photo ID documents.

Chairman Henry expressed his thanks to Clerk Knowles and his office for the role and initiative they had taken in providing this service.

48:25

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - RESOLUTION NO. 1211-15

Commissioner Bankston made remarks concerning this Resolution, which would authorize the placement of pink dumpsters on Hamilton County properties in support of the "Scrap for the Cure for Cancer" campaign, as sponsored by the Junkyard Mafia. He distributed a brochure regarding this initiative to members of the Commission and Clerk's office. Individuals in the community would be able to discard their scrap metal at these locations free of charge. He anticipated that the dumpster locations would be at three transfer stations throughout the County, according to Highway Department

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Director Harold Austin. All proceeds would be donated to help find a cure for cancer. He noted that the County could designate their proceeds raise to go towards a specific effort.

50:19 Commissioner McClure expressed his support of these efforts. He questioned whether the County could be held liable for the dumpsters, as they did not own them. Attorney Taylor responded that it was a possibility that an individual may choose to sue the County for damage or injury that occurred when taking items to or from the dumpsters. He noted that if the Commission desired, the Junkyard Mafia could be asked to sign a document that they would assume all liability and claims relating to the dumpsters.

Attorney Taylor and Finance Administrator Louis Wright responded to additional questions by the Commission relating to the County's liability in this matter. Mr. Wright pointed out that if the County granted this entity this privilege, it would set a precedent for other entities in the future. He stated that it would be beneficial to review whether the Junkyard Mafia was a non-profit 501c3 organization.

Commissioner Bankston stated that to his knowledge, they were not a 501c3 organization but were fully insured and licensed. Mr. Wright expressed a desire that additional information about their status be provided to the Commission before next

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week's meeting. Attorney Taylor indicated that he would review this matter and report back to the Commission.

58:45 **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chairman Henry asked for announcements from members of the Commission.

58:49 Commissioner Boyd spoke regarding today's Company Lab presentation and the amount of economic and technological development occurring throughout the County. He stated that the County continued to attract entrepreneurs at a very aggressive rate. He shared his opinion that the Business Development Center, which is funded through the County and recently renovated, provided top-notch facilities for business incubation.

1:00:54 Commissioner Mackey spoke regarding the State Legislative Delegation luncheon to be held on Monday, December 5th. He noted that he would be unable to attend this meeting. He stated his intent to maintain his position in support of the subject of collective bargaining, which was to be discussed at this luncheon.

1:02:57 Commissioner Graham spoke in opposition to collective bargaining, stating that he believed individuals should have the right to bargain for themselves.

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Commissioner Graham spoke regarding a recent luncheon where Tennessee Methamphetamine Task Force Director Tommy Farmer gave a presentation regarding the effects of meth on the community. At this meeting, it was noted that the main ingredient in meth is pseudoephedrine, which can be found in common cold medicine and was easily obtainable.

Commissioner Graham expressed a desire that the Commission consider hearing a Resolution asking that the State make pseudoephedrine a controlled substance only obtainable by prescription. He pointed out that Oregon and Mississippi had already passed similar legislation, and their meth problem had decreased significantly.

1:06:25

Commissioner McClure announced that he and Mayor Coppinger had attended a Christmas tree lighting last week in Hixson at Clear Creek Church. He invited members of the Commission to view this.

Commissioner McClure also announced that Loftis Middle School would be holding a concert at Abba's House on Thursday, December 8th at 6:00 PM and invited the Commission to attend.

Time Code
Position

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1:07:17 Commissioner Skillern thanked everyone for their prayers and support for his son Rees, who had been recovering from cancer treatment. He reported that the condition of Rees had improved enough for him to attend the family Thanksgiving dinner last week.

1:08:22 On behalf of Mayor Coppinger, who had left due to another commitment, Attorney Taylor reminded the Commission that the State Legislative Delegation luncheon would be held on Monday, December 5th at 11:30 AM at the Chattanooga Choo-Choo Hotel. He asked that all Commissioners that were able to attend.

Commissioner Beck stated that because of a previous work commitment, he would be unable to attend this luncheon.

1:08:53 Additionally, Attorney Taylor announced that the Town of Signal Mountain had approached the County recently, as they were in the process of seeking an electrical inspector. The County would be entering into an agreement with the Town of Signal Mountain to provide the electrical inspections, at no cost to the County, until Signal Mountain officials were able to hire an inspector. He pointed out that the County already had similar agreements with other local municipalities.

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DELEGATIONS

Chairman Henry asked for delegations on matters other than zoning.

1:10:19

Landon Howard, a resident at 610 Hamilton Avenue, addressed the Commission regarding the County's contract with the Corrections Corporation of America (CCA) for the management of the Silverdale Detention Facility. He provided statistics reflecting the amount of money spent by CCA to lobby the federal government for what he felt were harsh sentences in order to encourage higher profits at facilities such as Silverdale. He asked that the Commission consider ending the contract which CCA, which he stated was up for automatic renewal in August 2012.

Being no further business, Chairman Henry declared the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted:



William F. (Bill) Knowles, County Clerk

Approved:

Date


Clerk's Initials