

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
JANUARY 4, 2017**

**STATE OF TENNESSEE**            )  
**COUNTY OF HAMILTON**        )

Regular Meeting  
January 4, 2017

**BE IT REMEMBERED**, that on this 4<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2017, a Regular 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:--

0:35 Present and presiding was the Honorable Chester Bankston, Chairman. County Clerk Bill Knowles called the roll of the County Commission and the following, constituting a quorum, answered to their names: Commissioner Beck, Commissioner Boyd, Commissioner Fairbanks, Commissioner Fields, Commissioner Graham, Commissioner Mackey, Commissioner Martin, Commissioner Smedley, and Chairman Bankston. Total present – 9. Total absent – 0.

Also in attendance were County Mayor Jim Coppinger, members of his administrative staff, County Attorney Rheubin Taylor, and County Auditor Jenneth Randall.

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.

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
JANUARY 4, 2017**

Chairman Bankston stated that because an agenda session and committee meetings were not held last week all Resolutions on today's agenda would be heard as a Committee of the Whole and official action taken by the Commission.

1:00

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**ON MOTION** of Commissioner Fields, seconded by Commissioner Smedley, that the minutes of the Recessed Meeting of December 14, 2016, the Agenda Preparation Session of December 14, 2016, and the Regular Meeting of December 21, 2016, 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 Beck, "Aye", Commissioner Boyd, "Aye", Commissioner Fairbanks, "Aye", Commissioner Fields, "Aye", Commissioner Graham, "Aye", Commissioner Mackey "Aye", Commissioner Martin, "Aye", Commissioner Smedley, "Aye", and Chairman Bankston, "Aye". Total present – 9. Total absent – 0. Total "Aye" votes – 9. Total "Nay" votes – 0.

**TRUSTEE REPORTS**

1:59

The Trustee's Monthly and Excess Fee reports for November 2016 were submitted and made a matter of record.

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
JANUARY 4, 2017**

**ORDER OF REAPPOINTMENT**

County Mayor Coppinger submitted for the record an Order re-appointing John J. Cain and Carlos Wilson to the Northwest Utility District Board of Commissioners to serve a term of four years, beginning December 31, 2016 and ending December 31, 2020.

2:05

**RESOLUTION NO. 117-1 A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE AND ACCEPT APPLICATIONS FOR NOTARY PUBLIC POSITIONS, THE BONDS AND OATHS OF NOTARIES PREVIOUSLY ELECTED, AND OATH OF CHAIRMAN PRO TEMPORE OF THE HAMILTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS.**

**ON MOTION** of Commissioner Fields, seconded by Commissioner Boyd, to adopt Resolution No. 117-1. 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 Beck, "Aye", Commissioner Boyd, "Aye", Commissioner Fairbanks, "Aye", Commissioner Fields, "Aye", Commissioner Graham, "Aye", Commissioner Mackey "Aye", Commissioner Martin, "Aye", Commissioner Smedley, "Aye", and Chairman Bankston, "Aye". Total present – 9. Total absent – 0. Total "Aye" votes – 9. Total "Nay" votes – 0.

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
JANUARY 4, 2017**

2:45

**RESOLUTION NO. 117-2 A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE REAPPOINTMENT BY THE COUNTY MAYOR OF THREE MEMBERS TO THE CHATTANOOGA-HAMILTON COUNTY AIR POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD FOR TERMS ENDING DECEMBER 19, 2020.**

**ON MOTION** of Commissioner Graham, seconded by Commissioner Boyd, to adopt Resolution No. 117-2.

Mayor Coppinger spoke regarding this item, which reappoints Steve Meyer, Colleen Russell, and Val deOllouqui for a term beginning January 4, 2017, and expiring December 19, 2020. He reported that the chairman of the board reported all three members were active and recommended the reappointments.

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 Beck, "Aye", Commissioner Boyd, "Aye", Commissioner Fairbanks, "Aye", Commissioner Fields, "Aye", Commissioner Graham, "Aye", Commissioner Mackey "Aye", Commissioner Martin, "Aye", Commissioner Smedley, "Aye", and Chairman Bankston, "Aye". Total present – 9. Total absent – 0. Total "Aye" votes – 9. Total "Nay" votes – 0.

