

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 5, 2025**

STATE OF TENNESSEE) Regular Meeting
COUNTY OF HAMILTON) February 5, 2025

BE IT REMEMBERED that on this 5th day of February 2025, a Regular Meeting 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: --

0:21 Present and presiding was the Honorable Jeff Eversole, Chairman. Chief Deputy County Clerk Brooke Weaver called the roll of the County Commission, and the following, constituting a quorum, answered to their names: Commissioner Chip Baker, Commissioner Greg Beck, Commissioner Mike Chauncey, Commissioner Joe Graham, Commissioner Lee Helton, Commissioner Steve Highlander, Commissioner Warren Mackey, Commissioner David Sharpe, Commissioner Gene-o Shipley, Commissioner Ken Smith, and Chairman Jeff Eversole. Total present - 11. Total absent -0.

Also in attendance were County Mayor Weston Wamp, members of his administrative staff, County Attorney Rheubin Taylor, and County Auditor Chris McCollough.

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Attached hereto is a copy of the Public Notice of this meeting, which was published in a local newspaper and made a matter of record of this meeting.

0:34 Commissioner Chauncey introduced Dr. Doug Plumlee, Ridgedale Baptist Church, to offer the invocation. Commissioner Chauncey led in the pledge to the flag.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3:32 **ON MOTION** of Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Highlander, that the minutes of the Recessed Meeting of December 31, 2024, the Recessed Meeting of January 3, 2025, the Recessed Meeting of January 8, 2025, the Agenda Preparation Session of January 8, 2025, and the Regular Meeting of January 15, 2025, be approved, treated the same as read, made a matter of record, and filed. The foregoing Motion was unanimously adopted on a Roll Call vote, with the following members of the County Commission being present and voting as follows:
Commissioner Baker, "Aye," Commissioner Beck, "Aye," Commissioner Chauncey, "Aye," Commissioner Graham, "Aye," Commissioner Helton, "Aye," Commissioner Highlander, "Aye," Commissioner Mackey, "Aye," Commissioner Sharpe, "Aye," Commissioner Shipley, "Aye," Commissioner Smith, "Aye," and Chairman Eversole, "Aye." Total present – 11. Total absent – 0. Total "Aye" votes – 11. Total "Nay" votes – 0.

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TRUSTEE REPORT

4:13 The Trustee's Monthly and Excess Fee Report for December 2024 was submitted and made a matter of record.

QUARTERLY INVESTMENT REPORT

The quarterly investment report of Hamilton County for the quarter ending December 31, 2024, was submitted as a matter of record.

ORDER OF APPOINTMENT REPORT

An order appointing Jack Cain as a Commissioner to the North West Utility District Board of Commissioners, with a term beginning January 21, 2025, and expiring January 21, 2029.

ORDER OF REAPPOINTMENT REPORT

An order reappointing Kenneth Rose as a Commissioner to the North West Utility District Board of Commissioners, with a term beginning January 21, 2025, and expiring January 21, 2029.

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4:20

RESOLUTION NO. 225-1 A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE AND ACCEPT APPLICATIONS FOR NOTARY PUBLIC POSITIONS, THE BONDS AND OATHS OF NOTARIES PREVIOUSLY ELECTED, AND THE OATHS OF DEPUTY SHERIFFS.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Graham, to adopt Resolution No. 225-1.

There were no questions from the Commissioners or the audience.

The foregoing Motion was adopted on a Roll Call vote, with the following members of the County Commission being present and voting as follows:
Commissioner Baker, "Aye," Commissioner Beck, "Aye," Commissioner Chauncey, "Aye," Commissioner Graham, "Aye," Commissioner Helton, "Aye," Commissioner Highlander, "Aye," Commissioner Mackey, "Aye," Commissioner Sharpe, "Aye," Commissioner Shipley, "Aye," Commissioner Smith, "Aye," and Chairman Eversole, "Aye." Total present – 11. Total absent – 0. Total "Aye" votes – 11. Total "Nay" votes – 0.

