

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION
AGENDA PREPARATION SESSION
FEBRUARY 10, 2016**

STATE OF TENNESSEE) Agenda Preparation Session
COUNTY OF HAMILTON) February 10, 2016

BE IT REMEMBERED, that on this 10th day of February, 2016, 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:--

0:11

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 Haynes, Commissioner Mackey, 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 Bill McGriff.

HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION AGENDA PREPARATION SESSION FEBRUARY 10, 2016

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

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

- An Order of Designation to the Planning Commission would be submitted as a matter of record.
- A Three Star Compliance report would be submitted and made a matter of record.
- Resolution No. 216-16 was the usual County Clerk item regarding notaries, etc. This required no committee assignment.
- Resolution Nos. 216-17A and 216-17B were assigned to the Zoning Committee, chaired by Commissioner Haynes.
- Resolution Nos. 216-35 through 216-41 were assigned to the Finance Committee, chaired by Commissioner Boyd.
- Resolution Nos. 216-18 through 216-34 were heard by a Committee of the Whole.

Commissioner Haynes, Chairman of the Zoning Committee, announced that the Zoning Committee would be meeting in the Conference Room immediately following the Agenda Session.

Chairman Bankston stated that Resolution Nos. 216-18 through 216-34 would now be heard by the Committee of the Whole.

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION
AGENDA PREPARATION SESSION
FEBRUARY 10, 2016**

1:33 **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 216-18**

This Resolution confirms the appointment of Craig Peavy and the reappointment of Randy Metcalf and Ernest Noll, Jr. to the Hamilton County Contractors Board of Appeals and Adjustments for terms ending January 4, 2020.

There were no questions from Commissioners.

1:58 **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 216-19**

This Resolution reappoints Ann Badgley to the Hamilton County Health and Safety Hearing Board for a four-year term beginning February 15, 2016 and ending February 15, 2020.

There were no questions from Commissioners.

2:21 **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 216-20**

Mayor Coppinger spoke regarding this item, which confirms the appointment of Donald Lee Norris as Administrator of General Services. It was noted that Mr. Norris will be filling the vacancy created by Don Allen's retirement. Mayor Coppinger added that Mr. Norris will be a great asset to County government.

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION
AGENDA PREPARATION SESSION
FEBRUARY 10, 2016**

3:15

Commissioner Graham noted that that has worked with Mr. Norris in the past. He recalled that anytime he called him involving an issue in the Chattanooga part of his district that Mr. Norris was very accommodating. He stated that he would be supporting this Resolution.

4:43

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 216-21

Sheriff Jim Hammond spoke regarding the Bridge Retirement Plan (BRP) Resolution. He pointed out that Commission action would adopt the plan with a mandatory retirement age for certain deputies at age 55, with 25 years creditable service pursuant to TCA 8-36-201(A) (2). Sheriff Hammond explained that the Resolution was the result of years of discussion and will allow officers to retire with dignity.

In response to Commissioner Beck's question, Sheriff Hammond explained that current legislation only allows certified police officers to participate in the BRP. He stated that if legislation is introduced in the General Assembly to include Park Rangers, Court Officers and Jailers, he would support it.

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION
AGENDA PREPARATION SESSION
FEBRUARY 10, 2016**

7:33

In response to Commissioner Smedley's question, Captain Bill Johnson reported the results of a poll taken in the Sheriff's Department. It was noted that out of 167 officers, 157 supported the Bridge Retirement Plan.

Commissioner Fairbanks thanked Sheriff Hammond and each officer present today, as well as those who have attended past meetings to discuss the Bridge Retirement Plan.

9:56

In response to Commissioner Field's question, Administrator of Finance Al Kiser explained the initial cost to the County would be about \$350,000. He added the projected future cost would be dependent on Tennessee Consolidated Retirement System (TCRS) evaluations done every other year, but it would not be less than \$350,000. Funds to support the BRP will come out the County's General Fund.

In response to Commissioner Haynes question, Captain Johnson noted that between ten and twelve currently retired officers would fall under this plan.

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION
AGENDA PREPARATION SESSION
FEBRUARY 10, 2016**

12:27 **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 216-22**

Commissioner Fields spoke regarding this item, which approves the expenditure of \$20,000 from general fund discretionary monies, as allotted to District 2, to assist the Town of Signal Mountain with community ball field improvements.

There were no questions from Commissioners.

13:02 **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 216-23**

Chairman Bankston spoke regarding this item, which appropriates \$1,000.00 from general fund discretionary monies, as allotted to District 9, to Partnership for Families, Children, and Adults, Inc. It was noted that the funds will assist the non-profit organization in supporting the Rape Crisis Center.

