

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 5, 2020**

STATE OF TENNESSEE)
COUNTY OF HAMILTON)

Regular Meeting
February 5, 2020

BE IT REMEMBERED, that on this 5th day of February, 2020, 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:--

014 Present and presiding was the Honorable Randy Fairbanks, Chairman. County Clerk Bill Knowles called the roll of the County Commission and the following, constituting a quorum, answered to their names: Commissioner Baker, Commissioner Bankston, Commissioner Boyd, Commissioner Geter, Commissioner Mackey, Commissioner Martin, Commissioner Sharpe, 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.

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.

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0:32 Commissioner Geter introduced Pastor James Rushing, Temple Baptist Church, who gave the invocation. Commissioner Geter led in the pledge to the flag.

Chairman Fairbanks reported a presentation on the agenda honoring Senior Pastor Calvin Nunley of Christ Family Church would be postponed to a later date.

3:15 **PRESENTATION – MENTAL HEALTH IN YOUTH**

Erlanger Children’s Hospital CEO Don Mueller and Erlanger Behavior Health CEO Tyler Davis gave a presentation regarding youth mental health in Tennessee. Mr. Davis began by highlighting some mental health statistics and noted in Tennessee 1 in 4 children have a diagnosed mental health disorder and 1 in 3 have reported feeling sad to the point of contemplating suicide. He reported suicide is the 2nd leading cause of death in ages 10 to 34 and more than 67% of mental health conditions go untreated. Mr. Mueller added in 2017 there were 51 suicides in Tennessee among ages 10 to 17. He noted that number rose from 13 in 2005. Mr. Mueller stated the issue of suicide in youth should be a priority and encouraged Commissioners to give attention to this issue. Mr. Mueller also provided information regarding prescription opioids and vaping. He stated while overdose deaths and vaping related illnesses are on the decline, the number of middle and high school students using vaping products is still on the rise. A copy of the presentation was filed in the Clerk’s Office.

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In response to Commissioner Mackey's question, Mr. Mueller stated the issue of suicide is not limited to lower income areas. However, he reported the rate of suicide in Hispanic females is the fastest increasing group, which could have socioeconomic ties. Mr. Davis added once a suicide attempt happens typically medical coverage is required. He adding having licensed counselors and social workers identifying these issues in schools would be beneficial.

18:02 Commissioner Geter spoke about the Hamilton County Health Department's program Parents are First Teachers, which focuses on parenting skills, early childhood development and school readiness, and the health and wellness of family members. She commended Health Department Director Becky Barnes and her staff for the work they do in the community. She stated other resources exist in the community and encouraged Commissioners to explore any route that might help address the issues surrounding youth mental health.

In response to Commissioner Boyd's question, Mr. Mueller stated physicians use very strict criteria to differentiate between a suicide and overdose.

Commissioner Baker thanked Mr. Mueller and Mr. Davis for their presentation.

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Chairman Fairbanks recognized Collegedale Mayor Katie Lamb in the audience at today's meeting.

24:52 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

ON MOTION of Commissioner Smedley, seconded by Commissioner Baker, that the minutes of the Recessed Meeting of January 8, 2020, the Agenda Preparation Session of January 8, 2020, the Regular Meeting of January 15, 2020 be approved, treat same as read, made a matter of record and filed. The foregoing Motion was adopted on a Roll Call vote, with the following members of the County Commission being present and voting as follows: Commissioner Baker, "Aye", Commissioner Bankston, "Aye", Commissioner Boyd, "Aye", Commissioner Geter, "Aye", Commissioner Martin, "Aye", Commissioner Sharpe, "Aye", Commissioner Smedley, "Aye", and Chairman Fairbanks, "Aye". Commissioner Mackey was absent for the roll call. Total present – 8. Total absent – 1. Total "Aye" votes – 8. Total "Nay" votes – 0.

ORDER OF DESIGNATION

An order was recorded designating Alan Knowles to sit as the County Mayor's representative on the Planning Commission for the meeting of January 13, 2020.

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ORDER OF DESIGNATION

An order was recorded designating Todd Leamon to sit as the County Mayor's representative on the Planning Commission for the meeting of February 10, 2020.

QUARTERLY INVESTMENT REPORT

The quarterly investment report of Hamilton County, for the quarter ended December 31, 2019 was submitted as a matter of record.

REVISED TRUSTEE REPORT

The Trustee's Revised Monthly Report for November 2019 was submitted and made a matter of record.

TRUSTEE REPORTS

The Trustee's Monthly and Excess Fee Reports for December 2019 were submitted and made a matter of record.

