

**RECESSED MEETING  
HAMILTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
MAY 27, 2020**

**STATE OF TENNESSEE            )**            Recessed Meeting  
**COUNTY OF HAMILTON         )**            May 27, 2020

0:01

**BE IT REMEMBERED**, that on this 27<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2020, a Recessed Meeting of the Hamilton County Board of Commissioners was conducted electronically pursuant to Executive Order No. 16 issued by Tennessee Governor Bill Lee on March 20, 2020 and Executive Order No. 34 issued on May 6, 2020 in response to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), when the following proceedings were held, to wit:--

Present and presiding was the Honorable Chairman Randy Fairbanks. 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, Commissioner Smedley, and Chairman Fairbanks. Total present – 9. Total absent – 0.

Also in attendance were County Mayor Jim Coppinger and County Attorney Rheubin Taylor.

Chairman Fairbanks asked County Attorney Rheubin Taylor to offer the invocation. Commissioner Sharpe led in the pledge to the flag.

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Chairman Fairbanks read a statement into the record regarding today's electronic meeting. He stated the Governor's directive allows local governmental bodies to conduct their meetings without its members being physically assembled together in order to reduce exposing the general public, members of those local governmental bodies, and governmental staff to the possibility of contracting COVID-19. Chairman Fairbanks reported each Commissioner, staff member, or member of the public participating in today's meeting is doing so from his or her own home or outside office, and none is gathered together in any one place.

Chairman Fairbanks explained prior to the conclusion of today's meeting, all viewers would be advised how they may call in; identify themselves; and address the Commission on matters other than zoning. He added the meeting would be livestreamed for public access on County's YouTube page, which can be found by visiting [www.youtube.com/hamiltoncountyttn](http://www.youtube.com/hamiltoncountyttn).

Chairman Fairbanks announced that without objection, the Commission's present Rules of Procedure would be suspended in order to conduct today's meeting in conformance with the Governor's directive. There was no objection.

Chairman Fairbanks stated without objection, all items on the agenda would be discussed and voted on during today's Recessed Meeting. There was no objection.

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**PRESENTATION – BRENT ELLER – HAMILTON COUNTY 2020 PRINCIPAL OF THE  
YEAR**

Commissioner Smedley honored East Hamilton School Principal Brent Eller for being named the 2020 Principal of the Year for Hamilton County Schools. She spoke highly of Principal Eller's accomplishments during a challenging year dealing with both the COVID-19 pandemic and a devastating tornado in the area. Commissioner Smedley reported during Principal Eller's two years at East Hamilton, the school has earned a Level 5 designation for academic growth and has been named a Tennessee Reward School, the highest honor for academic excellence in the state. She stated Principal Eller would be advancing to compete for Tennessee's 2020-2021 Principal of the Year. She congratulated Principal Eller and thanked him for his leadership. She also congratulated all the graduating seniors in the Hamilton County school system.

Principal Eller thanked Commissioner Smedley for the recognition and noted it was a humbling honor to be selected 2020 Principal of the Year for Hamilton County Schools. He stated nothing would be possible without the teachers, staff, and students at East Hamilton.

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Mayor Coppinger also congratulated Principal Eller and spoke about his record of accomplishment and commitment to the students of Hamilton County.

Several Commissioners and Chairman Fairbanks congratulated Principal Eller and thanked him for his leadership. Commissioner Mackey noted Hamilton County's Dr. LeAndrea Ware, Principal of The Howard School, was named the 2019-2020 Tennessee Principal of the Year.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**ON MOTION** of Commissioner Sharpe, seconded by Commissioner Bankston, that the minutes of the Recessed Meeting of May 13, 2020 and the Recessed Meeting of May 20, 2020 be approved, treat same as read, made a matter of record and filed. 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, "Aye", Commissioner Geter, "Aye", Commissioner Mackey, "Aye", Commissioner Martin, "Aye", Commissioner Sharpe, "Aye", Commissioner Smedley, "Aye", and Chairman Fairbanks, "Aye". Total present – 9. Total absent – 0. Total "Aye" votes – 9. Total "Nay" votes – 0.

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**TRUSTEE REPORTS**

The Trustee's Monthly and Excess Fee Reports for April 2020 were submitted and made a matter of record.

