

**RECESSED MEETING
HAMILTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
APRIL 27, 2016**

STATE OF TENNESSEE) Recessed Meeting

COUNTY OF HAMILTON) April 27, 2016

BE IT REMEMBERED, that on this 27th day of April, 2016, a Recessed Meeting 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:--

0:13 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 Fairbanks, Commissioner Fields, Commissioner Graham, Commissioner Haynes, Commissioner Mackey, Commissioner Smedley, and Chairman Bankston. 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 Bill McGriff.

0:32 Commissioner Boyd introduced Pastor Sonny D. Wilkes, Sr., Dividing Ridge Church of God, who gave the invocation. Commissioner Boyd led in the pledge to the flag.

**RECESSED MEETING
HAMILTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
APRIL 27, 2016**

4:18 PRESENTATION - DISTINGUISHED VISITOR AWARD – BRAD RATLIFF

Chairman Bankston and Commissioner Smedley presented a Distinguished Visitor Award to Brad Ratliff, who was elected President of the 2017 Tournament of Roses. Mr. Ratliff was present to receive the award with his wife, Susan, Ooltewah High School Principal Jim Jarvis, and band director Joel Denton and his wife, Kerry. They thanked him for his enthusiasm for the Association and commended him for the example he has set for all who have had the privilege to work with him. Mr. Ratliff will provide leadership for the 128th Rose Parade and the 103rd Rose Bowl Game. Mr. Ratliff has been a volunteer member of the Pasadena Tournament of Roses since 1988 and was appointed chairman in 2004 and director in 2007.

Mr. Denton thanked Chairman Bankston and Commissioner Smedley for honoring President Ratliff during his visit. He reported that the Ooltewah High School band will be traveling in December to participate in the 2017 Tournament of Roses of Parade in Pasadena, California, which is considered a very prestigious event. He noted that it was an honor to be considered for participation among the best bands in the nation.

Principal Jarvis noted that this honor is quite a testament to Mr. Denton and the students in the Ooltewah High School band. He noted that Mr. Ratliff could not have

**RECESSED MEETING
HAMILTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
APRIL 27, 2016**

made a better choice in selecting the band to represent Tennessee and Hamilton County.

Mr. Ratliff thanked Chairman Bankston and Commissioner Smedley for today's recognition. He commended Mr. Denton's 35 years of work developing future leaders in Hamilton County.

9:57

Mayor Coppinger spoke about attending Ooltewah High School band's Spring Concert on Tuesday night. He commended Mr. Denton and Principal Jarvis on the behavior and the discipline displayed by the students. He noted that discipline and good behavior is a result of their good leadership. He thanked Mr. Ratliff for inviting the band to join the parade in January.

11:42

Commissioner Mackey echoed Mayor Coppinger's sentiments. In response to Commissioner Mackey's question concerning the use of discretionary funds to help finance the band's trip to Pasadena, Commissioner Smedley referred to a previously referenced opinion by the Office of the Comptroller for the State of Tennessee, which prohibits Commissioners from using discretionary funds for Department of Education related items.

At this time Mr. Ratliff, Mr. Denton, and Principal Jarvis shook hands with the Mayor and Commission.

**RECESSED MEETING
HAMILTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
APRIL 27, 2016**

13:41

RESOLUTION NO. 416-26A A RESOLUTION TO APPROPRIATE \$300,000 TO THE CRIMINAL COURT CLERK FUND TO ASSIST THE OFFICE IN FUNDING ITS OPERATIONS AND TO AMEND THE GENERAL FUND OPERATING BUDGET BY ADDING \$300,000 TO EXPENDITURES FROM PREVIOUSLY UNBUDGETED FUNDS.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Graham, seconded by Commissioner Fairbanks, to adopt Resolution No. 416-26A.

It was noted that this resolution, previously known as Resolution No. 416-26, was heard as a Committee of the Whole during the April 13, 2016 Agenda Session and postponed at the April 20th, 2016 Regular Meeting.

During last week's regular meeting, Commissioner Haynes reported that he received new information in the form of a letter from Criminal Court Clerk Vince Dean. A copy of Mr. Dean's letter was filed with the Clerk's office on April 20th, 2016.

14:11

Commissioner Boyd addressed several points contained in the letter. He disagreed with Mr. Dean's statement in the letter calling the situation a revenue shortfall rather than a mismanagement or budgetary issue. He explained there was no indication to the Commission that a \$300,000 shortfall existed in the 2015-2016 budget submitted by the Criminal Court Clerk's office. Commissioner Boyd spoke about a discrepancy in

**RECESSED MEETING
HAMILTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
APRIL 27, 2016**

the figure that he sent to Commissioners in the form of a text message regarding the average salaries of employees in the Criminal Court Clerk's office, and the figure that Mr. Dean presented in his letter. He noted that his figure was calculating salaries plus benefits. He questioned if Mr. Dean considered an 8% employee payroll decrease across the board, which would have resulted in a \$300,000 savings for the office.

19:55

Mr. Dean responded to the 8% reduction question by answering no. As to Commissioner Boyd's other comments and questions Clerk Dean reported that his office is currently below the 2015-2016 budget initially submitted to the Commission, and the current deficit is due to a shortfall in revenue. He added that he sent the letter last week to shed some light on the discussion that was taking place through texts between Commissioners regarding his budget. He noted that employees in his office average 15 years of service with an average salary of \$42,000, not including benefits. He noted that he has a highly trained staff, and overtime has been reduced from the budget although part of his office is a 24/7 operation.

22:53

In response to Commissioner Boyd's question, Mr. Dean explained that his office was asking for the appropriation on the front end of the upcoming budget cycle rather than waiting until the end.

**RECESSED MEETING
HAMILTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
APRIL 27, 2016**

The foregoing Resolution was unanimously adopted on a Roll Call vote, with the following members of the County Commission being present and voting as follows:

Commissioner Beck, "Aye", Commissioner Boyd, "Aye", Commissioner Fairbanks, "Aye", Commissioner Fields, "Aye", Commissioner Graham, "Aye", Commissioner Haynes, "Aye", Commissioner Mackey, "Aye", Commissioner Smedley, "Aye", and Chairman Bankston, "Aye". Total present – 9. Total absent – 0. Total "Aye" votes – 9. Total "Nay" votes – 0.

Being no further business Chairman Bankston declared the recessed meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted:



William F. (Bill) Knowles, County Clerk

Approved:

05-18-16
Date

W.F.K.
Clerk's Initials