

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION
AGENDA PREPARATION SESSION
MARCH 27, 2019**

STATE OF TENNESSEE)
COUNTY OF HAMILTON)

Agenda Preparation Session
March 27, 2019

BE IT REMEMBERED, that on this 27th day of March, 2019, 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 Sabrena Smedley, Chairman. Deputy County Clerk Carrie Godwin called the roll of the County Commission and the following, constituting a quorum, answered to their names: Commissioner Baker, Commissioner Bankston, Commissioner Boyd, Commissioner Fairbanks, Commissioner Geter, Commissioner Mackey, Commissioner Martin, Commissioner Sharpe, and Chairman Smedley. 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 Jenneth Randall.

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COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Chairman Smedley 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.
- The Trustee's 2017 Delinquent Tax Uncollected Report would be submitted for the record.
- Resolution No. 419-1 was the usual County Clerk item regarding notaries, etc. This required no committee assignment.
- Resolution No. 419-8 was assigned to the Roads Committee, chaired by Commissioner Bankston.
- Resolution Nos. 419-9 through 419-13 were assigned to the Finance Committee, chaired by Commissioner Fairbanks.
- Resolution Nos. 419-2 through 419-7, and 419-14 were heard by a Committee of the Whole.

Chairman Smedley announced Dr. Sean Richards, Chairman of Tobacco Free Chattanooga, was scheduled to present information regarding the Tobacco Free Chattanooga initiative but had to leave during today's Recessed Meeting. She encouraged Commissioners to read the packet of information he left in order to learn more about the program. A copy of the packet was filed in the Clerk's Office.

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1:07 **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 419-2**

Justin Witt, Director of Maintenance and Operations for the Department of Education, spoke regarding this item, which authorizes the County Mayor to enter into the execute an agreement with S&ME, Inc. for the construction and special inspections for the New Harrison Elementary School for an amount not to exceed \$167,220.00.

1:26 In response to Chairman Smedley’s question, Mr. Witt reported the project is within budget.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 419-3

2:36 Justin Witt, Director of Maintenance and Operations for the Department of Education, spoke regarding this item, which accepts the bid of P & C Construction for the construction of Harrison Elementary School amounting to \$26,787,063.00 for the Hamilton County Board of Education and authorizes the County Mayor to sign any contracts necessary to implement this Resolution. It was noted the School Board would be voting on the construction at a special called meeting tomorrow.

3:34 In response to Commissioner Boyd’s question, Mr. Witt stated the school’s maximum capacity would be approximately 1000.

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In response to Commissioner Boyd's question, Mr. Witt stated results of recent soil testing at the site showed that it would not support geothermal energy technology. He added the project will come in right at the budgeted amount.

5:29

In response to Commissioner Sharpe's question, Mr. Witt stated the Department of Education strives to make all new school constructions the new standard for schools. He confirmed all new constructions are ADA compliant.

8:28

In response to Commissioner Baker's question, Mr. Witt reported the school is projected to open at an approximate capacity of 800. He added the Department of Education is still weighing options for consolidating schools.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 419-4

8:58

Director of General Services Lee Norris spoke regarding this item, which authorizes the County Mayor to submit an application to the Tennessee Office of Criminal Justice Programs (OCJP) and the Crime and Justice Institute (CJI) to be considered to serve as a grantee pilot site for Pretrial System Technical Assistance. The program would be funded by a Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) with a total project cost of up to \$360,000 over a three-year period, and requires no county match.

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There were no questions from Commissioners.

10:01

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 419-5

Director of General Services Lee Norris spoke regarding this item, which accepts the bid of BP Construction for the construction of new toilet and shower facilities at Chester Frost Park amounting to \$565,786.00 for the Hamilton County Parks and Recreation Department and authorizes the County Mayor to sign any contracts necessary to implement this Resolution. He stated the unit would be 100% ADA accessible and utilize the most current energy efficient technology.

There were no questions from Commissioners.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 419-6

11:12

Director of Public Works and County Engineer Todd Leamon spoke regarding this item, which authorizes the County Mayor to enter into and execute a contract with Hellmuth, Obata & Kassabaum, Inc. (HOK) for design services through construction administration of the renovation and expansion of the Silverdale Correctional Facility (Phase 1) for an amount not to exceed \$1,478,212.00. He reported HOK was part of the CoreCivic proposal for operation and future development of Silverdale approved by the

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Commission on September 6, 2017 (*Resolution No. 917-13*). He stated the design phase would run through December with construction starting next year and completion set for the end of 2021.

13:52

In response to Commissioner Mackey's question, Hamilton County Sheriff Jim Hammond reported the county is spending almost \$100,000 per day in incarceration costs. He noted the downtown jail has approximately 531 inmates and Silverdale is housing around 1,009. Sheriff Hammond explained this project is a step towards the overall goal of doing away with the Walnut Street jail. He added the FUSE program and other similar efforts of curbing the number of mental health inmates in the jail should help reduce costs.

