

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION
AGENDA PREPARATION SESSION
JUNE 10, 2015**

STATE OF TENNESSEE) Agenda Preparation Session
COUNTY OF HAMILTON) June 10, 2015

BE IT REMEMBERED, that on this 10th day of June, 2015, 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:--

0:10

Present and presiding was the Honorable Jim Fields, Chairman. Chief Deputy Clerk Debbie Rollins called the roll of the County Commission and the following, constituting a quorum, answered to their names: Commissioner Bankston, Commissioner Beck, Commissioner Boyd, Commissioner Fairbanks, Commissioner Graham, Commissioner Haynes, Commissioner Mackey, Commissioner Smedley, and Chairman Fields. 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.

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0:22

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

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

- The Criminal Court Clerk's Reports for March and April 2015 would be submitted for the record.
- An Order of Designation to the Planning Commission would be submitted as a matter of record.
- Resolution No. 615-17 was the usual County Clerk item regarding notaries, etc. This required no committee assignment.
- Resolution Nos. 615-21, 615-22, 615-27, 615-29 through 615-31, 615-33, 615-34, and 615-37 through 615-43 were assigned to the Finance Committee, chaired by Commissioner Graham.
- Resolution Nos. 615-23, 615-24A, 615-24B, 615-26 were assigned to the Zoning Committee, chaired by Commissioner Haynes.
- Resolution No. 615-32 was assigned to the Roads Committee, chaired by Commissioner Haynes.
- Resolution Nos. 615-18 through 615-20, 615-28, 615-35, and 615-36 were heard by a Committee of the Whole.
- Resolution No. 615-25 was not used.

Commissioner Graham, Chairman of the Finance Committee announced that the Finance Committee would be meeting in the Commission Room immediately after the Agenda Session.

Commissioner Haynes, Chairman of the Roads and Zoning Committee, announced that the Roads and Zoning Committee would meet in the adjacent conference room following today's meeting.

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Chairman Fields stated that Resolution Nos. 615-18 through 615-20, 615-28, 615-35, and 615-36 would now be heard by the Committee of the Whole.

2:13

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 615-18

Mayor Coppinger spoke regarding this item, which reappoints Terry Steele, Mary K. Roberts, and Bill Tittle to the Hamilton County Community Corrections Advisory Board for a term ending June 30, 2017 and appoints Sam Blakemore for a term ending June 30, 2018. .

There were no questions from Commissioners.

2:45

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 615-19

Mayor Coppinger spoke regarding this item, which reappoints Gary Neil to the County Board of Electrical Examiners for a term ending June 20, 2019.

There were no questions from Commissioners.

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3:36

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 615-20

Christie Jordan, Director of Hamilton County Department of Education Accounting and Budgeting spoke regarding this item, which amends the schools federal projects fund budget by adding \$146,420 to the FY 2014–2015 revenue and expenditure budget. This resolution also amends the self-funded projects fund budget by adding \$3,031,840 to the FY 2014-2015 revenue and expenditure budget and amends the general purpose fund budget by adding \$2,557,955 to the FY 2014-2015 revenue and expenditures budget. She noted that this was a yearly housekeeping item.

Ms. Jordan presented to the Commission, the first annual Citizens Guide to Understanding the Budget. The guide can also be viewed by visiting www.hcde.org. This guide will help citizens understand where the school systems funding comes from, what it pays for, and how the school system uses it. The guide also helps citizens understand why some funding must be used to pay for certain programs and why other funding sources are more flexible.

6:46

Commissioner Boyd made comments regarding the guide's student teacher ratio and inflation. He noted that when inflation rates are calculated using the past sixteen years versus using the past six, funding has actually outpaced inflation.

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12:16

Commissioner Mackey also made comments about the school system's inflation rate. In response to comments made about a recent study done by Offices of Research and Education Accountability, he requested that a copy of the letter revealing that the school system's central office administration was the lowest among all of the large school systems in the state be provided to the commission.

16:37

Commissioner Graham stated that the Average Daily Membership (ADM) spreadsheet that was provided to the commission reported how the state of Tennessee calculated student enrollment (average daily membership), which is the primary driver of the Basic Education Program (BEP) funding formula.

18:23

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 615-28

Alecia Poe, Human Resources Director spoke regarding this item, which accepts the proposal of ASI Cobra, LLC for COBRA administration services, beginning July 1, 2015, through June 30, 2018, with the option to renew for three additional one year periods. It was low bid and \$24,000 will be saved over the next three years.