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5:01

**RESOLUTION NO. 225-2 A RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING TWO (2) MEMBERS TO
THE HAMILTON COUNTY AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION COMMITTEE FOR A
TERM BEGINNING FEBRUARY 5, 2025, AND ENDING FEBRUARY 5, 2027.**

This will reappoint Melanie Ozburn and Chuck Pruett.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Highlander, seconded by Commissioner Sharpe,
to adopt Resolution No. 225-2.

There were no questions from the Commissioners or the audience.

The foregoing Motion was adopted on a Roll Call vote, with the following
members of the County Commission being present and voting as follows:
Commissioner Baker, "Aye," Commissioner Beck, "Aye," Commissioner Chauncey,
"Aye," Commissioner Graham, "Aye," Commissioner Helton, "Aye," Commissioner
Highlander, "Aye," Commissioner Mackey, "Aye," Commissioner Sharpe, "Aye,"
Commissioner Shipley, "Aye," Commissioner Smith, "Aye," and Chairman Eversole,
"Aye." Total present – 11. Total absent – 0. Total "Aye" votes – 11. Total "Nay" votes –
0.

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5:54

RESOLUTION NO. 225-3 A RESOLUTION TO APPOINT ALEXA LEBOEUF TO THE CHATTANOOGA LAND BANK AUTHORITY'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR A FOUR (4) YEAR TERM BEGINNING FEBRUARY 5, 2025 AND ENDING FEBRUARY 5, 2029.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Mackey, seconded by Commissioner Baker, to adopt Resolution No. 225-3.

There were no questions from the Commissioners or the audience.

The foregoing Motion was adopted on a Roll Call vote, with the following members of the County Commission being present and voting as follows: Commissioner Baker, "Aye," Commissioner Beck, "Aye," Commissioner Chauncey, "Aye," Commissioner Graham, "Aye," Commissioner Helton, "Aye," Commissioner Highlander, "Aye," Commissioner Mackey, "Aye," Commissioner Sharpe, "Aye," Commissioner Shipley, "Aye," Commissioner Smith, "Aye," and Chairman Eversole, "Aye." Total present – 11. Total absent – 0. Total "Aye" votes – 11. Total "Nay" votes – 0.

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6:40 **RESOLUTION NO. 225-4 A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENT OF SIGNAL MOUNTAIN HIGH SCHOOL IN WINNING THE 2024 TENNESSEE SECONDARY SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION ("TSSAA") STATE CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIP AND AWARDING FUNDS FROM THE HAMILTON COUNTY SCHOOLS CHAMPIONS' FUND FOR THE PURCHASE OF CHAMPIONSHIP RINGS.**

ON MOTION of Commissioner Baker, seconded by Commissioner Shipley, to adopt Resolution No. 225-4.

7:26 In response to Commissioner Baker, Commissioner Shipley stated Soddy Daisy High School Wrestling team won the state championship for the second year.

8:00 Commissioner Mackey stated he heard there was a female on the Soddy Daisy wrestling team, and her outstanding performance won them the championship.

There were no questions from the audience.

The foregoing Motion was adopted on a Roll Call vote, with the following members of the County Commission being present and voting as follows:

Commissioner Baker, "Aye," Commissioner Beck, "Aye," Commissioner Chauncey,

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“Aye,” Commissioner Graham, “Aye,” Commissioner Helton, “Aye,” Commissioner Highlander, “Aye,” Commissioner Mackey, “Aye,” Commissioner Sharpe, “Aye,” Commissioner Shipley, “Aye,” Commissioner Smith, “Aye,” and Chairman Eversole, “Aye.” Total present – 11. Total absent – 0. Total “Aye” votes – 11. Total “Nay” votes – 0.

8:38

RESOLUTION NO. 225-5 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CONVEYANCE OF FOUR (4) PARCELS OF REAL PROPERTY IDENTIFIED AS 146G-K-007, 146G-K-008, 146G-K-010, AND 146G-K-010.01, CHATTANOOGA, HAMILTON COUNTY, TENNESSEE (CONSISTING OF APPROXIMATELY 3.5 ACES), AS OWNED BY HAMILTON COUNTY, TENNESSEE, TO THE CHATTANOOGA ROOM IN THE INN, AND AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY MAYOR TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS NECESSARY TO EFFECTUATE SAID CONVEYANCE.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Beck, seconded by Commissioner Highlander, to adopt Resolution No. 225-5.