There were no questions from Commissioners.

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION
AGENDA PREPARATION SESSION
FEBRUARY 10, 2016**

13:25

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 216-24

Commissioner Smedley spoke regarding this item, which appropriates \$1,000.00 from general fund discretionary monies, as allotted to District 7, to Partnership for Families, Children, and Adults, Inc. It was noted that the funds will assist the non-profit organization in supporting the Rape Crisis Center. Commissioner Smedley added that she visited the Rape Crisis Center, and encouraged members of the Commission to support this item and the work they do.

There were no questions from Commissioners.

14:01

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 216-25

Commissioner Boyd spoke regarding this Resolution, which appropriates \$2,500.00 from general fund discretionary monies, as allotted to District 8, to Want To Foundation, Inc. It was noted that the funds will assist the non-profit organization with their Destiny Program, which encourages teens to find focus.

Commissioner Boyd introduced Want To Foundation Inc. Founder, Gary Highfield, who gave a presentation on the work the organization promotes. Mr. Highfield is the author of the book “When ‘Want TO’ becomes ‘Have TO!’” which tells the story of

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION
AGENDA PREPARATION SESSION
FEBRUARY 10, 2016**

overcoming adversity, environmental disadvantages, limited education, and a challenging family life to achieve a successful career and desired lifestyle.

Mr. Highfield explained that the Want To Foundation seeks to mentor young students and encourage them to stay in school and focus on their future. It was noted that the organization currently mentors students in three local schools: East Ridge High School, Ivy Academy, and Ridgeland High School. Mr. Highfield explained that he started the program two and a half years ago with 14 students, and through self-funding he has grown the program to 1,925 students with 50 mentors, 3 of which were recognized in the audience at today's meeting. He distributed a survey of career goals to members of the Commission (attached) taken by 9th grade students at Tyner High School in 2014. He noted that helping students focus on their future by recognizing their goals is an important step in achievement.

22:28 Commissioner Beck praised the work that Mr. Highfield is doing in schools throughout Hamilton County.

22:43 In response to Commissioner Fairbank's question, Mr. Highfield spoke at length about the process it takes to have his program accepted into schools. It was noted that he hopes to eventually be included in all Hamilton County schools. Commissioner

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION
AGENDA PREPARATION SESSION
FEBRUARY 10, 2016**

Fairbanks thanked Mr. Highfield and the local business owners that have invested in the Want To Foundation program.

Commissioner Boyd spoke about the importance of elected officials representing those whose voices may not be heard.

30:50

Commissioner Haynes added that he has known Mr. Highfield for many years, and thanked him for his dedication to students as well as his diligent work in promoting his ideas.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 216-26

Commissioner Beck spoke regarding this Resolution, which approves the expenditure of up to \$7,200.00 from discretionary bond funds, as allotted to District 5, to purchase an audio and speaker system for the Brainerd High School gymnasium.

There were no questions from Commissioners.

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION
AGENDA PREPARATION SESSION
FEBRUARY 10, 2016**

32:52 **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 216-27**

Commissioner Beck spoke regarding this Resolution, which appropriates \$2,500.00 in general fund discretionary monies, as allotted to District 5, to A Better Tomorrow to assist with their Project Evolution program. Commissioner Beck added that per the request of the Community Action Alliance Committee (a committee organized by Commissioner Beck to prioritize community development projects), there would be a \$2,500 ceiling on his discretionary fund giving, with the exception of special projects.

There were no questions from Commissioners.

33:35 **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 216-28**

Commissioner Beck spoke regarding this item, which appropriates \$26,000 from general fund discretionary monies, as allotted to District 5, to Mary Walker Historical and Educational Foundation, Inc. It was noted that \$20,000 of those funds will assist the non-profit with various community development projects, and the other \$6,000.00 will assist with their Black History Art Exhibit currently on display at Bessie Smith Cultural Center.

There were no questions from Commissioners.

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION
AGENDA PREPARATION SESSION
FEBRUARY 10, 2016**

34:42

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 216-29

Todd Leamon, Administrator of Public Works and County Engineer spoke regarding this item, which accepts the bid of Chattanooga Tractor & Equipment, Inc. for a boom mower tractor amounting to \$95,667.00 for the Highway Department. It was noted that Chattanooga Tractor & Equipment was the lowest bid and met all the specifications.

There were no questions from Commissioners.

35:27

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 216-30

Development Director Dan Saieed spoke regarding this item, which authorizes the County Mayor to submit a FastTrack Economic Development (ED) Fund grant application to the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development on behalf of Yanfeng USA Automotive Trim Systems, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$1.25 million to provide various building and equipment improvements at the company's new Hamilton County Location on Bonnyshire Drive.

