

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION
AGENDA PREPARATION SESSION
JANUARY 10, 2018**

STATE OF TENNESSEE) Agenda Preparation Session
COUNTY OF HAMILTON) January 10, 2018

BE IT REMEMBERED, that on this 10th day of January, 2018, an Agenda Preparation Session 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:--

:11

Present and presiding was the Honorable Randy Fairbanks, Chairman. Deputy County Clerk Carrie Godwin 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 Martin, Commissioner Smedley, and Chairman Fairbanks. 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.

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COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

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

- An Order of Reappointment to Walden's Ridge Utility District would be submitted as a matter of record.
- An Order of Reappointment to North West Utility District Board of Commissioners would be submitted as a matter of record.
- An Order of Designation to the Planning Commission would be submitted as a matter of record.
- Resolution No. 118-3 was the usual County Clerk item regarding notaries, etc. This required no committee assignment.
- Resolution Nos. 118-9 through 118-11 were assigned to the Zoning Committee, chaired by Commissioner Bankston.
- Resolution Nos. 118-12 through 118-14 were assigned to the Finance Committee, chaired by Commissioner Smedley.
- Resolution Nos. 118-4 through 118-8 were heard by a Committee of the Whole.

:40

PRESENTATION – CERTIFICATE OF CONGRATULATIONS - DALLAS BAY

VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Commissioner Martin presented a Certificate of Congratulations to Chief Markus Fritts and Chairman Mitch McClure of the Dallas Bay Volunteer Fire Department (VFD) for receiving an Insurance Service Office (ISO) rating of 2. He reported the ISO 2 rating is based on water supply, dispatch and communication services, equipment, staffing, and personnel. It was noted Dallas Bay is the only volunteer fire department in Tennessee to receive this rating. Commissioner Martin pointed out the savings area

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residents and businesses receive on premises insurance because of the lowered rating. He emphasized the importance of volunteerism and credited the leadership of Chief Fritts and Chairman McClure for their success.

Chief Fritts thanked Commissioners for the recognition and stated prior approval of a new building by the Commission has been instrumental in their success. Chief Fritts added that newly purchased equipment could help achieve an even lower rating, and spoke about the challenges to keep up with the continued growth in the area. At this time a round of applause was given.

5:40

Chairman McClure thanked Commissioner Martin for the recognition and stated their success is a team effort. He explained that accelerated growth in the area is beneficial, but also offers challenges to the department. He thanked the Commission and Mayor Coppinger again for their support.

6:42

Mayor Coppinger congratulated Chief Fritts, Chairman McClure, and the Dallas Bay VFD for their success in achieving the lowered rating. He spoke about the difficulty in receiving an ISO 2 rating and thanked the department for a job well done.

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Chairman McClure reiterated that Dallas Bay VFD is the only volunteer fire department in Tennessee with an ISO 2 rating, which is beneficial to lowering industry insurance rates as well.

8:42

Chairman Fairbanks estimated a paid fire department, as opposed to a volunteer fire department, could cost taxpayers millions to operate. Chairman McClure added Dallas Bay VFD ran 1,933 calls in 2017, which averages to approximately \$34.00-\$35.00 per call.

At this time, Chief Fritts and Chairman McClure shook hands with members of the Commissioner, Attorney Taylor, and Mayor Coppinger.

10:55

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 118-4

Chairman Fairbanks spoke regarding this item, which reappoints Joseph G. DeGaetano to the Hamilton County Board of Zoning Appeals for a five-year term beginning January 17, 2018 and ending January 17, 2023.

There were no questions from Commissioners.

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11:14 **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 118-5**

Sheriff Jim Hammond spoke regarding this item, which accepts a community oriented policing services (COPS) hiring program grant at a minimum of \$250,000 from the United States Department of Justice, which would designate two additional law enforcement officers for crime and intelligence analysis for the next four years. He explained the County has been working with this program for several years and although the grants are difficult to obtain, the Sherriff’s Office has been able to receive them due to upgrades they have made. He also spoke about the importance of the crime analysis positions on all levels of law enforcement.

12:40 In response to Chairman Fairbanks’ question, Sheriff Hammond advised this grant would create two new positions.

12:58 In response to Commissioner Graham’s question, Administrator of Finance Al Kiser reported over the four-year period, the County would pay approximately \$350,000 and the grant would provide \$250,000 in federal funds.

15:15 In response to Commissioner Martin’s question, Sheriff Hammond confirmed the importance of putting a long-term plan in place to continue these positions after the grant period ends. He stated they will be even more crucial going forward to utilize

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technology and systematic analysis for identifying and forecasting patterns and trends in crime. He noted although this grant is non-renewable, there could be opportunities to reapply in the future.

16:48 In response to Commissioner Boyd's question, Mr. Kiser advised this item will require a budget amendment, and the funds would come out of the fund balance.

17:28 In response to Chairman Fairbanks' question, Mr. Kiser stated the funds would be paid on a prorated basis.

Commissioner Fields pointed out the payment schedule attached to the Resolution breaks down what is due each year.

18:28 **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 118-6**

Sheriff Jim Hammond spoke regarding this item, which amends the Sheriff's Office budget for fiscal year 2018 by increasing the expenditure budget by \$405,192 and appropriating \$405,192 from the fund balance of the general fund. Sheriff Hammond explained the increase is needed to settle invoices from Erlanger Hospital for medical care provided for inmates not initially estimated in last year's budget.

