



**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION  
AGENDA PREPARATION SESSION  
FEBRUARY 24, 2016**

0:39

**PRESENTATION - CERTIFICATE OF CONGRATULATIONS – TRAVIS CLOSE -2015  
REALTOR OF THE YEAR.**

Commissioner Smedley presented a proclamation to Travis Close who was awarded by fellow real estate professionals the 2015 Realtor of the Year Award. She and Greater Chattanooga Association of Realtors (GCAR) CEO and Executive Vice President Carol Seal noted Mr. Close's accomplishments and extended heartfelt thanks for his invaluable service to the community and industry.

The Realtor of the Year award recognizes those who have served not only in the real estate profession but also their communities. The award is given to a realtor with high principles of integrity, adherence to the Realtors Code of Ethics and furtherance of principle of good real estate practices among brokers, agents, and the general public.

In response to Commissioner Mackey's question, Mr. Close responded that the policies of Hamilton County are friendly to realtors. Commissioner Mackey said he and his fellow commissioners want to do everything they can do to continue the trend of increasing home values.

At this time Mr. Close received a round of applause and shook hands with each Commissioner and the Mayor.

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10:32 **COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS**

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

- The Criminal Court Clerk's reports for December 2015 and January 2016 would be submitted and made a matter of record.
- Resolution No. 316-1 was the usual County Clerk item regarding notaries, etc. This required no committee assignment.
- Resolution Nos. 316-9 through 316-16 were assigned to the Finance Committee, chaired by Commissioner Boyd.
- Resolution Nos. 316-2 through 316-8 were heard by a Committee of the Whole.

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

10:52 **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 316-2**

Chairman Bankston spoke regarding this item, which makes an appropriation to Brown Middle School in the amount of \$1,303.00 from discretionary bond funds, as allotted to district nine. It was noted that the funds will assist with the purchase of lab equipment.

There were no questions from Commissioners.

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11:13 **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 316-3**

Chairman Bankston spoke regarding this item, which makes an appropriation to Woodmore Elementary School in the amount of \$1,938.00 from discretionary bond funds, as allotted to district five. It was noted the funds would assist with the purchase of a security system.

There were no questions from Commissioners.

11:46 **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 316-4**

Commissioner Mackey spoke regarding this item, which makes an appropriation to Gamma Pi Boule Foundation in the amount of \$2,500.00 from general fund discretionary monies, as allotted to district four. It was noted that the funds will assist with the Boule Golf Classic.

There were no questions from Commissioners.

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12:10 **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 316-5**

Commissioner Smedley, Chairman of the Education Committee spoke regarding this item, which endorses Chattanooga 2.0, a community-wide effort for academic excellence in Hamilton County. She noted that Chattanooga 2.0 is a community-wide initiative to improve academic excellence and career credentials in Hamilton County. The plan also is an opportunity to improve the quality of life of all future graduates by connecting them to jobs that pay a living wage. She spoke about the 2.0 report and the major findings the report included.

Chattanooga 2.0 is a group of education, business, and community leaders who joined together to release a report summarizing workforce challenges along with significant education opportunities for Hamilton County and the region. Chattanooga 2.0 is led by the Benwood Foundation, the Chattanooga Area Chamber of Commerce, the Hamilton County Department of Education, and the Public Education Foundation (PEF).

Chattanooga Chamber of Commerce President Bill Kilbride spoke regarding Chattanooga 2.0 and its initiative to boost education and train more graduates for the growing job opportunities in Hamilton County. The leaders of the initiative are calling for a series of focused conversations and actions from across the community to better support local educators and students and prepare Hamilton County residents for current

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and future jobs. The goal is to make sure local students are successful in school and prepared for meaningful careers, and to set forth on a plan to ensure that 75 percent of all Hamilton County high school graduates obtain a college degree or technical certification by the year 2025.

Commissioner Smedley reiterated Mr. Kilbride's comment that the Chattanooga 2.0 initiative is in no way agreeing to a property tax increase now or in the future.

Commissioner Mackey asked if the Chamber of Commerce was going to encourage the future Superintendent of Schools to build new school buildings or devote the money to the students. He noted the excess classroom space that is not being used in his district.

Mr. Kilbride stated that the Chamber took a strong position with the school board to appoint an interim superintendent. The Chamber also suggested to the school board that the next superintendent should be a retired individual who is skilled in organization, budget, building morale, and facilities. He noted that conversations are taking place about the empty classroom space and how it can be used for educational purposes.

Mr. Kilbride stated that various organizations have convened working groups and focus their conversations on the most critical issues. The conversations are open

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and inclusive and are also designed to reach early consensus on specific needs and objectives. A framework for action around each of the four focus areas is early childhood, K-12, post-secondary and workforce, and faith-based outreach. Each team will focus on researching and developing bold strategies that emphasize innovation, as well as probably taking people a little out of their comfort zone.

Commissioner Boyd noted that Chattanooga 2.0 is being led by a vast group of people who are not all educators. He questioned if the school board would be receptive to their suggestions. He thanked Mr. Kilbride for his unbiased review of the entire educational process and encouraged educators of the community to be receptive.

Chairman Bankston recognized City of Collegedale Commissioner Ethan White and City of Chattanooga Councilman Ken Smith who were present in the audience.

