

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
MAY 1, 2019**

**STATE OF TENNESSEE**        )  
**COUNTY OF HAMILTON**     )

Regular Meeting  
May 1, 2019

**BE IT REMEMBERED**, that on this 1<sup>st</sup> day of May, 2019, a Regular 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:--

0:20

Present and presiding was the Honorable Sabrena Smedley, Chairman. Chief Deputy County Clerk Brooke Weaver called the roll of the County Commission and the following, constituting a quorum, answered to their names: Commissioner Baker, Commissioner Bankston, Commissioner Boyd, Commissioner Geter, Commissioner Mackey, Commissioner Martin, Commissioner Sharpe, and Chairman Smedley. Commissioner Fairbanks was absent. Total present – 8. Total absent –1.

Chairman Smedley reported Commissioner Fairbanks would be absent for today's meeting.

Also in attendance were County Mayor Jim Coppinger, County Clerk Bill Knowles, members of the Mayor's administrative staff, County Attorney Rheubin Taylor, and County Auditor Jenneth Randall.

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Attached hereto is a copy of the Public Notice of this meeting, which was published in a local newspaper and made a matter of record of this meeting.

0:42

Commissioner Geter introduced Senior Minister Mark Gooden, First Centenary United Methodist Church, who gave the invocation. Commissioner Geter led in the pledge to the flag.

Chairman Smedley announced the funeral for Hamilton County Sheriff's Office Detective Eddie Sledge, who passed away suddenly on April 27<sup>th</sup>, would be today at 1:00 PM. She noted the Sheriff's budget presentation, which was initially scheduled immediately following today's meeting, would be moved up in order to accommodate those involved in and attending Detective Sledge's funeral.

2:56

**BUDGET PRESENTATION – HAMILTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

Hamilton County Sheriff Jim Hammond asked that everyone observe a moment of silence in honor of Detective Sledge.

Sheriff Hammond distributed a copy of the Sheriff's Office 2018 Annual CALEA (Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies) Report to members of the Commission, the Mayor's Office, and the County Clerk. He noted the report is a

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CALEA requirement. He stated he would be happy to entertain any questions regarding the report.

Sheriff Hammond presented the Sheriff's Office fiscal year 2020 budget request to Commissioners. He stated the office is seeking \$60,600,000 in operational funding for the next fiscal year, which is a \$5,000,000 increase from last year's budget of \$55,600,000. He explained in detail a breakdown of the increase request, which would provide \$4,600,000 in salaries and benefits, \$400,000 in operational needs, \$610,000 in additional Capital Outlay, and \$310,000 to assist the FUSE mental health initiative. He distributed a handout detailing the budget increase request. A copy of the handout was filed in the Clerk's Office.

Sheriff Hammond explained the increase to officer and jailer salaries would help in keeping positions filled as currently the salaries are not competitive and many leave after their training period for higher paying jobs. He stated at current time the jail is short 17 officers and patrol is short 14. He added this budget request would also allow the addition of six full time officers including two School Resource Officers, two patrol officers, and two in transport.

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Sheriff Hammond explained the increase in operational needs would assist with jail maintenance and supplies, prisoner care, and would amend the Erlanger contract to add two mental health professionals. He added the increase would also add \$100 to the uniform allowance for sworn officers, which has not been increased since the 1990s. He noted the additional capital request is for body worn cameras for all officers as well as additional smart phones.

A copy of the Sheriff's Office proposed budget was filed in the Clerk's Office.

Several Commissioners and Mayor Coppinger expressed their condolences over the passing of Detective Sledge.

12:23

In response to Commissioner Mackey's question, Sheriff Hammond stated the Sheriff's Office is managing very well in terms of equipment. He emphasized the biggest setback for the department is the low starting wage for officers. Commissioner Mackey stated he is hopeful Commissioners can help.

In response to Commissioner Baker's question, Sheriff Hammond confirmed increasing the entry-level wage would allow the department to be more competitive in terms of hiring and reducing turnover. He added the locations of the additional School Resource Officers would be determined after consulting with Superintendent of Schools Dr. Bryan Johnson.

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Commissioner Baker and Commissioner Sharpe emphasized the importance of all programs addressing mental health working together.

County Auditor Jenneth Randall confirmed the cost per day for incarceration is \$98,950.00.

In response to Chairman Smedley's question, Sheriff Hammond reported currently every middle school and high school in Hamilton County has a School Resource Officer.

17:12

In response to Commissioner Sharpe's question, Captain of the Youth and Community Services Division Shaun Shepherd provided an overview of the School Resource Officer program. He reported there are several vacancies in local schools due to hiring issues.

