

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION
AGENDA PREPARATION SESSION
JULY 13, 2016**

STATE OF TENNESSEE) Agenda Preparation Session
COUNTY OF HAMILTON) July 13, 2016

BE IT REMEMBERED, that on this 13th day of July, 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 Fairbanks, Commissioner Fields, Commissioner Graham, Commissioner Haynes, Commissioner Mackey, Commissioner Smedley, and Chairman Bankston. Commissioner Boyd was absent. Total present - 8. Total absent – 1.

Chairman Bankston announced in the recessed meeting held earlier that Commissioner Boyd would not be present for today's meetings.

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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COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Chairman Bankston 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.
- Resolution No. 716-19 was the usual County Clerk item regarding notaries, etc. This required no committee assignment.
- Resolution Nos. 716-27 through 716-30 were assigned to the Zoning Committee, chaired by Commissioner Haynes.
- Resolution Nos. 716-31 through 716-35, and 716-37 were assigned to the Finance Committee, chaired by Commissioner Boyd.
- Resolution No. 716-36 was assigned to the Roads Committee, chaired by Commissioner Haynes.
- Resolution Nos. 716-20 through 716-26, and 716-38 were heard by a Committee of the Whole.

Chairman Bankston stated that Resolution Nos. 716-20 through 716-26, and 716-38 would now be heard by the Committee of the Whole.

1:07

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 716-20

Commissioner Fields spoke regarding this item, which appropriates \$3,800.00 from unused general fund travel/expense discretionary monies, as allotted to District 2, to the Town of Signal Mountain. It was noted that the funds will assist with maintenance to the Signal Mountain Playhouse Amphitheater.

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There were no questions from Commissioners.

1:46 **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 716-21**

Chairman Bankston spoke regarding this item, which appropriates \$1,000.00 from general fund discretionary monies, as allotted to District 9, to The Honoring the Sacrifice Foundation. It was noted that the funds will assist the nonprofit with its annual banquet.

There were no questions from Commissioners.

2:05 **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 716-22**

This Resolution authorizes Hamilton County to make an intergovernmental transfer to the State of Tennessee's TennCare Program in order to secure additional funding from the State of Tennessee's Public Hospital Supplemental Payment Pool (PHSPP) for the Chattanooga-Hamilton County Hospital Authority (Erlanger).

In response to Commissioner Graham's question, Administrator of Finance Albert Kiser stated that Erlanger will transfer public funds in the amount of \$11,067,323 to Hamilton County. The County will forward that sum to the State of Tennessee in order

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to secure \$31,666,160 for Erlanger from the State TennCare program. He added that the funds are part of a State of Tennessee financial pool of \$100,000,000 that is split between three hospitals to provide health services for TennCare enrollees and uninsured patients.

3:45 **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 716-23**

Commissioner Fields spoke regarding this item, which authorizes the County Mayor to enter into and execute a real estate purchase agreement and all closing documents necessary to purchase certain property located on Taft Highway needed to construct a new fire hall for the Walden's Ridge Community of Signal Mountain.

Commissioner Fields provided some background on Walden's Ridge Emergency Services, a volunteer fire department located on Signal Mountain. They service the Town of Signal Mountain, the Lone Oak Community of Signal Mountain, and the City of Red Bank, as well as providing back up assistance to 40 other departments in Southeast Tennessee, Northwest Georgia, and Northeast Alabama through the Tri-State Mutual Aid Association. It was noted that their current facility is 37 years old and is not adequate to accommodate the growth of the fire department.

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Commissioner Fields explained that 1.8 acres of land adjoining the current fire hall property are available for purchase, and are sufficient to construct a new facility. He added that keeping the location of the fire department where it is will ensure that response times are not increased given the department's large coverage area.

7:32 In response to Commissioner Fairbanks' question, Commissioner Fields reported that the department will continue to operate from its current location until the new facility is constructed. He added that the current facility will eventually be torn down to make space for additional parking and training exercises.

In response to Commissioner Haynes question, Commissioner Fields clarified that this Resolution is approving the purchase of the property for \$400,000.

In response to Commissioner Graham's question regarding the revenues from property sales, Commissioner Fields noted that the current and new property will be deeded to the County.

10:58 In response to Commissioner Graham's question, Mayor Copping explained that Commissioner Fields has been involved in this project for close to two years. He added that this was the cheapest available piece of property, given the ability to utilize the current property as well.

