

HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION AGENDA PREPARATION SESSION APRIL 12, 2017

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

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

- The Criminal Court Clerk's Reports for December 2016, January 2017, and February 2017 would be submitted for the record.
- An Order of Designation to the Planning Commission would be submitted as a matter of record.
- Resolution No. 417-19 was the usual County Clerk item regarding notaries, etc. This required no committee assignment.
- Resolution Nos. 417-27 through 417-33, 417-34A, 417-34B, and 417-35 were assigned to the Zoning Committee, chaired by Commissioner Smedley.
- Resolution Nos. 417-36 through 417-39 were assigned to the Finance Committee, chaired by Commissioner Boyd.
- Resolution Nos. 417-20 through 417-26 were assigned to a Committee of the Whole.

Chairman Bankston stated Resolution Nos. 417-20 through 417-26 would now be heard by a Committee of the Whole.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 417-20

0:50

Commissioner Beck spoke regarding this Resolution, which approves an additional expenditure of \$2,577.57 from discretionary bond funds to assist with the purchase of a security system for Dalewood Middle School. It was noted the Commission previously approved an expenditure (*Resolution No. 616-16*) for the system, but additional funds are needed to complete the purchase.

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There were no questions from Commissioners.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 417-21

1:21

Commissioner Boyd spoke regarding this Resolution, which approves the expenditure of up to \$50,000 from discretionary monies for the City of East Ridge to assist with the construction of public restrooms at Raymond James Football Stadium. He explained this is an ongoing effort to improve the athletic facilities surrounding East Ridge Middle and High School. It was noted \$20,000 of the expenditure would come from discretionary bond funds and \$30,000 from general fund discretionary monies.

Commissioner Martin stated the City of East Ridge recently entered into an agreement with the Department of Education to take ownership of the East Ridge High School athletic complex. He questioned why the County would provide funding for the complex so soon after the property was transferred to the City of East Ridge.

3:09

In response to Commissioner Martin's question, Commissioner Boyd explained the negotiations to transfer the property from the Department of Education to the City of East Ridge included a commitment by the East Ridge Alumni Association and himself to assist in the reconstruction of public restrooms that were destroyed when the original

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stadium was torn down. He highlighted multiple expenditures the Commission has approved for parks and recreation facilities around the County.

Commissioner Martin noted the difference in funding County owned parks and recreation facilities and those owned and operated by municipalities.

5:57

In response to Commissioner Beck's question, County Attorney Rheubin Taylor reported an interlocal agreement is an option, but not required to fund facilities owned by municipalities.

Commissioner Mackey noted the citizens of East Ridge pay Hamilton County property taxes.

7:32

Mayor Coppinger reminded members of the Commission the funding for these types of expenditures comes from Hamilton County taxpayers. He discouraged the notion of double taxation and explained County taxes are used to fund public education, public health, emergency management etc., while municipalities have their own tax base in order to meet the specific needs of that municipality. He added there are several parks within the County that could benefit from discretionary monies.

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12:56

Commissioner Boyd spoke about previous expenditures the Commission has approved including horse trails at Enterprise South Nature Park (*Resolution No. 1115-25*) and the construction of restroom facilities at East Hamilton Middle/High School (*Resolution No. 1016-10*). He emphasized the need for permanent public restrooms to replace the current portable restrooms.

Mayor Coppinger responded to Commissioner Boyd's comments. He clarified East Hamilton Middle/High School is County owned property. He added the horse trails at Enterprise South Nature Park were part of a Parks and Recreation Fund Grant from the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation.

15:55

In response to Commissioner Fields' question, Commissioner Boyd stated the funds for the expenditure were allocated to District 8.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 417-22

Administrator of Public Works and County Engineer Todd Leamon spoke regarding this item, which accepts the proposal by the Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) for the intersection improvement at SR-312 Route: SR-58 in Hamilton County.

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There were no questions from Commissioners.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 417-23

Geno Bennett, Support Services Director for the Sheriff's Office, spoke regarding this item, which authorizes the County Mayor to apply for a three-year Tennessee Office of Criminal Justice (OCJP) Justice Assistance Program (JAG) Community Crime Prevention Grant in an amount between \$50,000 and \$100,000 annually. The funds would be for use by the Sheriff's Office using School Resource Officers, subcontracting with an evidence-based provider to expand in-school youth mentoring programs for targeted school sites. Mr. Bennett stated Brown Middle School, Central High School, Tyner Middle School, and Tyner High School were selected for the program.

20:42

In response to Commissioner Graham's question, Mr. Bennett clarified no County match is required. It was noted the body of the Resolution incorrectly states a County match is required. Commissioner Graham thanked the Sheriff's Office and Development Director Dan Saieed for bringing this item before the Commission.

21:33

In response to Commissioner Beck's question, Mr. Bennett stated the program will be operated in conjunction with a third party contractor. It was noted the contractor

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has not yet been determined and will be selected using standard procurement procedures.

22:56

In response to Commissioner Beck's question, Lt. Shaun Shepherd, School Resource Officer (SRO) Administrator, explained the four selected schools were chosen based on their socioeconomic diversity and sphere of influence. He emphasized the importance of positive reinforcement.

In response to Commissioner Fairbanks question, Lt. Shepherd stated the grant will help establish the program. He added SROs will remain in schools after the grant period is done. Mr. Bennett added the Sheriff's Office continues to make an effort to be proactive rather than reactive.