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25:36 **RESOLUTION NO. 220-1 A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE AND ACCEPT APPLICATIONS FOR NOTARY PUBLIC POSITIONS, THE BONDS AND OATHS OF NOTARIES PREVIOUSLY ELECTED, AND THE OATH OF DEPUTY SHERIFF.**

ON MOTION of Commissioner Smedley, seconded by Commissioner Geter, to adopt Resolution No. 220-1. 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 Baker, “Aye”, Commissioner Bankston, “Aye”, Commissioner Boyd, “Aye”, Commissioner Geter, “Aye”, Commissioner Mackey, “Aye”, Commissioner Martin, “Aye”, Commissioner Sharpe, “Aye”, Commissioner Smedley, “Aye”, and Chairman Fairbanks, “Aye”. Total present – 9. Total absent – 0. Total “Aye” votes – 9. Total “Nay” votes – 0.

26:11 **RESOLUTION NO. 220-2 A RESOLUTION APPOINTING SAUNDRA ADAMS TO THE HAMILTON COUNTY HEALTH AND SAFETY HEARING BOARD TO FILL THE UNEXPIRED TERM OF GEORGE MAFFETT, JR.**

ON MOTION of Commissioner Mackey, seconded by Commissioner Smedley, to adopt Resolution No. 220-2. 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 Baker, “Aye”, Commissioner Bankston, “Aye”, Commissioner Boyd, “Aye”, Commissioner Geter, “Aye”, Commissioner Mackey, “Aye”,

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Commissioner Martin, “Aye”, Commissioner Sharpe, “Aye”, Commissioner Smedley, “Aye”, and Chairman Fairbanks, “Aye”. Total present – 9. Total absent – 0. Total “Aye” votes – 9. Total “Nay” votes – 0.

26:44 **RESOLUTION NO. 220-3 A RESOLUTION MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO THE GLENWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION, INC. IN THE AMOUNT OF TWO THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$2,500.00) FROM GENERAL FUND TRAVEL DISCRETIONARY MONIES, AS ALLOTTED TO DISTRICT FIVE.**

ON MOTION of Commissioner Mackey, seconded by Commissioner Baker, to adopt Resolution No. 220-3. 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 Baker, “Aye”, Commissioner Bankston, “Aye”, Commissioner Boyd, “Aye”, Commissioner Geter, “Aye”, Commissioner Mackey, “Aye”, Commissioner Martin, “Aye”, Commissioner Sharpe, “Aye”, Commissioner Smedley, “Aye”, and Chairman Fairbanks, “Aye”. Total present – 9. Total absent – 0. Total “Aye” votes – 9. Total “Nay” votes – 0.

27:18 **RESOLUTION NO. 220-4 A RESOLUTION AMENDING THE PROTOCOL (EXPENSE ALLOWANCE POLICY) FOR THE MEMBERS OF THE HAMILTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AS PREVIOUSLY AMENDED BY RESOLUTION 1118-14.**

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ON MOTION of Commissioner Martin, seconded by Commissioner Smedley, to adopt Resolution No. 220-4. 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 Baker, “Aye”, Commissioner Bankston, “Aye”, Commissioner Boyd, “Aye”, Commissioner Geter, “Aye”, Commissioner Mackey, “Nay”, Commissioner Martin, “Aye”, Commissioner Sharpe, “Aye”, Commissioner Smedley, “Aye”, and Chairman Fairbanks, “Aye”. Total present – 9. Total absent – 0. Total “Aye” votes – 8. Total “Nay” votes – 1.

27:57

RESOLUTION NO. 220-5 A RESOLUTION TO WAIVE THE PROCUREMENT RULES AND AUTHORIZE THE COUNTY MAYOR TO TRANSFER ONE (1) SURPLUS VEHICLE TO VOLUNTEER STATE RESCUE SQUAD (ALSO KNOWN AS HAMILTON COUNTY MARINE RESCUE SQUAD).

ON MOTION of Commissioner Smedley, seconded by Commissioner Geter, to adopt Resolution No. 220-5. 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 Baker, “Aye”, Commissioner Bankston, “Aye”, Commissioner Boyd, “Aye”, Commissioner Geter, “Aye”, Commissioner Mackey, “Aye”, Commissioner Martin, “Aye”, Commissioner Sharpe, “Aye”, Commissioner Smedley, “Aye”, and Chairman Fairbanks, “Aye”. Total present – 9. Total absent – 0. Total “Aye” votes – 9. Total “Nay” votes – 0.

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28:45 Chairman Fairbanks asked that Resolution Nos. 220-6 through 220-11 be heard at this time.

RESOLUTION NO. 220-6 A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE DONATION OF FORTY FOUR HARD SIDED STORAGE CASES VALUED AT FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS (5,000) FROM PYRO SHOWS, INC AND AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY MAYOR TO SIGN ANY DOCUMENTS NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THIS RESOLUTION.

