

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION
AGENDA PREPARATION SESSION
OCTOBER 14, 2015**

0:43

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. 1015-25 was the usual County Clerk item regarding notaries, etc. This required no committee assignment.
- Resolution Nos. 1015-26 through 1015-28, 1015-34, 1015-35, 1015-40 through 1015-44, 1015-46, 1015-49, and 1015-50 were assigned to the Finance Committee, chaired by Commissioner Boyd.
- Resolution Nos. 1015-29A through 1015-32 were assigned to the Zoning Committee, chaired by Commissioner Haynes.
- Resolution Nos. 1015-33, 1015-36 through 1015-39, 1015-45, 1015-47, 1015-48, and 1015-51 through 1015-53 were heard by a Committee of the Whole.

Chairman Bankston stated that Resolution Nos. 1015-33, 1015-36 through 1015-39, 1015-45, 1015-47, 1015-48, and 1015-51 through 1015-53 would now be heard by a Committee of the Whole.

1:27

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 1015-33

Commissioner Boyd introduced Dan Bowers, ArtsBuild President who spoke regarding this Resolution appropriating fifteen thousand dollars from general fund discretionary monies as allotted to district eight to the non-profit organization. Mr. Bowers thanked the Commission for their support of ArtsBuild in past years. It was

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION
AGENDA PREPARATION SESSION
OCTOBER 14, 2015**

noted that ArtsBuild was previously known as Allied Arts of Greater Chattanooga. Mr. Bowers distributed a handout to members of the Commission which detailed the organization's Cultural Community Connections (CCC) Grants, a grant initiative that began in 2012 as a way to provide arts and cultural experiences to community members of diverse backgrounds. To date, 58 grants have been awarded for a total of \$145,000. It was noted that 44 different organizations currently receive funding through ArtsBuild.

County Clerk Knowles asked that a copy of the handout be submitted to the Clerk's office for the record.

5:47

In response to Commissioner Beck's concern that he had not received notice of a meeting between ArtsBuild and the Commission, Commissioner Graham reported that an email was sent out on September 3rd inviting several Commissioners to the meeting.

6:36

Commissioner Graham spoke at length about a presentation given by ArtsBuild in which they outlined a plan for Commissioners to recommend to their state legislators regarding a new tax on cigarettes, amounting to one cent per cigarette. It was noted that the meeting was not in violation of the Sunshine Law as no business was considered, and the County Attorney was present for the meeting. Commissioner Graham added that the Diversity and Equity Committee discussed the proposed cigarette tax and asked that Mr. Bowers bring the presentation before the Commission as a whole.

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION
AGENDA PREPARATION SESSION
OCTOBER 14, 2015**

Clerk Knowles confirmed Commissioner Graham's remark that a portion of the Arts Specialty License Plate fee was allocated by the law to the State Arts organization.

In response to Commissioner Beck's question, Mr. Bowers explained that there is a broad definition of arts and culture, and a very diverse population has been served through the CCC grants in Hamilton County. Mr. Bowers clarified that Commissioner Beck was invited to the meeting between ArtsBuild and the Commission.

15:35

Commissioner Boyd emphasized that Resolution No. 1015-33 is not related to the tax increase on cigarettes. He clarified that ArtsBuild has asked the Commission to write a letter proposing a referendum in the County, which would be voted on by the entire population of Hamilton County. Commissioner Boyd spoke about attending the first Glass Street Initiative Festival, made possible through the CCC grants. He reported that the residents of Glass Street came together to promote community pride and development through art. He added that the CCC grants are used to promote arts and culture from the inner city to the entire community.

In response to Commissioner Boyd's question, Mr. Bowers reported that last year ArtsBuild received 110 applications for grants from organizations in Hamilton County; 58 grants were awarded.

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION
AGENDA PREPARATION SESSION
OCTOBER 14, 2015**

Chairman Bankston asked that any further discussion relate specifically to Resolution No. 1015-33.

To illustrate the broadness of the definition of arts and culture, Mr. Bowers read from a list of the many projects that have been made possible through the CCC grants.

Commissioner Beck thanked Commissioner Boyd for attending the Glass Street Initiative Festival, and noted his intention to support Resolution No. 1015-33.