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20:53

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 615-35

Administrator of Finance, Albert Kiser spoke regarding this resolution, which would adopt a budget for the fiscal year 2015-2016 and set the County's tax levy at 2.7652 for the year 2015. He noted that Mayor Coppinger presented his budget at a public meeting held on June 2 at the County's McDaniel Building and also during the June 3, 2015 regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners held at the Courthouse. The Commission meeting was advertised by public notice as required by law.

Budget Items highlighted in the meeting included across the board employee raises of 1.5 percent, (\$750 minimum), the Humane Educational Society (HES) budget proposal and intended fund expenditures, and the Bridge Retirement Plan (BRP) sought by Sheriff Jim Hammond

Although BRP funding was not included in the budget, Mayor Coppinger elaborated on the request and several commissioners spoke in favor of the plan. Mayor Coppinger said a number of meetings pertaining to BRP have been held and another is set for Friday afternoon, several commissioners requested that a member of their body be included in the Friday deliberation. Chairman Fields indicated he would attend.

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Mayor Coppinger noted that it is difficult to define BRP costs. The initial cost would be from \$600,000 to \$1 million, but over a short period of time the costs could multiply. He stated that without raising property taxes, it would be impossible to fund a BRP. He concluded that while he supports the idea of such a program, the revenue source is not available.

Upon questioning by Commissioner Boyd regarding the next item pertaining to budgets for nonprofit agencies, Chairman Fields asked that the title of that resolution be read and joint discussions of the Resolutions No. 615-35 and 615-36 could occur.

At this time, Chairman Fields asked that Resolution No. 615-36 be read into the record.

43:11 **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 615-36**

Director of Finance, Albert Kiser spoke regarding this resolution, which would make appropriations to nonprofit charitable and civic organizations in the county for the fiscal year 2015 – 2016.

47:10 Commissioner Boyd made comments concerning the three percent of uncollectible property taxes, how supporting agencies are funded, increase in hotel

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motel tax revenue, the Wastewater Treatment Authority's (WWTA) budget, decrease in insurance expenses, and an increase in land improvements.

In response to questions about WWTA's budget and whether it included additional employees, Mr. Kiser agreed to e-mail an answer to each Commissioner.

1:01:12 Commissioner Haynes noted that first responders and Volunteer Fire Departments are included in the appropriations to nonprofit charitable and civic organizations.

1:09:28 **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chairman Fields asked for announcements from members of the Commission.

1:09:39 Commissioner Boyd thanked all the first responders that responded to Monday's storm. A strong storm system traveled through East Ridge Monday afternoon and left behind severe damage to homes and families near Altamaha Street. Eight homes were damaged by strong winds and downed trees, three of those homes were destroyed.

1:10:25 Commissioner Graham recognized his family in the audience and noted that today was his 26th wedding anniversary. He acknowledged Pam Sohn, Editorial Page

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Editor for the Chattanooga Times, presence in the audience and thanked her for joining his family at son Luke's birthday dinner.

1:13:25 In an attempt to find additional funds for the budget, Commissioner Mackey suggested consideration of delaying new school construction and using some of the lower occupancy schools to consolidate schools within the system.

1:13:45 Commissioner Haynes recognized Bob Mullin, Chairman of the Dallas Bay Fire Department Board and Mark Fritts, Dallas Bay Volunteer Fire Department Chief who were present in today's audience.

1:14:56 Commissioner Beck expressed his desire to find a way to fund the Bridge Retirement Plan.

1:15:52 Commissioner Smedley wished Commissioner Bankston a happy birthday and encouraged everyone to attend the Riverbend Festival.

1:16:30 In response to Commissioner Fairbanks concerns about the progress on Veterans Treatment Court, Attorney Taylor and Mayor Coppinger both stated that discussions are taking place but a start date has yet to be decided.

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Mayor Coppinger also wished Commissioner Bankston a happy birthday.

DELEGATIONS

Chairman Fields asked for delegations on matters other than zoning.

1:19:47

Joseph Seibel residing at 1349 Britt Lauren Way addressed the commission about his neighbor's long term placement of storage containers on the road right-of-way rather than on his own property. Mr. Seibel's neighbors were also present in the audience. He indicated there was a petition in opposition signed by a number of residents of the neighborhood. Todd Leamon, Administrator of Public Works and County Engineer asked for the property address and stated the property owner was not in compliance. He indicated a letter will be sent to the property owner and the company who owns the storage container. If the issue is not resolved, the storage container will be removed.

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Being no further business, Chairman Fields declared the meeting adjourned until
Wednesday, June 17th at 9:30 AM.

Respectfully submitted:



William F. (Bill) Knowles, County Clerk

Approved:

07-01-15
Date



Clerk's Initials