

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION
AGENDA PREPARATION SESSION
JULY 29, 2020**

STATE OF TENNESSEE) Agenda Preparation Session
COUNTY OF HAMILTON) July 29, 2020

0:01

BE IT REMEMBERED, that on this 29th day of July, 2020, an Agenda Preparation Session 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, Executive Order No. 34 issued on May 6, 2020, and Executive Order No. 51 issued on June 29, 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 Bankston, Commissioner Boyd, Commissioner Mackey, Commissioner Martin, Commissioner Sharpe, Commissioner Smedley, and Chairman Fairbanks. Total present – 7. Total absent – 2. Commissioner Baker and Commissioner Geter were absent.

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

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COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

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

- Two Orders of Designation to the Planning Commission would be submitted as a matter of record.
- The Trustee's Monthly and Excess Fee Reports for June 2020 would be submitted for the record.
- Resolution Nos. 820-1 through 820-17 were heard by a Committee of the Whole.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 820-2

This Resolution appropriates \$100,000.00 to Chattanooga State Community College to serve as Hamilton County's portion of matching funds toward a new Tennessee College of Applied Technology (TCAT) building.

There were no questions from Commissioners.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 820-3

Administrator of Finance Al Kiser spoke regarding this item, which 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

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Public Hospital Supplemental Payment Pool (PHSPP) for the Chattanooga-Hamilton County Hospital Authority (Erlanger).

There were no questions from Commissioners.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 820-4

Administrator of Finance Al Kiser spoke regarding this item, which would rollover certain unspent Capital Outlay appropriations included in the fiscal year 2020 general fund budget totaling \$2,039,000.00 into the fiscal year 2021 general fund budget by adding an additional \$2,039,000.00 to expenditures from previously unbudgeted funds. He reported many departments were unable to spend money in their capital outlay budgets due to the pandemic and this item would allow them to spend that money in this year's budget.

In response to Commissioner Boyd's question, Mr. Kiser provided an overview of how the funds were distributed.

Mayor Coppinger added these funds were allocated in last year's budget.

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COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 820-5

Administrator of Finance Al Kiser spoke regarding this item, which is a initial Resolution of the legislative body of Hamilton County, Tennessee authorizing the issuance of interest-bearing General Obligation Bonds in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$65,000,000.00 to be issued in one or more series. The bonds would be used to finance or refinance certain water and sewerage facilities projects, certain building projects, and various other public works projects in Hamilton County pursuant to Tennessee Code Annotated section 9-21-101, et. seq.

In response to Chairman Fairbanks' question, Mr. Kiser stated the \$65 million is new money, and the total issue would be approximately \$82 million.

In response to Commissioner Martin's question, Mr. Kiser reported the debt service would depend on the interest rates at the time the bonds are sold, but estimated it would be around \$3 to \$4 million. He added quite a bit of debt is retired each year.

In response to Commissioner Martin's question, Mayor Coppinger stated \$17 million would be allocated to the Water and Wastewater Treatment Authority. The remaining \$48 million would be allocated to public safety, public works projects, and other needs.

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In response to Chairman Fairbanks' question, Mr. Kiser stated there are IRS regulations that would prevent refinancing all of the debt when interest rates are low.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 820-6

This Resolution authorizes the County Mayor to submit a joint application with the City of Chattanooga and accepts the Bureau of Justice Assistance "2020 Justice Assistance Grant (JAG)" with a term ending September 30, 2023, and amends the Sheriff's Office Capital Outlay budget by \$38,188.00

There were no questions from Commissioners.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 820-7

This Resolution authorizes the County Mayor to accept a FastTrack Economic Development Fund grant award from the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development in an amount of \$1,125,000.00 to assist with construction costs to support Nippon Paint's new Hamilton County operations.

There were no questions from Commissioners.

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COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 820-8

This Resolution authorizes the County Mayor to accept a FastTrack Economic Development Fund grant award from the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development in an amount of \$1,250,000.00 to assist with construction costs to support McKee Foods expansion in Hamilton County.

There were no questions from Commissioners.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 820-9

This Resolution authorizes the County Mayor to submit an application to the Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation for a grant in the amount of \$24,000.00 to replace four self-contained breathing apparatuses to be used by the Hamilton County Emergency Services Hazardous Materials Team (HAZMAT).

There were no questions from Commissioners.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 820-10

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This Resolution authorizes the County Mayor to increase the contract with Abrams Contracting, LLC for construction of a 35-foot single span concrete bridge on Red Clay Road over Nicholson Springs Branch for an amount not to exceed \$33,460.00.