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
JANUARY 4, 2017**

4:09     **RESOLUTION NO. 117-3 A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE JOINT  
REAPPOINTMENT BY THE COUNTY MAYOR AND THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF  
CHATTANOOGA OF ONE MEMBER TO THE CHATTANOOGA-HAMILTON COUNTY  
AIR POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD FOR A TERM ENDING DECEMBER 19, 2020.**

**ON MOTION** of Commissioner Graham, seconded by Commissioner Fields, to adopt Resolution No. 117-3.

Mayor Coppinger spoke regarding this item, which reappoints John Tucker for a term beginning January 4, 2017, and expiring December 19, 2020. He reported that the chairman of the board reported Mr. Tucker was an active member and recommended the reappointment.

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 Beck, "Aye", Commissioner Boyd, "Aye", Commissioner Fairbanks, "Aye", Commissioner Fields, "Aye", Commissioner Graham, "Aye", Commissioner Mackey "Aye", Commissioner Martin, "Aye", Commissioner Smedley, "Aye", and Chairman Bankston, "Aye". Total present – 9. Total absent – 0. Total "Aye" votes – 9. Total "Nay" votes – 0.

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
JANUARY 4, 2017**

8:10 **RESOLUTION NO. 117-4 A RESOLUTION TO CONFIRM THE REAPPOINTMENT OF FIVE MEMBERS TO THE CHATTANOOGA-HAMILTON COUNTY REGIONAL HEALTH COUNCIL.**

This resolution reappoints Angel Moore, Chris Ramsey, Sean Richards, Manny Rico and Howard Roddy to four year terms each beginning January 2, 2017 and expiring January 2, 2021.

**ON MOTION** of Commissioner Graham, seconded by Commissioner Fields, to adopt Resolution No. 117-4. 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 Beck, "Aye", Commissioner Boyd, "Aye", Commissioner Fairbanks, "Aye", Commissioner Fields, "Aye", Commissioner Graham, "Aye", Commissioner Mackey "Aye", Commissioner Martin, "Aye", Commissioner Smedley, "Aye", and Chairman Bankston, "Aye". Total present – 9. Total absent – 0. Total "Aye" votes – 9. Total "Nay" votes – 0.

8:48 **RESOLUTION NO. 117-5 A RESOLUTION TO APPOINT A CHAIRMAN TO THE SHERIFF'S CIVIL SERVICE ADVISORY BOARD FOR A TERM BEGINNING JANUARY 4, 2017 AND ENDING NOVEMBER 7, 2017.**

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
JANUARY 4, 2017**

**ON MOTION** of Commissioner Fields, seconded by Commissioner Smedley, to adopt Resolution No. 117-5.

Mayor Coppinger spoke regarding this item, which appoints John K. "Bucky" McCulley to serve as chairman to fill the unexpired term of the late William Pippin. He reported that the resolution should read Jody Millard as the appointee from District 1, 2 and 3 and Bruce O'Neal as the appointee from District 4, 5, and 6. A revised resolution was given to the clerk's office.

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 Beck, "Aye", Commissioner Boyd, "Aye", Commissioner Fairbanks, "Aye", Commissioner Fields, "Aye", Commissioner Graham, "Aye", Commissioner Mackey "Aye", Commissioner Martin, "Aye", Commissioner Smedley, "Aye", and Chairman Bankston, "Aye". Total present – 9. Total absent – 0. Total "Aye" votes – 9. Total "Nay" votes – 0.

9:30

**RESOLUTION NO. 117-6 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXPENDITURE OF UP TO FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$500,000.00) FROM BOND FUNDS TO REPLACE THE CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL/BROWN MIDDLE SCHOOL TRACK.**

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
JANUARY 4, 2017**

**ON MOTION** of Commissioner Mackey, seconded by Commissioner Smedley, to adopt Resolution No. 117-6.

10:22

In response to Commissioner Beck's question, Mayor Coppinger reiterated that during the FY16 budget workshop \$900,000 for school projects was agreed upon. It is not budgeted; the \$900,000 is a line a credit that will be converted into bonds. He also noted that if Resolution No. 117-6 is adopted there will be \$220,000 left for the remainder of the fiscal year. In response, Commissioner Beck and Commissioner Boyd noted they were not present at the budget workshops.

Commissioner Beck voiced his concerns regarding equal distribution of the \$900,000. He stated that District 5 has two tracks in his district that need replaced.