In response to Commissioner Sharpe's question, Captain Shepherd stated in his personal opinion schoolteachers should not be armed.

Commissioner Baker applauded the School Resource Officer program.

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In response to Commissioner Geter's question regarding training, Lieutenant Spencer Daniels, Training Coordinator, stated outside of the 40-hours of annual required training the Sheriff's Office focuses on leadership and safety tactics.

Mayor Coppinger agreed with Sheriff Hammond regarding the importance of providing a living wage to law enforcement officers.

Sheriff Hammond reported a meeting with CoreCivic took place last week regarding the beginning phases of a new jail.

38:27

**PRESENTATION – AMERICANS FOR THE ARTS**

Commissioner Boyd introduced Jay H. Dick, Senior Director of State and Local Government Affairs for Americans for the Arts, to present information on using arts and culture to grow the local economy and maximizing use of the hotel-motel occupancy tax. He spoke in depth about the relationship between arts and growth in economies and provided several case studies from cities and counties across the United States who have seen growth by investing in arts and culture. Mr. Dick reported in Hamilton County there are approximately 758 arts related businesses employing 4,535 people. He spoke about the connection between the hotel-motel tax and arts and culture and emphasized that a symbiotic relationship exists between hotels/tourism and the arts. He encouraged

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Commissioners to increase arts funding. A copy of Mr. Dick's presentation was filed in the Clerk's Office.

In response to Commissioner Sharpe's question, Mr. Dick reported on a national average, a child enrolled in at least one art class per semester is four times less likely to drop out of school. He discussed the impact the arts can have on reducing incarceration and healthcare costs as well as reducing PTSD in military veterans. Mr. Dick emphasized the importance of working with organizations familiar with the positive impact of arts in the community.

1:04:00 In response to Commissioner Geter's question, Mr. Dick explained Americans for the Arts has a diversity and equity program to study art accessibility and inclusion. He reiterated the importance of trusting those with the relevant expertise to invest public funds for arts and culture properly.

1:10:06 **PRESENTATION – CHATTANOOGA AREA CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU**

Barry White, President of the Chattanooga Area Convention and Visitor's Bureau (CVB), presented information on the importance of the marketing efforts lead by the CVB. Mr. White recognized Commissioner Fairbanks, who was absent for today's meeting, for being a member of the CVB Executive Committee to assist in communication between the county and CVB. He spoke at length about the work the

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CVB has done under his leadership and the goals they share with the Commission. Mr. White spoke about the new direction of the CVB and the three-year strategic plan to promote and develop visitor experiences for the social and economic prosperity of the community. He distributed a handout highlighting the three-year tourism strategy, which focuses on enhancing culture, heritage, and arts. Mr. White noted for every public dollar invested with the CVB, \$3.10 is created in local tax revenues. A copy of the handout and presentation was filed in the Clerk's Office.

1:27:10            Commissioner Boyd commended the direction of the CVB under Mr. White's leadership. He noted the importance in distinguishing between those who promote tourism and those who build and develop in the community. He encouraged Commissioners to support Resolution No. 519-10.

In response to Commissioner Boyd's question, Mr. White stated the numbers discussed in his presentation are provided by the state of Tennessee.

1:37:02            In response to Commissioner Sharpe's question, Mr. White stated the CVB is working to continue to make strides in terms of transparency.

Chairman Smedley asked that all hotel owners or developers stand. She thanked them for investing in Hamilton County.



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1:40:06

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**ON MOTION** of Commissioner Sharpe, seconded by Commissioner Martin, that the minutes of the Recessed Meeting of April 10, 2019, the Agenda Preparation Session of April 10, 2019, the Regular Meeting of April 17, 2019, be approved, treat same as read, made a matter of record and filed. The foregoing Motion was unanimously adopted on a Roll Call vote, with the following members of the County Commission being present and voting as follows: Commissioner Baker, "Aye", Commissioner Bankston, "Aye", Commissioner Boyd, "Aye", Commissioner Geter, "Aye", Commissioner Mackey, "Aye", Commissioner Martin, "Aye", Commissioner Sharpe, "Aye", and Chairman Smedley, "Aye". Commissioner Fairbanks was absent. Total present – 8. Total absent – 1. Total "Aye" votes – 8. Total "Nay" votes – 0.

**TRUSTEE REPORTS**

The Trustee's Monthly and Excess Fee Reports for March 2019 were submitted and made a matter of record.

