

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION
AGENDA PREPARATION SESSION
APRIL 26, 2017**

STATE OF TENNESSEE) Agenda Preparation Session

COUNTY OF HAMILTON) April 26, 2017

BE IT REMEMBERED, that on this 26th day of April, 2017, 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:--

0:10

Present and presiding was the Honorable Chester Bankston, Chairman. County Clerk Bill Knowles called the roll of the County Commission and the following, constituting a quorum, answered to their names: Commissioner Beck, Commissioner Boyd, Commissioner Fields, Commissioner Graham, Commissioner Mackey, Commissioner Martin, Commissioner Smedley, and Chairman Bankston. Commissioner Fairbanks was absent. Total present - 8. 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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0:29 **PRESENTATION – CERTIFICATE OF CONGRATULATIONS – HIXSON HIGH
SCHOOL JUNIOR RESERVE OFFICERS TRAINING CORPS (JROTC)**

Commissioner Martin presented the Hixson High School JROTC members with a Certificate of Congratulations for winning first place in the Hamilton County Drill Competition. He invited the students and their instructor, Master Sergeant John Burhans, to come to the podium. Commissioner Martin reported he had the honor to speak to the students at the Hixson High School Military Ball this year, and noted they will be marching in the 2017 Armed Forces Day Parade on May 5th.

Master Sergeant Burhans commended the hard work and dedication of the students. He noted this is their second year as Hamilton County Drill Competition champions. At this time, a round of applause was given.

Commissioner Martin distributed certificates to each member of the JROTC team. He congratulated the students on their success.

5:02 Commissioner Martin reported he wished to give special recognition to one of the students, John Paul Thompson, who was recently accepted to the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado. Mr. Thompson will be leaving for his appointment on June 29th. Commissioner Martin thanked Mr. Thompson for bringing recognition to Hixson High

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School and Hamilton County. At this time, a Certificate of Congratulations honoring Mr. Thompson was read into the record. Mr. Thompson thanked Commissioners for the honor and stated he looks forward to representing Hamilton County.

6:59

In response to Commissioner Graham's question, Master Sergeant Burhans stated the JROTC program focuses on leadership education, health and science, first-aid, critical thinking and problem solving skills, and the importance of setting goals. He added discipline, respect, and the core values of the United States Air Force are important characteristics the program emphasizes. Commissioner Graham thanked Master Sergeant Burhans and Commissioner Martin for recognizing the hard work of the students.

9:10

Mayor Coppinger congratulated the students and Master Sergeant Burhans on their hard work and dedication. He recognized several of the students for their service to the community and commended the JROTC program for instilling a positive work ethic in the students.

In response to Mayor Coppinger's question, Master Sergeant Burhans highlighted the accomplishments of the graduating seniors in the program. Mayor Coppinger thanked the students for their excellent representation of the public school system.

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COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

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

- The Trustee's Monthly and Excess Fee Reports for March 2017 would be submitted for the record.
- The Trustee's 2015 Delinquent Tax Uncollected Report would be submitted for the record.
- The Criminal Court Clerk's Report for March 2017 would be submitted for the record.
- Resolution No. 517-1 was the usual County Clerk item regarding notaries, etc. This required no committee assignment.
- Resolution Nos. 517-13 through 517-18 were assigned to the Finance Committee, chaired by Commissioner Boyd.
- Resolution Nos. 517-2 through 517-12 were assigned to a Committee of the Whole.

Chairman Bankston stated Resolution Nos. 517-2 through 517-12 would now be heard by a Committee of the Whole.

12:42

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 517-2

This Resolution confirms the appointment by the County Mayor of Lamar Flint as Chairman of the Hamilton County Employee Appeals Board for a term ending February 6, 2019.

There were no questions from Commissioners.

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13:01

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 517-3

This Resolution confirms the reappointment by the County Mayor of Michael Kirk to the Hamilton County Citizen’s Advisory Board for Recreation for a term ending April 17, 2019.