In response to Commissioner Boyd's question, Chairman Bankston reported that there are no other alternatives for raising or reducing the \$500,000 to replace Central High School/Brown Middle School track.

16:22

Commissioner Boyd spoke about being the lead negotiator in the possibility of Hamilton County School Board transferring the East Ridge High School athletic facilities to the city of East Ridge. He noted that the baseball field is unfit and the soccer field is a hazard for children to practice. He stated it is remarkable that East Ridge is willing to foot the bill.



**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
JANUARY 4, 2017**

21:06 Commissioner Mackey stated his support for Resolution No. 117-6 and acknowledged that there are limited amounts in the budget. He spoke of fairness and trusted that the commission would support District 4 projects in the future. He also pointed out that the Central High School track also serves many Highway 58 citizens who use the track. He encouraged the commission to support the resolution.

23:28 In response to Commissioner Fields concerns, Chairman Bankston stated the track at Central was evaluated by a local engineer and it was declared the track was beyond repair and needed to be replaced. He stated that pictures were not taken but several people in the audience could testify to the track's condition.

25:38 At this time Steve Highlander Chairman of the Hamilton County School Board approached the podium. He reported on several aspects surrounding the need to replace the track. He stated the track has potholes, and that several people have fallen suffering broken ankles as a result of present track conditions. Mr. Highlander noted that the existing track is not a regulation 400 yard track, and does not meet today's metric standards. He emphasized that by replacing the track it would accommodate other schools that sponsor track meets. Central's principal Finley King was in the audience and nodded concurrence when requested agreement by Mr. Highlander.

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
JANUARY 4, 2017**

In response to Commissioner Graham's question, Mr. Highlander stated it has not been decided how the proceeds from the East Brainerd elementary school located at 7453 East Brainerd Road will be split between all nine districts. He noted that the sale has not been finalized.

28:17 Commissioner Graham stated that District 6 pays the highest amount of property taxes and is not asking to replace their track. He noted that Lookout Valley's track is in horrible condition and is permanently closed to the public. He pointed out that District 6 had to use discretionary monies to redo the stadium. He spoke of the despicable conditions at the athletic field house. He graphically, pointed out severe problems with the urinal in the small men's room. He encouraged the school board and the commission to work together and discuss how to spend the proceeds from the East Brainerd sale equally among all districts. He stated he could not support replacing the Central track due to the lack of fairness.

34:27 Commissioner Martin stated that Hixson High is a mirror school to Central High. Both schools were built around the same time and have similar needs. Both schools were on the School Facilities committee list for new gymnasiums, not tracks. He stated that the resolution contained an untrue statement. The Hamilton County Board of Education has not approved this project.

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
JANUARY 4, 2017**

He advocated for District 3 and asked that Hixson be treated equally and fair. Hixson has a track team and hasn't been able to compete at home in the last century. He reported that Hixson's track was built in 1977 and resurfaced in 1985. In the mid 1990's the track could no longer host events due to potholes. In 2004 vandalism took place and concrete was added to repair the track. There are only three public schools capable of hosting tracks events.

He reported that Hixson High students launched a fundraiser today to raise \$400,000 to repair their track. He asked for a copy of Central's engineer study and questioned if the new track will include additional amenities and meet track regulations. He questioned what the long range plan is to meet the needs of other tracks.

41:46                   At this time Commissioner Beck called for the question to vote on Resolution No. 117-6.

Commissioner Smedley asked for time to comment, but the Chairman stated an immediate vote was required since the question had been called for.

The foregoing Resolution failed on a Roll Call vote, with the following members of the County Commission being present and voting as follows: Commissioner Fairbanks, "Aye", Commissioner Mackey "Aye", Commissioner Smedley, "Aye", and Chairman Bankston, "Aye". Commissioner Beck, Commissioner Boyd, Commissioner Fields,

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
JANUARY 4, 2017**

Commissioner Graham, and Commissioner Martin abstained from voting. Total present – 9. Total absent – 0. Total “Aye” votes – 4. Total “Nay” votes – 0. Total abstentions – 5.

