

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION
AGENDA PREPARATION SESSION
MARCH 11, 2020**

STATE OF TENNESSEE) Agenda Preparation Session
COUNTY OF HAMILTON) March 11, 2020

BE IT REMEMBERED, that on this 11th day of March, 2020, 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:--

0:10

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 Boyd, Commissioner Geter, Commissioner Mackey, Commissioner Martin, Commissioner Sharpe, Commissioner Smedley, and Chairman Fairbanks. Commissioner Bankston was absent. Total present – 8. Total absent – 1.

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 Designation to the Planning Commission would be submitted as a matter of record.
- Resolution No. 320-18 was the usual County Clerk item regarding notaries, etc. This required no committee assignment.
- Resolution Nos. 320-32 through 320-36 were assigned to the Finance Committee, chaired by Commissioner Smedley.
- Resolution No. 320-37 was initially assigned to the Zoning Committee, but heard by a Committee of the Whole.
- Resolution Nos. 320-19 through 320-31 were heard by a Committee of the Whole.

1:02

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 320-19

Mayor Coppinger spoke regarding this Resolution, which confirms the appointment of Ken Conner to the Chattanooga-Hamilton County Hospital Authority Board of Trustees for a term ending March 18, 2024. He noted Mr. Conner was present at today's meeting.

Commissioner Baker voiced his opinion that the selection of Mr. Conner was a good choice.

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There were no questions from Commissioners.

2:47 **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 320-20**

Commissioner Sharpe spoke regarding this item, which authorizes the entering into of agreements between Hamilton County and the various municipalities therein for waiving the shared cost for the 2021 Real Property Reappraisals as shall be conducted by the Hamilton County Assessor of Property. He noted this item was initially presented on February 19, 2020 (*Resolution No. 220-36*) and was sent to the Legal and Legislative Committee for further review. He reported the committee unanimously recommended approval of this Resolution. Commissioner Sharpe stated additionally, the committee recommended going forward the matter be reoccurring and taken up two years prior to a property reappraisal taking place in order to avoid election years.

In response to Commissioner Martin's question, Administrator of Finance Al Kiser reported the estimated cost to the municipalities without the agreement would be around \$800,000 to \$1 million.

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4:52 **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 320-21**

Justin Witt, Director of Maintenance and Operations for the Hamilton County Department of Education, spoke regarding this Resolution, which accepts the bid of Clearline Networks, LLC for the East Hamilton Middle School communications-cabling project amounting to \$173,975.00 for the Hamilton County Department of Education. He noted Mitzi Sanders with the Department of Education's Telecommunications Department was present to answer any questions.

In response to Commissioner Smedley's question, Mr. Witt stated the projected opening date of August 2020 was on target. He added the project came in under the original budgeted amount.

6:47 **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 320-22**

Justin Witt, Director of Maintenance and Operations for the Hamilton County Department of Education, spoke regarding this Resolution, which accepts the bid of Clearline Networks, LLC for the Harrison Elementary School communications-cabling project amounting to \$127,990.00 for the Hamilton County Department of Education. He noted Mitzi Sanders with the Department of Education's Telecommunications Department was present to answer any questions.

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There were no questions from Commissioners.

7:35 **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 320-23**

Human Resources Director Sandra Ellis spoke regarding this item, which authorizes the County Mayor to enter into a consulting agreement with Russ Blakely & Associates, LLC at an annual cost of \$11,000.00. She explained this agreement would allow the HR Department to contract with Russ Blakely & Associates, LLC to provide employee benefit management services, cost projections, analyzing proposal responses and recommendations, setup with the online open enrollment platform, and other services. She noted Brent Wick, Employee Benefit Advisor with Russ Blakely & Associates, LLC was present to answer any questions.

In response to Chairman Fairbanks' question, Purchasing Director Gail Roppo stated this agreement is a Professional Services Agreement and therefore does not have to go through the usual bidding process. She added under state law services that involve a specific credentialing process are not required to follow the bidding process.