19:41

In response to Commissioner Sharpe's question, Sheriff Hammond stated the department is working on efficiency and establishing a comprehensive approach to utilizing programs and services for mental health inmates. He emphasized the importance of providing access to education and spiritual guidance.

24:58

In response to Commissioner Boyd's question, Mr. Leamon gave a breakdown of the cost of design services. He added the construction budget is approximately \$18 million.

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COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 419-7

28:04 Mayor Coppinger spoke regarding this Resolution, which urges the Tennessee General Assembly to adopt an equitable distribution of local sales tax revenue from out-of-state sellers. It was noted the item is in reference to online sales tax collection.

29:02 In response to Commissioner Boyd's question, Mayor Coppinger clarified the sales tax revenue would be distributed based on the destination of the purchase.

29:49 In response to Commissioner Martin's question, Mayor Coppinger stated additional clarification from Tennessee Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations (TACIR) might be forthcoming after their next working session.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 419-14

30:55 Commissioner Boyd spoke regarding this item, which amends the procedure by which the Hamilton County Board of Commissioners act on any Resolution introduced that will result in an increase to the certified tax rate (a real property tax increase) within Hamilton County. The procedure would include requiring the discussion thereof at two (2) separate, sequential, and regularly scheduled meetings of said body prior to a vote being taken thereon.

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32:52 In response to Commissioner Martin's question, Attorney Taylor stated he was unaware how this process is handled in other counties.

34:44 In response to Commissioner Sharpe's question, Commissioner Boyd stated if a Resolution is formally introduced that would result in a tax increase, it would need to be read and discussed at two separate regularly scheduled meetings before a vote takes place.

Commissioner Bankston, Chairman of the Roads Committee, stated the Roads Committee would not be meeting today. In response to Commissioner Bankston's question, Administrator of Public Works and County Engineer Todd Leamon stated all roads discussed in Resolution No. 419-8 have been thoroughly studied and meet county standards.

Commissioner Baker asked Mr. Leamon to study the road leading into Signal Mountain High School.

Chairman Smedley noted Commissioner Fairbanks had to leave and Commissioner Baker would be chairing the Finance Committee meeting in his absence.

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Commissioner Baker stated the Finance Committee would meet in the Commission Room immediately following today's Agenda Session.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Smedley asked for announcements from members of the Commission.

37:10 Commissioner Martin announced the Hixson Kiwanis will be hosting a ham and chicken dinner fundraiser on March 31st at Hixson Middle School. He also stated the Hixson High School track dedication has been postponed to April 1st at 3:00 PM due to recent rain.

37:55 Commissioner Mackey encouraged Commissioners to work on rising incarceration costs.

38:27 Commissioner Sharpe expressed disappointment in the outcome of the vote on Resolution No. 319-26 during today's Recessed Meeting, which resulted in no action being taken. He stated his intent to bring the matter up again once Commissioners have had adequate time to study the legislation.

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Time Code
Position

In response to Commissioner Mackey's question, Commissioner Sharpe confirmed the legislation gives significant power over education to the state.

Commissioner Baker added that he had more questions about the legislation and encouraged the Superintendent of Schools Dr. Bryan Johnson and School Board members to provide more information to Commissioners. Commissioner Boyd stated he has been given differing information regarding the legislation and questioned if the bill had been amended in the legislative process.

45:20

Attorney Taylor commended Commissioners on their appointment of Gerald Webb to fill the General Sessions Court Judge Division III vacancy created by the retirement of the Honorable Clarence Shattuck. It was noted Mr. Webb would be the first African American to serve on the General Sessions Court bench in its long history.

Attorney Taylor announced employees in the Clerk and Master's Office have requested permission from the County Commission to bring shelter dogs from McKamey Animal Center and the Humane Educational Society into the office on a periodic basis to encourage and promote public awareness of animal adoption. Chairman Smedley asked that he prepare a Resolution addressing the matter.

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In response to Commissioner Baker's question, Mayor Coppinger stated the livestream install would take place tomorrow.

46:56

Mayor Coppinger thanked Human Resources Administrator Alecia Poe for her years of service and dedication to the department. It was noted her last day is April 1st.

Mayor Coppinger clarified earlier statements about funding for a sewage treatment plant. He reminded Commissioners that the Water and Wastewater Treatment Authority (WWTA) would be reimbursing the \$45 million with interest.

48:32

In response to Chairman Smedley's question, Mayor Coppinger announced the budget workshops will be May 7th, May 14th, and June 4th at 9:00 AM at the McDaniel Building.

DELEGATIONS

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

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

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be Wednesday, April 3rd, 2019 at 9:30 AM.

Respectfully submitted:



William F. (Bill) Knowles, County Clerk

Approved:

04-17-19
Date

W.F.K
Clerk's Initials