**RESOLUTION NO. 520-24 A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE AND ACCEPT APPLICATIONS FOR NOTARY PUBLIC POSITIONS AND THE BONDS AND OATHS OF NOTARIES PREVIOUSLY ELECTED.**

**ON MOTION** of Commissioner Smedley, seconded by Commissioner Bankston, to adopt Resolution No. 520-24. 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", Commissioner Smedley, "Aye", and Chairman Fairbanks, "Aye". Total present – 9. Total absent – 0. Total "Aye" votes – 9. Total "Nay" votes – 0.

**RESOLUTION NO. 520-25 A RESOLUTION TO CONFIRM THE APPOINTMENT OF JAY BELL AND THE REAPPOINTMENTS OF DICK GEE AND BILL MCGRUFF BY THE COUNTY MAYOR TO THE HAMILTON COUNTY WATER & WASTEWATER**

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**TREATMENT AUTHORITY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR TERM ENDING  
JUNE 3, 2025.**

**ON MOTION** of Commissioner Martin, seconded by Commissioner Bankston, to adopt Resolution No. 520-25. 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", Commissioner Smedley, "Aye", and Chairman Fairbanks, "Aye". Total present – 9. Total absent – 0. Total "Aye" votes – 9. Total "Nay" votes – 0.

**RESOLUTION NO. 520-26 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE REAPPOINTMENT  
OF MARY SULLIVAN MOORE TO THE HAMILTON COUNTY COMMUNITY  
CORRECTIONS ADVISORY BOARD, WITH A TERM ENDING JUNE 6, 2022.**

**ON MOTION** of Commissioner Geter, seconded by Commissioner Smedley, to adopt Resolution No. 520-26. 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", Commissioner Smedley,

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“Aye”, and Chairman Fairbanks, “Aye”. Total present – 9. Total absent – 0. Total “Aye” votes – 9. Total “Nay” votes – 0.

**RESOLUTION NO. 520-27 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ENTERING INTO OF AN AGREEMENT AMONG HAMILTON COUNTY, TENNESSEE, THE CITY OF CHATTANOOGA, AND THE STATE OF TENNESSEE (ON BEHALF OF THE TENNESSEE INTERSTATE CONSERVANCY) FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF A BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT AT THE INTERSECTION OF INTERSTATE 24 AND THE OLGATI BRIDGE, AND APPROPRIATING SIXTY TWO THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$62,500.00) PER ANNUM AS HAMILTON COUNTY’S SHARE OF SAID PROJECT.**

**ON MOTION** of Commissioner Boyd, seconded by Commissioner Martin, to deny Resolution No. 520-27.

Circuit Court Judge Neil Thomas provided additional information regarding the project and reported it has been in the works for the last three years. He stated the project is an opportunity to bring the community together and spark economic development in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. Judge Thomas stated the state plans to invest approximately \$2.2 million in the beautification project, which will include landscaping and the planting of trees and flowers along the interstate. It was noted a packet of documents regarding the project was submitted and filed in the Clerk’s Office.

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Commissioner Sharpe voiced concern over the timing of the project given the financial impact of COVID-19 on local governments and citizens.

In response to Commissioner Boyd's question, Judge Thomas reported the project would not fall within the downtown Business Improvement District (BID) and therefore would not qualify for BID funds. Commissioner Boyd questioned if the state funding is guaranteed since the legislative session has not completed.

Commissioner Mackey thanked Judge Thomas for his work and voiced support for the interstate beautification project. In response to Commissioner Mackey's question, Judge Thomas stated the City of East Ridge has expressed interest in participating the project.

Judge Thomas reported if the county does not move forward on the project the state will withdraw its funding, as the proposed maintenance contract is required. It was noted the City of Chattanooga has approved its 25% of the annual maintenance cost.

Commissioner Boyd voiced concern that the county would be approached to participate in similar maintenance agreements for exits and interchanges in other areas. He stated he would not be supporting this Resolution.



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In response to Commissioner Martin's question, Mayor Coppinger stated the funds would come from the fund balance initially, but would be budgeted going forward if approved.

In response to Commissioner Baker's question, Judge Thomas confirmed that the beautification project would not take place if the county does not participate.