23:44

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 1015-36

Albert Kiser, Administrator of Finance, spoke regarding this item, which appropriates \$11,388.89 to the 28th Community Development Corporation (CDC) to assist them in paying county property taxes and applicable fees and penalties for tax years 2011-2014. The 28th Community Development Corporation is a 501c3 organization that uses HUD grants through the City of Chattanooga to construct new homes for sale to low income households. Mr. Kiser reported that from 2009-2012 the downturn in the economy prevented the corporation from selling three of the properties resulting in their inability to pay property taxes for the past four years. The City and County currently have liens on the three properties. The 28th CDC now has an opportunity to transfer the properties to another non-profit organization, Buffalo Valley

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION
AGENDA PREPARATION SESSION
OCTOBER 14, 2015**

Inc., which will make the homes available to veterans. If passed this resolution will pay the past due county property tax liens in full and allow CDC to transfer the properties to Buffalo Valley, Inc. It was noted that the City of Chattanooga passed a similar resolution appropriating funds to assist in the payment of the past due city property taxes.

25:28 Commissioner Graham added that while the County is unable to forgive property taxes, by assisting the 28th CDC in the payment of the taxes, the money would come right back to the County.

Mr. Kiser clarified that the County would still be short the amount owed in property taxes.

26:31 In response to Commissioner Fields question, Mr. Kiser reported that no money would be involved in transferring the property to Buffalo Valley Inc. He added that the properties were initially acquired through HUD grant funds and if the transfer does not take place, some of the grant funds will have to be reimbursed.

In response to Commissioner Boyd's question, Mr. Kiser clarified that Buffalo Valley Inc. will make the homes available for sale to veterans.

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION
AGENDA PREPARATION SESSION
OCTOBER 14, 2015**

28:23

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 1015-37

John Agan, Director of Engineering, spoke regarding this item, which amends Resolution No. 915-30, adopted on September 16, 2015, to correct Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM), as associated with the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). It was noted the flood map dates were incorrect on the previously adopted maps.

There were no questions from Commissioners.

29:31

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 1015-38

John Agan, Director of Engineering, spoke regarding this item, which accepts the bid of Dillard Construction, Inc. for the construction of the Sale Creek Middle/High School addition amounting to \$10,499,029.00. It was noted that the new addition total 47,100 square feet, as well as 8,506 square feet of renovations, and would include nine new classrooms, a new kitchen and cafeteria, four new science labs, and additional restrooms.

30:32

In response to Commissioner Boyd's question, Mr. Kiser reported that the total budget for the project was \$12 million dollars, including the architectural fee. Commissioner Boyd praised local architects Hefferlin and Kronenberg (H & K) for their

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION
AGENDA PREPARATION SESSION
OCTOBER 14, 2015**

design of the school and coming in at \$2 million dollars under budget. He thanked Administrator of Public Works and County Engineer Todd Leamon and his staff for their work on the project.

32:09

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 1015-39

John Agan, Director of Engineering, spoke regarding this item, which authorizes the County Mayor to enter into an agreement with Terracon Consultants, Inc. for the construction and special inspection testing necessary for the construction of the Sale Creek Middle/High School addition, for an amount not to exceed \$54,000.00. It was noted that the amount budgeted is based on previously Commission approved hourly rates.

33:08

In response to Commissioner Boyd's question, Mr. Agan clarified that the inspection service covers all required special inspection testing. Commissioner Boyd added that the engineering fees for this project are reasonable as opposed to the engineering fees he previously took issue with involving the road construction project at East Brainerd Road, approved by Resolution No. 815-45. Those costs were negotiated through the Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT).

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION
AGENDA PREPARATION SESSION
OCTOBER 14, 2015**

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 1015-45

This Resolution appoints Veronica Hurd to serve the remainder of Justin Strand's term ending June 30, 2016 on the Hamilton County Community Corrections Advisory Board. Justin Strand recently resigned from the board.

There were no questions from Commissioners.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 1015-47

Don Allen, Administrator of General Services, spoke regarding this Resolution, which seeks to relinquish Hamilton County's interest in a 1998 Ford E-350 van, which is currently co-titled with the Dallas Bay Fire Department. It was noted that the Dallas Bay Fire Department plans to sell the vehicle and use the proceeds to purchase firefighting equipment.

In response to Commissioner Graham's question, Mr. Allen stated that he was unaware of any conditions involved in the sale of the vehicle.

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION
AGENDA PREPARATION SESSION
OCTOBER 14, 2015**

36:15

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 1015-48

Don Allen, Administrator of General Services, spoke regarding this Resolution, which authorizes the Sale Creek Volunteer Fire Department to sell a 1991 Ford E-350 ambulance which is currently co-titled with Hamilton County Government.

There were no questions from Commissioners.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 1015-51

Commissioner Bankston spoke regarding this item, which appropriates one thousand dollars from general fund discretionary monies, as allotted to district nine, to the Chattanooga Boys Choir. It was noted that the funds will assist the non-profit with their Ambassadors of Goodwill trip to Germany.

