



**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION  
AGENDA PREPARATION SESSION  
AUGUST 26, 2020**

**COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS**

Chairman Fairbanks 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 Trustee's Monthly and Excess Fee Reports for July 2020 would be submitted for the record.
- Resolution No. 920-1 was the usual County Clerk item regarding notaries, etc. This required no committee assignment.
- Resolution No. 920-3 was not used.
- Resolution Nos. 920-2 and 920-4 through 920-16 were heard by a Committee of the Whole.

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 920-2**

Chief Deputy County Clerk Brooke Weaver spoke regarding this item, which approves the purchase and delivery of 17 Norcon intercom systems and accessories from Anixter, Inc. from the Omnia Partners Public Sector Purchasing Cooperative amounting to \$33,660.00 for the Hamilton County Clerk's Office. She explained the intercom systems are a COVID-19 purchase and would be installed in the plexiglass barriers at the Bonny Oaks satellite office to improve communication.

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In response to Chairman Fairbanks' question, Chief Deputy Weaver stated the purchase would come out of earmarked funds for tech purchases and a portion may be reimbursable from federal funds.

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 920-4**

This Resolution authorizes the County Mayor to continue grant contracts beginning October 1, 2020 and ending September 30, 2021 between Hamilton County and the Tennessee Department of Human Services. Additionally, it would authorize the County Mayor to sign any and all related documents for an award of \$299,094 from Title XX Social Services Block Grants to provide adult daycare and adult homemaker services to eligible individuals and families.

There were no questions from Commissioners.

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 920-5**

Hamilton County Sheriff Jim Hammond spoke regarding this item, which accepts the bid of KTM Builders, LLC for the Silverdale Correctional Facility expansion and upgrade project amounting to \$20,069,178.00 for the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office.

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He stated this project would be Phase I in the plan to expand Silverdale and eventually close the downtown jail entirely.

Administrator of Public Works and County Engineer Todd Leamon reported the upgrades would include an additional 45,000 square feet and a new processing and release areas, and a new public lobby. It also includes two new covered outdoor recreation areas for inmates.

In response to Commissioner Sharpe's question, Information Systems Manager for the Sheriff's Office Ron Bernard reported the jail population at both facilities is currently at 1,175. He stated with today's reduced population the Sheriff's Office has seen a savings of about \$300,000 per month. He added those savings would be reallocated to the capital items needed to take over management of the Silverdale facility. Commissioner Sharpe requested a breakdown of changes in inmate population and cost savings from January to now.

In response to Commissioner Mackey's question, Sheriff Hammond stated in order to continue the reduced population during the COVID-19 pandemic; he has urged officers to write citations in lieu of arrests, and judges are asked to handle more court proceedings by video so inmates do not have to be transported.

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In response to Commissioner Boyd's question, Mr. Leamon reported that KTM Builders, LLC is a local company; most of their construction experience is in commercial retail. He stated they would be consulting with Cornerstone, who has vast experience in correctional facilities, on jail specifications and equipment. Sheriff Hammond added several oversight companies would be involved.

In response to Commissioner Boyd's question, Mr. Leamon stated Hellmuth, Obata & Kassabaum, Inc. (HOK) was selected and approved as the architect for the Silverdale renovation and expansion last year (*Resolution No. 419-6*).

In response to Commissioner Baker's question, Mr. Bernard stated he has been working with County Finance on the budgeting for this project.

At this time, a lengthy discussion took place between Commissioners, Sheriff Hammond, and Mr. Bernard regarding the expansion and cost savings at the jail. Sheriff Hammond agreed to give an in depth presentation regarding the specifics of the expansion at next week's meeting. He stated he would provide Commissioners with a detailed report of the plan.

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At this time, an additional discussion took place between Commissioners, Attorney Taylor, Mayor Coppinger, Mr. Leamon and Purchasing Director Gail Roppo regarding contract negotiations and local bidders.