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11:56 **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 320-24**

Director of General Services Lee Norris spoke regarding this item, which adopts the Master Plan of the Hamilton County Parks and Recreation Department. He stated the plan contains goals and recommendations to help guide expenditures for the Parks and Recreation Department.

In response to Commissioner Martin's question, Director of Hamilton County Parks and Recreation Tom Lamb reported the goals listed in the plan are not in a specific order. He asked that the goals outlined in the plan be considered a framework for the direction of county parks and noted any expenditures or programs would come before Commissioners for approval.

Several Commissioners thanked Director Lamb for his work on the plan.

At the request of Clerk Knowles, a copy of the master plan was attached to the resolution and filed in the Clerk's Office.

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20:56 **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 320-25**

Director of Existing Business Development for the Chattanooga Chamber of Commerce Steve Hiatt spoke regarding this Resolution, which makes certain findings relating to the McKee Foods Corporation project, delegates certain authority to the Hamilton County Industrial Development Board, and authorizes the County Mayor to enter into and execute an agreement for payments in lieu of ad valorem taxes. Mr. Hiatt reported McKee Foods would be investing \$505 million dollars to expand their operations in Hamilton County. The expansion would create approximately 480 full time jobs with an average wage of \$45,000 plus benefits. Mr. Hiatt noted Leisa Cagle, Vice President and Controller at McKee Foods, and Kurt Faires, Chambliss, Bahner, & Stophel, were present to answer any questions.

In response to Commissioner Smedley's question, Mr. Hiatt stated the length of the PILOT is 15 years with 100% of the school portion of property taxes paid. Mr. Faires provided additional information regarding the terms of the agreement.

Commissioner Boyd thanked McKee Foods for expanding in Hamilton County. He encouraged Commissioners to support companies that provide jobs to Hamilton County residents. In response to Commissioner Boyd's question, Ms. Cagle stated

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available workforce factored greatly in the decision to expand operations in Hamilton County.

In response to Commissioner Martin's question, Attorney Taylor stated the PILOT agreement states the property would be titled to the Hamilton County Industrial Development Board. Mr. Faires added the agreement contains annual provisions McKee must meet in order to maintain the tax abatement.

In response to Commissioner Baker's question, Ms. Cagle reiterated that available workforce factored greatly in the decision to expand operations in Hamilton County. She added the incentive package also influenced the decision.

Commissioner Sharpe echoed Commissioner Boyd's comments about the importance of supporting growth and workforce development in Hamilton County. He added the school district also influences where residents choose to live.

Chairman Fairbanks spoke about the charitable investments and sponsorships from McKee Foods.

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43:28 **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 320-26**

Administrator of Public Works and County Engineer spoke regarding this item, which authorizes the County Mayor to enter into and execute a real estate purchase agreement and all closing documents necessary to purchase certain property from Fatherson Partnership Two. The property is needed to construct a new ambulance station (EMS #15) to be operated by Hamilton County Emergency Medical Services, serving Ooltewah and other portions of Northern Hamilton County.

In response to Commissioner Martin's question, Mr. Leamon reported the funds for this project were from 2018 bond funds.

Director of Hamilton County Emergency Medical Services Ken Wilkerson reported that new station locations and expansions are determined by call volume and emergency response times.

Mayor Coppinger reiterated Chief Wilkerson's comments about call volumes.

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50:18 **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 320-27**

Hamilton County Sheriff Jim Hammond spoke regarding this item, which accepts a continuation contract between the Sheriff's Office and the State of Tennessee's Department of Human Services for a child support program for the period of July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020.

There were no questions from Commissioners.

52:06 **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 320-28**

Hamilton County Sheriff Jim Hammond spoke regarding this Resolution, which accepts the proposal of Mental Health Cooperative, Inc. to establish an Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) Team for Hamilton County beginning April 1, 2020 through March 1, 2023, with the option to renew every two years. He reported this is part of the Frequent User (FUSE) program.

In response to Commissioner Geter's question, Janna Jahn, FUSE Program Director, reported within 90 days of the contract being signed the team from Mental Health Cooperative would begin seeing patients and administering treatment. She introduced several members of the Mental Health Cooperative team.