44:18

**RESOLUTION NO. 117-7 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY MAYOR TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION NOT TO EXCEED \$550,000.00 FOR A THREE-YEAR JUSTICE FOR FAMILIES GRANT TO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE - OFFICE ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN (OVW), TO CONTINUE SUPERVISED VISITATION AND SAFE EXCHANGE SERVICES; AND PROVIDE CIVIL LEGAL ASSISTANCE AND ADVOCACY SERVICES, FOR ELIGIBLE RESIDENTS OF HAMILTON COUNTY IN SITUATIONS INVOLVING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, DATING VIOLENCE, CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE, SEXUAL ASSAULT OR STALKING.**

**ON MOTION** of Commissioner Fields, seconded by Commissioner Graham, to adopt Resolution No. 117-7.

Development Director Dan Saieed spoke regarding this item and stated it is a continuation grant to continue providing supervised visitation and exchange of children and youth by and between parents in situations involving domestic violence, dating violence, child sexual abuse, sexual assault, or stalking. The project will additionally provide civil legal assistance and advocacy services, including legal assistance and resources. The program will be carried through the cooperative efforts of the

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
JANUARY 4, 2017**

Partnership for Families, Children and Adults; Southeast Legal Services, Inc., the Hamilton County Circuit Court; and the Hamilton County Circuit Court Clerk. The program has been in place for five years.

Regina McDevitt, chief operating officer of the Partnership for Families, Children and Adults, Inc. stated the Partnership is the only supervised visitation center in Hamilton County and their services are available to all citizens of Hamilton County.

Commissioner Graham thanked Mr. Saieed and the Partnership for effectively communicating the grant proposal to the commission. He thanked Mr. Saieed for continuing to actively seek grant opportunities for Hamilton County.

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 Beck, "Aye", Commissioner Boyd, "Aye", Commissioner Fairbanks, "Aye", Commissioner Fields, "Aye", Commissioner Graham, "Aye", Commissioner Mackey "Aye", Commissioner Martin, "Aye", Commissioner Smedley, "Aye", and Chairman Bankston, "Aye". Total present – 9. Total absent – 0. Total "Aye" votes – 9. Total "Nay" votes – 0.

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
JANUARY 4, 2017**

Mayor Coppinger spoke about the county's relationship with the Partnership and encouraged women to report violence and abuse. He thanked Circuit Clerk Larry Henry for his willingness to administer the grant.

49:57 To clarify parliamentary procedure, Attorney Taylor stated Resolution No. 117-6 failed to get five votes either way. The resolution did not "fail", but rather the commission failed to act.

51:31 In response to Commissioner Boyd's request for clarification, Attorney Taylor reiterated that the Commission failed to act on Resolution No 117-6, and there was not a prevailing side. He stated that any member of the Commission could bring back for consideration this or a similar Resolution when a failed to act situation was recorded.

53:02 Commissioner Graham stated that he will be adding a resolution to the next agenda requesting replacement windows at the John A. Patton Recreation Center. He noted a previous request for the same windows (Res. No. 1016-15) was presented to the Commission at the October 19<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting ended in a 4-4 tie vote. Attorney Taylor agreed that adding the same resolution to next week's agenda was appropriate.

**RESOLUTION NO. 117-8 A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE PURCHASE OF SIX (6) VEHICLES AMOUNTING TO \$165,208.56 FROM CDJR OF COLUMBIA, FORD OF MURFREESBORO, AND NISSAN OF COOL SPRINGS, FROM THE STATE**

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
JANUARY 4, 2017**

**CONTRACT FOR THE HAMILTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE, AND  
AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY MAYOR TO SIGN ANY CONTRACTS NECESSARY  
TO IMPLEMENT THIS RESOLUTION.**

**ON MOTION** of Commissioner Fields, seconded by Commissioner Boyd, to adopt Resolution No. 117-8.

Commissioner Boyd, Chairman of the Finance Committee, requested an explanation from the Sheriff's Department. Sheriff Jim Hammond explained all six vehicles are replacements. Four vehicles will be assigned to the Criminal Investigation Division, one to Property, and one to Corrections. Commissioner Boyd requested that future requests include age, mileage, year make and model of the vehicle being replaced.

56:40 Don Gorman, Director of Administration for the Sheriff's Department noted three Dodge Durangos can carry more equipment than the Ford Explorer and are priced similarly. Commissioner Graham stated he was concerned about officer safety, SUV rollovers and recommended sedans. Sheriff Hammond stated rollovers are tracked and there is nothing to be concerned about at this time. Commissioner Graham respectfully disagreed.

