

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION
AGENDA PREPARATION SESSION
JUNE 13, 2018**

STATE OF TENNESSEE) Agenda Preparation Session
COUNTY OF HAMILTON) June 13, 2018

BE IT REMEMBERED, that on this 13th day of June, 2018, 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 Sabrena Smedley, Chairman Pro Tempore. County Clerk Bill Knowles called the roll of the County Commission and the following, constituting a quorum, answered to their names: Commissioner Bankston, Commissioner Beck, Commissioner Boyd, Commissioner Fields, Commissioner Graham, Commissioner Mackey, Commissioner Martin, and Chairman Pro Tempore Smedley. Chairman Fairbanks was absent. Total present – 8. Total absent -1.

Also in attendance were County Mayor Jim Coppinger, members of his administrative staff, County Attorney Rheubin Taylor, and County Auditor Jenneth Randall.

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COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Chairman Pro Tempore Smedley indicated the upcoming agenda items would be considered as follows:

- An Order of Designation to the Planning Commission would be submitted as a matter of record.
- The Juvenile Court Clerk's Reports for March and April 2018 would be submitted as a matter of record.
- Resolution No. 618-17 was the usual County Clerk item regarding notaries, etc. This required no committee assignment.
- Resolution Nos. 618-28 through 618-33 were assigned to the Finance Committee, chaired by Commissioner Smedley.
- Resolution Nos. 618-18 through 618-27 were heard by a Committee of the Whole.

**PRESENTATION – CERTIFICATE OF CONGRATULATIONS – GANNS MIDDLE
VALLEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Commissioner Martin asked that Ganns Middle Valley Elementary School Principal Allyson DeYoung and Director of the Read 20 program Shawn Kurrellmeier-Lee to join him at the podium. He presented a Certificate of Congratulations to Ganns Middle Valley Elementary School for winning the Read 20 Scotty Probasco Reader Award for the fifth year in a row, and for securing a \$5,000.00 award for 2017-2018 and \$10,000.00 for the previous four years. Commissioner Martin commended Principal DeYoung for implementing a successful reading program at the school and creating a culture in which reading is a priority. It was noted the Read 20 Scotty Probasco Reader

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Award recognizes students who read a specific number of books recommended per grade level independently or with a committed adult for a minimum of 20 minutes outside the school day for the entire school year.

3:55

Principal DeYoung thanked Commissioner Martin for the recognition. She acknowledged the late Chattanooga banker and philanthropist Scotty Probasco, who founded the literacy award and Mayor Coppinger for sponsoring Read 20 in the county's budget. She spoke about the emphasis the school has placed on reading with more than 800 students attending the school and 91% taking part in Read 20. She credited the leadership of teachers and parents for the emphasis they place on reading, which she stated was foundational to every success in life. Principal DeYoung introduced Elizabeth Marshall, a parent volunteer and bus driver, who has been coming to the school to read with the students for five years.

Commissioner Graham thanked Principal DeYoung and Ms. Marshall for their enthusiasm in promoting a love of reading at the school. In response to Commissioner Graham's question, Principal DeYoung provided some background on the Read 20 program and the impact it has in providing the tools to promote reading, including library books and take home books for students. She stated the program has been extremely valuable.

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14:06

In response to Commissioner Boyd's question regarding the Read 20 program's overall success, Principal DeYoung stated Read 20 provides the resources, but the success of the program is based on the willingness of leaders, teachers, and parents to be involved.

Commissioner Mackey asked Principal DeYoung for advice on how the program could work better in District 4, where there is higher poverty level and higher number of single parent households. Principal DeYoung encouraged Commissioner Mackey to sit down with Ms. Kurrellmeier-Lee to develop some strategies.

22:45

Mayor Coppinger noted Principal DeYoung is the sister of Hamilton County Criminal Court Judge Barry Steelman.

Mayor Coppinger echoed Principal DeYoung's statements that the leadership of teachers and parents is crucial to the success of the Read 20 program and thanked her for creating that culture. He commended Ms. Marshall for volunteering her time to read with the students. He also thanked Ms. Kurrellmeier-Lee for her work with Read 20. Mayor Coppinger spoke about the late Scotty Probasco, who left behind a trust fund in the name of Read 20 to be paid out to Hamilton County public schools. He concluded his statements by thanking Principal DeYoung for her leadership and the emphasis she places on reading.