In response to Chairman Fairbanks' question, Mayor Coppinger confirmed if the state funding does not come through, the county would no longer be liable for their portion of the funding.

The foregoing Motion to deny failed on a Roll Call vote, with the following members of the County Commission being present and voting as follows:  
Commissioner Baker, "Nay", Commissioner Bankston, "Nay", Commissioner Boyd, "Aye", Commissioner Geter, "Nay", Commissioner Mackey, "Nay", Commissioner Martin, "Aye", Commissioner Sharpe, "Nay", Commissioner Smedley, "Nay", and Chairman Fairbanks, "Nay". Total present – 9. Total absent – 0. Total "Aye" votes – 2.  
Total "Nay" votes – 7.

**ON MOTION** of Commissioner Sharpe, seconded by Commissioner Mackey, to adopt Resolution No. 520-27.

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Commissioner Baker asked that an amendment be added that the county's appropriation is contingent on the state's funding. Commissioner Sharpe agreed to add this language to his Motion; Commissioner Mackey, who seconded the Motion, also agreed.

**ON MOTION** of Commissioner Boyd to amend Resolution No. 520-27 to include language stating the county's contribution to the annual maintenance of this project would not exceed \$62,500.00 in the future. The Motion failed due to lack of a second.

The foregoing Motion to amend Resolution No. 520-27 to include that the county's appropriation is contingent on the state's funding 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", Commissioner Smedley, "Aye", and Chairman Fairbanks, "Aye". Total present – 9. Total absent – 0. Total "Aye" votes – 9. Total "Nay" votes – 0.

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The foregoing Motion to adopt Resolution No. 520-27 as amended 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", Commissioner Smedley, "Aye", and Chairman Fairbanks, "Aye". Total present – 9. Total absent – 0. Total "Aye" votes – 7. Total "Nay" votes – 2.

**RESOLUTION NO. 520-28 A RESOLUTION MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO THE  
DALLAS BAY VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED  
THIRTY-TWO THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$32,000.00) FROM GENERAL FUND  
TRAVEL DISCRETIONARY MONIES, AS ALLOTTED TO DISTRICT THREE.**

**ON MOTION** of Commissioner Martin, seconded by Commissioner Mackey, to adopt Resolution No. 520-28. 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, "Aye", Commissioner Geter, "Aye", Commissioner Mackey, "Aye", Commissioner Martin, "Aye", Commissioner Sharpe, "Aye", and Chairman Fairbanks, "Aye". Commissioner Smedley was absent. Total present – 8. Total absent – 1. Total "Aye" votes – 8. Total "Nay" votes – 0.

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**RESOLUTION NO. 520-29 A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE PURCHASE OF DOOR ACCESS MATERIALS FROM CENTRAL KNOX, INC. DBA CENTRAL TECHNOLOGIES, INC. FROM THE BUYBOARD PURCHASING COOPERATIVE AMOUNTING TO A TOTAL OF \$24,880.18 FOR THE NEW EAST HAMILTON MIDDLE SCHOOL AND NEW HARRISON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FOR THE HAMILTON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION, AND AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY MAYOR TO SIGN ANY CONTRACTS NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THIS RESOLUTION.**

**RESOLUTION NO. 520-30 A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE PURCHASE OF AVIGILON CAMERAS AND EQUIPMENT FROM CENTRAL KNOX, INC. DBA CENTRAL TECHNOLOGIES, INC. FROM THE BUYBOARD PURCHASING COOPERATIVE AMOUNTING TO A TOTAL OF \$135,083.10 FOR THE NEW EAST HAMILTON MIDDLE SCHOOL AND NEW HARRISON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FOR THE HAMILTON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION, AND AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY MAYOR TO SIGN ANY CONTRACTS NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THIS RESOLUTION.**

**RESOLUTION NO. 520-31 A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE PURCHASE OF SMALL KITCHEN EQUIPMENT FROM US FOODS, INC. FROM THE OMNIA PARTNERS PUBLIC SECTOR PURCHASING COOPERATIVE AMOUNTING TO A TOTAL OF \$67,431.06 FOR THE NEW EAST HAMILTON MIDDLE SCHOOL AND**

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**NEW HARRISON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FOR THE HAMILTON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION, AND AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY MAYOR TO SIGN ANY CONTRACTS NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THIS RESOLUTION.**

**ON MOTION** of Commissioner Martin, seconded by Commissioner Geter, to adopt Resolution Nos. 520-29, 520-30, and 520-31.