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
JANUARY 4, 2017**

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 Beck, "Aye", Commissioner Boyd, "Aye", Commissioner Fairbanks, "Aye", Commissioner Fields, "Aye", Commissioner Graham, "Aye", Commissioner Mackey "Aye", Commissioner Martin, "Aye", Commissioner Smedley, "Aye", and Chairman Bankston, "Aye". Total present – 9. Total absent – 0. Total "Aye" votes – 9. Total "Nay" votes – 0.

59:02

**RESOLUTION NO. 117-9 A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE "2016 JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT" WITH A TERM ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2019 AND AMENDING THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE CAPITAL OUTLAY BUDGET BY \$44,023.**

**ON MOTION** of Commissioner Graham, seconded by Commissioner Fields, to adopt Resolution No. 117-9.

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 Beck, "Aye", Commissioner Boyd, "Aye", Commissioner Fairbanks, "Aye", Commissioner Fields, "Aye", Commissioner Graham, "Aye", Commissioner Mackey "Aye", Commissioner Martin, "Aye", Commissioner Smedley, "Aye", and Chairman Bankston, "Aye". Total present – 9. Total absent – 0. Total "Aye" votes – 9. Total "Nay" votes – 0.



**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
JANUARY 4, 2017**

59:39 **RESOLUTION NO. 117-10 A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE BID OF G & P MASONRY, INC. FOR ONE (1) YEAR CONTRACT PRICING, BEGINNING JANUARY 6, 2017, THROUGH JANUARY 5, 2018, FOR TWO (2) MASONS AND ONE (1) LABORER FOR THE MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT AND AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY MAYOR TO SIGN ANY CONTRACTS NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THIS RESOLUTION.**

**ON MOTION** of Commissioner Graham, seconded by Commissioner Boyd, to adopt Resolution No. 117-10.

In response to Commissioner Boyd's question, Purchasing Director Gail Roppo reported that G & P Masonry, Inc. has held this contract for several years.

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 Beck, "Aye", Commissioner Boyd, "Aye", Commissioner Fairbanks, "Aye", Commissioner Fields, "Aye", Commissioner Graham, "Aye", Commissioner Mackey "Aye", Commissioner Martin, "Aye", Commissioner Smedley, "Aye", and Chairman Bankston, "Aye". Total present – 9. Total absent – 0. Total "Aye" votes – 9. Total "Nay" votes – 0.

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
JANUARY 4, 2017**

**RESOLUTION NO. 117-11 A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE BID OF CUMMINS INC., DBA CUMMINS POWER SOUTH FOR A PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE CONTRACT FOR EMERGENCY GENERATORS, BEGINNING FEBRUARY 1, 2017, THROUGH JANUARY 31, 2020, AMOUNTING TO \$52.473.53 FOR THE MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT AND AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY MAYOR TO SIGN ANY CONTRACTS NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THIS RESOLUTION.**

**ON MOTION** of Commissioner Fields, seconded by Commissioner Boyd, to adopt Resolution No. 117-11.

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 Beck, "Aye", Commissioner Boyd, "Aye", Commissioner Fairbanks, "Aye", Commissioner Fields, "Aye", Commissioner Graham, "Aye", Commissioner Mackey "Aye", Commissioner Martin, "Aye", Commissioner Smedley, "Aye", and Chairman Bankston, "Aye". Total present – 9. Total absent – 0. Total "Aye" votes – 9. Total "Nay" votes – 0.

**RESOLUTION NO. 117-12 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY MAYOR ON BEHALF OF HAMILTON COUNTY, TENNESSEE, THE HEALTH SERVICES DIVISION, OPERATING AS THE CHATTANOOGA-HAMILTON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT TO SIGN AN AMENDMENT CONTRACT WITH THE TENNESSEE**

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
JANUARY 4, 2017**

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO PROVIDE TUBERCULOSIS CONTROL SERVICES  
IN HAMILTON COUNTY FOR A TIME PERIOD OF JULY 1, 2016 THROUGH JUNE  
30, 2017, AND TO INCREASE THE EXPENSE AND REVENUE BUDGETS BY  
\$71,300.00.**

**ON MOTION** of Commissioner Boyd, seconded by Commissioner Fields, to  
adopt Resolution No. 117-12.

In response to Commissioner Fields' question, Health Department Director Becky Barnes reported that the state is allotting additional funds to the health department for tuberculosis control services.