There were no questions from the audience.

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9:40

In response to Commissioner Graham's question, Attorney Taylor stated the body of the resolution has a reversionary clause stating, "Should said recipient cease or fail to continue providing its said services to the Hamilton County community, said property will revert back to Hamilton County Government.

The foregoing Motion was adopted on a Roll Call vote, with the following members of the County Commission being present and voting as follows:
Commissioner Baker, "Aye," Commissioner Beck, "Aye," Commissioner Chauncey, "Aye," Commissioner Graham, "Aye," Commissioner Helton, "Aye," Commissioner Highlander, "Aye," Commissioner Mackey, "Aye," Commissioner Sharpe, "Aye," Commissioner Shipley, "Aye," Commissioner Smith, "Aye," and Chairman Eversole, "Aye." Total present – 11. Total absent – 0. Total "Aye" votes – 11. Total "Nay" votes – 0.

10:49

RESOLUTION NO. 225-6 A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE HAMILTON COUNTY STATE DELEGATION TO INTRODUCE A PRIVATE ACT TO IMPOSE TERM LIMITS ON THE OFFICE OF HAMILTON COUNTY MAYOR AND TO SUBMIT THE ACT FOR REFERENDUM APPROVAL BY THE CITIZENS OF HAMILTON COUNTY.

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ON MOTION of Commissioner Beck, seconded by Commissioner Shipley, to adopt Resolution No. 225-6.

11:51 Commissioner Helton stated that, on the surface, he supports term limits and believes it is suitable for some offices to have them. He noted that some items are unclear and need more clarity. He stated that this resolution would fundamentally change county government and the way people serve, so it needs to be studied further.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Helton, seconded by Commissioner Mackey to table Resolution No. 225-6.

13:32 In response to Mayor Wamp's question, Attorney Taylor stated that getting the item off the table would require a supermajority of eight votes instead of a simple majority of six votes. Commissioner Helton noted that he contends that a supermajority is needed when petitioning the state.

14:54 Mayor Wamp stated it is worth discussing with legislators in the future if they would consider requests for special-purpose legislation that goes to voters for approval if there is only a simple majority on the commission.

There were no questions from the audience.

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The foregoing Motion to table was adopted on a Roll Call vote, with the following members of the County Commission being present and voting as follows:

Commissioner Baker, "Nay," Commissioner Beck, "Nay," Commissioner Chauncey, "Nay," Commissioner Graham, "Aye," Commissioner Helton, "Aye," Commissioner Highlander, "Aye," Commissioner Mackey, "Aye," Commissioner Sharpe, "Aye," Commissioner Shipley, "Nay," Commissioner Smith, "Aye," and Chairman Eversole, "Aye." Total present – 11. Total absent – 0. Total "Aye" votes – 7. Total "Nay" votes – 4.

16:15

In response to Commissioner Beck's question, Chairman Eversole stated this resolution does not have to be tabled to a particular day.

17:48

RESOLUTION NO. 225-7 A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE FIRM OF FRANKLIN ASSOCIATES ARCHITECTS, INC. FOR DESIGN OF THE NEW NORTH RIVER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.

Commissioner Helton, Chairman of the Building and Economic Development Committee, provided details regarding Resolution No. 225-7 and stated the Building and Economic Development Committee reviewed and recommended approval.

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ON MOTION of Commissioner Helton, seconded by Commissioner Baker, to adopt Resolution No. 225-7.

18:49

In response to Commissioner Mackey's question, Commissioner Helton stated the school system has several projects coming up, along with the Health Department and a remodel of the Health Examiner Building. Commissioner Mackey stated somehow, when allocating money to the school system, there are not enough new schools being built. He noted Hamilton County has too many old, raggedy buildings right now. He stated the school system needs to realize they need a plan to create more efficient school buildings. Commissioner Helton agreed with Commissioner Mackey. He noted the Superintendent, Mayor, and School Facility's Committee planned to start addressing the ongoing maintenance issues and right-size the system to make it more efficient.

