

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION
AGENDA PREPARATION SESSION
MAY 11, 2016**

STATE OF TENNESSEE) Agenda Preparation Session
COUNTY OF HAMILTON) May 11, 2016

BE IT REMEMBERED, that on this 11th day of May, 2016, 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:--

0:01

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.

HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION AGENDA PREPARATION SESSION MAY 11, 2016

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

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

- The Juvenile Court Clerk's Reports for December 2015, January 2016 and February 2016 would be submitted for the record.
- An Order of Designation to the Planning Commission would be submitted as a matter of record.
- Resolution No. 516-23 was the usual County Clerk item regarding notaries, etc. This required no committee assignment.
- Resolution Nos. 516-35, 516-36A, 516-36B, and 516-37 were assigned to the Zoning Committee, chaired by Commissioner Haynes.
- Resolution Nos. 516-38 through 516-46 were assigned to the Finance Committee, chaired by Commissioner Boyd.
- Resolution Nos. 516-24 through 516-34 were heard by a Committee of the Whole.

Chairman Bankston stated that Resolution Nos. 516-24 through 516-34 would now be heard by the Committee of the Whole.

0:26

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 516-30

Circuit Court Clerk and former County Commissioner Larry Henry spoke regarding this item, which adjusts the petit juror pay from \$13.00 per day to \$10.00 with the \$3.00 difference going towards the direct payment of petit juror parking fees. He began by introducing several Hamilton County judges who were present in the audience

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION
AGENDA PREPARATION SESSION
MAY 11, 2016**

at today's meeting including Circuit Court Judge J.B. Bennett, Criminal Court Judge Barry Steelman, Circuit Court Judge Jeff Hollingsworth, Criminal Court Judge Tom Greenholtz, Circuit Court Judge W. Neil Thomas, and Circuit Court Judge Marie Williams. He also introduced Circuit Court Clerk's office employees Chief Deputy Clerk Susan Sissom, Assistant Jury Coordinator Margaret McConnell, and Chief Financial Officer Sheilah Watson.

Mr. Henry explained that currently jurors are paid \$13.00 per day with a daily out of pocket parking fee of \$4.00, which is set to increase to \$6.00 per day in June. Reducing the pay to \$10.00 per day will allow jurors to park at no charge in the County parking garage. He added that parking fees are the main complaint of those called to serve jury duty. It was noted that the average juror pay across the State of Tennessee is \$10.00 per day.

5:14

Judge Bennett read some of the responses regarding parking from a Jury Questionnaire sent to all citizens who have served on a jury in Hamilton County. He added that while most express a positive experience during their jury service, the most consistent complaint is the out of pocket parking fees.

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION
AGENDA PREPARATION SESSION
MAY 11, 2016**

8:05

Commissioner Graham expressed his support for this item. He agreed that citizens fulfilling their civic duty by serving on a jury should not be required to pay out of pocket for parking.

Commissioner Haynes added that he has heard complaints about parking fees during jury service from constituents in District 3, and will be supporting this item next week.

Chairman Bankston added that it was not necessary for the judges to attend next week's meeting.

10:41

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 516-31

Administrator of Public Works and County Engineer Todd Leamon spoke regarding this item, which authorizes the sale of 18.8 acres at Enterprise South Industrial Park jointly owned by Hamilton County and the City of Chattanooga to Tag Manufacturing, Inc at the sale price of \$40,000 per acre, totalling \$752,000.

In response to Commissioner Fields question, Attorney Taylor confirmed that his office has reviewed and approved the closing documents.

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION
AGENDA PREPARATION SESSION
MAY 11, 2016**

Mayor Coppinger reported that Hamilton County Real Property Manager Paul Parker was present to give any further details on the project. He thanked Steve Hiatt, Chamber of Commerce, and State Representative Mike Carter, both present at today's meeting, for their hard work in keeping this project in Hamilton County. He explained that the property was sold at a discounted rate, but did not involve a PILOT agreement and the expansion project is set to create several hundred jobs. It was noted that past parcels of property at Enterprise South have been sold at discounted rates for these types of projects.

13:02 Commissioner Haynes added that he has done business with Tag Manufacturing throughout the years, and is looking forward to their expansion.

In response to Commissioner Haynes question, Mr. Hiatt reported that the average annual salary for manufacturing jobs is approximately \$45,000. He complimented owners and brothers Terry and Gary Wilt for their dedication to their employees.

16:17 In response to Commissioner Boyd's question, Mr. Hiatt clarified that the project is an expansion of the existing Discovery Drive facility and not a replacement. He explained that stormwater issues were a potential concern if the expansion took place at

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION
AGENDA PREPARATION SESSION
MAY 11, 2016**

the existing site, but will not present an issue at the new site. Representative Carter confirmed that the new facility will eliminate any stormwater issues.