RESOLUTION NO. 220-7 A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING A U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE GRANT AND TO AMEND THE SHERIFF'S OPERATING BUDGET BY INCREASING REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES BY \$18,531.

RESOLUTION NO. 220-8 A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE PURCHASE OF FOUR (4) VEHICLES AMOUNTING TO \$135,068.00 FROM LONNIE COBB FORD, LLC FROM THE STATE CONTRACT SWC-209 FOR THE HAMILTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE, AND AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY MAYOR TO SIGN ANY CONTRACTS NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THIS RESOLUTION.

RESOLUTION NO. 220-9 A RESOLUTION RATIFYING THE PURCHASE OF GASOLINE AND DIESEL FUEL FOR THE PERIOD OF NOVEMBER 1, 2019, THROUGH NOVEMBER 30, 2019, AND TO AUTHORIZE THE COUNTY MAYOR TO SIGN ANY CONTRACTS NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THIS RESOLUTION.

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RESOLUTION NO. 220-10 A RESOLUTION RATIFYING THE PURCHASE OF GASOLINE AND DIESEL FUEL FOR THE PERIOD OF DECEMBER 1, 2019, THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2019, AND TO AUTHORIZE THE COUNTY MAYOR TO SIGN ANY CONTRACTS NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THIS RESOLUTION.

RESOLUTION NO. 220-11 A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE QUOTATION FROM ONE DIVERSIFIED, LLC FOR A ONE (1) YEAR SERVICE AND MAINTENANCE CONTRACT FOR PREVIOUSLY INSTALLED AUDIO VISUAL EQUIPMENT, BEGINNING FEBRUARY 1, 2020 THROUGH JANUARY 31, 2021 AMOUNTING TO \$32,736.00, AND AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY MAYOR TO SIGN ANY CONTRACTS NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THIS RESOLUTION.

Commissioner Smedley, Chairman of the Finance Committee, provided details regarding Resolution Nos. 220-6 through 220-11, and stated the Finance Committee reviewed and recommended approval.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Smedley, seconded by Commissioner Baker, to adopt Resolution No. 220-6. 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 Baker, "Aye", Commissioner Bankston, "Aye", Commissioner Boyd, "Aye", Commissioner Geter, "Aye", Commissioner Mackey, "Aye", Commissioner Martin, "Aye", Commissioner Sharpe, "Aye", Commissioner Smedley,

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“Aye”, and Chairman Fairbanks, “Aye”. Total present – 9. Total absent – 0. Total “Aye” votes – 9. Total “Nay” votes – 0.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Smedley, seconded by Commissioner Geter, to adopt Resolution No. 220-7.

31:59

Commissioner Baker stated the Department of Justice grant would provide \$3.22 per day in reimbursement for costs incurred due to the incarceration of undocumented criminal aliens.

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 Baker, “Aye”, Commissioner Bankston, “Aye”, Commissioner Boyd, “Aye”, Commissioner Geter, “Aye”, Commissioner Mackey, “Aye”, Commissioner Martin, “Aye”, Commissioner Sharpe, “Aye”, Commissioner Smedley, “Aye”, and Chairman Fairbanks, “Aye”. Total present – 9. Total absent – 0. Total “Aye” votes – 9. Total “Nay” votes – 0.

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ON MOTION of Commissioner Smedley, seconded by Commissioner Geter, to adopt Resolution No. 220-8. 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 Baker, “Aye”, Commissioner Bankston, “Aye”, Commissioner Boyd, “Aye”, Commissioner Geter, “Aye”, Commissioner Mackey, “Aye”, Commissioner Martin, “Aye”, Commissioner Sharpe, “Aye”, Commissioner Smedley, “Aye”, and Chairman Fairbanks, “Aye”. Total present – 9. Total absent – 0. Total “Aye” votes – 9. Total “Nay” votes – 0.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Smedley, seconded by Commissioner Baker, to adopt Resolution Nos. 220-9 and 220-10. The foregoing Resolutions were unanimously adopted on a Roll Call vote, with the following members of the County Commission being present and voting as follows: Commissioner Baker, “Aye”, Commissioner Bankston, “Aye”, Commissioner Boyd, “Aye”, Commissioner Geter, “Aye”, Commissioner Mackey, “Aye”, Commissioner Martin, “Aye”, Commissioner Sharpe, “Aye”, Commissioner Smedley, “Aye”, and Chairman Fairbanks, “Aye”. Total present – 9. Total absent – 0. Total “Aye” votes – 9. Total “Nay” votes – 0.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Smedley, seconded by Commissioner Baker, to adopt Resolution No. 220-11.

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34:14 In response to Commissioner Boyd's question, Director of Information Technology Services Bart McKinney reported One Diversified, LLC provides customized and proprietary programming for audio/video equipment in multiple courtrooms and the Commission Room.