**QUARTERLY INVESTMENT REPORT**

The quarterly investment report of Hamilton County, for the quarter ended March 31, 2018 was submitted as a matter of record.

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**QUARTERLY FEE OFFICE REPORTS**

Fee reports for the following constitutional offices were submitted and made a matter of record:

Clerk and Master – January 2019 through March 2019  
Circuit Court Clerk – January 2019 through March 2019  
Register of Deeds – January 2019 through March 2019  
County Clerk – January 2019 through March 2019

1:40:45

**RESOLUTION NO. 519-1 A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE AND ACCEPT APPLICATIONS FOR NOTARY PUBLIC POSITIONS, THE BONDS AND OATHS OF NOTARIES PREVIOUSLY ELECTED, THE OATHS OF DEPUTY SHERIFFS, THE OATH OF DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK, THE OATH OF GENERAL SESSIONS COURT JUDGE, AND TO FILE THE BONDS OF HAMILTON COUNTY 911 EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS DISTRICT.**

**ON MOTION** of Commissioner Martin, seconded by Commissioner Baker, to adopt Resolution No. 519-1. The foregoing Motion was unanimously adopted on a Roll Call vote, with the following members of the County Commission being present and voting as follows: Commissioner Baker, "Aye", Commissioner Bankston, "Aye", Commissioner Boyd, "Aye", Commissioner Geter, "Aye", Commissioner Mackey, "Aye", Commissioner Martin, "Aye", Commissioner Sharpe, "Aye", and Chairman Smedley,

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“Aye”. Commissioner Fairbanks was absent. Total present – 8. Total absent – 1. Total “Aye” votes – 8. Total “Nay” votes – 0.

1:41:24 **RESOLUTION NO. 519-2 A RESOLUTION TO CONFIRM THE REAPPOINTMENTS BY THE COUNTY MAYOR OF MICHAEL KIRK AND DAWSON WHEELER TO THE HAMILTON COUNTY CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD FOR RECREATION FOR A TERM ENDING MAY 1, 2021.**

**ON MOTION** of Commissioner Martin, seconded by Commissioner Mackey, to adopt Resolution No. 519-2. The foregoing Motion was unanimously adopted on a Roll Call vote, with the following members of the County Commission being present and voting as follows: Commissioner Baker, “Aye”, Commissioner Bankston, “Aye”, Commissioner Boyd, “Aye”, Commissioner Geter, “Aye”, Commissioner Mackey, “Aye”, Commissioner Martin, “Aye”, Commissioner Sharpe, “Aye”, and Chairman Smedley, “Aye”. Commissioner Fairbanks was absent. Total present – 8. Total absent – 1. Total “Aye” votes – 8. Total “Nay” votes – 0.

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1:41:58

**RESOLUTION NO. 519-3 A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING HAMILTON COUNTY'S DISAPPROVAL OF LEGISLATION BEING CONSIDERED BY THE TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY RELATIVE TO EDUCATION SAVINGS ACCOUNTS ("VOUCHERS") BEING ALLOWED IN SUPPORT OF NON-PUBLIC EDUCATION IN THE STATE OF TENNESSEE.**

**ON MOTION** of Commissioner Sharpe, seconded by Commissioner Mackey, to adopt Resolution No. 519-3.

In response to Commissioner Baker's question, Mayor Coppinger stated Hamilton County is not included in the Senate version of the bill. Commissioner Baker questioned the purpose of the Resolution.

**ON MOTION** of Commissioner Martin, seconded by Commissioner Mackey, to refer Resolution No. 519-3 to the Education Committee.

1:43:33

Commissioner Sharpe reported the Hamilton County is still included in the House version of the bill and they have refused to accept the Senate version. He added several counties are threatening legal action if the bill passes, which could influence the bill's application statewide.

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Commissioner Mackey retracted his second to refer Resolution No. 519-3 to the Education Committee. Therefore, Commissioner Martin's Motion to refer died due to lack of a second.

No action was taken on the foregoing Motion to adopt Resolution No. 519-3 on a Roll Call vote, with the following members of the County Commission being present and voting as follows: Commissioner Baker, "Nay", Commissioner Bankston, "Aye", Commissioner Boyd, "Pass", Commissioner Geter, "Aye", Commissioner Mackey, "Aye", Commissioner Martin, "Abstain", Commissioner Sharpe, "Aye", and Chairman Smedley, "Abstain". Commissioner Fairbanks was absent. Total present – 8. Total absent – 1. Total "Aye" votes – 4. Total "Nay" votes – 1. Total "Pass" votes – 1. Total Abstentions – 2.