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 920-6**

This Resolution approves the purchase of an annual maintenance contract for Inform RMS software amounting to \$108,628.77 from Central Square Technologies (dba Tritech Software Systems) for one year beginning August 7, 2020 through August 6, 2021 for the Sheriff's Office.

In response to Commissioner Baker's question, Information Systems Manager for the Sheriff's Office Ron Bernard stated this software is not related to the issues with dashcam footage.

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 920-7**

This Resolution approves an upgrade to existing Livescan Plus equipment and the addition of Livescan Plus equipment to be located at the Silverdale Correctional Facility amounting to \$72,215.00 from DataWorks Plus, LLC for the Sheriff's Office.

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There were no questions from Commissioners.

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 920-8**

This Resolution ratifies the purchase of gasoline and diesel fuel for the period of July 1, 2020 through July 31, 2020.

There were no questions from Commissioners.

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 920-9**

This Resolution authorizes the County Mayor to sign a contract in the amount of \$44,450.00 with the Scenic Cities Beautiful Commission to provide litter prevention education services with a contract beginning July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021.

There were no questions from Commissioners.

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 920-10**

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Director of Emergency Management Chris Adams spoke regarding this item, which accepts the donation of an Auto Crane valued at \$18,000 from Environmental Barge Services, LLC.

In response to Commissioner Boyd's question, Director Adams stated he would report back with annual maintenance costs and additional specs of the crane. He later provided information regarding the crane stating it is a 2006 model in proper working order. He noted maintenance would be approximately \$430.00 per year. Photos of the crane were filed in the Clerk's Office.

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 920-11**

Director of Emergency Management Chris Adams spoke regarding this item, which approves the purchase of three Ford F-250 trucks amounting to \$100,110.00 from Ford of Murfreesboro, from Tennessee State Contract SWC-209 for the Hamilton County Office of Emergency Management.

In response to Commissioner Sharpe's question, Director Adams stated the trucks have gas engines.



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In response to Commissioner Boyd's question, Director Adams reported the trucks are a 2009 and two 2010 models.

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 920-12**

Administrator of Public Works and County Engineer Todd Leamon spoke regarding this item, which approves the purchase and delivery of a Volvo compact excavator from ASCENDUM Machinery, Inc. from the Sourcewell Purchasing Cooperative amounting to \$103,770.00 for the Highway Department.

There were no questions from Commissioners.

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 920-13**

Administrator of Public Works and County Engineer Todd Leamon spoke regarding this item, which accepts a proposal by the Tennessee Department of Transportation for road improvements at Bonny Oaks Drive from near Adamson Circle to west of Bonnyshire Drive. He stated this is a standard TDOT agreement required before the start of the project.

There were no questions from Commissioners.

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**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 920-14**

Administrator of Public Works and County Engineer Todd Leamon spoke regarding this item, which accepts a proposal by the Tennessee Department of Transportation for road improvements from East of Bel-Air Road to near SR-321 (Ooltewah-Ringgold Road). He stated this is a standard TDOT agreement required before the start of the project.

Commissioner Smedley stated there is no completion date for either of these projects.

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 920-15**

This Resolution approves the purchase of safety footwear from Red Wing Brands of America, Inc. from the General Services Administration (GSA) contract GS-07F-0027N for various Hamilton County Departments.

There were no questions from Commissioners.

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 920-16**

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Justin Witt, Director of Maintenance and Operations for the Department of Education, spoke regarding this item, which amends Resolution Nos. 1117-25 and 218-15, which approved certain proposed designated building projects of the Hamilton County School Board, and their related funding source through Hamilton County bond allocations. He explained this amendment would reflect the School Board's August 20, 2020 decision to move Chattanooga School for the Liberal Arts (CSLA) to the current Lakeside Elementary School. He noted Superintendent of Schools Dr. Bryan Johnson and Hamilton County Schools Chief Operations Office were available to answer any questions.

