



Time Code  
Position

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION  
AGENDA PREPARATION SESSION  
DECEMBER 15, 2011**

0:34 **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 1211-22**

Finance Administrator Louis Wright spoke regarding this Resolution, which will accept the \$60,816 bid of Ernie Morris Enterprises, Inc. for Finance Division office furniture involved with the Division relocating to the McDaniel Building. He pointed out that they would be moving to the new location as soon as renovations were complete. He further explained that their present furniture was very old, outdated for their offices, and not as practical for their operation as when first purchased.

4:22 Commissioner Fields asked how many bids had been received. Mr. Wright responded that 6 bids were received, with 178 companies or individuals who had been directly notified regarding the bid.

5:13 Commissioner Boyd questioned where this furniture had been manufactured. Purchasing Director Gail Roppo responded that it was manufactured in China. She stated that the company Ernie Morris had its headquarters in Florida and a distribution center in Atlanta.

Upon questioning by Commissioner Boyd, Ms. Roppo noted that a multiplication error on the bid sheet showed another company's bid to be \$58,976.56, which was lower than Ernie Morris's bid. After further evaluation, it was found that the correct

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calculation of that bid was approximately \$81,000 which meant it was no longer the lowest bid.

Mayor Coppinger reminded everyone that the Commission had a legal obligation to approve the lowest and best bid.

8:27 Commissioner Skillern requested an update regarding when the Finance Division's current building location, the Mayfield Annex, would be demolished. Mayor Coppinger estimated that when the employees working in the Mayfield Annex were relocated, the building would be vacant and ready for demolition.

Mr. Wright and Ms. Roppo responded to additional questioning by the Commission regarding this item

13:18 **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 1211-33**

Development Director Dan Saieed spoke regarding this Resolution, which would authorize the County Mayor to enter into and execute a contract with the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development (TDECD) for a FastTrack Infrastructure Grant (FIDP) in the amount of \$181,000 to provide infrastructure

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improvements for Designed Alloy Products, Inc. The company anticipated creating 20 new jobs within three years, at an average annual wage of \$38,324 excluding benefits.

16:16           Designed Alloy Director of Operations Chris Stath and Chamber of Commerce representative Steve Hiatt provided additional details regarding these improvements.

Commissioners Graham and Boyd expressed their appreciation to Mr. Stath and Designed Alloy for considering Hamilton County for these improvements.

18:30   **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 1211-34**

19:18           Commissioner Graham expressed concern about the growing problem of pseudoephedrine and its use to manufacture an illegal substance known as meth. He stated that the Resolution is requesting the Tennessee General Assembly to classify pseudoephedrine as a controlled substance, and to enact a law requiring a prescription to purchase.

Commissioner Beck questioned when the Commission had begun regulating medicine. Commissioner Graham responded that the Commission funds the Sheriff's Department, and that their enforcement of illegal drug laws, especially the increased manufacturing in meth labs is costly to Hamilton County government.

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22:23 Commissioner Graham introduced Tommy Farmer, TN Methamphetamine Task Force Director, who gave a video and Powerpoint presentation to the Commission. The National Geographic video detailed the effects of methamphetamines on an individual from Athens, TN named Mark Buckner, as well as the cost effect it has on the local, State, and Federal levels. Mr. Farmer provided additional information regarding the impact meth had on local communities. He noted that a majority of meth users or manufacturers did not have health insurance, and that illnesses and meth explosions cost governments millions of dollars when hospital care is required.

36:27 Commissioners Beck and Mackey shared concerns that regulating pseudoephedrine as a controlled substance would create a hardship to citizens by requiring them to have a prescription to receive. Mr. Farmer stated that there were hundreds of other over-the-counter cold remedies available to citizens.

### 42:28 **COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS**

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

- Resolution No. 1211-16 was the usual County Clerk item regarding notaries, etc. This required no committee assignment.
- Resolution No. 1211-17 was assigned to the Zoning Committee chaired by Commissioner Bankston.

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- An Order of Designation to the Planning Commission would be submitted as a matter of record.
- Resolutions No. 1211-18 through 1211-21 and 1211-23 were assigned to the Finance Committee chaired by Commissioner Skillern.
- Resolution No. 1211-22 was assigned to a Committee of the Whole.
- Resolution No. 1211-24 was assigned to the Roads Committee chaired by Commissioner Bankston.
- Resolutions No. 1211-25 through 1211-32 were assigned to the Finance Committee chaired by Commissioner Skillern.
- Resolutions No. 1211-33 and 1211-34 were assigned to a Committee of the Whole.

43:36 **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chairman Henry asked for announcements from members of the Commission.

Mayor Coppinger reminded the Commission that the Urban Growth Coordinating Committee would reconvene tonight at 6:00 PM in the Commission Room.

**DELEGATIONS**

Chairman Henry asked for delegations on matters other than zoning. There were none.

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

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Respectfully submitted:



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William F. (Bill) Knowles, County Clerk

Approved:

01-04-12  
Date

W.F.K.  
Clerk's Initials