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 Beck, "Aye", Commissioner Boyd, "Aye", Commissioner Fairbanks, "Aye", Commissioner Fields, "Aye", Commissioner Graham, "Aye", Commissioner Mackey "Aye", Commissioner Martin, "Aye", Commissioner Smedley, "Aye", and Chairman Bankston, "Aye". Total present – 9. Total absent – 0. Total "Aye" votes – 9. Total "Nay" votes – 0.

**RESOLUTION NO. 117-13 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY MAYOR  
TO SIGN A LEASE AGREEMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$9,445.00 ANNUALLY WITH**

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
JANUARY 4, 2017**

**CHATTANOOGA CHURCH MINISTRIES, INC. D.B.A., CHATTANOOGA  
COMMUNITY KITCHEN FOR SPACE FOR USE BY HAMILTON COUNTY,  
TENNESSEE, THE HEALTH SERVICES DIVISION, OPERATING AS THE  
CHATTANOOGA-HAMILTON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT'S HOMELESS  
HEALTH CARE CENTER, FOR THE PERIOD OF JANUARY 1, 2017 THROUGH  
DECEMBER 31, 2017.**

**ON MOTION** of Commissioner Boyd, seconded by Commissioner Fields, to  
adopt Resolution No. 117-13.

In response to Commissioner Boyd's question, County Attorney Rheubin Taylor  
stated that his office has thoroughly vetted the lease agreement.

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 Beck, "Aye", Commissioner Boyd, "Aye", Commissioner Fairbanks,  
"Aye", Commissioner Fields, "Aye", Commissioner Graham, "Aye", Commissioner  
Mackey "Aye", Commissioner Martin, "Aye", Commissioner Smedley, "Aye", and  
Chairman Bankston, "Aye". Total present – 9. Total absent – 0. Total "Aye" votes – 9.  
Total "Nay" votes – 0.

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
JANUARY 4, 2017**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

1:03:56 Commissioner Fields wished everyone a happy new year.

1:04:07 Commissioner Mackey spoke about today's discussion during Resolution No. 117-6. He called the discussion unpleasant and encouraged Commissioners to support projects in other districts. He stated that while each district has projects that need to be addressed, withholding support for projects in other districts would cause gridlock. He voiced his support for the track replacement project at Central High School/Brown Middle School.

1:05:47 Commissioner Graham responded to Commissioner Mackey's comments and reported that he has supported purchases for school projects in other districts totaling over \$600 million. He stated that Lookout Valley Middle School and High School has been on the list for a new gymnasium for at least 30 years. He encouraged Commissioners and the School Board to work together to develop a plan that would fulfill the needs of schools in all districts, including District 6.

Commissioner Mackey reiterated his previous statement that withholding support for projects in other districts would cause gridlock.

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
JANUARY 4, 2017**

1:08:08 Commissioner Martin invited everyone to the Hixson Kiwanis Club meeting on January 18<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 pm at Creeks Bend Golf Club to discuss progress in District 3. It was noted that District 3 School Board member Joe Smith will be speaking at the event.

1:09:00 Commissioner Boyd stated that the deliberation at today's meeting is exactly what Commissioners are expected to do in order to represent their districts effectively. He noted that deliberation is healthy and is a sign the Commission is working together. He added that once more information is provided regarding the track replacement at Central High School/Brown Middle School, the Commission can more confidently make a decision. He encouraged the media and the public to note that today's discussion was deliberation and not dissention.

1:12:34 Commissioner Beck agreed with Commissioner Boyd's comments. He also spoke about a new Tennessee law that aims to reduce the number of uninsured vehicles. He voiced his concerns about the effect it would have on those who struggle to afford car insurance, comply with emissions, and report to their job.

1:14:57 He asked County Clerk Bill Knowles to explain the new requirement. Clerk Knowles reported that the State General Assembly enacted an amendment to the existing vehicle financial responsibility law. It directed the Department of Revenue (DOR) to develop and implement an insurance verification enforcement program by

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
JANUARY 4, 2017**

January 1, 2017. He added that the law is known as the “James Lee Atwood Jr. Law”, named after a young man killed in Memphis by an uninsured driver.