There were no questions from Commissioners.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 517-4

Commissioner Fields spoke regarding this item, which approves the expenditure of \$6,420.00 from general fund travel discretionary monies to assist with the purchase of a digital record management system for the Signal Mountain Police Department.

There were no questions from Commissioners.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 517-5

14:04

Commissioner Beck spoke regarding this item, which appropriates \$2,500.00 from general fund discretionary monies as allotted to District 5 to Independent Youth

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Services Foundation, Inc. It was noted the funds will assist the non-profit with their scholarship fund.

There were no questions from Commissioners.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 517-6

15:07 Commissioner Boyd spoke regarding this item, which approves the expenditure of \$5,000.00 from discretionary bond funds as allotted to District 8 to assist in purchasing band/orchestra instruments for Chattanooga School for the Liberal Arts. It was noted the funds are bond funds from fiscal year 2015.

There were no questions from Commissioners.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 517-7

15:52 Assessor of Property Marty Haynes spoke regarding this item, which approves an upgrade to the computer-assisted mass appraisal (CAMA) software from Patriot Properties, Inc. for the Assessor of Property's office in the amount of \$85,000, plus the required annual licensing and support fees. It was noted the request comes out of the

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current year's operating budget. Assessor Haynes stated the upgrade to the software will enable the appraisal process to operate more efficiently.

17:11

In response to Commissioner Boyd's question, Assessor Haynes reported per the initial contract (*Resolution No. 910-31*) with Patriot Properties, Inc. states the annual licensing and support fees total \$69,000.00.

In response to Commissioner Fields' question, Assessor Haynes clarified the \$85,000.00 for the upgrade comes from savings in the current year's budget.

Commissioner Fields commended Assessor Haynes for the savings.

Assessor Haynes distributed a handout detailing several benefits the software upgrade will enable. A copy of the handout was filed in the Clerk's office.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 517-8

18:31

Director of General Services Lee Norris spoke regarding this item, which authorizes an application to the Tennessee Department of Transportation and acceptance of a Litter Prevention and Trash Collection Grant in the amount of \$127,100.00, with a contract period beginning July 1, 2017 and ending June 30, 2018. It

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was noted this is an annual grant from the state that assists with the Community Corrections Litter Grant Program for litter collection on public highways.

There were no questions from Commissioners.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 517-9

20:10

Sam Mairs, Juvenile Court Administrator, spoke regarding this item, which authorizes a contract between the State of Tennessee Department of Human Services and the Hamilton County Juvenile Court Title IV-D Child Support Division. It was noted the total amount of the State's liability is \$352,798.00 with a County match of \$181,745.00 from the fiscal year 2017 budget, which has not yet been approved.

In response to Commissioner Fields' question, Mr. Mairs clarified that while the fiscal year 2017 budget has not been approved, the state requires the contract to be signed prior to July 1st. It was noted the contract can be amended once the budget is adopted.

21:47

In response to Commissioner Graham's question, Mr. Mairs reported the contract has been approved based on the numbers that were submitted with the understanding there is potential for the contract to be amended.

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COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 517-10

22:39

Juvenile Court Administrator Sam Mairs spoke regarding this item, which confirms the appointment of nine members to the Hamilton County Juvenile Court Commission to serve three-year terms ending May 3, 2020. This Resolution appoints Phil Acord, Michael Pickett, MD, Julie Baumgardner, MS, Gloria S. Moore, Tom McCullough, Kevin Beirne, Lt. Shaun Shepherd, Rev. Carl W. Willis, and Janet Dunn.

There were no questions from Commissioners.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 517-11

23:30

Don Gorman, Director of Administration for the Sheriff's Department, spoke regarding this Resolution, which amends the Sheriff's special operations budget by adding \$39,244.23 in reimbursements to the fiscal year 2016-2017 revenues and expenditures to assist with pay for overtime and related benefits in the fight against illegal drugs. It was noted funding has been provided from federal, state, and non-profit agencies, and no County match is required.

There were no questions from Commissioners.