21:00

Commissioner Graham stated a \$260 million bond was recently voted on, and most of the funds are for school projects. He noted they will meet Friday to pick an architect for the Gateway building.

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22:25 Commissioner Sharpe stated that the County would run out of money before more money could be borrowed. He noted that Hamilton County should be building one school a year.

23:35 Commissioner Shipley stated that the \$31 million appropriated to Hamilton County Schools for investments in major deferred maintenance projects would go a long way.

24:26 Commissioner Beck agreed that the school system needs to implement a plan to allow Hamilton County to build one school per year.

25:19 Commissioner Mackey stated neighboring counties do not have raggedy schools for their students. He spoke about the cost increase for Tyner Academy because it was deferred too many times, and the price climbed by \$30 million.

27:11 Chairman Eversole stated budgets had to be turned in by January 31, 2025. He noted the commission and the chair of the Finance Committee need to start looking at the incremental dollars the county is getting every year and make sure the county offers services that provide for the citizens of Hamilton County. He stated last year's budget

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was \$1,054,000,000.00, and this year's budget could be more. He noted everyone needs to look at operating costs and identify nice but unnecessary departments so that dollars can be focused on those that are necessary going forward.

29:25 Anne Diprizio, residing at 8201 Patterson Road, addressed the Commission on gaslighting and Gaza.

Chairman Eversole apologized for the disruption. He stated the conversation was about hiring an architect for the new North River Elementary School.

The foregoing Motion was adopted on a Roll Call vote, with the following members of the County Commission being present and voting as follows:
Commissioner Baker, "Aye," Commissioner Beck, "Aye," Commissioner Chauncey, "Aye," Commissioner Graham, "Aye," Commissioner Helton, "Aye," Commissioner Highlander, "Aye," Commissioner Mackey, "Aye," Commissioner Sharpe, "Aye," Commissioner Shipley, "Aye," Commissioner Smith, "Aye," and Chairman Eversole, "Aye." Total present – 11. Total absent – 0. Total "Aye" votes – 11. Total "Nay" votes – 0.

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31:27

RESOLUTION NO. 225-8 A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE COUNTY MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AND EXECUTE A CONTRACT WITH HK ARCHITECTS TO FINALIZE DESIGN OF THE BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER RENOVATION PROJECT FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$178,000.00.

Commissioner Helton, Chairman of the Building and Economic Development Committee, provided details regarding Resolution No. 225-8 and stated the Building and Economic Development Committee reviewed and recommended approval.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Helton, seconded by Commissioner Baker, to adopt Resolution No. 225-8.

There were no questions from the Commissioners or the audience.

The foregoing Motion was deferred on a Roll Call vote, with the following members of the County Commission being present and voting as follows: Commissioner Baker, "Aye," Commissioner Beck, "Aye," Commissioner Chauncey, "Aye," Commissioner Graham, "Aye," Commissioner Helton, "Aye," Commissioner Highlander, "Aye," Commissioner Mackey, "Aye," Commissioner Sharpe, "Aye," Commissioner Shipley, "Aye," Commissioner Smith, "Aye," and Chairman Eversole,

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“Aye.” Total present – 11. Total absent – 0. Total “Aye” votes – 11. Total “Nay” votes – 0.

32:21

RESOLUTION NO. 225-9 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY MAYOR TO EXECUTE ALL DOCUMENTS NECESSARY TO CONVEY TO THE CITY OF CHATTANOOGA, HAMILTON COUNTY'S INTEREST IN CERTAIN PROPERTIES JOINTLY OWNED BY HAMILTON COUNTY AND THE CITY OF CHATTANOOGA.

Commissioner Mackey, Chairman of the Delinquent Tax Property Committee, provided details regarding Resolution No. 225-9 and stated the Delinquent Tax Property Committee reviewed and recommended approval.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Mackey, seconded by Commissioner Highlander, to adopt Resolution No. 225-9.

There were no questions from the Commissioners or the audience.