In response to Commissioner Boyd's question, Justin Witt, Director of Maintenance and Operations for the Department of Education, reported the expenditures are within the previously approved bond funds. He noted the opening date for Harrison Elementary was moved to December 2020 due to weather delays and the recently approved addition (*Resolution No. 520-10*).

In response to Commissioner Boyd's question, Mr. Witt explained the original plan was to combine Hillcrest Elementary and the existing Harrison Elementary into the new Harrison Elementary School.

In response to Commission Baker's question, Mr. Witt stated the Harrison Elementary capacity was increased by approximately 200 students.

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The foregoing Resolutions were 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 Fairbanks, "Aye". Commissioner Smedley was absent. Total present – 8. Total absent – 1. Total "Aye" votes – 8. Total "Nay" votes – 0.

**RESOLUTION NO. 520-32 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY MAYOR TO SIGN A GRANT AGREEMENT WITH A TERM BEGINNING JULY 1, 2020 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2021 WITH THE TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES.**

**ON MOTION** of Commissioner Baker, seconded by Commissioner Mackey, to adopt Resolution No. 520-32.

In response to Commissioner Boyd's question, Recovery Court Coordinator Dr. Elaine Kelly explained this grant award is recurring.

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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, "Aye", Commissioner Geter, "Aye", Commissioner Mackey, "Aye", Commissioner Martin, "Aye", Commissioner Sharpe, "Aye", and Chairman Fairbanks, "Aye". Commissioner Smedley was absent. Total present – 8. Total absent – 1. Total "Aye" votes – 8. Total "Nay" votes – 0.

**RESOLUTION NO. 520-33 A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE AMENDMENT AND CHANGE ORDER TO THE EMERGENCY DEBRIS MONITORING SERVICES CONTRACT AS EXECUTED WITH TETRA TECH, INC. AND RATIFIED ON RESOLUTION #420-20 TO PROVIDE EMERGENCY DEBRIS MONITORING SERVICES FOR HAMILTON COUNTY, INCREASING THE TOTAL CONTRACT AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$961,480.00, AND TO AMEND THE GENERAL FUND EXPENSE BUDGET BY ADDING AN ADDITIONAL \$469,675.00 TO EXPENDITURES FROM PREVIOUSLY UNBUDGETED FUNDS AND TO AMEND THE GENERAL FUND REVENUE BUDGET BY ADDING \$841,295.00 TO REVENUES.**

**ON MOTION** of Commissioner Bankston, seconded by Commissioner Geter, to adopt Resolution No. 520-33. 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

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Boyd, "Aye", Commissioner Geter, "Aye", Commissioner Mackey, "Aye", Commissioner Martin, "Aye", Commissioner Sharpe, "Aye", and Chairman Fairbanks, "Aye".

Commissioner Smedley was absent. Total present – 8. Total absent – 1. Total "Aye" votes – 8. Total "Nay" votes – 0.

**RESOLUTION NO. 520-34 A RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT THE HIGHEST AND BEST BID RECEIVED FROM GREAT WESTERN LAND ACQUISITION CORPORATION FOR THE ACQUISITION OF CERTAIN COUNTY-OWNED PROPERTY FOR THE PURCHASE PRICE OF \$1,550,000 AND TO AUTHORIZE THE COUNTY MAYOR, ON BEHALF OF HAMILTON COUNTY, TO EXECUTE A QUITCLAIM DEED AND ANY CLOSING DOCUMENTS NECESSARY TO CONVEY SAID PROPERTY KNOWN AS THE NEWELL TOWER AND THE FORMER IT BUILDING, LOCATED AT 111 AND 117 EAST 7TH STREET.**

**ON MOTION** of Commissioner Bankston, seconded by Commissioner Sharpe, to adopt Resolution No. 520-34. 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, "Aye", Commissioner Geter, "Aye", Commissioner Mackey, "Aye", Commissioner Martin, "Aye", Commissioner Sharpe, "Aye", and Chairman Fairbanks, "Aye". Commissioner Smedley was absent. Total present – 8. Total absent – 1. Total "Aye" votes – 8. Total "Nay" votes – 0.