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Commissioner Mackey reported that Commissioner Fields gave a very informative presentation about Walden's Ridge Emergency Services, and he will be supporting this item next week.

12:38 **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 716-24**

This Resolution authorizes payment to Will Denami to represent the interests of Hamilton County before the Tennessee General Assembly and other governmental entities during fiscal year 2016-2017.

In response to Commissioner Graham's question, Mayor Coppinger explained that the amount of Mr. Denami's contract is the same as last year (Resolution No. 715-26) and has not changed.

13:16 **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 716-25**

This Resolution approves the contract extension of Kenneth U. Jordan, II for the position as Equal Employment Opportunity Officer for Hamilton County, Tennessee, for an additional two-year period to expire on June 30, 2018.

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In response to Commissioner Beck's question, Mayor Coppinger reported that the amount of Mr. Jordan's contract is the same as his previous contract (Resolution No. 714-20) and has not changed. Mayor Coppinger further clarified details of the contract during announcements.

13:54

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 716-26

This Resolution approves the transferring of \$2,500.00 in discretionary bond funds as allotted to County Commission District 5 to County Commission District 8, and the transferring of a like amount in general capital discretionary funds as allotted to County Commission District 8 to County Commission District 5. It was noted that the funds will be used to purchase playground equipment for Barger Elementary School.

Attorney Taylor reported that a companion Resolution should have been included with this item on behalf of Commissioner Beck, which would appropriate the same amount to the same recipient. He added he would prepare the Resolution for next week's meeting.

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15:05

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 716-38

This Resolution approves the naming of the headquarters station of the Sale Creek Volunteer Fire Department “The R. Glenn Aslinger Fire Station”.

Commissioner Graham spoke about a letter he received from the Sale Creek Volunteer Fire Department, in which they expressed a desire to name the community center after former Commissioner Fred Skillern, in addition to naming the fire station after Mr. Aslinger. He questioned when that would be brought before the Commission for consideration.

15:27

In response to Commissioner Graham’s question, Commissioner Fairbanks explained that the circumstances involving the naming of the community center for Mr. Skillern and the fire station for Mr. Aslinger were different given that Mr. Aslinger passed away in September 2014, and former Commissioner Skillern is still living. He indicated the second building naming would be handled at a later date.

Commissioner Haynes, Chairman of the Zoning Committee, announced that the Zoning Committee would be meeting in the Commission Room immediately following the Finance Committee meeting. It was noted that a large number of opposition was present for the meeting.

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Commissioner Fairbanks announced that the Finance Committee would be meeting in the Commission room immediately following the Agenda Session. It was noted that Commissioner Fairbanks would be presiding over the meeting in Commissioner Boyd's absence.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Bankston asked for announcements from members of the Commission.

Mayor Copping and several members of the Commission spoke about the approaching one-year anniversary of the shootings in Chattanooga that took the lives of five military service members on July 16th. They encouraged members of the community to attend one of the many memorial events taking place this weekend to honor the fallen five.

18:29 Commissioner Haynes announced that early voting begins July 15th through July 30th for those interested in participating.

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19:11 Commissioner Graham encouraged everyone to thank all service members including police officers and first responders for their selfless work in keeping our community safe.

21:10 Commissioner Smedley thanked Mayor Coppinger and Chairman Bankston for meeting with realtors to discuss growth within Hamilton County, particularly in District 7 and District 9.

21:43 Mayor Coppinger referenced Resolution No. 716-25 and reported that Mr. Jordan's contract includes the 2.5% pay raise that was granted to county employees in the FY17 budget (Resolution No. 616-28A). He stated that the increase is not included in Mr. Denami's contract.

Mayor Coppinger announced that a public meeting of the Tennessee River Bridge Committee will be meeting Wednesday, July 20th at 3:00 PM in the Commission Room. The meeting will include a project update, and the Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) will be present. He encouraged Commissioners to attend.

24:03 Chairman Bankston thanked Mayor Coppinger for meeting with realtors in District 7 and District 9 to discuss growth.

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DELEGATIONS

24:48 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, July 20th at 9:30 AM.

Respectfully submitted:



William F. (Bill) Knowles, County Clerk

Approved:

08-03-16
Date

W.F.K.
Clerk's Initials