Per the Commission's Rules of Order, any member having announced "Pass" on the first call of the vote should subsequently be called on by the Clerk to vote a second time.

Clerk Knowles called the roll of member having previously announced "Pass". Commissioner Boyd announced "Abstain" on the second call of the vote. Total present – 8. Total absent – 1. Total "Aye" votes – 4. Total "Nay" votes – 1. Total Absentions – 3.

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1:47:34

**RESOLUTION NO. 519-4 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SLOPE STABILIZATION REPAIRS OF CASH CANYON ROAD BY GEOSTABILIZATION INTERNATIONAL ON THE STATE CONTRACT FOR SOIL NAILING FOR VARIOUS COUNTIES AND AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY MAYOR TO SIGN ANY CONTRACTS NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THIS RESOLUTION.**

**ON MOTION** of Commissioner Martin, seconded by Commissioner Sharpe, to adopt Resolution No. 519-4. The foregoing Motion was unanimously adopted on a Roll Call vote, with the following members of the County Commission being present and voting as follows: Commissioner Baker, "Aye", Commissioner Bankston, "Aye", Commissioner Boyd, "Aye", Commissioner Geter, "Aye", Commissioner Mackey, "Aye", Commissioner Martin, "Aye", Commissioner Sharpe, "Aye", and Chairman Smedley, "Aye". Commissioner Fairbanks was absent. Total present – 8. Total absent – 1. Total "Aye" votes – 8. Total "Nay" votes – 0.

**RESOLUTION NO. 519-5 A RESOLUTION TO APPROPRIATE AN ADDITIONAL \$350,000 TO THE CRIMINAL COURT CLERK FUND TO ASSIST THE OFFICE IN FUNDING ITS OPERATIONS AND TO AMEND THE GENERAL FUND OPERATING BUDGET BY ADDING \$350,000 TO EXPENDITURES FROM PREVIOUSLY UNBUDGETED FUNDS.**

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**ON MOTION** of Commissioner Martin, seconded by Commissioner Baker, to adopt Resolution No. 519-5. The foregoing Motion was unanimously adopted on a Roll Call vote, with the following members of the County Commission being present and voting as follows: Commissioner Baker, "Aye", Commissioner Bankston, "Aye", Commissioner Boyd, "Aye", Commissioner Geter, "Aye", Commissioner Mackey, "Aye", Commissioner Martin, "Aye", Commissioner Sharpe, "Aye", and Chairman Smedley, "Aye". Commissioner Fairbanks was absent. Total present – 8. Total absent – 1. Total "Aye" votes – 8. Total "Nay" votes – 0.

1:48:57

**RESOLUTION NO. 519-10 A RESOLUTION AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 207-27 WHICH APPROPRIATES CERTAIN FUNDS RECEIVED BY HAMILTON COUNTY THROUGH ITS RECEIPT OF REVENUES RECEIVED FROM THE HOTEL-MOTEL OCCUPANCY PRIVILEGE TAX, AND AUTHORIZING THE RE-ALLOCATION OF SAID FUNDS AS RECEIVED BEING DIVIDED BETWEEN THE CHATTANOOGA AREA CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU AND THE TO BE CREATED COMMUNITY RE-INVESTMENT FUND.**

**ON MOTION** of Commissioner Boyd to adopt Resolution No. 519-10. The foregoing Motion failed due to lack of a second.

1:49:51

**RESOLUTION NO. 519-11 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE NEGOTIATING AND PURCHASING OF A PARCEL OF REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT THE**

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**CORNER OF WILCOX BOULEVARD AND NORTH ORCHARD KNOB AVENUE  
(WITH A VACATED BUILDING THEREON) FOR DEMOLITION OF THE EXISTING  
STRUCTURE AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF A PARKING LOT TO  
ACCOMMODATE THE NEW CITY OF CHATTANOOGA RECREATION CENTER AT  
THE CORNER OF WILCOX BOULEVARD AND DODSON AVENUE.**

**ON MOTION** of Commissioner Mackey, seconded by Commissioner Sharpe, to adopt Resolution No. 519-11. The foregoing Motion was adopted on a Roll Call vote, with the following members of the County Commission being present and voting as follows: Commissioner Baker, "Aye", Commissioner Bankston, "Aye", Commissioner Boyd, "Nay", Commissioner Geter, "Aye", Commissioner Mackey, "Aye", Commissioner Martin, "Nay", Commissioner Sharpe, "Aye", and Chairman Smedley, "Nay". Commissioner Fairbanks was absent. Total present – 8. Total absent – 1. Total "Aye" votes – 5. Total "Nay" votes – 3.

