

**RECESSED MEETING
HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION
MARCH 12, 2014**

STATE OF TENNESSEE)
Recessed Meeting

COUNTY OF HAMILTON)
March 12, 2014

BE IT REMEMBERED, that on this 12th day of March, 2014, a Recessed 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: --

0:35 Present and presiding was the Honorable Fred Skillern, Chairman. County Clerk Bill Knowles 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 Haynes, Commissioner Henry, Commissioner Mackey, and Chairman Skillern. 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.

Commissioner Mackey welcomed Pastor Mark Harwood, Flat Top Independent Church, who gave the invocation. Commissioner Mackey led in the pledge to the flag.

**RECESSED MEETING
HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION
MARCH 12, 2014**

**2:44 PRESENTATION – CERTIFICATE OF CONGRATULATIONS – HIXSON HIGH
SCHOOL WRESTLING TEAM**

Commissioner Haynes presented Certificates of Appreciation to members of the Hixson High School Wildcats Wrestling Team for recently winning the 2014 A-AA TSSAA State Wrestling Championship. He welcomed Coach Garrick Hall and Athletic Director Brian Bray and congratulated them on their accomplishments.

Mayor Coppinger emphasized the good behavior and togetherness the team had and wished them success on every future endeavor.

Coach Hall expressed his appreciation to members of the Commission on behalf of the team for today’s recognition.

Members of the Commission personally congratulated and shook hands with members of the team at this time.

Chairman Skillern stated that the Commission as a Committee of the Whole would consider Resolution No. 314-25. He noted the Commission would take action at next Wednesday’s regular meeting.

**RECESSED MEETING
HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION
MARCH 12, 2014**

12:15 **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 314-25**

Chamber of Commerce representative Steve Hiatt spoke regarding a (PILOT) agreement in lieu of ad valorem taxes request by Coca-Cola Bottling Company United, Inc. He reported that Coca-Cola was contemplating acquisition of property for the construction of a distribution facility and certain other real property improvements. It was reported to be a \$62,000,000 investment and would create 43 new full-time jobs, while retaining the 270 current jobs. The average salary before benefits would be \$45,000.

Mr. Hiatt noted that the property was located at the former Olan Mills facility on Shepherd Road. He stated that bottling operations would remain at the current facility location on Amnicola Highway, and that various administrative staff would be located at the new location.

Commissioner Beck, Chairman Skillern, and other members of the Commission welcomed Chattanooga Coca-Cola Division Vice President Darren Hodges, Attorney Alfred E Smith, and Compliance Director Rusty Rouse, who were in attendance. Members of the Commission and Mayor Coppinger expressed their appreciation to Coca-Cola for choosing Hamilton County for this expansion.

Upon questioning by Commissioner Boyd, Mr. Hodges responded that it was their plan for distribution trucks to exit the facility onto Shepherd Road and access

**RECESSED MEETING
HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION
MARCH 12, 2014**

Highway 153. He reported that the Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) had agreed to add sidewalks and widen the two-lane Shepherd Road Bridge spanning Highway 153. The project is to make it easier for the company trucks, and provide better safety for pedestrians. He stated that TDOT will probably begin construction in November.

Mayor Coppinger thanked Mr. Hodges, Mr. Rouse, and other representatives at Coca-Cola for their professionalism and patience throughout the previous months spent working on this agreement, as well as their commitment to the community throughout the years. Chairman Skillern indicated the Committee would be recommending unanimous approval, and representatives did not need to return for next Wednesday's vote on the matter.

Mr. Hodges thanked the Commission on behalf of Chattanooga Coca-Cola for their support.

24:23

**PRESENTATION – HAMILTON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION – SCHOOL
SUPERINTENDENT RICK SMITH**

School Superintendent Rick Smith addressed the Commission to discuss a Hamilton County Board of Education meeting on Thursday, February 20th. At that meeting, the School Board had approved a list of school building projects. He provided

**RECESSED MEETING
HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION
MARCH 12, 2014**

an overview of each of the proposed projects, which were approved in no particular order. These included combining Ganns Middle Valley Elementary/Falling Water Elementary, an addition to Wolftever Creek Elementary, a replacement building for Chattanooga School for the Liberal Arts (CSLA), an addition to Nolan Elementary, an addition at Sale Creek Middle/High School, and a new Middle School building at East Hamilton Middle/High School.

Superintendent Smith reported that the School Board's Facilities Committee had met on Thursday, February 27 to review this list of projects. After the conclusion of that session, Superintendent Smith discussed the projects with Mayor Coppinger.

31:51

Mayor Coppinger stated that there was not enough funding currently available for all six projects. He reported that from a finance perspective, his staff was prepared to make a recommendation to the Commission regarding what they felt was the best method of spending the available money on these projects. He emphasized the importance of moving forward in order for some of these projects to advance. It was his suggestion that a Resolution be brought before the Commission at next week's meeting regarding this matter.

Chairman Skillern stated that he did not recall a time during his service on the School Board or County Commission when as many as six school building projects had been recommended at once. He noted that in order to fund all projects at the same

**RECESSED MEETING
HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION
MARCH 12, 2014**

time, a property tax increase would likely be necessary, which he felt was out of the question. He stated that perhaps working on one or sometimes two projects at a time would be possible without a tax increase.

Commissioner Boyd requested additional information concerning what the Commission would be considering at next week's meeting. Mayor Coppinger responded that he would be meeting with each Commissioner individually to discuss three projects he felt would be the highest priority.

42:21

Commissioner Mackey questioned whether the new buildings would be titled in the name of Hamilton County or the Department of Education. Chairman Skillern responded that school facilities throughout the county had been titled various ways in the past, including joint-ownership from both entities.

Commissioner Mackey suggested that a set procedure for title ownership of school facilities may be beneficial for the future. Chairman Skillern stated his belief that voting on that matter when the funding was appropriated would be the proper time.

Commissioner Mackey requested that additional data be provided to the Commission reflecting student growth trends and building capacity figures. Superintendent Smith indicated that he would make this information available to the Commission.

**RECESSED MEETING
HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION
MARCH 12, 2014**

Commissioner Beck shared a desire to receive more information regarding the amount of funding spent on schools in his district and whether or not the distribution had been equitable.

Commissioner Graham asked if it was necessary for the Commission to act on this matter next week. He stated it may be beneficial to have more time in order to speak with constituents from the community as well as School Board members and gather more information. He also expressed that it would be useful for the School Board to draft a plan for becoming more energy efficient in its other facilities that were not on this list.

Commissioner Mackey questioned whether the Department of Education had ever been sued for adverse facility conditions, such as mold, in any of its schools. Superintendent Smith indicated they had not, to his knowledge.

Chairman Skillern pointed out that members would likely not be ready to take action in one week but should begin the process of sharing their thoughts with Mayor Coppinger to get a process started as quickly as possible.

There being no further business, Chairman Skillern declared the meeting adjourned.

Time Code
Position

**RECESSED MEETING
HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION
MARCH 12, 2014**

Respectfully submitted:



William F. (Bill) Knowles, County Clerk

Approved:

04-02-14
Date

WJK
Clerk's Initials