Commissioner Boyd thanked Mr. Hiatt and Representative Carter for staying ahead of development and bringing jobs to Hamilton County.

Representative Carter spoke about the welcoming environment and cooperation the County Mayor and other Hamilton County officials as well as the the Chamber of Commerce presented to the Wilt brothers when they expressed a desire to expand their facility in Hamilton County. He thanked Commissioners for their consideration.

Commissioner Graham thanked Mr. Hiatt and Representative Carter. He expressed his appreciation to Representative Carter for his dedication to his constituents and the work he is doing for Hamilton County at the state level.

Commissioner Haynes added that captial investment is projected to be approximately \$15 million. He complimented the Wilt brothers for contributing to economic development in Hamilton County.

Representative Carter expressed his pride that this project is taking place in Hamilton County.

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION
AGENDA PREPARATION SESSION
MAY 11, 2016**

21:32 Mayor Coppinger congratulated the Chamber and thanked them for their work. He reported that any calls or concerns addressed to Representative Carter are always returned promptly and thanked him for always representing the best interests of Hamilton County.

Chairman Bankston thanked Mr. Hiatt and Representative Carter for their work on this project. He agreed with Mayor Coppinger's comments that any calls to Representative Carter are always answered or returned.

25:02 **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 516-24**

This Resolution confirms the reappointment of William Pippin to the Sheriff's Civil Service Advisory Board for a three-year term, beginning May 18, 2016 and ending May 18, 2019.

There were no questions from Commissioners.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 516-25

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION
AGENDA PREPARATION SESSION
MAY 11, 2016**

Chairman Bankston spoke regarding this item, which approves the expenditure of up to \$2,500.00 from discretionary bond funds, as allotted to District 9, to assist with the purchase of a sound system for Ooltewah Middle School.

There were no questions from Commissioners.

25:48

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 516-26

Commissioner Mackey spoke regarding this item, which appropriates \$1,000.00 from general fund discretionary monies, as allotted to District 4, to Chattanooga Inner City Youth Association. It was noted that the funds will assist the nonprofit with programming and to provide resources for youth.

There were no questions from Commissioners.

26:14

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 516-27

Commissioner Mackey spoke regarding this item, which appropriates \$3,000.00 from general fund discretionary monies, as allotted to District 4, to Orchard Knob Neighborhood Association. He reported that 4 shootings occurred Sunday, May 8th and these funds are to help the people and the community in District 4.

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION
AGENDA PREPARATION SESSION
MAY 11, 2016**

There were no questions from Commissioners.

26:49 **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 516-28**

Commissioner Smedley spoke regarding this item, which approves the expenditure of up to \$2,000.00 from discretionary bond funds, as allotted to District 7, to purchase a flag pole for East Hamilton Middle High School. It was noted that on April 20, 2016, Resolution No. 416-30 approved the exchange of funds between Commissioner Smedley and Commissioner Boyd in order to make the purchase of the flag pole possible.

There were no questions from Commissioners.

27:34 **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 516-29**

Commissioner Haynes spoke regarding this item, which approves the expenditure of \$2,800.00 from discretionary bond funds, as allotted to District 3, to assist in the cost of reconditioning the running track at Big Ridge Elementary School. He recognized District 3 School Board Member Dr. Greg Martin for his help with this project. It was noted that the funds are from last year's bond fund.

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION
AGENDA PREPARATION SESSION
MAY 11, 2016**

There were no questions from Commissioners.

28:19 **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 516-32**

Administrator of Public Works and County Engineer Todd Leamon spoke regarding this item, which accepts the bid of Talley Construction Company, Inc. for construction of the Daisy Elementary School access road amounting to \$554,368.78. He reported that the project includes a secondary access road to connect Daisy Elementary School to Sequoyah Access Road and a “stacking lane” which provides ten lanes for parents to pick up and drop off children. It was noted that funding for the project includes \$100,000 from discretionary funds earmarked by former Commissioner Fred Skillern, \$250,000 from proceeds from the sale of Ooltewah Elementary School, and a \$204,369 reimbursement from the Department of Education.

29:44 Commissioner Boyd expressed his appreciation to see this project put into action. He reported that former Commissioner Skillern was very involved in this project when it became a topic of discussion five years ago.

Mayor Coppinger called attention to the hard work that Real Property Manager Paul Parker and Mr. Leamon put into making this project possible.

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION
AGENDA PREPARATION SESSION
MAY 11, 2016**

31:40 **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 516-33**

This Resolution accepts the bids of School Specialty, Inc., Virco, Inc., Interior Elements, LLC, School Outfitters, and Ernie Morris Enterprises for school furnishings for Middle Valley, Nolan, and Wolftever Elementary Schools, as well as any additional schools needing furniture for the Hamilton County Department of Education.