In response to Commissioner Baker's question, Mr. Witt stated after renovations CSLA would become a K-12 school with space for around 1,000 students.

In response to Commissioner Sharpe's question, Mr. Witt reported the Lakeside Elementary site is approximately 20 acres.

In response to Commissioner Geter's question, Mr. Witt provided additional details regarding the renovations at the Lakeside space. Commissioner Geter voiced concerns about the decision.

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Dr. Johnson explained it was planned to close Lakeside prior to the discussion and vote to move CSLA to that site. He added the Lakeside community would be getting a new school.

In response to Chairman Fairbanks' question, Dr. Johnson provided details on how resources will be reallocated given the change in sites.

Commissioner Mackey voiced concern over increased traffic on Highway 58.

Commissioner Boyd thanked Dr. Johnson and his staff, and the School Board for looking at all options and making the best choice based on the funding available.

Commissioner Smedley echoed Commissioner Boyd's comments.

Commissioner Bankston clarified that Harrison Elementary has moved from District 9 to District 5. He also noted CSLA students are from every district.

Commissioner Geter thanked Dr. Johnson for his leadership. She disagreed with how the process was carried out and noted any Commissioners involved should have included representatives from District 5.

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Commissioner Boyd responded to Commissioner Geter's comments and stated some School Board members requested his input because of his construction background.

Dr. Johnson emphasized the importance of all parties working together to address the facility challenges across all schools.

Commissioner Sharpe also expressed the importance in investing in schools, particularly those in poor condition.

In response to Commissioner Smedley's question, Mr. Witt reported the new CSLA is set to open August 2022.

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.

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chairman Fairbanks asked for announcements from members of the Commission.

In response to Commissioner Baker's question, Chairman Fairbanks stated Governor Lee has extended the order allowing legislative bodies to meeting electronically through the end of September. He noted next week's meeting would be held via Webex.

Commissioner Geter thanked the Hamilton County Health Department and Director of Community Health Services Bill Ulmer for their work in providing COVID-19 testing sites at African American Churches for the last 13 weeks. She also thanked Mayor Coppinger and the Community Foundation for their partnership. She announced the last testing event would take place this weekend at Mount Canaan Baptist Church.

Commissioner Mackey questioned a news article referencing the sale of Erlanger.

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Commissioner Sharpe encouraged the community to continue to abide by COVID-19 guidelines and thanked those who have been wearing masks when out in the community.

Commissioner Smedley thanked Mayor Coppinger and his staff for their continued tornado relief efforts in the East Brainerd area. She also thanked Administrator of Public Works and County Engineer Todd Leamon for always being responsive.

Mayor Coppinger also thanked the Health Department and Mr. Ulmer, as well as Commissioner Geter for their work on the COVID-19 testing sites. He provided an update on COVID-19 in Hamilton County and encouraged everyone to continue to wear masks when in public spaces.

Mayor Coppinger responded to Commissioner Mackey's comments and emphasized that Erlanger is not for sale.

Mayor Coppinger asked Shelli Davis, Grant Writer in the Development Department, to provide an update on the 2020 Census. Ms. Davis reported that currently Hamilton County is at a 65.6% Census response rate. She stated starting

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August 11<sup>th</sup> Census takers were cleared to go back into the community to knock on doors. She noted approximately 30 days remain to respond to the Census.

Chairman Fairbanks also thanked the Health Department and Mr. Ulmer for their work on the COVID-19 testing sites.

Commissioner Sharpe announced a Security and Corrections Committee meeting would take place immediately following today's Agenda Session.



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**DELEGATIONS**

Chairman Fairbanks asked for delegations on matters other than zoning. There were none.

Being no further business, Chairman Fairbanks declared the meeting adjourned until Wednesday, September 2, 2020 at 9:30 AM.

Respectfully submitted:



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William F. (Bill) Knowles, County Clerk

Approved:

09-16-20



Date

Clerk's Initials