30:00

In response to Commissioner Smedley's question, Mr. Bennett stated Dr. Christopher Horne, Public Administration Professor at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, has developed evaluation studies and assessments to track the progress and success of the program. He added the SROs will administer pre-tests and post-tests to track progress as well.

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In response to Commissioner Boyd's question pertaining to Resolution wording, County Clerk Bill Knowles asked that a revised Resolution be submitted to the Clerk's office.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 417-24

31:55 Director of General Services Lee Norris spoke regarding this item, which authorizes Hamilton County to contract for the services of a Medical Director for Emergency Medical Services. Mr. Norris stated former Medical Director Dr. James Creel unexpectedly passed away in November and Dr. Ron Buchheit stepped in to serve at that time. He added this agreement will confirm Dr. Buchheit as Medical Director.

There were no questions from Commissioners.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 417-25

32:38 Administrator of Finance Al Kiser spoke regarding this Resolution, which authorizes the County Mayor to sign an amendment to the contract with CoreCivic, formerly Corrections Corporation of America (CCA), for the management of the Silverdale Correctional Facility. He explained additional time was needed for the jail

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study and CoreCivic agreed to extend the existing contract through August 31, 2017 at the same rate. It was noted the most recent contract extension (*Resolution No. 416-29*) will expire on April 30, 2017.

There were no questions from Commissioners.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 417-26

33:27 Real Property Manager Paul Parker spoke regarding this item, which accepts the highest and best bid for certain parcels of property acquired by Hamilton County through previous delinquent tax sales and authorizes the County Mayor to enter into and execute deeds conveying said parcels to those individuals making said bids. He explained approximately 118 properties were offered in this year's annual delinquent property tax sale with 98 being sold at high bid totaling \$1,027,440.

34:33 In response to Commissioner Smedley's question, Mr. Parker stated current assessed property values will apply.

35:01 In response to Commissioner Graham's question, Mr. Parker stated the proceeds from the sale will be split between the City and County. Commissioner Graham thanked Mr. Parker for his hard work and diligence. He added that over the last eleven years,

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790 parcels have been put back on the County's tax roll because of the delinquent tax sale.

Commissioner Smedley, Chairman of the Zoning Committee, stated the Zoning Committee will meet in the Commission Conference Room immediately following the Agenda Session.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Bankston asked for announcements from members of the Commission.

37:00 Commissioner Fields announced the Legal and Legislative Committee will meet next Wednesday in the Conference Room following the Commission meeting. He noted the committee met this morning and will be submitting a draft revision of Commission procedures (Official Proceedings of the Board of Commissioners) for review soon.

37:37 Commissioner Graham wished everyone a safe and happy Easter weekend.

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37:47 Commissioner Martin reported he had the opportunity to ride along with a Hamilton County Sheriff's Deputy on Friday night. He stated the deputy showed outstanding professionalism and expressed his appreciation for their hard work and training.

Commissioner Martin spoke about his recent visit to the Convention and Visitor's Bureau. He reported all his questions were answered and encouraged Commissioners not to interrupt the growth of the tourism industry in Hamilton County.

Commissioner Martin spoke highly of DuPont Elementary School and Principal Ruthie Panni. He stated on the first day of school 2 out of 43 students were adequately prepared for kindergarten. Today, 40 out of those 43 students are reading at or above level due to reading programs the school has implemented. He noted approximately 40% of children in Hamilton County are not prepared to enter kindergarten.

43:47 Commissioner Boyd noted the Commission has spent close to \$3 million in the last ten years on the Read 20 program. He questioned the effectiveness of the program. He responded to Commission Martin's comments regarding the CVB and stated the County does not receive sales tax generated in the City of Chattanooga. He added the City of Chattanooga does not fund the CVB. He encouraged Commissioners to take

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advantage of the opportunity to utilize a portion of the Hotel-Motel tax for capital projects within Hamilton County.

48:36 Commissioner Beck agreed with Commissioner Boyd's comments.

48:49 Commissioner Smedley wished everyone a happy Easter. She invited members of the Commission to the Friends of East Brainerd meeting tomorrow at 12:00 PM at the Heritage House. It was noted Mayor Coppinger will be speaking at the event.

49:38 Mayor Coppinger announced a meeting at Chester Frost Park April 20th at 6:00 PM. He noted a number of campers at the park, particularly seniors, have some ideas they want to share.

Mayor Coppinger spoke about attending the Tech Goes Home Chattanooga event this past weekend. It was noted the Commission contributes \$100,000 per year to the program. He reported the program is located in 80 different sites across Hamilton County. He added Tech Goes Home has successfully provided participants with the tools, education, and access required to develop skills and habits required for technology and internet use.

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Mayor Coppinger also spoke about the sales tax revenue generated in the City of Chattanooga and stated the school system gets a majority of that revenue. He reminded Commissioners the County would be responsible for funding the school system if sales tax and property tax revenue was not being contributed. He noted the challenge in preparing a balanced budget each year. Mayor Coppinger spoke of several projects made possible through CVB funding and noted the importance of a positive return on investment.

1:00:12 Chairman Bankston announced State Representative Mike Carter would be coming before the Commission to address a Senior Tax Freeze program. He noted he would report back with an exact date.

DELEGATIONS

1:01:12 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 19th at 9:30 AM.

Respectfully submitted:



William F. (Bill) Knowles, County Clerk

Approved:

05-03-17
Date

W.F.K.
Clerk's Initials