The foregoing Motion was adopted on a Roll Call vote, with the following members of the County Commission being present and voting as follows:
Commissioner Baker, “Aye,” Commissioner Beck, “Aye,” Commissioner Chauncey,

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“Aye,” Commissioner Graham, “Aye,” Commissioner Helton, “Aye,” Commissioner Highlander, “Aye,” Commissioner Mackey, “Aye,” Commissioner Sharpe, “Aye,” Commissioner Shipley, “Aye,” Commissioner Smith, “Aye,” and Chairman Eversole, “Aye.” Total present – 11. Total absent – 0. Total “Aye” votes – 11. Total “Nay” votes – 0.

33:18

RESOLUTION NO. 225-10 A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE COUNTY MAYOR TO SIGN A CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES WITH THE POPLAR GROUP TO REPRESENT THE INTERESTS OF HAMILTON COUNTY BEFORE THE LEADERSHIP OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE.

Commissioner Smith, Chairman of the Finance Committee, provided details regarding Resolution No. 225-10 and stated the Finance Committee reviewed and recommended approval.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Helton, seconded by Commissioner Graham, to adopt Resolution No. 225-10.

33:56

In response to Commissioner Highlander’s questions, Founding Partner of the Poplar Group, Chris Devaney, stated it was an honor to be at the Commission Meeting and that it would be a great honor for the Poplar Group to represent Hamilton County

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before the leadership of the State of Tennessee. He noted this would be a team effort, answer to the Mayor and commissioners, and work with legislative leaders. He stated he would no longer work with political campaigns or work locally with any Political Action Committee (PAC) groups as long as he is a lobbyist for Hamilton County. He also noted the time spent with Hamilton County will depend on the situation and its urgency.

37:45

In response to Mayor Wamp, Mr. Devaney stated if this resolution is approved, the county will get an entire team with Hamilton County's interest going forward. He noted his firm intentionally has no other municipalities they represent.

39:11

In response to Commissioner Sharp's question, Chairman Eversole stated he had not received a list of the other firms considered for this position. He noted Mayor Wamp had discussed interviewing a team from Knoxville and Nashville. Mayor Wamp stated he had interviewed Bass, Berry, and Sims along with Ramsey, Farrar, Russell, and Smith. He noted they were not chosen for this position due to conflicts of interest. Commissioner Sharpe stated he wished he had received this information before the meeting. He stated holding information from the commission has developed into a pattern.

41:51

In response to Commissioner Sharpe's question, Attorney Taylor stated he does not recall receiving the contract for the Poplar Group.

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45:39

In response to Commissioner Sharpe's question, Mr. Devaney stated he does not belong to or lead any politically active nonprofit organizations. He noted he would not lead a political campaign while lobbying for Hamilton County. He stated his firm would be willing to sign a contract precluding a conflict of interest.

49:20

Commissioner Sharpe stated he would like to defer *Resolution No. 225-10* to the February 12, 2025, Recessed Meeting so the Attorney's Office could address the contract concern.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Sharpe to defer *Resolution No. 225-10*. The motion died due to lack of a second.

53:19

In response to Chairman Eversole, Attorney Taylor stated he has not seen a contract for this resolution. He only received the handout from Mayor Wamp at last week's Finance Committee Meeting. A copy of the handout has been filed in the Clerk's Office.

55:01

In response to Chairman Eversole's question, Mayor Wamp stated the Poplar Group has standard contracts, and procurement has been conversing with the Mayor's Office about what a contract will look like. He noted they have brought deliverables to the commission that will be included in the contract. Chief Financial Officer Lee Brouner stated a lot of contracts have not been developed before the Resolution being passed.

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He noted they have worked on the terms the commission is approving and the mayor's authority to enter into a contract, but that contract has not been completed.

58:05

Mayor Wamp stated in the best interest of the county and the pending ongoing legislative session, a line should be added to this resolution, which gives guidance to the contract that the firm has no conflicts of interest in Hamilton County. He noted he understands the talking point, that there's not enough communication, and that the Mayor's Office hides information but is not backed up by fact. He stated he does not believe the county's ever-listed legislative priorities, but they are doing this as well as they can. He noted they brought the commission a local, full service firm that is very reputable. Commissioner Sharpe stated he wanted to include something supporting the language he mentioned in the contract and move on.