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At this time, Principal DeYoung, Ms. Kurrellmeier-Lee, and Ms. Marshall shook hands with members of the Commission, Attorney Taylor, and Mayor Coppinger.

30:33

PRESENTATION – UNITED STATES NAVY WEEK

Mayor Coppinger asked several members of the United States Navy to come forward to receive a Proclamation declaring June 11th through June 15th “United States Navy Week”. He also asked that Commissioner Fields, a United States Navy veteran, to come forward to present the Proclamation. Mayor Coppinger expressed his gratitude to the all the men and women that serve, as well as their families, for the sacrifices they make.

Commissioner Fields thanked Mayor Coppinger for honoring the United States Navy. He spoke about his six years in the service, which began when he was 17-years old.

Commander Paul Seitz, Commanding Officer of the USS Tennessee Blue Crew, accepted the Proclamation and thanked Mayor Coppinger for the honor. He explained the USS Tennessee is an Ohio-class ballistic missile submarine whose keel was laid down on June 9, 1986. He added the ship is a two-crew ship and Commander Jon Schaffner, Commanding Officer of the USS Tennessee Gold Crew, is currently at sea.

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At this time, a standing ovation was given for the members of the United States Navy.

Mayor Coppinger noted Hamilton County Sheriff Jim Hammond is also a Navy veteran. He asked the service members to shake hands with members of the Commission and Attorney Taylor.

39:07

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 618-18

Commissioner Beck spoke regarding this item, which approves the expenditure of up to \$7,950.00 in discretionary bond funds, as allotted to District 5, for the purchase of Chromebooks for Hillcrest Elementary School. He noted approval for the purchase of additional Chromebooks would be needed in the near future.

There were no questions from Commissioners.

40:01

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 618-19

Christie Jordan, Director of Accounting and Budgeting for the Department of Education, spoke regarding this item, which amends the Schools Federal Projects Fund budget by adding \$2,019,909.00 to the FY 2017-2018 budget and amends the Self-

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Funded Projects Fund budget by appropriating investments of \$2,250.00, fund balance of \$16,842.00 and additional revenue of \$618,540.00 to the FY 2017-2018 budget.

Additionally, it amends the General Purpose Fund budget by appropriating fund balance of \$438,760.00 and additional revenue of \$10,961,527.00 to the FY 2017-2018 budget.

She stated this was the end of the year budget true up.

In response to Commissioner Graham's question, Ms. Jordan confirmed this is a routine housekeeping item.

42:06

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 618-20

Jack Ellis, Financial Manager for the Sheriff's Office, spoke regarding this item, which amends the Sheriff's special operations budget by adding \$20,010.82 to the FY 2018 revenues and expenditures for various state entities to investigate high intensity drug trafficking areas.

There were no questions from Commissioners.

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43:02 **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 618-21**

Director of General Services Lee Norris spoke regarding this Resolution, which authorizes the County Mayor, on behalf of Hamilton County, to accept the future conveyance of a tract of real property from the North Chickamauga Creek Conservancy. He explained the property, located at the base of Signal Mountain below the W Road, would be developed as an outdoor recreational area by a coalition of nonprofit organizations and then added to the county's park system, which would allow for public access. The organizations involved in the project are The Land Trust for Tennessee, Southern Off-Road Bicycling Association Chattanooga, Southeastern Climbing Coalition, North Chickamauga Creek Conservancy and Access Fund.

In response to Commissioner Mackey's question, Mr. Norris stated the total land is approximately 200-acres, most of which is on unbuildable land and could not otherwise be developed.

Commissioner Graham voiced his support for the project.

46:07 In response to Commissioner Boyd's question, Mr. Norris stated the process to develop the property could take several years as members of the nonprofit organizations are working to obtain grants to hire professional trail developers.

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47:00

In response to Commissioner Boyd's question, Taft Sibley, Vice President of the North Chickamauga Creek Conservancy (NCCC), explained the NCCC currently holds 100-acres of the land and will secure 100 additional adjoining acres from a private landowner later this month. Rachael Bergmann, Conservation Project Manager for the Land Trust for Tennessee, added none of the nonprofit organizations involved have the capacity to manage a public park on a daily basis, but would have volunteers to manage trails and climbing areas. In addition, transferring the land to the county park system would allow for more public access.