Clerk Knowles stated that the DOR in implementing the law requires all insurance companies offering vehicle insurance to drivers in Tennessee to register with the Department. He stated that the DOR using insurance company data would electronically review tag and title applications received from the 95 County Clerk offices using vehicle identification numbers (VIN) to verify insurance coverage.

The Clerk concluded by reporting a motorist not in compliance will be written a series of letters with some amount of fine levied. When all compliance procedures are exhausted the DOR will block the Clerk’s data system from accepting registration of a non-compliant registrant.

Commissioner Beck voiced his concerns about the balloon effect the law could have on poor people in the community.

1:20:49 Commissioner Smedley announced that an Education Committee meeting will take place next Wednesday at 8:30 am.

Commissioner Smedley spoke about the list of items that need to be addressed at East Hamilton Middle/High School including the gravel track as well as the permanent

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
JANUARY 4, 2017**

restroom facility she has been working on to replace the portable restrooms. She noted that the School Board is significantly behind in school maintenance projects and encouraged both bodies to work together to address projects in each district. She added that she will continue to advocate for the needs at East Hamilton Middle/High School.

1:25:40 In response to Commissioner Fairbanks question, County Attorney Rheubin Taylor reported that a "Call for the Vote" is non-debatable, but each legislative body handles it differently. He noted that it should not be used as a way to prevent other Commissioners from responding to comments. He stated that the Commission's procedure for handling a "Call for the Vote" would need to be an internal decision. Attorney Taylor asked for comments from Clerk Knowles.

Clerk Knowles stated that according to Robert's Rules of Order once a Commissioner has spoken, the member should not be permitted to speak again until all other Commissioners desiring to be recognized are given an opportunity to respond.

In response to Chairman Bankston's question, Attorney Taylor clarified that the Chairman does have the authority to determine if further discussion should take place before a "Call for the Vote" is entertained. He added that in past discussions, the Chairman has not attempted to stop a Commissioner who might be speaking off topic.

Commissioner Fairbanks echoed Commissioner Mackey's comments and encouraged working together to support expenditures in other districts.



**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
JANUARY 4, 2017**

Commissioner Fairbanks announced that per a letter from Chief Judicial Commissioner Randy Russell, Judicial Commissioner Sharetta Smith has resigned as of December 21st.

Chairman Bankston asked Clerk Knowles to submit the proper legal notice stating that applications will be accepted Monday January 9<sup>th</sup> and January 10<sup>th</sup>, interviews will take place after the January 11<sup>th</sup> Agenda Session, and voting will take place at the January 18<sup>th</sup> Commission meeting. Members of the Commission were in agreement with this process.

1:35:16 Mayor Coppinger spoke about today's discussion and stated that education and economic development are a top priority in Hamilton County. He reported that the County has seen tremendous growth in the last 6 years with no increase in property taxes. He encouraged all parties working collectively to promote growth and to keep a broad vision of success throughout all of Hamilton County. He encouraged fostering good relations with the community and with each other.

Mayor Coppinger also spoke about spending and complimented the collective efforts of his staff and Commissioners during last year's budget process. He noted that individual wants and needs are considered and prioritized to the best of their ability.

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
JANUARY 4, 2017**

Chairman Bankston encouraged Commissioners to work together in the year ahead.

1:43:02 In response to Chairman Bankston's question, Chief Judicial Magistrate Randy Russell stated that a substitute magistrate is available to fill the vacancy created by Sharetta Smith's resignation until the end of the month. Mr. Russell thanked Ms. Smith for her tireless work and service to Hamilton County.

Chairman Bankston reported that the track replacement project at Central High School/Brown Middle School did have approval from the Superintendent, the Chairman of the School Board, and the Chairman of the Facilities Committee before it was brought before the Commission.

Chairman Bankston wished everyone a healthy and prosperous new year.

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
JANUARY 4, 2017**

**DELEGATIONS**

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

There being no further business, Chairman Bankston declared the meeting in recess until Wednesday, January 11, 2017 at 9:30 AM.

Respectfully submitted:



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William F. (Bill) Knowles, County Clerk

Approved:

01-18-17  
Date

WJK  
Clerk's Initials