32:55 **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 316-6**

Hamilton County Register Pam Hurst spoke regarding this item, which appropriates funds from the Register's Office DP fee account in the amount of \$24,208.05 for necessary office upgrades and increases the general fund budget for capital outlay for the Hamilton County Register's Office by \$12,550.00. Furnishings in the amount of \$17,914.95 will be purchased from NOI Chattanooga and floor

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title/installation in the amount of \$6,294.00 will be purchased from Tom's Carpet Outlet Inc. The improvements to the Register's Office will require an amendment to the General Fund capital outlay budget for the Register's Office of \$12,550.00. She did note that her office will be submitting over one million dollars in excess fees.

35:08

Mayor Coppinger thanked Register Hurst and Clerk Knowles for continuing to find ways to submit excess fees to county general each year.

In response to Commissioner Boyd's question, Register Hurst noted that yearly excess fees are generally around the same amount every year. In response to Commissioner Boyd's request, she agreed to send him a copy of April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016 excess fee report.

36:56

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 316-7**

Lee Norris, Director of General Services spoke regarding this item, which accepts the bid of Draeger Safety, Inc. for a portable exterior live fire trainer and tank prop amounting to \$28,785.00 for emergency services.



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There were no questions from Commissioners. Commissioner Haynes welcomed Lee Norris to county government.

37:57 **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 316-8**

Todd Leamon, Administrator of Public Works and County Engineer spoke regarding this item, which increases the contract with TWH Architects, Inc. for the design of the New East Brainerd Elementary School for an amount not to exceed \$141,035.88 of previously budgeted funds. He noted the original design contract stated that the architectural fee for design services would be recalculated when the final construction cost was known. Based on the bid construction cost and completion of the project, the architectural fee should be increased for an amount not to exceed \$141,035.88 for design services. This will close out the contract with TWH Architects, Inc. Vance Travis, a representative with TWH Architects, Inc. and Justin Witt, Director of Maintenance and Operations for the Hamilton County Department of Education were present for questions.

There were no questions from Commissioners.

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40:01 Commissioner Boyd, Chairman of the Finance Committee, announced that the Finance Committee would be meeting in the Commission Room immediately following the Agenda Session.

40:10 **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Several Commissioners welcomed Chairman Bankston back and wished him a speedy recovery.

40:11 Commissioner Haynes thanked City of Collegedale Commissioner Ethan White and City of Chattanooga Councilman Ken Smith for attending today's meeting. He also congratulated the 2016 Middle School Teacher of the Year, Mrs. Carrie Bishop, from Hixson Middle School.

41:30 Commissioner Boyd invited everyone to attend two community meetings regarding the Hamilton County Water and Wastewater Treatment Authority (WWTA). The first meeting will be co-hosted by Gene Shipley and Commissioner Fairbanks at Soddy Daisy City Hall, Thursday, March 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm. The second meeting will be co-hosted by Howard Cotter, City of Red Bank representative to the WWTA board, at Red Bank Community Center, Thursday, March 31<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 pm.

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Commissioner Boyd made comments that centered around an article published in the Chattanooga Times Free Press on February 23, 2016. He addressed a statement quoted in the article indicating that in the event an unforeseen tragedy happened and the Mayor passed away, the Commission Chairman would take over until a new Mayor was appointed. Chairman Bankston's ability to do so was questioned.

Commissioner Boyd stated there are three major qualities a leader must hold; integrity, honesty and fairness. He stated that Chairman Bankston represents those three qualities and encouraged the public to put any concerns they have at rest.

44:06 Commissioner Fairbanks echoed Commissioner Boyd's comments about the Chairman.

44:02 Commissioner Smedley congratulated the 2016 Teachers of the Year. Diane Huseman from Nolan Elementary School, Carrie Bishop from Hixson Middle School and Kristen Legac from East Hamilton School were the award recipients.

In response to the February 23<sup>rd</sup> news article she commended Chairman Bankston for standing up and telling the truth. She stated that it was obvious that Senator Gardenhire was misinformed. She reminded the Commission of the lengthy discussion that took place on December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2015 regarding the letter to uncouple the

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commissions pay from the county mayor's pay (Resolution No. 1215-40). She recalled Attorney Taylor's comments that the intent of the letter is not to raise the pay of Commissioners, but to change the law that ties their salary to the Mayor's salary. For the record, she made it known that if the intent of the letter was to increase the commission's pay she would have voted no.

47:29

Mayor Coppinger thanked Hamilton County Sheriff Jim Hammond, Captain Bill Johnson and Captain Lynn Triplett for their informative meetings regarding the Sheriff's Department Bridge Retirement Plan. He spoke of the recent adoption of the Bridge Plan (Resolution No. 216-42) and noted that the plan has been an on-going project for 10 years.

The Mayor also noted that the county will be sharing half the costs with the City of Chattanooga to demolish the building next to the First Tennessee Pavilion. Demolition cost to the county is estimated to be \$9,000.00. The building is jointly owned by the city and county and has been in disrepair for a couple of years.

50:37

Chairman Bankston thanked everyone for the prayers and get well wishes regarding his recent heart procedure. He encouraged everyone to attend the 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Tri-State Home Show February 26<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup>, and 28<sup>th</sup> at the Convention and Trade Center.

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**DELEGATIONS**

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

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

Respectfully submitted:



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William F. (Bill) Knowles, County Clerk

Approved:

03-16-16  
Date



Clerk's Initials