In response to Commissioner Martin's question, Mr. Sibley stated some of the organizations do not have a current estimate on what the cost to the county would be as it would depend on how much they choose to add to the area. It was noted if accepted; the county would be tasked with building an unpaved road and parking area. Other development costs, such as a restroom facility, would also fall to the county. Mr. Norris added out of thirteen county parks, three have rangers assigned to them.

52:44

Attorney Taylor clarified if an injury occurs on county owned property, there is always the potential for a lawsuit.

In response to Commissioner Graham's question, Ms. Bergmann and Mr. Sibley stated the project resembles the recreational area on Stringer's Ridge, with unpaved

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roads and minimal maintenance costs. They also said the park would be eligible for more grant funding if it is a public resource.

Commissioner Boyd expressed his concern about the long-term financial impact of the park. He referred to Enterprise South Nature Park (ESNP), which started with a \$400,000.00 annual budget and is now close to \$1.5 million.

1:01:08 Mayor Coppinger stated there would be financial obligation to the county if they choose to accept the property. He encouraged Commissioners to support the project as the location of the park would add quality of life to the community and attract out of town outdoor enthusiasts.

1:07:05 **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 618-22**

Administrator of Public Works and County Engineer Todd Leamon spoke regarding this Item, which approves the firm of TWH Architects, a Michael Brady Inc. Company, for design of a new Mowbray Volunteer Fire Department building.

Mayor Coppinger stated Chairman Fairbanks played an important role in selecting the architect for this project.

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1:08:32 **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 618-23**

Administrator of Public Works and County Engineer Todd Leamon spoke regarding this item, which accepts the bid of TriCon, Inc. for \$4,570,000.00 for the Fire Station 1 replacement for Walden's Ridge Emergency Services.

Commissioner Boyd voiced concerns over TriCon, Inc. and some unfavorable reviews after their work on the new East Brainerd Elementary School. Mr. Leamon stated performance bonds and warranties will be in place to ensure proper management of the project.

Commissioner Fields encouraged Commissioners to support this Resolution. He stated he has been involved in the project for over four years. He explained Walden's Ridge Emergency Services is made up solely of volunteers and covers approximately 32 square miles of service area. Their currently facility has been in place since 1976 and lacks proper storage, training space, and one functional restroom with no shower facilities.

Mayor Coppinger echoed Commissioner Fields' comments and commended him for his leadership on this project.

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1:17:01 **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 618-24**

Development Director Dan Saieed spoke regarding this Resolution, which authorizes the County Mayor to sign an agreement in the amount of \$50,000.00 with the Urban League of Greater Chattanooga to provide certain contract compliance services for a contract period beginning July 1, 2018 and ending June 30, 2019. He noted Urban League President and CEO Warren Logan was present to answer any questions.

In response to Commissioner Boyd's question, Mr. Saieed stated the contract would begin July 1st and is contingent on the passing of the FY 2018-2019 budget.

Mr. Logan provided details to the Commission about the Urban League's work, which includes employment assistance, monitoring job sites, as well as documenting women and minority hiring patterns.

Commissioner Boyd questioned if contract compliance could be written directly into contracts.

Commissioner Graham thanked Mr. Logan for the work he does with the Urban League and the community. He noted the Urban League provides a service to Hamilton County that would otherwise be the county's responsibility. In response to

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Commissioner Graham's question, Mr. Saieed stated the county does not have the staff to perform contract compliance services.

Commissioner Graham, Commissioner Mackey, and Commissioner Beck encouraged Commissioners to continue funding the Urban League.

1:25:57 Mayor Coppinger thanked Mr. Logan for his work in Hamilton County. He emphasized the importance of the work he does to county government.

1:28:07 **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 618-25**

Development Director Dan Saieed spoke regarding this Resolution, which authorizes the County Mayor to sign a grant agreement with a term beginning July 1, 2018 and ending June 30, 2019 with the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services. He reported this agreement is for continuation support for the Hamilton County Recovery Court Program. It was noted Elaine Kelly, Coordinator of the Recovery Court Program, was present to answer any questions.