58:47

Commissioner Mackey stated there's a communication gap in this building where commissioners do not feel like they are getting information in a proper amount of time.

1:02:04

In response to Commissioner Mackey's question, Mr. Devaney stated communication is a priority for him and spoke of a plan for routine discussions on lobbying progress. He noted they will constantly be in contact with the County Commission.

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1:07:37

In response to Commissioner Helton’s question, Mr. Devaney stated he has been a registered lobbyist for four years.

Commissioner Baker stated he would like to amend Resolution No. 225-10 to include language in the resolution and contract that the Poplar Group will not participate in conflicts of interest that affect Hamilton County.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Baker, seconded by Commissioner Highlander, to amend Resolution No. 225-10.

The foregoing Motion to amend was adopted on a Roll Call vote, with the following members of the County Commission being present and voting as follows: Commissioner Baker, “Aye,” Commissioner Beck, “Aye,” Commissioner Chauncey, “Aye,” Commissioner Graham, “Aye,” Commissioner Helton, “Aye,” Commissioner Highlander, “Aye,” Commissioner Mackey, “Aye,” Commissioner Sharpe, “Aye,” Commissioner Shipley, “Aye,” Commissioner Smith, “Aye,” and Chairman Eversole, “Aye.” Total present – 11. Total absent – 0. Total “Aye” votes – 11. Total “Nay” votes – 0.

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The foregoing Motion to adopt as amended was adopted on a Roll Call vote, with the following members of the County Commission being present and voting as follows: Commissioner Baker, "Aye," Commissioner Beck, "Aye," Commissioner Chauncey, "Aye," Commissioner Graham, "Aye," Commissioner Helton, "Aye," Commissioner Highlander, "Aye," Commissioner Mackey, "Aye," Commissioner Sharpe, "Aye," Commissioner Shipley, "Aye," Commissioner Smith, "Aye," and Chairman Eversole, "Aye." Total present – 11. Total absent – 0. Total "Aye" votes – 11. Total "Nay" votes – 0.

1:11:55 **RESOLUTION NO. 225-11 A RESOLUTION RESCINDING THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE PROPOSAL FROM SMART COMMUNICATIONS AS AUTHORIZED BY RESOLUTION 1024-31 AND ACCEPTING THE PROPOSAL OF GLOBAL TEL*LINK CORPORATION DBA VIAPATH TECHNOLOGIES TO PROVIDE TELEPHONE AND VIDEO VISITATION SERVICES FOR INMATES IN THE HAMILTON COUNTY JAIL AND DETENTION CENTER, AND AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY MAYOR TO SIGN ANY CONTRACTS NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THIS RESOLUTION.**

Commissioner Smith, Chairman of the Finance Committee, provided details regarding Resolution No. 225-11 and stated the Finance Committee reviewed and recommended approval.

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ON MOTION of Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Baker, to adopt Resolution No. 225-11.

There were no questions from the Commissioners or the audience.

The foregoing Motion was adopted on a Roll Call vote, with the following members of the County Commission being present and voting as follows: Commissioner Baker, "Aye," Commissioner Beck, "Aye," Commissioner Chauncey, "Aye," Commissioner Graham, "Aye," Commissioner Helton, "Aye," Commissioner Highlander, "Aye," Commissioner Mackey, "Aye," Commissioner Sharpe, "Aye," Commissioner Shipley, "Aye," Commissioner Smith, "Aye," and Chairman Eversole, "Aye." Total present – 11. Total absent – 0. Total "Aye" votes – 11. Total "Nay" votes – 0.

1:13:00

Commissioner Mackey recognized former School Board member Kathy Lennon in the audience. He spoke of the great work she did for Hamilton County Schools. A round of applause was given.

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1:14:22 Commissioner Highlander stated Ms. Lennon serves on the Agricultural Committee with Commissioner Shipley, Commissioner Sharpe, and himself.