37:10

In response to Commissioner Beck's question regarding the conditions involved in Resolution Nos. 1015-47 and 1015-48, Mr. Allen stated that he would look into the matter and report to the Commission.

Chairman Bankston clarified that no action would be taken on Resolution No. 1015-47 and 1015-48 until further details were provided from Mr. Allen.

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION
AGENDA PREPARATION SESSION
OCTOBER 14, 2015**

38:31 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 1015-52

Commissioner Bankston spoke regarding this item, which appropriates two thousand five hundred dollars from general fund discretionary monies, as allotted to district 9, to the Hamilton County Special Tactics and Rescue Services (STARS). It was noted that the funds will assist with the purchase of fuel and other expenses to assist the program.

There were no questions from Commissioners.

39:00 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 1015-53

County Auditor Bill McGriff spoke regarding this Resolution, which will adopt a policy providing for independent external investigations into allegations of negligence or misconduct committed by officials, employees, and/or contractors of the Hamilton County Medical Examiner's Office, as they relate to grants received by Hamilton County under the Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grants Program. It was noted that the written policy is part of the eligibility requirements by the state to obtain grant funds in the amount of \$23,500, no county match required. The funds will be used to upgrade the Medical Examiner's film x-ray process to computed radiography (CR).

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION
AGENDA PREPARATION SESSION
OCTOBER 14, 2015**

41:18 In response to Commissioner Boyd's question, Mr. McGriff clarified that the policy will not require any additional funding or increase in employment by the County as the State Comptroller allows the County Auditor to investigate allegations of misconduct independently, and the staff to conduct those investigations already exists.

Commissioner Boyd, Chairman of the Finance Committee announced that the Finance Committee would be meeting in the Commission Room immediately following the Agenda Session.

Commissioner Haynes, Chairman of the Zoning Committee, announced that the Zoning Committee would be meeting in the Conference Room immediately following the Agenda Session.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Bankston asked for announcements from members of the Commission.

43:44 Commissioner Haynes reminded the Commission about the community meeting with District 3 City Councilman Ken Smith and District 3 School Board member Greg Martin on October 19th at 6:30 PM at Abba's House.

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION
AGENDA PREPARATION SESSION
OCTOBER 14, 2015**

45:04 Commissioner Graham spoke about the potential cigarette tax mentioned earlier in the meeting. He clarified for the record that he does not support a tax on cigarettes, and he will not be supporting a referendum involving a tax on cigarettes.

47:28 Commissioner Boyd reminded the Commission about the Hotel-Motel Occupancy Privilege Tax. The tax was levied in Hamilton County in order to generate additional revenue for the Chattanooga Convention and Visitors Bureau to assist in promoting tourism. He reported statistics from the Chattanooga Convention and Visitors Bureau's annual meeting noting that the hotel tax has generated over \$6.5 million per year, with tourism approaching a \$1 billion economic impact in Chattanooga. He praised the decision of former Commissioners to impose the hotel tax as well as the efforts Mayor Coppinger has made to reduce tobacco use in Hamilton County. He encouraged the Commission to keep an open mind about a potential cigarette tax.

51:00 Commissioner Fairbanks congratulated the Sale Creek High School Volleyball team for winning the Region 3-A Tournament and advancing to the Sub-State Tournament.

51:32 Commissioner Smedley announced that at 11:00 am Superintendent Rick Smith would be giving a State of the Schools address at the Department of Education. She encouraged the Commission to attend the address. Commissioner Smedley also

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION
AGENDA PREPARATION SESSION
OCTOBER 14, 2015**

thanked Mr. Bowers for the detailed information he brought to the Commission regarding ArtsBuild.

Commissioner Beck wished Commissioner Graham a happy birthday.

DELEGATIONS

Chairman Bankston asked for delegations on matters other than zoning.

53:20 Monty Bell, a homeless resident of Hamilton County for 17 years, addressed the Commission regarding racial disparity in the criminal justice system. The Chairman suggested to Mr. Bell that he seek employment.

1:03:13 In response to Chairman Bankston, Mr. Bell explained that he couldn't find a job that would pay him what he thought his value was worth.

1:04:47 Commissioner Beck commented that the Commission is not the venue for an individual to bring their personal agendas.

Time Code
Position

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION
AGENDA PREPARATION SESSION
OCTOBER 14, 2015**

Being no further business, Chairman Bankston declared the meeting adjourned until Wednesday, October 21st at 9:30 AM.

Respectfully submitted:



William F. (Bill) Knowles, County Clerk

Approved:

11-4-15
Date

W.F.K
Clerk's Initials