



**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION  
AGENDA PREPARATION SESSION  
MARCH 29, 2017**

0:29 **PRESENTATION – PROCLAMATION – VIETNAM VETERAN’S APPRECIATION  
WEEK**

Mayor Coppinger introduced Linda Mines, County Historian, who coordinated the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Vietnam Veteran’s “Welcome Home” celebration. She stated March 29<sup>th</sup> has officially been proclaimed by Mayor Coppinger as Vietnam Veteran’s Day, and invited everyone to attend a special memorial ceremony at the Chattanooga National Cemetery at 6:00 PM. The names of the 152 Tennessee Valley men who lost their lives in the Vietnam War will be called aloud at the ceremony. Mrs. Mines thanked the Mayor and Commission for their support.

Mayor Coppinger thanked Mrs. Mines for organizing the three-day event, which kicked off Monday night at the First Tennessee Pavilion. He introduced Vietnam Veterans Bill Raines, Ray Adkins, Bill Norton, Tony Mines, Bud Alley, and Herbert Thornbury and asked them to come to the podium. He asked Charles Alsobrook, Veterans Services Officer for Hamilton County, to come forward as well. Mayor Coppinger also recognized Lee Norris, Director of General Services, for his service during the Vietnam War. At this time, Mayor Coppinger read the proclamation into the record. A round of applause was given.

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Major General Bill Raines spoke about a dinner he had with Joseph Galloway, co-author of the book "We Were Soldiers Once...and Young". He shared his personal experience upon returning from Vietnam and noted the importance of finally saying "Welcome Home" to the soldiers who fought in the Vietnam War. Mr. Raines stated Mr. Galloway will be tonight's speaker at the Vietnam Veteran's memorial ceremony and thanked Mayor Coppinger and Commission for their support.

Veteran's Service Officer Charles Alsobrook thanked the Veteran's present at today's meeting for their service and stated how blessed he is to work with heroes every day. He noted his position was created in Hamilton County government six months ago and he provided several statistics regarding volume of office visits and phone calls received daily.

Mr. Norton thanked Mayor Coppinger and Commissioners for their support. At this time, a round of applause was given and each of the Veterans shook hands with Commissioners.

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16:43

**PRESENTATION – CERTIFICATE OF CONGRATULATIONS – CENTRAL HIGH  
SCHOOL WRESTLING TEAM**

Chairman Bankston presented the Central High School Purple Pounders Wrestling Team with a Certificate of Congratulations for placing in the 2017 TSSAA 2-A State Wrestling Tournament. He thanked the members of the team for their sportsmanship and for bringing recognition to Hamilton County.

Central High School Head Wrestling Coach Ryan Mallory introduced state medalists Hayden Dill, Isaac Coffman, and Alonso Heyward. He spoke very highly of the young men and noted each of them hold a 3.0 GPA or higher. At this time, Mr. Mallory and the students shook hands with members of the Commission.

**COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS**

Chairman Bankston 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 Monthly and Excess Fee Reports for February 2017 would be submitted for the record.
- The Juvenile Court Clerk's Reports for November 2016, December 2016, and January 2017 would be submitted for the record.

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- Resolution No. 417-1 was the usual County Clerk item regarding notaries, etc. This required no committee assignment.
- Resolution Nos. 417-10 through 417-17 were assigned to the Finance Committee, chaired by Commissioner Boys.
- Resolution Nos. 417-2 through 417-9 were assigned to a Committee of the Whole.
- Resolution No. 417-18 was pulled.

Chairman Bankston stated Resolution Nos. 417-2 through 417-9 would now be heard by a Committee of the Whole.

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 417-2**

21:38                This item appoints John McPherson to the Waste & Wastewater Treatment Authority Board of Commissioners for a term ending April 6, 2021.

There were no questions from Commissioners.

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 417-3**

21:58                Commissioner Fairbanks spoke regarding this item, which approves the expenditure of up to \$7,650.00 from general fund discretionary monies, as allotted to District 1, to assist with the purchase of a thermal imaging camera for Sequoyah Volunteer Fire Department.

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There were no questions from Commissioners.

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 417-4**

22:30 Commissioner Mackey spoke regarding this item, which appropriates \$13,000.00 from general fund discretionary monies, as allotted to District 4, to Mary Walker Historical and Educational Foundation, Inc. It was noted the funds will assist the non-profit with programming.

There were no questions from Commissioners.

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 417-5 through 417-7**

23:02 Commissioner Beck spoke regarding the items, which appropriates \$4,500.00 from general fund discretionary monies, as allotted to Districts 5, 4 and 9, to A Night to Remember, Inc. It was noted the funds will assist the non-profit with their scholarship fund.

There were no questions from Commissioners.

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**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 417-8**

24:18 Justin Witt, Director of Maintenance and Operations for the Department of Education, spoke regarding this item, which accepts the bids of OCI, School Specialty, Inc., Tiles in Style, LLC, dba Taza Supplies, LLC, Troxell Communications, Inc., and Virco, Inc. for contract unit pricing for school furniture for Wolftever Elementary School. This includes any additional schools needing furniture for the Department of Education. Mr. Witt noted this is the last furniture bid for the additions at Wolftever Elementary School.

In response to Commissioner Martin's question, Mr. Witt clarified the main building project at Sale Creek has been completed. He added the parking lot and other small renovations at Sale Creek, and the additions at Wolftever Elementary are still in progress.

In response to Commissioner Fields' question, Mr. Witt stated the estimated cost would be around \$43,000.

In response to Commissioner Graham's question, Mr. Witt confirmed this is the last installment of the \$50 million the Commission made available to the Department of Education for this project.