There were no questions from Commissioners.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 820-11

This item ratifies the purchase of gasoline and diesel fuel for the period of June 1, 2020 through June 30, 2020 and authorizes the County Mayor to sign any contracts necessary to implement this Resolution.

There were no questions from Commissioners.

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COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 820-12

This Resolution authorizes the County Mayor to sign a contract amendment with the Tennessee Department of Health and Hamilton County, Tennessee, the Health Services Division operating as the Chattanooga-Hamilton County Health Department, to increase the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program Grant from \$152,301.00 to \$218,501.00 beginning July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2023. Additionally, it amends the contract in accordance with the Childhood Lead Poisoning Program guidelines.

There were no questions from Commissioners.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 820-13

This Resolution authorizes the County Mayor to extend the current contract between the Tennessee Department of Health and Hamilton County, Tennessee, the Health Services Division operating as the Chattanooga-Hamilton County Health Department, through September 30, 2021 in an amount not to exceed \$1,290,035.00 to provide Healthier Beginnings/Parents are First Teachers Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program (MIECHV).

There were no questions from Commissioners.

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COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 820-14

This Resolution authorizes the County Mayor on behalf of Hamilton County Tennessee, the Health Services Division operating as the Chattanooga-Hamilton County Health Department, to accept funds in the amount of \$30,000.00 from the Emergency Food and Shelter Program to provide financial assistance to families and individuals in Hamilton County to prevent those families and individuals from becoming homeless. The contract is between January 1, 2020 and May 31, 2021 or longer as determined by the Emergency Food and Shelter Program.

In response to Commissioner Mackey's question, Mayor Coppinger spoke about assisting families in need during the COVID-19 pandemic.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 820-15

This Resolution authorizes the County Mayor on behalf of Hamilton County Tennessee, the Health Services Division operating as the Chattanooga-Hamilton County Health Department, to sign a continuation grant-in-aid contract for \$593,928.00 with the Tennessee Department of Health to support the delivery of public health services for fiscal year July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021.

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There were no questions from Commissioners.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 820-16

This Resolution authorizes the County Mayor on behalf of Hamilton County Tennessee, the Health Services Division operating as the Chattanooga-Hamilton County Health Department, to enter into and execute a contract with the Battelle CCDS for the decontamination of N95 masks during COVID-19 response.

There were no questions from Commissioners.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 820-17

This Resolution authorizes the County Mayor on behalf of Hamilton County Tennessee, the Health Services Division operating as the Chattanooga-Hamilton County Health Department, to sign a contract for \$5,668,800.00 with the Tennessee Department of Health to ensure federal preparedness funds are directed to EP Programs to prepare for, respond to, and recover from public health threats. This is including, but not limited to, the response and recovery from COVID-19 for fiscal year March 16, 2020 through March 15, 2021.

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There were no questions from Commissioners.

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.

Several Commissioners and Mayor Coppinger sent their condolences to the family of former District 3 Commissioner Charlotte Vandergriff who passed away on July 23, 2020.

Commissioner Sharpe sent his condolences to the family of Andy Cope, who passed away on July 27, 2020.

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Commissioner Smedley announced that anyone needing tornado relief could apply for assistance with the Greater Chattanooga Association of Realtors. The deadline to apply is July 31, 2020.

Mayor Coppinger announced a press conference would take place today at 12:00 PM with Chattanooga Mayor Andy Berke and Superintendent of Schools Dr. Bryan Johnson regarding a public private partnership with EPB. He stated the press conference would be livestreamed on the county's YouTube page.

DELEGATIONS

Chairman Fairbanks asked for delegations on matters other than zoning.

Brad Shumpert, Therese Tuley, Lisa Crowder, Mark Bradley, and Casey Crook, residing in various districts across Hamilton County, spoke regarding concerns regarding a potential violation of TCA 49-2-201, which states that all elections for school board members should be conducted on a non-partisan basis.

After a lengthy discussion, Commissioners recommended concerned citizens contact the Hamilton County Election Commission and the District Attorney's Office.

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Nathan King, Chen Coudle, Eric Atkins, Jasmine Townsend, Iona Clemmons, Hannah Shobert, and Casey Crook, residing in various districts across Hamilton County, spoke regarding the COVID-19 response, community safety, and reducing the jail population in order to reduce exposure.

Several Commissioners stated they would be in touch with their constituents to address their concerns.

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Being no further business, Chairman Fairbanks declared the meeting adjourned until Wednesday, August 5, 2020 at 9:30 AM.

Respectfully submitted:



William F. (Bill) Knowles, County Clerk

Approved:

08-19-20



Date

Clerk's Initials