In response to Commissioner Graham's question, Ms. Kelly stated this is housekeeping item that comes before the Commission every year. It was noted all the

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operational costs are covered by grants. Commissioner Graham thanked Ms. Kelly for her work with the Recovery Court.

1:30:37 **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 618-26**

Development Director Dan Saieed spoke regarding this item, which authorizes the County Mayor to enter into a contract with the State of Tennessee Office of Criminal Justice Programs (OCJP) for a three year Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) grant award of \$420,000.00 with a beginning date of July 1, 2018 and an ending date of June 30, 2021, with a total annual project cost of \$175,000 and requiring a 20% match of the \$35,000.00 from Hamilton County's Mental Health Court's budget.

There were no questions from Commissioners.

1:32:15 **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 618-27**

Development Director Dan Saieed spoke regarding this item, which authorizes the County Mayor to submit application(s) for funding to the U.S. Department of Transportation, the Federal Railroad Administration, and the State of Tennessee for a phased rail infrastructure improvement project in amounts not to exceed \$10,526,000.00 to provide rail improvements, expansion, and railcar congestion

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mitigation at Enterprise South Industrial Park with a total project cost of \$15,406,962.00. This Resolution would also provide additional matching funds from Hamilton County/County Rail Authority, and state and corporate sources not to exceed \$8,847,480.00. He explained one grant is under the Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) program of the Federal Railroad Administration. The other is from the U.S. Department of Transportation's Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) program, which is part of President Donald Trump's initiative to leverage federal money with private resources for infrastructure improvements.

Tim Andrews, Director of the Hamilton County Rail Authority, explained Volkswagen and other manufacturers have increased production at Enterprise South and there is now a need to grow the rail network to sustain that level of growth. He compared the congestion on Enterprise South's rail network to the congested conditions at Bonny Oaks Drive. He noted improving the rail network would allow for more investment in the area.

In response to Commissioner Boyd's question, Mr. Andrews stated congested rails cost industries time and money, which could prevent further investment in Hamilton County.

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In response to Commissioner Boyd's question, Mr. Saieed stated the maximum county match if no other funding sources came through would be \$8.8 million. He added the revenue from the grants will determine the county's portion of funding.

1:38:25 Commissioner Martin spoke about numerous complaints from constituents in District 3 regarding the lengthy train delays at Hamill Road off Highway 153 in Hixson, which often cuts off access to Memorial North Park Hospital. Mr. Andrews stated a grade separation project is needed to alleviate that congestion. He added communication between EMS and train operators could be improved, but emphasized that railroads are federally regulated and not locally controlled.

1:43:57 In response to Commissioner Graham's question, Mr. Andrews confirmed this Resolution is approving the grant application. He added without the grants, a solution to the rail congestion will still be necessary. Commissioner Graham voiced support for this Resolution.

Chairman Pro Tempore Smedley thanked Mr. Saieed and Mr. Andrews.

Commissioner Smedley, Chairman of the Finance Committee, stated the Finance Committee would meet in the Commission Room immediately following today's Agenda Session.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

1:47:09 Commissioner Mackey stated he is glad railroads and roads in Hamilton County are busy.

1:47:45 Commissioner Graham thanked Commissioner Martin and Mayor Coppinger for today's presentations. He thanked fellow Commissioners for the thorough discussions at today's meeting.

1:48:44 Commissioner Martin announced the vote on the FY 2018-2019 budget would be taking place on June 27th and welcomed any additional public comments and input.

1:49:07 Commissioner Boyd echoed Commissioner Graham's comments about the discussions that took place during today's Agenda Session. He thanked Mayor Coppinger and his staff for the work they do.

1:49:56 Chairman Pro Tempore Smedley thanked Commissioners for their participation during today's meeting.

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1:50:10 **DELEGATIONS**

Chairman Pro Tempore Smedley asked for delegations on matters other than zoning.

Christopher Dahl, residing at 2020 East 12th Street Chattanooga, TN 37404, addressed Commissioners regarding the Tennessee Open Meetings Act. He asked Commissioners to consider recording community meetings.

Being no further business, Chairman Pro Tempore Smedley declared the meeting adjourned. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be Wednesday, June 20th at 9:30 AM.

Respectfully submitted:



William F. (Bill) Knowles, County Clerk

Approved:

07-03-18
Date

W.F.K.
Clerk's Initials