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Ruth vanBergen, Senior Vice President of Operations for Mental Health Cooperative, provided additional details regarding the ACT Team and their mission.

In response to Commissioner Baker's question, Ms. Jahn stated the contract states that the program will begin within 90 days.

1:00:10

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 320-29

Hamilton County Sheriff Jim Hammond spoke regarding this item, which accepts the quotation from AXON Enterprise, Inc. for the acquisition of equipment and services for the Sheriff's Office from the Omnia Partners Purchasing Cooperative (formerly known as National IPA/U.S. Communities). He spoke about a recent server failure incident, which resulted in some camera footage being erased. He noted this upgrade would prevent incidents like that from occurring.

Information Systems Manager for the Sheriff's Office Ron Bernard provided additional information regarding the new equipment. He noted the quote includes the initial deployment of body worn cameras, including replacement devices as well as cloud storage for the associated videos. He added the quote also includes non-lethal electronic weapons (tasers), including replacement cartridges, training, and replacement devices.

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In response to Commissioner Baker's question, he noted there are sufficient funds in the Sheriff's Office FY20 budget for the first year's cost, the subsequent years to be budgeted as appropriate for the length of the 5 years. AXON Enterprise, Inc. Senior Regional Manager Josh Sudbeck added the funding could be spread evenly if they preferred.

In response to Commissioner Boyd's question, Mr. Bernard spoke about using cloud based storage. He noted it would significantly reduce costs of storing data.

In response to Commissioner Geter's question, Mr. Bernard explained how requests for records or videos would be more streamlined with the upgraded equipment.

In response to Commissioner Martin's question, Sheriff Hammond reiterated that the first year's cost has already been budgeted.

1:25:05 **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 320-30**

Hamilton County Sheriff Jim Hammond spoke regarding this item, which authorizes the County Mayor to submit an application for the U.S. Department of Justice Homeland Security 2020 Port Security Grant.

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There were no questions from Commissioners.

1:26:13 **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 320-31**

Purchasing Director Gail Roppo spoke regarding this Resolution, which approves the purchase of Fleetwave fleet management information system from Chevin Fleet Solutions, LLC from the Sourcewell Purchasing Cooperative (formerly known as NJPA) for the Procurement and Fleet Management Department.

In response to Commissioner Boyd's question, Director Roppo stated the original system cost is based on the number of vehicles, however the annual maintenance cost is based on a percentage being used. She noted the few constitutional offices using vehicles are incorporated in this program.

1:33:46 **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 320-37**

Executive Director of the Regional Planning Agency John Bridger spoke regarding this Resolution, which amends the Hamilton County Zoning Regulations, Article II. Definitions by deleting a definition for commercial agriculture, commercial animal husbandry, and open-air market. Additionally, it amends Article IV. A-1 Agricultural District to delete a special permit for commercial agriculture and commercial

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animal husbandry, and amends Article VI. Special Permits by the Hamilton County Commission to delete regulation standards for commercial agriculture and commercial animal husbandry. He stated that state law prevents regulating commercial agriculture permits. It was noted no opposition was present.

There were no questions from Commissioners.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Fairbanks asked for announcements from members of the Commission.

1:35:44

Commissioner Mackey spoke about attending the National Association of Counties (NACo) meeting last week. He noted the organization seeks to protect the interests of counties from the federal government. He spoke about the issues the group discussed pertaining to Hamilton County.

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Commissioner Sharpe highlighted many groups in Hamilton County are working on the issues Commissioner Mackey spoke about.

1:38:32

Commissioner Boyd also spoke about attending the NACo meeting last week and addressed several issues pertaining to Hamilton County.

DELEGATIONS

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

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Being no further business, Chairman Fairbanks declared the meeting adjourned until Wednesday, March 18, 2020 at 9:30 AM.

Respectfully submitted:



William F. (Bill) Knowles, County Clerk

Approved:

03-25-20



Date

Clerk's Initials