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 Baker, "Aye", Commissioner Bankston, "Aye", Commissioner Boyd, "Aye", Commissioner Geter, "Aye", Commissioner Mackey, "Aye", Commissioner Martin, "Aye", Commissioner Sharpe, "Aye", Commissioner Smedley, "Aye", and Chairman Fairbanks, "Aye". Total present – 9. Total absent – 0. Total "Aye" votes – 9. Total "Nay" votes – 0.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Fairbanks asked for announcements from members of the Commission.

36:52 Commissioner Martin asked Attorney Taylor to clarify the role of the Public Records Commission and a recent Chattanooga Times Free Press report regarding the destruction of certain records that were requested by the paper in August of last year.

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Attorney Taylor provided information on the Public Records Commission, which is formed by state statute to review and authorize the destruction of public records. He stated the Public Records Commission meets twice per year however; there is no set meeting time. He went on to explain on October 2, 2019 his office sought and was granted permission from the Public Records Commission to delete records requests his office had received and the responses to those requests after 30 days. He noted no state statute mandating those requests be retained exists. He clarified while the requests for records were deleted; no permanent public records were destroyed.

41:01 In response to Chairman Fairbanks' question, Attorney Taylor stated the October 2nd Public Records Commission meeting was properly announced.

42:15 In response to Commissioner Smedley's question, Attorney Taylor reiterated no permanent records were destroyed and confirmed only the email threads requesting those records were destroyed.

At Commissioner Baker's request, Chattanooga Times Free Press reporter Sarah Grace Taylor came forward to explain the records request made by the paper.

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43:27 Ms. Taylor reported the paper filed a request on August 5, 2019 to inspect all records requests received by the County Attorney's Office and their responses to those requests over a one-year period. She noted those were the records that were destroyed after the October 2nd Public Records Commission meeting.

In response to Commissioner Baker's question, Ms. Taylor confirmed the paper was asked to pay a fee for the records and refused to do so.

Attorney Taylor clarified while the state statute states a requestor cannot be charged to inspect records, the fee his office quoted was for the work it would take to print, review, and potentially redact the records.

Times Free Press opinion columnist Jay Greeson was present and was invited to comment. He declined. Commissioner Martin voiced disagreement in asking citizens to come to the microphone without notice.

49:05 Commissioner Sharpe stated Chief Magistrate Lorrie Miller would be giving a report to the Security and Corrections Committee next Wednesday at 9:00 AM in the Commission Conference Room.

49:41 Commissioner Boyd stated he would be bringing a Resolution before Commissioners asking them to authorize \$500,000 from Hotel-Motel Occupancy Tax

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funds to aid in a \$10 million capital campaign by the Creative Discovery Museum (CDM). He stated the investment the CDM has planned will double the current economic benefit from \$13 million to \$26 million. He noted 96 permanent jobs would also be added.

In response to Commissioner Smedley's question, Commissioner Boyd stated he has not spoken with Chattanooga Area Convention and Visitor's Bureau President Barry White.

DELEGATIONS

Chairman Fairbanks asked for delegations on matters other than zoning.

55:31

Assessor of Property Marty Haynes addressed Commissioners regarding the shareable local cost for property reappraisals. He distributed copies of Resolution No. 217-13, which waived the shared cost for municipalities for the 2017 real property reappraisals. The Commission 9-0 approved the resolution. He stated he was in favor of permanently waiving the fee, as municipalities have never had to pay it. He stated in the event the fee were to be collected, the revenue would go to the county general fund.

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Several Commissioners questioned the timing of the matter as the next reappraisal occurs in 2021. Assessor Haynes stated the county and municipalities are currently working on their budgets and would need to budget for the reappraisal fee if the county does not choose to waive it.

1:06:03 Commissioner Boyd stated the fee would be an unwarranted charge since all county residents pay for reappraisals through their property taxes.

Attorney Taylor confirmed according to TCA 67-5-1601(c)(2) the county can enter into agreements with municipalities to waive the shareable local cost for reappraisals.

Chairman Fairbanks asked Clerk Knowles if resolutions relating to this issue had been previously adopted. Knowles replied his office would research the matter.

1:09:32 Commissioner Martin suggested sending the matter to the Legal Committee for further research and discussion.

Time Code
Position

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1:14:08 Rachel Devore, residing at 8975 Hensley Road Hixson, TN 37343, read a statement on behalf of her husband, John Devore, regarding teacher pay. His statement took issue with a recent news article on average teacher pay and encouraged Commissioners to revisit increased compensation for teachers in the next budget.

There being no further business, Chairman Fairbanks declared the meeting in recess until Wednesday, February 12, 2020 at 9:30 AM.

Respectfully submitted:



William F. (Bill) Knowles, County Clerk

Approved:

02-19-20

W.F.K.

Date

Clerk's Initials