1:15:02 **RESOLUTION NO. 225-12 A RESOLUTION TO AMEND HAMILTON COUNTY RESOLUTION 323-25 DATED MARCH 15, 2023, FOR TENNESSEE AMERICAN WATER'S PURCHASE OF PROPERTY RELATIVE TO AN AGREEMENT FOR EASEMENT BETWEEN HAMILTON COUNTY AND THE CITY OF CHATTANOOGA LOCATED ON PROPERTY SURROUNDING MOCCASIN BEND GOLF COURSE.**

Commissioner Smith, Chairman of the Finance Committee, provided details regarding Resolution No. 225-12 and stated the Finance Committee reviewed and recommended approval.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Baker, to adopt Resolution No. 225-12.

There were no questions from the Commissioners or the audience.

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The foregoing Motion was adopted on a Roll Call vote, with the following members of the County Commission being present and voting as follows:
Commissioner Baker, "Aye," Commissioner Beck, "Aye," Commissioner Chauncey, "Aye," Commissioner Graham, "Aye," Commissioner Helton, "Aye," Commissioner Highlander, "Aye," Commissioner Mackey, "Aye," Commissioner Sharpe, "Aye," Commissioner Shipley, "Aye," Commissioner Smith, "Aye," and Chairman Eversole, "Aye." Total present – 11. Total absent – 0. Total "Aye" votes – 11. Total "Nay" votes – 0.

Without objection, Commissioner Smith asked for Resolution Nos. 225-13 and 225-14 to be read together.

1:15:51 **RESOLUTION NO. 225-13 A RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT INSURANCE PROCEEDS FOR THE DAMAGE TO SEQUOYAH VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT STATION #2 AND TO AUTHORIZE THE APPROPRIATION OF THESE PROCEEDS TO THE SEQUOYAH VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT TO CONSTRUCT ANOTHER BUILDING.**

RESOLUTION NO. 225-14 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND HOMELAND SECURITY TO APPLY FOR A

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2024 HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT WITH THE TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND THE TENNESSEE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY WITH A PERIOD BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 1, 2024, AND ENDING APRIL 30, 2027, AND ALLOWING THE COUNTY MAYOR TO EXECUTE THE CONTRACT UPON RECEIPT OF THE GRANT.

Commissioner Smith, Chairman of the Finance Committee, provided details regarding Resolution Nos. 225-13 and 225-14 and stated the Finance Committee reviewed and recommended approval.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Shipley, to adopt Resolution Nos. 225-13 and 225-14.

There were no questions from the Commissioners or the audience.

The foregoing Motion was adopted on a Roll Call vote, with the following members of the County Commission being present and voting as follows:
Commissioner Baker, "Aye," Commissioner Beck, "Aye," Commissioner Chauncey, "Aye," Commissioner Graham, "Aye," Commissioner Helton, "Aye," Commissioner Highlander, "Aye," Commissioner Mackey, "Aye," Commissioner Sharpe, "Aye,"

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Commissioner Shipley, "Aye," Commissioner Smith, "Aye," and Chairman Eversole, "Aye." Total present – 11. Total absent – 0. Total "Aye" votes – 11. Total "Nay" votes – 0.

RESOLUTION NO. 225-15 RESOLUTION PULLED

Resolution No. 225-15 was pulled before last week's agenda session.

Without objection, Commissioner Chauncey asked for Resolution Nos. 225-16 through 225-19 to be read together.

RESOLUTION NO. 225-16 A RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE "MASTER LIST OF ROADS AND SPEED LIMITS" SO AS TO ACCEPT THE FOLLOWING DISTRICT ROAD AND TO ESTABLISH A SPEED LIMIT THEREFORE: LONDON TOWER PLACE.

1:17:13

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RESOLUTION NO. 225-17 A RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE "MASTER LIST OF ROADS AND SPEED LIMITS" SO AS TO ACCEPT THE FOLLOWING DISTRICT ROADS AND TO ESTABLISH SPEED LIMITS THEREFOR: FERRELL FARM DRIVE, CATTLE TRAIL, HAZEL OAK DRIVE, AND OLD BARN TRAIL.