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**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 417-9**

County Attorney Rheubin Taylor spoke regarding this item, which approves the settlement of the dispute concerning the Alstom Power, Inc. Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) agreement upon the receipt of sum of \$6,000,000.00 to be shared proportionally between Hamilton County and the City of Chattanooga. Additionally, this item authorizes the County Mayor, County Assessor, and County Trustee to execute a settlement agreement.

In response to Commissioner Graham's question, Attorney Taylor stated no changes have been made since Commissioners were last briefed.

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 417-18**

Chairman Bankston announced Resolution No. 317-18 was being pulled and would not be considered. There was no objection.

27:43

Commissioner Martin clarified the item is being pulled in response to the Department of Education's letter addressing roof repairs at certain school buildings. A copy of the letter was handed out at today's Finance and Education committee meeting. A copy of the letter was filed in the Clerk's office.



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Commissioner Boyd, Chairman of the Finance Committee, stated the Finance Committee would meet in the Commission Room immediately following the Agenda Session.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chairman Bankston asked for announcements from members of the Commission.

28:48 Commissioner Fields announced the Legal and Legislative Committee will meet next Wednesday at 8:15 AM in the Conference Room.

28:59 Commissioner Mackey recognized Eric Atkins, secretary for the Chattanooga-Hamilton County NAACP Chapter, in the audience at today's meeting.

29:15 Commissioner Graham thanked Mayor Coppinger for his Vietnam Veteran's Week presentation and stated he is proud of how Hamilton County supports veterans. He also invited everyone to attend the annual Lookout Valley Neighborhood Association golf tournament on April 29<sup>th</sup>. It was noted the proceeds from the tournament go towards supporting community projects.

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Commissioner Graham referred to the Department of Education's letter and commended the school board for taking action after the discussion at the March 14<sup>th</sup> Commission and School Board joint meeting.

30:59 Commissioner Martin recognized School Board member Joe Smith in the audience at today's meeting. He also invited everyone to attend the Hixson Kiwanis college scholarship fundraising lunch Sunday from 11:00 AM - 1:30 PM.

Commissioner Martin spoke about today's joint Finance and Education Committee meeting and commended the School Board for their willingness to use money from their reserve fund to fix roofing problems in certain school buildings. He noted he looks forward to further conversation regarding the matter.

36:31 Commissioner Boyd spoke about his study of Chattanooga Convention and Visitors Bureau, he handed out a copy of his report titled "CVB: Beyond the Auditor's Report". A copy was filed in the Clerk's office. He referred to the Comprehensive Action Report he distributed at this morning's joint Finance and Education Committee meeting and stated the CVB report would be helpful in understanding his proposed budget cuts. Copies of both reports distributed at the committee meeting were also filed in the Clerk's office.

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38:00 Commissioner Beck thanked Eric Atkins, secretary for the Chattanooga-Hamilton County NAACP Chapter, for attending today's meeting. He stated Mr. Atkins was part of an effort to erect a statue commemorating Ed Johnson, a Chattanooga resident who was hanged on the Walnut Street Bridge in 1906. He emphasized the importance of educating young people on this history to allow for racial reconciliation.

41:01 Commissioner Smedley distributed an invitation to attend one of the upcoming Regional Planning Agency meetings regarding the White Oak Mountain area development plan. She specifically recognized RPA Executive Director John Bridger and Principal Planner Pam Glaser for their work in developing a comprehensive growth plan. She stated most of the growth in Hamilton County over the next 10 years is projected to be in the East Brainerd, Apison, Collegedale, and Ooltewah areas. A copy of the invitation was filed in the Clerk's office.

Commissioner Smedley spoke about focusing where the growth in the community is concentrated when discussing new school construction. She stated Chairman Highlander is currently working on more accurate school capacity and enrollment numbers. She noted the next joint meeting with the School Board will be held in four to six weeks.

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44:16 Commissioner Fairbanks spoke about today's Resolutions appropriating \$4,500 from general fund discretionary monies to A Night To Remember, Inc. (*Res Nos. 417-4 through 417-7*) for scholarships and thanked the area organizations who put forth the effort to raise funds for their projects.

Commissioner Fairbanks invited everyone to attend the Y-CAP live boxing match fundraiser at the Chattanooga Trade Center tomorrow at 7:00 PM. He noted Roger "The Hit Man" Hilley will be boxing at the event.

46:42 Mayor Coppinger congratulated Hixson High School student John Paul Thompson on his acceptance to the Air Force Academy.

Mayor Coppinger reiterated his support for public education and noted 62% of the budget goes to funding education. He stated the FY18 budget is being compiled and budget workshops will take place in early May to allow for discussion. He clarified that general obligation bonds are not solely for school funding, but are used to fund other capital improvements such as infrastructure, public safety, public health, and roads. Mayor Coppinger noted he was late to today's joint Finance and Education meeting due to a 7:15 AM appointment. He stated that while those types of discussions are beneficial, it is the responsibility of the executive branch to consider the needs of the entire County and present the Commission with a balanced and fair budget.

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Chairman Bankston commended the Finance Department and thanked them for their hard work. He also thanked Mayor Coppinger for recognizing Vietnam Veterans and noted he was also a Vietnam Veteran. Several members of the Commission and audience thanked Chairman Bankston for his service.

**DELEGATIONS**

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

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Being no further business, Chairman Bankston declared the meeting adjourned until Wednesday, April 5<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 AM.

Respectfully submitted:



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William F. (Bill) Knowles, County Clerk

Approved:

04-19-17  
Date

W.F.K.  
Clerk's Initials