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**RESOLUTION NO. 520-35 A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING A U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE GRANT AND TO AMEND THE SHERIFF'S OPERATING BUDGET BY INCREASING REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES BY \$25,196.**

**ON MOTION** of Commissioner Bankston, seconded by Commissioner Baker, to adopt Resolution No. 520-35. 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, "Aye", Commissioner Geter, "Aye", Commissioner Mackey, "Aye", Commissioner Martin, "Aye", Commissioner Sharpe, "Aye", and Chairman Fairbanks, "Aye". Commissioner Smedley was absent. Total present – 8. Total absent – 1. Total "Aye" votes – 8. Total "Nay" votes – 0.

**RESOLUTION NO. 520-36 A RESOLUTION RATIFYING THE PURCHASE OF GASOLINE AND DIESEL FUEL FOR THE PERIOD OF APRIL 1, 2020, THROUGH APRIL 30, 2020, AND TO AUTHORIZE THE COUNTY MAYOR TO SIGN ANY CONTRACTS NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THIS RESOLUTION.**

**ON MOTION** of Commissioner Geter, seconded by Commissioner Sharpe, to adopt Resolution No. 520-36. 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

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Boyd, "Aye", Commissioner Geter, "Aye", Commissioner Mackey, "Aye", Commissioner Martin, "Aye", Commissioner Sharpe, "Aye", and Chairman Fairbanks, "Aye".

Commissioner Smedley was absent. Total present – 8. Total absent – 1. Total "Aye" votes – 8. Total "Nay" votes – 0.

**RESOLUTION NO. 520-37 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY MAYOR  
TO SIGN A CONTRACT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$60,000 WITH THE CITY OF  
CHATTANOOGA FOR THE HAMILTON COUNTY COURTS COMMUNITY SERVICE  
PROGRAM WITH A TERM BEGINNING JULY 1, 2020 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2021.**

**ON MOTION** of Commissioner Baker, seconded by Commissioner Sharpe, to adopt Resolution No. 520-37. 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, "Aye", Commissioner Geter, "Aye", Commissioner Mackey, "Aye", Commissioner Martin, "Aye", Commissioner Sharpe, "Aye", and Chairman Fairbanks, "Aye".

Commissioner Smedley was absent. Total present – 8. Total absent – 1. Total "Aye" votes – 8. Total "Nay" votes – 0.

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**RESOLUTION NO. 520-38 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY MAYOR TO SIGN A CONTRACT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$188,787.62 WITH THE TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE HAMILTON COUNTY COURTS COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM WITH A CONTRACT PERIOD BEGINNING JULY 1, 2020 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2021.**

**ON MOTION** of Commissioner Baker, seconded by Commissioner Martin, to adopt Resolution No. 520-38. 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, "Aye", Commissioner Geter, "Aye", Commissioner Mackey, "Aye", Commissioner Martin, "Aye", Commissioner Sharpe, "Aye", and Chairman Fairbanks, "Aye". Commissioner Smedley was absent. Total present – 8. Total absent – 1. Total "Aye" votes – 8. Total "Nay" votes – 0.

**RESOLUTION NO. 520-39 A RESOLUTION TO RELINQUISH HAMILTON COUNTY'S INTEREST IN A 2000 CHEVROLET TAHOE TO MARINE RESCUE SQUAD.**

**ON MOTION** of Commissioner Bankston, seconded by Commissioner Geter, to adopt Resolution No. 520-39. 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

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Boyd, "Aye", Commissioner Geter, "Aye", Commissioner Mackey, "Aye", Commissioner Martin, "Aye", Commissioner Sharpe, "Aye", and Chairman Fairbanks, "Aye".

Commissioner Smedley was absent. Total present – 8. Total absent – 1. Total "Aye" votes – 8. Total "Nay" votes – 0.

**RESOLUTION NO. 520-40 A RESOLUTION TO RELINQUISH HAMILTON COUNTY'S INTEREST IN A 1994 CHEVROLET VAN CO-TITLED WITH SALE CREEK VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT.**

**ON MOTION** of Commissioner Martin, seconded by Commissioner Geter, to adopt Resolution No. 520-40. 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, "Aye", Commissioner Geter, "Aye", Commissioner Mackey, "Aye", Commissioner Martin, "Aye", Commissioner Sharpe, "Aye", and Chairman Fairbanks, "Aye".

