

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION
AGENDA PREPARATION SESSION
JULY 27, 2016**

STATE OF TENNESSEE)
COUNTY OF HAMILTON)

Agenda Preparation Session
July 27, 2016

BE IT REMEMBERED, that on this 27th 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:--

0:09 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.

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:

- The Trustee's Monthly and Excess Fee Reports for June 2016 would be submitted for the record.
- Resolution No. 816-1 was the usual County Clerk item regarding notaries, etc. This required no committee assignment.
- Resolution Nos. 816-15 through 816-27 were assigned to the Finance Committee, chaired by Commissioner Boyd.
- Resolution Nos. 816-2 through 816-14 were heard by a Committee of the Whole.

Chairman Bankston stated that Resolution Nos. 816-2 through 816-14 would now be heard by the Committee of the Whole.

0:53

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 816-2

Chairman Bankston spoke regarding this item, which re-activates the Hamilton County Agricultural Extension Committee and appoints two members and two commissioners, for a term beginning August 3, 2016 and ending August 3, 2018. The resolution appoints Commissioner Chester Bankston, Commissioner Sabrena Smedley, Renee Grace and Paul Thomas.

There were no questions from Commissioners.

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1:18 **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 816-3**

Chairman Bankston spoke regarding this item, which reappoints Ed Townson to the Hamilton County Beer Board for a term ending July 22, 2018.

There were no questions from Commissioners.

1:36 **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 816-4**

Chairman Bankston spoke regarding this item, which appoints Jeff Davis and reappoints William Madison and Miranda Perez to the Hamilton County Employee Appeals Board for a term expiring August 3, 2018.

There were no questions from Commissioners.

2:01 **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 816-5**

Chairman Bankston spoke regarding this item, which appoints Todd Leamon to the Southeast Tennessee Solid Waste Planning Region Board, for a term expiring July 20, 2021.

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There were no questions from Commissioners.

2:20 **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 816-6**

Chairman Bankston spoke regarding this item, which approves the appropriation of five hundred dollars in general discretionary funds, as allotted to district nine, to assist with summer programs.

There were no questions from Commissioners.

2:55 **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 816-7**

Commissioner Beck spoke regarding this item, which approves the appropriation of twelve thousand dollars in general discretionary funds, as allotted to district five, to assist with the summer youth intern program.

There were no questions from Commissioners.

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3:22 **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 816-8**

Commissioner Haynes spoke regarding this item, which approves the expenditure of \$1,006.25 in general discretionary funds, as allotted to district three, to reimburse Hixson High School for the purchase of a softball netting panel to protect spectators. He noted that the bond discretionary funds were from two years ago.

There were no questions from Commissioners.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 816-9

Attorney Taylor spoke regarding this item, which approves an Interlocal agreement among the City of Ridgese, Hamilton County, Tennessee, and the Hamilton County Trustee relative to the collection of the City of Ridgese's pool and street lights fees. Currently the Trustee bills and collects a Sanitation Fee as assessed by the City of Ridgese. The City of Ridgese has requested that the County and the Trustee also assist with simultaneously billing and collecting the newly imposed Pool and Street Lights Fees.

There were no questions from Commissioners.

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5:20

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 816-10

Sam Mairs, Juvenile Court Administrator spoke regarding this item, which authorizes the County Mayor to enter into and execute a contract with the State of Tennessee, Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth, to receive \$18,000.00 to be used for the Court Appointed Special Advocate Program (CASA) within the Hamilton County Juvenile Court. He noted the grant requires no match and the funds will be used to offset the CASA Coordinator's salary. He stated the grant will be issued annually versus every 5 years.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 816-11

6:25

Mayor Coppinger spoke regarding this item, which authorizes in accordance with T.C.A 40-24-109 Hamilton County to establish a victims' assistance assessment of \$45.00 to fund a program which assists victims of crime and designating the funds generated by the assessment be distributed in accordance with said statute equally to the Partnership of Families Children and Adults and the Children's Advocacy Center of Hamilton County. It was noted that perpetrators of crimes will be assessed the \$45.00, \$3.00 will be designated as a fee to be used by all clerks of court and \$42.00 will be split and directed to the Partnership for Families Children and Adults and the Children's Advocacy Center of Hamilton County.

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10:05 Commissioner Graham reported he would be supporting the resolution and thanked both organizations for the services they provide in the community. He questioned the likelihood of being able to collect fees from perpetrators of crimes.

In response Mayor Coppinger stated that in the event the fee is assessed, not paid, and then collected by a collection agency the amount collected would still be split by both agencies. Hamilton County will not be responsible for paying any uncollected assessments.

12:13 In response to Commissioner Haynes question, Attorney Taylor reported that the money collected would stay in Hamilton County, it would not be sent to Nashville. Commissioner Haynes stated he would be supporting the resolution.

13:15 In response to Commissioner Boyd question, Pam Ladd, CEO for Partnership for Families, Children and Adults stated that a realistic estimate of revenue is hard to obtain because of all the variables. She noted that funds received are better than zero. She also reported that quarterly reports will be sent to Criminal Court Clerk Vince Dean detailing the amount of money received and how the funds were spent.

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15:45 Commissioner Mackey thanked Pam Ladd for all the hard work she has done at Partnership for Families, Children and Adults.

In response to Commissioner Haynes question, Ms. Ladd stated that Judges do have the authority to waive the \$45.00 assessment.

17:18 Mayor Coppinger noted that CEO Pam Ladd, Board Member Pat Neuhoff, and Senior Director Regina McDevitt of Partnership for Families, Children and Adults and Executive Director Shelley McGraw with Children's Advocacy Center of Hamilton County were present for questions. There being no further questions Chairman Bankston announced that they were not required to attend next week's meeting.

