

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION  
AGENDA PREPARATION SESSION  
MAY 25, 2016**

<b>STATE OF TENNESSEE</b>	)	Agenda Preparation Session
<b>COUNTY OF HAMILTON</b>	)	May 25, 2016

**BE IT REMEMBERED**, that on this 25<sup>th</sup> 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:--

0:11

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.

Mike Compton Chief of Staff to Mayor Coppinger was present. Also in attendance were members of the Mayor's administrative staff along with County Attorney Rheubin Taylor, and County Auditor Bill McGriff.

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**COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS**

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

- The Trustee's Excess Fee and Monthly Reports for April 2016 would be submitted for the record.
- A Report confirming the appointment of Chris Mabee to the Chattanooga-Hamilton County Regional Planning Commission would be submitted for the record.
- Resolution No. 616-1 was the usual County Clerk item regarding notaries, etc. This required no committee assignment.
- Resolution Nos. 616-6 through 616-9 were assigned to the Finance Committee, chaired by Commissioner Boyd.
- Resolution Nos. 616-10 through 616-12 was assigned to the Roads Committee, chaired by Commissioner Haynes.
- Resolution Nos. 616-2 through 616-5 were heard by a Committee of the Whole.

Chairman Bankston stated that Resolution Nos. 616-2 through 616-4 would now be heard by the Committee of the Whole.

0:52

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 616-2**

Chairman Bankston spoke regarding this item, which appoints Joe Degaetano to the Chattanooga-Hamilton County Regional Health Council for a four-year term beginning June 1, 2016 and ending June 1, 2020.

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There were no questions from Commissioners.

1:17

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 616-3**

Chairman Bankston spoke regarding this item, which confirms the reappointment of County Commissioner Jim Fields, County Clerk William “Bill” Knowles, County Finance Administrator Al Kiser, County Attorney Rheubin M. Taylor and County Auditor Bill McGriff, as members to the Hamilton County Ethics Committee for terms of two years.

There were no questions from Commissioners.

1:43

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 616-4**

Commissioner Smedley spoke regarding this item, which appropriates \$10,000.00 in general fund discretionary monies, as allotted to district seven, to Tri-Community Volunteer Fire Department. It was noted the funds will be used to assist with the purchase of a heating and air unit. The remaining monies needed to fund the purchase will be raised by the Fire Department.

There were no questions from Commissioners.

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2:27 **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 616-5**

Bill Stoll, Hamilton County Risk Management Manager spoke regarding this item which accepts the proposal of Collins & Company, Inc (Collins) to provide claims administration services for Hamilton County's Self Insurance Program for a period of three years, beginning July 1, 2016, with the option to renew for three additional one year terms. It was noted that the company currently provides claim administration services for the county's on-the-job injury and liability programs. Collins, a local company, was the lowest and the best bid overall.

3:53 Mr. Stoll stated Collins has provided the County with claims administration services since 2005, and when compared to other bidders, the projected six-year annual cost with Collins is the lowest. In response to Commissioner Graham's question, he explained that the agreement authorizes Collins to administer the county's self-funded insurance claims, which includes paying medical bills, following up with doctor's appointments, contacting claimants/witnesses, issuing payments, denying claims, etc.

6:17 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.

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6:29 Commissioner Haynes, Chairman of the Roads Committee, announced that the Roads Committee would be meeting in the adjacent Conference Room immediately following today's Agenda Session.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chairman Bankston asked for announcements from members of the Commission.

6:48 Commissioner Haynes spoke highly of the 2016 graduates and noted that Hixson Middle School promoted 240 eighth graders. He reported that the school will have 750 students and thanked the commission for their support in replacing the school in 2007. He also congratulated Ganns Middle Valley Elementary (GMVE) on their recent Read 20 award of \$10,000. GMVE had 550 students this year and maintained 100% participation in the Read Twenty Minutes a Day program. This is the third year the school has won the award.

Commissioner Haynes also referenced a recent "Letter to the Editor" regarding the commission not implementing a Senior Tax Freeze. He reminded everyone that Hamilton County property taxes have not increased since 2007. He spoke about reviewing tax bills with a low income senior citizen and noticed that his County property

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taxes have gone up \$5.00 since 2007, while his City of Chattanooga property taxes have gone up \$222.00. He also reviewed a co-worker's tax bills and her County property taxes have gone down \$25.00, while her City of Chattanooga property taxes have gone up \$118.00.

He reiterated there is no crisis, Hamilton County is in good financial shape, and the implementation of a Senior Property Tax Freeze program is not needed. He reminded the public that property tax relief options are available for low-income senior citizens, disabled homeowners, and disabled veteran homeowners. It was noted the Property Tax Relief program is a state program, and available to Hamilton County citizens.

11:06            Commissioner Mackey encouraged the commission to attend Tennessee County Services Association (TCSA) annual Post Legislative Conference taking place this week, May 25-27, in Gatlinburg, TN. He also congratulated GMVE on their Read 20 award.

11:47            Commissioner Graham congratulated 2016 graduates and thanked the Hamilton County School system for producing amazing men and women. He also invited everyone to attend the Memorial Day ceremony May 30<sup>th</sup>, 11:00 am, at the National Cemetery.

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- 14:04            Commissioner Boyd thanked the Hamilton County Board of Education for allocating \$913,600 to repair or replace stadiums across the county. He noted that athletic programs give students life skills that are useful throughout their life. He reported that the East Ridge community is ecstatic about getting their stadium replaced at East Ridge High School.
- 15:13            Commissioner Fields invited everyone to attend the Town of Walden's 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Memorial Day Picnic, May 30<sup>th</sup>, 11 am-4 pm at the McCoy Farm.
- 15:50            Commissioner Fairbanks congratulated North Hamilton County Elementary Principal Jacquie Hauth, who recently won Principal of the Year.
- 16:18            Commissioner Smedley congratulated 2016 graduates and wished Commissioner Fairbanks a Happy Birthday.
- 16:49            Commissioner Beck congratulated recent graduates and reminded the commission to not let politics play into their decision making concerning whether or not to fund the school system. He acknowledged that the commission's decisions send a message to the future of young people.

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18:39 Chairman Bankston congratulated 2016 graduates and stated that while attending a graduation celebration Saturday at the McKenzie Arena his truck was involved in a hit and run.

**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, June 1<sup>st</sup> at 9:30 AM.

Respectfully submitted:



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William F. (Bill) Knowles, County Clerk

Approved:

06-15-2016  
Date

W.F.K.  
Clerk's Initials