There were no questions from Commissioners.

32:20 **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 516-34**

This Resolution accepts the bid of Southeastern Communications Services, Inc. for the installation, termination, testing, programming, and certification of an Apogee Sound System at Middle Valley Elementary School for the Telecommunications Department amounting to \$37,400.00.

There were no questions from Commissioners.

Commissioner Haynes, Chairman of the Zoning Committee, announced that the Zoning Committee would be meeting in the adjacent Conference Room immediately following today's Agenda Session.

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION
AGENDA PREPARATION SESSION
MAY 11, 2016**

Commissioner Boyd, Chairman of the Finance Committee, announced that the Finance Committee would be meeting in the Commission Room immediately following today's Agenda Session.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Bankston asked for announcements from members of the Commission.

33:50

Commissioner Graham thanked Commissioner Smedley for organizing the joint meeting between Commissioners and the School Board on Tuesday, May 10th at the Department of Education. He reported that communication between Commissioners and School Board members was a problem at the meeting, and he was disturbed to hear about issues with rodents in schools, water in the floor of the library at one school, and sewer gas that has been leaking in another school for 20 years. He stated that the Commission provides the revenue for the school system every year through growth funds, and the school system's budget has dramatically risen each year.

He said the county school fund balance is about \$59 million, and though about \$12 million is mandated, pushing the total up to \$20 million to be conservative still leaves approximately \$39 million that could be used for items like sewer gas issues and

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION
AGENDA PREPARATION SESSION
MAY 11, 2016**

rodents, and other needs to provide for students. He added that every classroom should be equipped the same with decent facilities, and having \$39 million in the bank is not servicing the students of Hamilton County or helping their education.

38:12

Commissioner Boyd publicly thanked Dr. Greg Martin, District 3 School Board member, for his conservative points at last night's meeting. He commended Dr. Martin for suggesting that the School Board look internally to see if any ineffective and inefficient programs could be cut before asking the Commission for additional money.

39:39

Commissioner Beck also thanked Commissioner Smedley for organizing last night's meeting. He reported that the list of deferred school maintenance costs amounted to over \$200 million, yet several new schools continue to be built. He referred to an agreement (See 12-30-15 Handout) between the school system, City of Chattanooga, and Chattanooga Housing Authority involving a land swap under the condition that Howard High School would be provided with a new football stadium. The current football field is no longer usable because it is flooded with sewage.

He noted that the school board maintenance list included \$236,000 to make repairs to the current stadium, which indicated to him that the school system was not upholding their part of the agreement. He added that the list appeared to be out of date, as certain items had already been taken care of using Commissioner's discretionary

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION
AGENDA PREPARATION SESSION
MAY 11, 2016**

funds. He stated that someone needs to take the lead on making sure the money allotted to the school system is spent the right way.

47:39 In response to Commissioner Beck's question, Attorney Taylor clarified that the growth money given to the schools each year has to be enough to "maintain effort". Administrator of Finance Albert Kiser added that in order to withhold the growth funds, the schools portion of the tax rate would need to be lowered.

48:42 Commissioner Smedley agreed with a statement Commissioner Mackey made at last night's meeting when he stated that the schools appeared to be reacting and not doing enough planning. She added that the Commission would much rather see the funds come from growth rather than raising property taxes. She referred to the \$900,000 in stadium repairs on the maintenance list and stated that the school board could take that out of their fund balance tomorrow to fix the situation if the will was there. She added that the Commission is under pressure to rectify the situation; however they are not in charge of allocating the funds. She pointed out that the proposed FY17 budget for the Department of Education includes an additional \$10.2 million in BEP funds and an additional \$3 million in growth funds. She also requested figures showing how much money the Department of Education has received through PILOT programs.

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION
AGENDA PREPARATION SESSION
MAY 11, 2016**

51:10 Mayor Coppinger announced a budget workshop will take place Thursday, May 12th at 9:00 am at the McDaniel Building.

51:23 Chairman Bankston reiterated that the Commission is not in charge of how the money allotted to the school system is spent. He noted that there are state laws that govern how the money is spent.

52:06 Commissioner Graham reported that he would be attending the budget workshop tomorrow morning, but that he would be leaving early to pick up his mother, who is being discharged from the hospital after a period of illness.

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION
AGENDA PREPARATION SESSION
MAY 11, 2016**

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 18th at 9:30 AM.

Respectfully submitted:



William F. (Bill) Knowles, County Clerk

Approved:

06-01-16
Date

W.F.K.
Clerk's Initials