Commissioner Smedley was absent. Total present – 8. Total absent – 1. Total "Aye" votes – 8. Total "Nay" votes – 0.

**RESOLUTION NO. 520-41 A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE PURCHASE AND DELIVERY OF AN INTERNATIONAL HV607 GRAPPLE BRUSH TRUCK FROM LEE-SMITH, INC. FROM THE SOURCEWELL PURCHASING COOPERATIVE (FORMERLY KNOWN AS NJPA) AMOUNTING TO \$171,108.60 FOR THE HIGHWAY**

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

**ON MOTION** of Commissioner Bankston, seconded by Commissioner Mackey, to adopt Resolution No. 520-41. 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, "Aye", Commissioner Geter, "Aye", Commissioner Mackey, "Aye", Commissioner Martin, "Aye", Commissioner Sharpe, "Aye", and Chairman Fairbanks, "Aye". Commissioner Smedley was absent. Total present – 8. Total absent – 1. Total "Aye" votes – 8. Total "Nay" votes – 0.

**RESOLUTION NO. 520-42 A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE PURCHASE AND DELIVERY OF ONE (1) KENWORTH T880 TRI-AXLE DUMP TRUCK AND ONE (1) KENWORTH T880 TANDEM DUMP TRUCK FROM TENNESSEE KENWORTH, INC. DBA MHC KENWORTH CHATTANOOGA FROM THE SOURCEWELL PURCHASING COOPERATIVE (FORMERLY KNOWN AS NJPA) AMOUNTING TO \$346,458.00 FOR THE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT, AND AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY MAYOR TO SIGN ANY CONTRACTS NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THIS RESOLUTION.**

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**ON MOTION** of Commissioner Bankston, seconded by Commissioner Sharpe, to adopt Resolution No. 520-42. 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, "Aye", Commissioner Geter, "Aye", Commissioner Mackey, "Aye", Commissioner Martin, "Aye", Commissioner Sharpe, "Aye", and Chairman Fairbanks, "Aye". Commissioner Smedley was absent. Total present – 8. Total absent – 1. Total "Aye" votes – 8. Total "Nay" votes – 0.

**RESOLUTION NO. 520-43 A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE PURCHASE AND DELIVERY OF ONE (1) RCT-350 BROCE ENCLOSED CAB BROOM FROM COOPER EQUIPMENT COMPANY FROM THE BUYBOARD PURCHASING COOPERATIVE AMOUNTING TO \$65,780.40 FOR THE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT, AND AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY MAYOR TO SIGN ANY CONTRACTS NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THIS RESOLUTION.**

**ON MOTION** of Commissioner Bankston, seconded by Commissioner Sharpe, to adopt Resolution No. 520-43.

In response to Commissioner Martin's question, Administrator of Public Works and County Engineer Todd Leamon explained the difference in using capital outlay funds and funds from the operating budget.

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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, "Aye", Commissioner Geter, "Aye", Commissioner Mackey, "Aye", Commissioner Martin, "Aye", Commissioner Sharpe, "Aye", and Chairman Fairbanks, "Aye". Commissioner Smedley was absent. Total present – 8. Total absent – 1. Total "Aye" votes – 8. Total "Nay" votes – 0.

**RESOLUTION NO. 520-46 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY MAYOR ON BEHALF OF HAMILTON COUNTY TENNESSEE, THE HEALTH SERVICES DIVISION, OPERATING AS THE CHATTANOOGA-HAMILTON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF GREATER CHATTANOOGA FOR THE PROVISION OF AN AFRICAN AMERICAN CHURCHES COVID-19 COMMUNITY TESTING INITIATIVE FOR THE PERIOD ENDING JUNE 30, 2021, THEREBY AMENDING THE REVENUE AND EXPENSE BUDGET FOR THE HAMILTON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$65,000.00.**

**ON MOTION** of Commissioner Sharpe, seconded by Commissioner Geter, to adopt Resolution No. 520-46.

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In response to Commissioner Baker's question, Mayor Coppinger stated the Community Foundation of Greater Chattanooga is covering the funding for the testing initiative.

