

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION
AGENDA PREPARATION SESSION
MARCH 25, 2015**

STATE OF TENNESSEE) Agenda Preparation Session
COUNTY OF HAMILTON) March 25, 2015

BE IT REMEMBERED, that on this 25th day of March, 2015, 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:--

0:12

Present and presiding was the Honorable Jim Fields, Chairman. Chief Deputy Clerk Debbie Rollins called the roll of the County Commission and the following, constituting a quorum, answered to their names: Commissioner Bankston, Commissioner Beck, Commissioner Fairbanks, Commissioner Graham, Commissioner Haynes, Commissioner Mackey, Commissioner Smedley, and Chairman Fields. Total present - 8. Total absent – 1. Commissioner Boyd was absent.

Also in attendance were County Mayor Jim Coppinger, members of his administrative staff, County Attorney Rheubin Taylor, and County Auditor Bill McGriff.

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COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

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

- The Trustee's Excess Fee Report and Monthly Report for February 2015 would be submitted for the record.
- Resolution No. 415-1 was the usual County Clerk item regarding notaries. This required no committee assignment.
- Resolution No. 415-2 was assigned to the Security and Corrections Committee, chaired by Commissioner Mackey.
- Resolution Nos. 415-3, 415-5, 415-7 through 415-10, and 415-12 were assigned to the Finance Committee, chaired by Commissioner Graham.
- Resolution No. 415-11 was assigned to the Roads Committee, chaired by Commissioner Haynes.
- Resolution Nos. 415-4 and 415-6 were heard by a Committee of the Whole.

Chairman Fields stated that Resolutions No. 415-4 and 415-6 would now be heard by the Committee of the Whole.

0:25

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 415-4

Sam Mairs, Juvenile Court Administrator, spoke regarding this item, which authorized the County Mayor to sign a contract amendment between the State of Tennessee Department of Human Services and the Hamilton County Juvenile Court Title IV-D Child Support Division. He noted this year's budget for 2015 - 2016 is \$34,000 less than last year's 2014 – 2015 budget.

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There were no questions from Commissioners.

2:12

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 415-6

Mayor Coppinger and Commissioner Graham spoke regarding this item, which accepts bids of CWC, LLC and NOI Chattanooga for furniture for the Criminal and Sessions Courts amounting to \$81,857.23. NOI Chattanooga is supplying seven of the requested chairs for Sessions Court and CWC, LLC is providing the remainder for both courts. Both vendors are local and the bid came in with a \$4,987 savings.

There were no questions from Commissioners.

Commissioner Mackey, Chairman of the Security and Corrections Committee, announced the Security and Corrections Committee would meet in the conference room following today's Finance Committee meeting.

Commissioner Haynes, Chairman of the Roads, Waste, Energy, Transportation and Zoning Committee, announced the committee would meet in the conference room following today's meeting.

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Commissioner Graham, Chairman of the Finance Committee, announced that the committee would meet in the Commission Room following today's meeting.

5:40 **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chairman Fields asked for announcements from members of the Commission.

5:42 Mayor Coppinger reported that a resolution appropriating \$250,000 to the Stadium Corporation for the purchase of artificial turf for Finley Stadium will be presented to the Commission at the next agenda session. The City of Chattanooga will pay an equal amount towards the cost. The artificial turf will be manufactured by Dalton based AstroTurf, the industry leader. He noted that the continued operation of Finley Stadium is in the best interest of Hamilton County.

8:29 Paul Smith, Stadium Director, gave an explanation of the handouts the Commission and County Clerk's office received. He said the new field will allow soccer as well as football at the stadium that is owned by the city and county. Mr. Smith said he is in talks with the National Soccer Association on bringing national events to Finley Stadium. He is also working to bring concerts to the stadium.

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In response to questions from the Commission, Mr. Smith reported that the life expectancy of artificial turf is around ten years. He spoke about Chattanooga's Quarterback Club at Finley Stadium and encouraged the Commission to attend.