Chairman Smedley asked that Resolution Nos. 519-6 through 519-9 be heard at this time.



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**RESOLUTION NO. 519-6 A RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT A DONATION FROM AMERICAN AUTOMOBILE ASSOCIATION (AAA) IN THE AMOUNT OF \$7 ,520 TO PURCHASE TWO (2) SHIELD 15B DISPLAY BASE UNITS WITH MOUNTING BRACKETS FOR THE HAMILTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT PURPOSES.**

**RESOLUTION NO. 519-7 A RESOLUTION RATIFYING THE PURCHASE OF GASOLINE AND DIESEL FUEL FOR THE PERIOD OF MARCH 1, 2019, THROUGH MARCH 31, 2019, AND TO AUTHORIZE THE COUNTY MAYOR TO SIGN ANY CONTRACTS NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THIS RESOLUTION.**

**RESOLUTION NO. 519-8 A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE BIDS OF DAVIES IMPERIAL COATINGS, INC., OZARK MATERIALS, LLC AND THE SHERWIN-WILLIAMS COMPANY FOR ONE (1) YEAR CONTRACT UNIT PRICING, BEGINNING MAY 15, 2019, THROUGH MAY 14, 2020, FOR WATERBORNE TRAFFIC PAINT FOR THE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT AND AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY MAYOR TO SIGN ANY CONTRACTS NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THIS RESOLUTION.**

**RESOLUTION NO. 519-9 A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE BID OF HIGGINS CONSTRUCTION FOR THE ASLINGER ROAD CULVERT REPLACEMENT PROJECT AMOUNTING TO \$337,000.00, FOR THE HAMILTON COUNTY**

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**ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT AND AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY MAYOR TO  
SIGN ANY CONTRACTS NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THIS RESOLUTION.**

Commissioner Mackey provided details regarding Resolution Nos. 519-6 through 519-9 and stated the Finance Committee reviewed and recommended approval.

**ON MOTION** of Commissioner Mackey, seconded by Commissioner Martin, to adopt Resolution Nos. 519-6 through 519-9. The foregoing Resolutions were unanimously adopted on a Roll Call vote, with the following members of the County Commission being present and voting as follows: Commissioner Baker, "Aye", Commissioner Bankston, "Aye", Commissioner Boyd, "Aye", Commissioner Geter, "Aye", Commissioner Mackey, "Aye", Commissioner Martin, "Aye", Commissioner Sharpe, "Aye", and Chairman Smedley, "Aye". Commissioner Fairbanks was absent. Total present – 8. Total absent – 1. Total "Aye" votes – 8. Total "Nay" votes – 0.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chairman Smedley asked for announcements from members of the Commission.

1:54:26 Commissioner Geter congratulated all the students honored at the 38<sup>th</sup> annual Superintendent's Banquet. She stated there were 14 students in attendance from Brainerd High School and 11 students from Tyner Academy.

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1:55:22            Commissioner Baker thanked Commissioner Boyd and CVB President Barry White for a civil and productive discussion. He encouraged incorporating the City of Chattanooga in related discussions.

1:56:21            In response to Mayor Coppinger's question, Commissioner Boyd clarified the intent of the Resolution he brought forward on April 3, 2019 (*Resolution No. 419-14*) amending the procedure by which Commissioners act on any item that would result in an increase to the certified tax rate was to require discussion at two separate, sequential, and regularly scheduled meetings. He added this would require a 21-day period from the time a Resolution is introduced to when any action could be taken. Attorney Taylor agreed with this process.

Mayor Coppinger announced the budget would be presented to Commissioners on June 5<sup>th</sup>, which would allow the vote to take place on June 26<sup>th</sup>. He also announced the final budget workshop would take place on June 4<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM at the McDaniel Building.

Commissioner Mackey questioned the change in voting procedures. Clerk Knowles reported Resolution No. 419-14 was adopted on a 7-2 vote with Commissioner Mackey and Commissioner Bankston voting "Nay".

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2:05:50 Chairman Smedley announced the budget hearings will take place on May 15<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 PM. She asked that Clerk Knowles provide the proper public notice.

**DELEGATIONS**

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

There being no further business, Chairman Smedley declared the meeting in recess until Wednesday, May 8, 2019 at 9:30 AM.

Respectfully submitted:



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William F. (Bill) Knowles, County Clerk

Approved:

05-15-19  
Date

WJK  
Clerk's Initials