Commissioner Mackey spoke about inequity in testing throughout the community and the increasing number of deaths due to the COVID-19 virus.

In response to Commissioner Martin's question, Mayor Coppinger explained multiple African American church leaders reached out to the Health Department and the Community Foundation to request additional testing.

Mayor Coppinger responded to Commissioner Mackey's comments. He spoke about the current impact of COVID-19 in Hamilton County and reported approximately 14,500 tests have been performed to date in all communities at no charge. Mayor Coppinger stated currently there are 328 active cases in Hamilton County with about 3.9% of the population having been tested. He spoke about multiple community partnerships and specifically thanked Shannon Stephenson, CEO of Cempa Community Care, Stacy Johnson, Executive Director of La Paz Chattanooga, and Dr. Kelly Arnold, Medical Director of Clinica Medicos. He welcomed any comments and suggestions on additional methods of stopping the spread of COVID-19. He encouraged everyone to continue following the recommended guidelines of social distancing and wearing face coverings in public spaces.



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Commissioner Mackey encouraged proactive measures to stop the spread of COVID-19. He referenced a recent testing event in the Avondale community where over 300 people were tested.

In response to Commissioner Baker's question, Mayor Coppinger confirmed Governor Lee would be satisfied with the level of testing being conducted in Hamilton County. He added that county officials have been sensitive to a potential outbreak in vulnerable communities.

Commissioner Geter thanked the Community Foundation of Greater Chattanooga for their service to the community and attention to providing testing to vulnerable populations. She thanked Mayor Coppinger for his leadership and the many community partners for using their resources to provide additional testing.

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, "Aye", Commissioner Geter, "Aye", Commissioner Mackey, "Aye", Commissioner Martin, "Aye", Commissioner Sharpe, "Aye", and Chairman Fairbanks, "Aye". Commissioner Smedley was absent. Total present – 8. Total absent – 1. Total "Aye" votes – 8. Total "Nay" votes – 0.

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**RESOLUTION NO. 520-47 A RESOLUTION REQUESTING TENNESSEE STATE GOVERNOR BILL LEE AND/OR THE TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO AUTHORIZE MAIL-IN BALLOTING (“ABSENTEE BY MAIL BALLOTS/VOTING”) IN THE AUGUST AND NOVEMBER, 2020 ELECTIONS FOR ALL REGISTERED VOTERS OF TENNESSEE AS NECESSITATED BY THE ONSLAUGHT OF THE CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19).**

**ON MOTION** of Commissioner Mackey, seconded by Commissioner Sharpe, to adopt Resolution No. 520-47.

Commissioner Mackey spoke regarding this item and noted absentee balloting would reduce the possible exposure to COVID-19 for citizens.

Commissioner Boyd referenced a news article that stated mail in ballots were not feasible in Tennessee for 2020 elections due to cost. He encouraged everyone to take personal responsibility for his or her health and wellness.

Commissioner Mackey added standing in line to execute the right to vote is putting citizens at unnecessary risk.

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Commissioner Sharpe additional steps need to be taken to promote the general welfare of residents. He reported 28 states allow residents to request a “no-excuse” absentee ballot and encouraged Commissioners to support this measure.

The foregoing Motion failed on a Roll Call vote, with the following members of the County Commission being present and voting as follows: Commissioner Baker, “Nay”, Commissioner Bankston, “Nay”, Commissioner Boyd, “Nay”, Commissioner Geter, “Aye”, Commissioner Mackey, “Aye”, Commissioner Martin, “Nay”, Commissioner Sharpe, “Aye”, and Chairman Fairbanks, “Nay”. Commissioner Smedley was absent. Total present – 8. Total absent – 1. Total “Aye” votes – 3. Total “Nay” votes – 5.

**RESOLUTION NO. 620-44 A RESOLUTION ADOPTING A BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2020–2021 AND SETTING THE TAX LEVY FOR THE YEAR 2020 FOR HAMILTON COUNTY, TENNESSEE. THIS RESOLUTION WILL NOT BE VOTED ON UNTIL JUNE 24, 2020.**

**RESOLUTION NO. 620-45 A RESOLUTION MAKING APPROPRIATIONS TO NONPROFIT CHARITABLE AND CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS OF HAMILTON COUNTY, TENNESSEE, FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2020 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2021. THIS RESOLUTION WILL NOT BE VOTED ON UNTIL JUNE 24, 2020.**

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Chairman Fairbanks noted Resolution Nos. 620-44 and 620-45 would not be voted on until June 24, 2020.