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Mr. Kiser stated the Sheriff's Office typically budgets for this expenditure, but the amount was contested and the full expenditure was not included in last year's budget.

20:12

Director of Administration for the Sheriff's Office Don Gorman reported when the budget request was submitted last year the contract had not been signed and the amount was not included in the request. He added there has been no contract in place for the last five years.

20:53

In response to Commissioner Fields' question, Mr. Kiser verified \$1.5 million dollars is budgeted to Erlanger for indigent care in their emergency room. That amount does not cover inmate care provided at the jail clinic, which is staffed by Erlanger.

21:59

In response to Commissioner Graham's question, Sheriff Hammond clarified the invoice is for care already provided and stated with a contract now in place there should be more accurate estimates going forward. Mr. Gorman added this will cover services provided for the past five years and bring the balance current.

23:00

In response to Commissioner Smedley's question, Mr. Gorman confirmed psychiatric care makes up a significant portion of the charges. Sheriff Hammond added resolving mental health issues could alleviate some of the extra expenditures.

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23:39 Mayor Coppinger added contract negotiations have been ongoing for the past five years. He agreed resolving some of the mental illness issues could help bring contract costs down.

25:13 In response to Commissioner Boyd's question, Mr. Gorman reiterated this expenditure will cover all past services bringing the balance current, and future costs will be budgeted.

25:52 In response to Commissioner Fields' question, Sheriff Hammond stated the approximate \$800,000 contract cost going forward is a flat fee amount regardless of the cost of service. Attorney Taylor stated he would research and report to Commissioners whether the contract addresses what happens if service costs are under the amount of the contracted amount.

27:09 In response to Commissioner Graham's question, Mr. Gorman clarified the agreement does not include medication, which is an additional \$373,000 per year. He reported the contract allows Erlanger to choose their pharmacy, but new negotiations for different pharmacy options should help provide significant savings.

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29:02

Mayor Coppinger stated the Hamilton County Employee Pharmacy is provided only for those on Hamilton County's insurance plan. He added providing medication to inmates would not be profitable for the pharmacy.

31:02

In response to Commissioner Graham's question, Mayor Coppinger stated the cost per day to run the jail is \$87,400.

31:51

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 118-7

Administrator of Finance Al Kiser spoke regarding this item, which adds forestry management services to the list of professional, technical, and consultant services that may be obtained subject to section 3.3.10 of the Procurement Rules for Hamilton County.

There were no questions from Commissioners.

33:06

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 118-8

Administrator of Public Works and County Engineer Todd Leamon spoke regarding this item, which establishes the minimum bid amount for certain parcels of property acquired by Hamilton County through previous delinquent tax sales. It also

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authorizes the offer of said parcels for sale at that minimum bid amount, and authorizes 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. He reported there are approximately 101 parcels in this year's delinquent tax sale.

33:48

In response to Commissioner Fields' question, Real Property Manager Paul Parker verified they are seeking authority to sell the parcels for amounts less than the taxes owed. He explained the parcels have already gone through the Clerk & Master sale to attempt to sell the properties for back taxes, penalties, interest, and court costs owed. Those attempts were unsuccessful, which per state law allows a minimum bid amount to be put on the properties in order to sell and place them back on the tax roll.

34:36

In response to Commissioner Beck's question, Mr. Parker advised the properties will not go back through Clerk & Master after that process is completed, which is followed by a one-year right of redemption period. Mr. Parker stated once this item is approved, public notice of the sales will be published online and in local newspapers. Attorney Taylor clarified the selling process is an auction similar to the Clerk & Master auction and would take place in the Commission Room.

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37:07 Commissioner Graham complimented Mr. Parker for how he handles the auction process. In response to Commissioner Graham's question, Mr. Parker clarified current assessed property values will apply once the properties are back on the tax roll.

Commissioner Bankston, Chairman of the Zoning Committee, stated the Zoning Committee will meet in the Commission Conference Room immediately following the Agenda Session.

Commissioner Smedley, Chairman of the Finance Committee, stated the Finance Committee will meet in the Commission Room following today's Agenda Session.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

39:10 Commissioner Fields announced the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals upheld Amendment 1 to the Tennessee Constitution. It was noted this was a 2014 Tennessee ballot measure that removed the right to an abortion from the state constitution.

39:50 Commissioner Mackey announced Hamilton County experienced positive growth over the past year and emphasized the need to strengthen public schools.

Time Code
Position

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40:48 Commissioner Graham wished everyone a Happy New Year.

40:56 Commissioner Boyd, Chairman of the Security and Corrections Commission, announced the Security and Corrections Committee will meet in the Commission Conference Room following the Zoning Committee and Finance Committee meetings. He noted Chief Judicial Magistrate Randall Russell will be making a presentation.

41:30 Attorney Taylor wished everyone a Happy New year.

41:40 Mayor Coppinger announced he is proud of the growth and progress in Hamilton County, and their commitment to public education. He added collaborated efforts will continue to add to that success in the next year.

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DELEGATIONS

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

Being no further business, Chairman Fairbanks declared the meeting adjourned. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be Wednesday, January 17th at 9:30 AM.

Respectfully submitted:



William F. (Bill) Knowles, County Clerk

Approved:

02-07-18
Date

W.F.K.
Clerk's Initials