18:51 **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 816-12**

Chairman Bankston spoke regarding this item, which accepts the proposal of Fun Time Foods dba Tikiz Shaved Ice and Ice Cream for operation of food and beverage concession services within Chester Frost Park.

19:16 In response to Commissioner Boyd's question, Albert Kiser, Administrator of Finance reported that Tikiz's will submit monthly revenue reports to the county and the county has the authority to audit at any given time. Commissioner Graham added that

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Tikiz's will be licensed and required to submit sales tax reports to the State of Tennessee. He also thanked Lee Norris, Director of General Services for improving Hamilton County Parks.

22:20 **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 816-13**

Chairman Bankston spoke regarding this item, which accepts the bid of Pomeroy IT Solutions, Inc. for a one year contract, beginning August 4, 2016, through August 3, 2017, with the option to renew for two additional one year terms, for Cisco Unified Communications (VoIP) equipment for the Information Technology Department.

There were no questions from Commissioners.

22:51 **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 816-14**

Albert Kiser, Administrator of Finance spoke regarding this item, which accepts the proposal of Pomeroy IT Solutions, Inc. for professional services for installation and training support relative to implementation of Unified Communications (VoIP) technology throughout Hamilton County on behalf of the Information Technology and Telecommunication Departments amounting to \$110,472.50.

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In response to Commissioner Graham question, Mr. Kiser confirmed that savings will be realized in 5 years.

24:25 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Bankston asked for announcements from members of the Commission.

24:53 Commissioner Haynes announced that he toured the newly built Middle Valley Elementary school and it will be open for classes beginning this school year. He noted that landscaping may not be complete by the first day of school.

25:36 Commissioner Graham wished his wife and Chief Deputy Clerk Debbie Rollins a Happy Birthday.

26:00 Commissioner Boyd, Chairman of the Finance Committee spoke about the "Eight Topics to Review" list which he presented to the Finance Committee on September 22,

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2015. He noted that 7 topics have been reviewed, and that he is presenting a written report pertaining to the last topic which relates to the Hamilton County Waste and Wastewater Treatment Authority (WWTA).

At this time a bound copy of the 57 page report titled "WWTA: A Great Vision Gone Astray" was distributed to the Commission, the Mayor and the County Clerk's office. He stated that the report is a review of WWTA that contains documents dating back to 2013. He also stated it's not a complete report; however there is substantial material backing it.

He asked the Mayor and whatever committee he puts together to constructively use the report during the reorganization of WWTA. He noted that the findings in his report made it evident that WWTA is in dire need of reorganization and policy changes. He reported that an invitation was extended to the current WWTA Board Chairman and Interim Executive Director to review the report before it was published, however they were not receptive.

He noted he was looking forward to WWTA making an announcement in the next two weeks concerning a program in district 8. He reported that additional projects in district 8 are hinging on what WWTA can do to make improvements.

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29:18 Commissioner Fairbanks reminded everyone that the Sale Creek Volunteer Fire Department is having a dedication ceremony this Saturday at 10:00 am.

29:54 Commissioner Beck made several comments regarding the negative remarks in Commissioner Boyd's WWTA report. He pointed out that it was disrespectful to the family of Cleveland Grimes, longtime Executive Director of WWTA who passed away March 29th. He stated that negativity will not resolve problems. There is a much better diplomatic way to solve this without rehashing old complaints or criticizing dead people. He asked that the report be taken up and rewritten with consideration of Mr. Grimes' wife, family, and the public who loved him dearly.

32:38 Mayor Coppinger thanked Commissioner Beck for his comments regarding the WWTA report. He pointed out that Cleveland Grimes was awarded the Golden Manhole Award by the Kentucky-Tennessee Water Environment Association at the Kentucky-Tennessee Water Professional's Conference in Knoxville this week. The award was accepted by his widow, Mary Knaff, and family. He added that the award is another reminder of what a great civil servant Mr. Grimes was and his successes at the WWTA. He stated that he had not yet read the report and asked the public to keep in mind the challenges that Mr. Grimes faced every day. He also reminded everyone that WWTA has a governing Board of Commissioners who dictates the direction of WWTA.

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Mayor Coppinger congratulated his staff, the builder, the general contractor and the Department of Education for successfully building the new Middle Valley Elementary school under an extremely tight deadline.

Mayor Coppinger thanked Bart McKinney, Director of Information Technologies and his staff for creating an online program that allows campers to register for their camp sites online. The program is currently being tested and will be live in a few weeks.

38:55 Commissioner Boyd spoke in response to Commissioner Beck and Mayor Coppinger's comments regarding the WWTA report. He noted on page 25 of the report a printed copy of News Channel 9's report pertaining to the Golden Manhole award presented for the positive work of Mr. Grimes is included.

He said he did not author any of the negative comments, but only recorded them as part of constituents' stories. He stated the report would not be rewritten.

40:33 Mayor Coppinger reminded the public that there are 354,000 people that live in Hamilton County and when you compare complaints to satisfaction the positive outweighs the negative. He pointed out that legitimate complaints are addressed every day and urged the public to look at the glass half full. He encouraged constructive

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criticism and applauded everyone who provides outstanding services to Hamilton County.

42:37 Commissioner Graham, Chairman of the Diversity and Equity Committee, announced that he tentatively had a speaker scheduled and planned to meet immediately after next week's Agenda Session. The speaker will report statistics about diversity in Hamilton County.

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, August 3rd at 9:30 AM.

Respectfully submitted:



William F. (Bill) Knowles, County Clerk

Approved:

08-17-16
Date

W.F.K.
Clerk's Initials