Mayor Coppinger began today's budget presentation by thanking staff members and administrators for their hard work and assistance in putting together the fiscal year 2020-2021 budget. He also expressed his appreciation to members of the Commission for their participation and input during the three budget workshops. He noted the proposed budget is available for viewing on the Hamilton County website. He stated a legal notice would be provided to the Times Free Press in order to fulfill the required 10-day public notice.

Mayor Coppinger presented the budget in detail stating it was a balanced budget of \$796,679,243, which represents an increase of 0.3% or \$2,491,503.00. It was noted there was no property tax increase in this year's budget. He explained there is no increase to employee salaries in this budget, however there is also no increase to insurance premiums for employees. Mayor Coppinger noted 64 percent of the budget is going to the Department of Education for school spending. He stated the county fund balance or "rainy day fund" is between \$110 and \$111 million, which positions Hamilton County well during uncertain times.

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Mayor Coppinger reported the priorities in this year's budget center on public health in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and providing additional testing. He stated other priorities include public safety, maintenance requirements, and funding to the Election Commission for the upcoming 2020 elections.

At this time, Chairman Fairbanks stated the phone line for members of the public wishing to address the Commission on matters other than zoning would be open at this time. He stated those wishing to speak should call 423-209-8998 to be added to the queue.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chairman Fairbanks asked for announcements from members of the Commission.

Commissioner Geter congratulated the Hamilton County Senior Class of 2020. She announced a free COVID-19 testing event at New Hope Baptist Church today from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

Commissioner Mackey thanked Mayor Coppinger for his budget presentation and stated he looks forward to rebuilding the economy in Hamilton County over the next year.

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Commissioner Martin voiced support for resuming in person meetings at the Hamilton County Courthouse.

Commissioner Martin thanked the Hixson based business Flywheel Brands as well as Jay Simpson, President, and Bart Simpson, CEO, for their donation of \$30,000 worth of hand sanitizer to county government for COVID-19 relief efforts.

Commissioner Mackey and Commissioner Geter spoke in support of continuing to conduct meetings electronically.

Commissioner Sharpe congratulated Principal Eller for being named Hamilton County Principal of the Year. He also congratulated Dr. Bryan Johnson, Superintendent of Schools, for being awarded the Southeastern Tennessee Superintendent of the Year.

Attorney Taylor asked that everyone keep the family of David Norton in their prayers after he passed away last week. Mr. Norton served as the assistant Hamilton County Attorney from 1983-2012 and Hamilton County General Sessions Court Judge from 1984-2012.

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Mayor Coppinger specifically thanked Administrator of Finance Al Kiser, Assistant Administrator of Finance Lee Brouner, Director of Financial Management Vonda Patrick, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Bryan Johnson, and Chief Business Office for Hamilton County Schools Brent Goldberg for their work on this year's budget.

Mayor Coppinger announced free testing sites at East Lake Academy and Hardy Elementary School.

Mayor Coppinger reported the tornado debris cleanup would discontinue on June 1<sup>st</sup> due to Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) requirements.

Chairman Fairbanks stated the safety of Hamilton County staff and employees remains a priority in deciding how meetings should be conducted. He stated the decision would continue to be evaluated week to week.

Chairman Fairbanks thanked Chief Deputy County Clerk Brooke Weaver, Deputy County Clerk Carrie Godwin, and Legislative Assistant Patricia Moore for their work in organizing electronic meetings.

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**DELEGATIONS**

Chairman Fairbanks asked for delegations on matters other than zoning.

Joseph Paden, residing at 406 Barrington Road Signal Mountain, TN 37377, addressed Commissioners regarding the COVID-19 pandemic and the challenges in reducing the spread throughout the community.

There being no further business, Chairman Fairbanks declared the meeting in recess until Wednesday, June 3, 2020 at 9:30 AM.

Respectfully submitted:



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William F. (Bill) Knowles, County Clerk

Approved

06-10-20  
Date

W.F.K.  
Clerk's Initials