RESOLUTION NO. 225-18 A RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE "MASTER LIST OF ROADS AND SPEED LIMITS" SO AS TO ACCEPT THE FOLLOWING DISTRICT ROAD AND TO ESTABLISH A SPEED LIMIT THEREFORE: ABRAHAM LANE.

RESOLUTION NO. 225-19 A RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE "MASTER LIST OF ROADS AND SPEED LIMITS" SO AS TO ACCEPT THE FOLLOWING DISTRICT ROAD AND TO ESTABLISH A SPEED LIMIT THEREFORE: GRASSY FIELDS LANE.

Commissioner Chauncey, Chairman of the Roads Committee, provided details regarding Resolution Nos. 225-16 through 225-19 and stated the Roads Committee reviewed and recommended approval.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Chauncey, seconded by Commissioner Highlander, to adopt Resolution Nos. 225-16 through 225-19.

There were no questions from the Commissioners or the audience.

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The foregoing Motion was adopted on a Roll Call vote, with the following members of the County Commission being present and voting as follows: Commissioner Baker, "Aye," Commissioner Chauncey, "Aye," Commissioner Graham, "Aye," Commissioner Helton, "Aye," Commissioner Highlander, "Aye," Commissioner Mackey, "Aye," Commissioner Sharpe, "Aye," Commissioner Shipley, "Aye," Commissioner Smith, "Aye," and Chairman Eversole, "Aye." Commissioner Beck stepped away during the vote. Total present – 10. Total absent – 1. Total "Aye" votes – 10. Total "Nay" votes – 0.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Eversole asked for announcements from members of the Commission.

1:18:54 Commissioner Shipley and Commissioner Graham welcomed Mr. Devany and his firm to Hamilton County.

1:19:12 Commissioner Baker sent his condolences to Walter Puckett's family after his passing.

1:19:48 Chairman Eversole wished Commissioner Helton a happy belated birthday.

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1:20:01 Commissioner Highlander announced he looks forward to working with the Poplar Group.

1:20:25 Commissioner Graham announced Siskin Hospital's Possibilities Luncheon would be held on March 12, 2025, at 11:30 AM. He stated tickets were on sale and encouraged everyone to attend. He noted his wife and himself are co-chairs of this luncheon.

1:21:32 Commissioner Baker requested Director of Development Services Nathan Janeway come to the podium to verify a social media post he received from a constituent. He noted the post read, "*Unbelievable cowardice on the part of Hamilton County Commission this morning, tabling county mayoral term limits. Completely embarrassing.*" In response to Commissioner Baker, Mr. Janeway stated he did write that on social media.

1:22:09 Commissioner Eversole stated he disagreed with Mr. Janeway's comment. He noted he respects everybody's opinion because he has his own, but ultimately, it is how we come together when we share each other's opinions. He stated he does not think this is how we, as a party, should approach things. There was clarity needed around a term limit resolution for it to pass. Not everything is as simple as checking a box, and the commission's goal is to ensure they are making the right decisions for today and the future. He added he does not have a problem with term limits, but even if it passes, it

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will not affect the current mayor. It will affect future mayors. He applauded Mayor Wamp for bringing the resolution forward.

DELEGATIONS

Chairman Eversole asked for delegations on matters other than zoning.

1:24:43 Nancy Rucker, residing at 5840 Lake Resort Terrace, a member of the Agricultural Committee, thanked the commission for renewing appointments to the board. She noted their programming focuses on agricultural, family consumer sciences, 4H youth development, and community resource development. She spoke about their programs and partnerships with the community.

1:27:08 Commissioner Shipley stated he enjoys going to the Agricultural Committee Meetings. He noted they need and deserve extra county funding and hopes the county can help them.

1:27:53 Commissioner Sharpe stated they are touching many people's lives in our community and providing a tremendous service.

1:28:459 Commissioner Highlander thanked them for their services. He stated they cover so much for this community.

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There being no further business, Chairman Eversole declared the meeting in recess until Wednesday, February 12th, 2025, at 9:30 AM.

Respectfully submitted:



William F. (Bill) Knowles, County Clerk

Approved:

02-19-25

W.F.K.

Date

Clerk's Initials