In response to Commissioner Graham's question, Mr. Saieed reported there would be no expense to Hamilton County with this type of grant.

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION
AGENDA PREPARATION SESSION
FEBRUARY 10, 2016**

In response to Commissioner Haynes question about employee training, Mr. Saieed noted that this grant is mainly for components and that a separate grant is available for employee training directly through the state.

37:03 **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 216-31**

This Resolution authorizes the County Mayor to submit a FastTrack Economic Development (ED) Fund grant application to the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development on behalf of West Star Aviation, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$200,000 to provide various improvements at the company's new hanger facility at the Chattanooga Metropolitan Airport. Mr. Saieed reported there would be no expense to Hamilton County with this type of grant.

There were no questions from Commissioners.

37:33 **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 216-32**

This Resolution authorizes the County Mayor to negotiate, enter into, and execute a lease agreement between Hamilton County, City of Chattanooga, and the Charles H. Coolidge Medal of Honor Heritage Center for a portion of County and City owned property in Coolidge Park. It will also authorize locating a Medal of Honor

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION
AGENDA PREPARATION SESSION
FEBRUARY 10, 2016**

Heritage Center in Coolidge Park to further honor Charles H. Coolidge, a local Medal of Honor recipient.

There were no questions from Commissioners.

38:08 **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 216-33**

This Resolution accepts the bid of Pro SVL, Inc. for audio visual equipment for the Information Technology Services Department (ITS) on behalf of Sessions Court amounting to \$96,233.12.

There were not questions from Commissioners.

38:36 **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 216-34**

This Resolution approves the quotation of Technical Innovations for professional computer/software consulting services for design and field engineering and installation of audio visual equipment for the ITS Department on behalf of Sessions Court amounting to \$51,794.10.

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION
AGENDA PREPARATION SESSION
FEBRUARY 10, 2016**

In response to Commissioner Fields' question, Finance Administrator Al Kiser explained that this is a new system for Sessions Court. It was noted that Resolution No. 216-33 approves the purchase of the equipment, and Resolution No. 216-34 approves the installation.

39:07

In response to Commissioner Fields' question, Purchasing Director Gail Roppo reported that the design and installation was done as a professional service and did not go out for bid. She added that once the system was designed, the actual equipment went out for bid with 678 notifications and 12 responses.

In response to Commissioner Beck's question, Director of ITS Bart McKinney explained this equipment would allow the attorneys and judges in Sessions Courtrooms to have the use of a 90-inch display screen. He added that this equipment will also improve the audio in those courtrooms. It was noted that the technology will allow for video conferencing in the future.

42:03

In response to Commissioner Boyd's question, Ms. Roppo confirmed that Technical Innovations is on a unit price bid contract with the state. Commissioner Boyd added that he is a supporter of video hearings to eliminate the need and cost of transporting prisoners.

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION
AGENDA PREPARATION SESSION
FEBRUARY 10, 2016**

Mr. McKinney reported that state law is currently preventing video hearings from taking place.

43:21

In response to Commissioner Graham's question, Mr. McKinney confirmed that the 90-inch screens will be a display mechanism for any type of technology that can be plugged into it.

Commissioner Boyd, Chairman of the Finance Committee, announced that the Finance Committee would be meeting in the Commission Room immediately following the Agenda Session.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Bankston asked for announcements from members of the Commission.

44:46

Commissioner Mackey praised the various military honors that are being brought to Chattanooga.

45:10

Commissioner Boyd announced that he will be giving a presentation on shared sales tax at the Nightside Pachyderm Club meeting taking place at the Western Sizzlin

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION
AGENDA PREPARATION SESSION
FEBRUARY 10, 2016**

Restaurant, Thursday, February 11th in Ooltewah. He encouraged members of the Commission and the audience to attend.

45:41

Mayor Coppinger announced that there is an immediate need for an emergency purchase to repair cornice in several areas along the Courthouse. The cornice is over 100 years old and the real cost to repair it will not be known until scaffold is in place and the repairs can be assessed. He noted the restricted areas outside of the Courthouse will remain in place until the repairs are completed.

DELEGATIONS

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

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION
AGENDA PREPARATION SESSION
FEBRUARY 10, 2016**

Being no further business, Chairman Bankston declared the meeting adjourned until Wednesday, February 17th at 9:30 AM.

Respectfully submitted:



William F. (Bill) Knowles, County Clerk

Approved:

03-02-2016
Date

W.F.K.
Clerk's Initials