In closing Mayor Coppinger reported financing will be provided through the County's bond funds.

13:44

Commissioner Haynes reported that he thoroughly enjoyed participating in the Dash for Down Syndrome 5k on March 21st.

14:32

Commissioner Mackey expressed concern regarding the number of waste tires littering the county, Mayor Coppinger reported that an individual caught illegally disposing of tires can be cited to court. Don Gorman, Director of Administration for the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office, stated that he would make the department aware of this situation.

Todd Leamon, Public Works Administrator and County Engineer, made it known that the Silverdale Recycle Center has a waste tire recycling program.

Time Code
Position

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16:56 Commissioner Fairbanks reported that the 2016 Soddy Daisy Distinguished Young Woman is Hannah Stimart. The program was held at Soddy Elementary School on Saturday March 21st.

17:28 Commissioner Smedley thanked Councilman Larry Grohn, Commissioner Haynes, Mr. Leamon, and John Bridger, Executive Director at Regional Planning Agency for attending the East Brainerd community information forum on March 23rd. Highlights of the meeting involved the Erlanger East Hospital expansion, progress on the new E. Brainerd Elementary school, and various road projects.

18:10 Commissioner Beck thanked everyone who attended the community listening forum on March 23rd. He acknowledged recent news articles regarding the school officials presenting a budget for 2015 – 2016 that includes a forty cent property tax increase. In closing, he asked that copies of Resolution No. 1111-16A be distributed to the Commission. He requested this resolution be discussed during next week's commission meeting.

Mayor Copping announced that the Chattanooga Chamber will present its Small Business Awards at the 33rd annual Small Business Awards Luncheon today, from 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. at the Chattanooga Convention Center.

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Chairman Fields reported there will be a Hamilton County Audit Committee meeting today in the conference room after the Finance Committee and Roads, Waste, Energy, Transportation and Zoning Committee meetings.

DELEGATIONS

Chairman Fields asked for delegations on matters other than zoning.

45:42

Sandy Hughes, President of the Hamilton County Education Association, made a plea for more money for the school system. She stated various needs for additional school revenues; educational technology, infrastructure support, instructional resources, and teacher/administration support. She noted that the school system is under increasing mandates, including a recent one to start teaching keyboarding in the third grade.

In response to Ms. Hughes comments, Commissioner Graham thanked her for commenting and stated he did not support a forty cent property tax increase this year. Highlights from Commissioner Graham's remarks included school finances, the Board of Education's fund balance, school enrollment figures, and teacher salaries. He pointed out that Pilot agreements do not exempt payment of taxes due to the school system.

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He voiced a reminder that revenue growth from business investments also resulted in benefiting the educational system.

Commissioner Beck sympathized with the school system and expressed his support for education. He also said he had previously asked school officials to provide him with a \$2.3 million receipt; he has yet to receive it. He noted that he would not ask again.

Commissioner Fairbanks thanked Ms. Hughes for her presentation.

In response to questions raised by Commissioner Fairbanks, Al Kiser, County Finance Administrator, confirmed that discretionary funds can be spent on computers for the school system.

44:58

Commissioner Graham spoke in regards to Resolution No. 215-27A, which committed the proceeds from the sale of East Brainerd Elementary School to be equally divided among the nine County Commission School Districts. He stated district 6 intended to spend their portion equally for technology in all schools in his district.

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48:03

Commissioner Mackey noted that Superintendent Rick Smith is on record supporting a forty cent property tax increase. He suggested the school board members publicly state where they stand on the proposed property tax increase. He spoke about the recent suit filed against the state of Tennessee alleging inadequate funding from the state for the schools.

Being no further business, Chairman Fields declared the meeting adjourned until Wednesday, April 1st at 9:30 AM.

Respectfully submitted:



William F. (Bill) Knowles, County Clerk

Approved:

04-15-15
Date

W.F.K.
Clerk's Initials