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COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 517-12

24:10

Don Gorman, Director of Administration for the Sheriff's Department, spoke regarding this Resolution, which approves the purchase of an upgrade to the Law Records Management and Mobile Law Workstation software, support, and maintenance contract from TriTech Software Systems for the Sheriff's Office. The contract is for a one period beginning August 7, 2017 and ending August 6, 2018 and amounts to \$284,322.96.

In response to Commissioner Graham's question, Mr. Gorman stated the upgrades will allow the Sheriff's Office to become more independent. It was noted the funds were budgeted in the current year's operating budget.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Bankston asked for announcements from members of the Commission.

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26:04

Commissioner Fields distributed a draft version of the Commission's Official Rules and Proceedings for review. He stated an official version will be brought before the Commission for consideration. A copy of the handout was filed in the Clerk's office.

Commissioner Fields announced the Armed Forces Day Parade will take place next Friday, May 5th at 10:30 AM.

26:33

Commissioner Graham reminded members of the Commission and audience about the Lookout Valley Neighborhood Association Golf Tournament this Saturday at Trenton Golf Club at 8:30 AM.

Commissioner Graham reported he has recently spoken with several different legislators regarding Commission pay. He reminded everyone that Commissioner's pay is directly tied to the pay of the County Mayor, and over the last several years some Commissioners have requested the law to be changed. He stated the issue continues to surface and expressed his support for putting the issue on the ballot in the next election and allowing the voters to decide what percentage the commission should be paid.

30:37

Commissioner Martin publicly thanked Volkswagen for their partnership with the State of Tennessee to provide a \$1 million investment in Volkswagen eLabs in eight Hamilton County schools. The labs will provide students access to emergent

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technologies that will better educate and prepare the future workforce in the fields of engineering and technology. It was noted the eight schools were announced at a press conference on Tuesday.

Commissioner Martin invited everyone to attend a steak dinner at Hixson High School on Sunday from 12:00 to 4:00 PM to raise funds for the wrestling team.

31:35 Commissioner Boyd echoed Commissioner Martin's comments regarding the Volkswagen eLabs. He reminded Commissioners the funds for the labs are public funds that were a part of their incentive package.

32:34 Commissioner Smedley recognized Christy Gibson in the audience at today's meeting. Ms. Gibson is the new Director of Governmental Affairs for the Greater Chattanooga Association of Realtors. It was noted Robert Nodes previously held the position.

Commissioner Smedley announced the next joint meeting with the School Board has not been scheduled as School Board members are currently focusing their attention on selecting a new Superintendent.

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Commissioner Smedley also thanked Volkswagen for their eLab investment. She added East Hamilton Middle School was one of the eight chosen schools to receive one of the labs.

Commissioner Smedley responded to the comments regarding Commissioner's pay and stated that a majority of Commissioners do not run for office based on compensation, but instead to make a positive impact on the community.

34:58

Mayor Coppinger spoke about the Volkswagen contribution and commended the Commissioners who were able to attend the press conference. He emphasized the importance of giving students access to emergent technologies.

Mayor Coppinger announced several upcoming events. He invited everyone to attend the Moon Pie Festival on Saturday, May 6th at the Main City Park in Red Bank. He also announced the Erlanger Believe Bash will take place Saturday, April 29th benefitting the Children's Hospital at Erlanger. It was noted the 2017 Chattanooga Area Leadership Prayer Breakfast is scheduled for Tuesday, May 2nd at 7:00 AM.

Mayor Coppinger recognized Kendi Rainwater, Education Reporter at the Chattanooga Times Free Press, in the audience at today's meeting. He highlighted

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several positive aspects of public education in Hamilton County. He added his appreciation for local private schools and homeschooling.

DELEGATIONS

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

Being no further business, Chairman Bankston declared the meeting adjourned until Wednesday, May 3rd at 9:30 AM.

Respectfully submitted:



William F. (Bill) Knowles, County Clerk

Approved:

05-17-17
Date

W.F.K
Clerk's Initials