

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
APRIL 2, 2025**

**STATE OF TENNESSEE**            )  
**COUNTY OF HAMILTON**        )

Regular Meeting  
April 2, 2025

**BE IT REMEMBERED** that on this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of April 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: --

0:20

Present and presiding was the Honorable Jeff Eversole, Chairman. County Clerk Bill Knowles 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 for this meeting, which was published in a local newspaper and made a matter of record of this meeting.

0:42

Commissioner Helton introduced Jason Gattis, First-Centenary United Methodist Church, to offer the invocation. Commissioner Helton led in the pledge to the flag.

2:16

Chairman Eversole called for a brief Legal Meeting with Commissioners, the Attorney's Office, Mayor Wamp, Chief Operating Officer for the Mayor's Office, David Roddy, and Special Advisor for the Mayor and Commission, Janie Varnell.

Chairman Eversole called the meeting back in order.

County Clerk Bill Knowles 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.

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**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

2:54

**ON MOTION** of Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Highlander, that the minutes of the Recessed Meeting of March 12, 2025, the Agenda Preparation Session of March 12, 2025, and the Regular Meeting of March 19, 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.

**TRUSTEE REPORT**

3:36

The Trustee's Monthly and Excess Fee Report for February 2025 was submitted and made a matter of record.

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**TRUSTEE UNCOLLECTED DELINQUENT PROPERTY TAXES REPORT**

The Trustee's annual Uncollected Delinquent Tax report for the 2023 levy was submitted as a matter of record.

3:44

**RESOLUTION NO. 425-1 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 Baker, seconded by Commissioner Smith, to adopt Resolution No. 425-1.

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,

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

4:25

**RESOLUTION NO. 425-2 A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE A PLAN FOR REAPPRAISAL AS SUBMITTED BY THE HAMILTON COUNTY ASSESSOR OF PROPERTY AS REQUIRED BY TENNESSEE CODE ANNOTATED, SECTION 67-5-1601.**

**ON MOTION** of Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Highlander, to adopt Resolution No. 425-2.

5:09

In response to Commissioner Baker, Assessor of Property Marty Haynes encouraged constituents who have questions about their property tax reappraisal to contact their office at 423-209-7990.

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.

6:00

**RESOLUTION NO. 425-3 A RESOLUTION MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO SODDY DAISY VIETNAM VETERANS FOUNDATION IN THE AMOUNT OF ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$1,000.00) FROM GENERAL FUND TRAVEL DISCRETIONARY MONIES, AS ALLOTTED TO DISTRICT ONE.**

**ON MOTION** of Commissioner Mackey, seconded by Commissioner Beck, to adopt Resolution No. 425-3.

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

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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.

6:47

**RESOLUTION NO. 425-4 A RESOLUTION MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO  
SODDY DAISY TROJAN FUND IN THE AMOUNT OF ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS  
(\$1,000.00) FROM GENERAL FUND TRAVEL DISCRETIONARY MONIES, AS  
ALLOTTED TO DISTRICT ONE.**

**ON MOTION** of Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Beck, to adopt  
Resolution No. 425-4.

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.

7:30

**RESOLUTION NO. 425-5 A RESOLUTION TRANSFERRING THE RISK  
MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT FROM UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE  
HAMILTON COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE TO UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF  
THE CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER.**

Commissioner Sharpe, Chairman of the Compliance Task Force, provided details regarding Resolution No. 425-5 and stated the Compliance Task Force Committee reviewed and recommended approval.

**ON MOTION** of Commissioner Graham, seconded by Commissioner Chauncey, to adopt Resolution No. 425-5.

8:02

Mayor Wamp stated this resolution was intended to reassign the Risk Management Department from the County Attorney’s office to Human Resources. He noted that after conversations with commissioners, they have developed a better proposal to have Risk Management report to David Roddy, Chief Operating Officer for the Mayor’s office, who has a background in Risk Management. He stated he would

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ask commissioners to consider making an amendment that would please the administration and a majority of the commission.

**ON MOTION** of Commissioner Helton, seconded by Commissioner Smith, to amend Resolution No. 425-5 to place the Risk Management Department under the Chief Operating Officer for the Mayor's Office.

9:25

In response to Commissioner Highlander's question, Attorney Taylor stated this is a decision for the commission. He noted that Risk Management has been under the County Attorney's Office since 2022 (*Resolution No. 822-57*), as the administration at the time believed that was the most appropriate placement. He stated it was brought over to the Attorney's Office because it was more akin to the work done there. He noted it is a matter of analyzing the risks presented to the commission and the county, as well as the handling of claims.

10:55

Commissioner Beck stated he believed this item would be more appropriate for the committee set up with Commissioner Sharpe as chair.

Commissioner Sharpe stated the commission should wait for the professionals to provide their legal advice and guidance on how the county should move forward before making any changes. He noted they should have some form of recommendation within 30 days. He stated this move creates significant liability for the county. He noted as a

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fiduciary to the county, he has a responsibility to help avoid liability to the county. He stated he would like to defer this resolution until May 14, 2025.

**ON MOTION** of Commissioner Sharpe, seconded by Commissioner Beck, to defer Resolution No. 425-5 until May 14, 2025.

17:20 Commissioner Mackey stated this body acts collectively as one entity and wants to protect each commissioner's rights to be heard. He noted if a commissioner has been asked to perform a function, then that commissioner should have their say.

17:54 In response to Commissioner Baker's question, Attorney Taylor stated a resolution can be circumvented if it is considered an emergency. He noted it is the public's right to know what the commission is doing, which is why there is a 48-hour notice policy. Commissioner Baker stated this is very important, and a resolution for contracting with the Baker Donelson Law Firm needs to be brought forward today.

20:24 In response to Commissioner Shipley's question, Mayor Wamp stated that they have 60 days from notification of a breach to communicate with those affected, and only 15 days remain. He noted the county was notified on February 24, 2025, of the breach, and his office was notified on March 11, 2025. He stated the current Risk Management team, as it is currently operated and managed, is not doing a sufficient job and raised concerns about the expediency with which it was dealt with by the task force and others.

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He noted if this is reorganized in a way that allows him to conduct county business properly, it will be done promptly. He suggested trusting Chief Roddy to get this done with the County Attorney's Office.

23:41 Attorney Taylor stated his office was notified about this breach on February 24, 2025, but his staff did not know how many people were affected until March 5, 2025. He noted his office has been involved with this matter ever since then, taking the necessary steps, including preparing the notifications for distribution. He stated those notifications will go out today if they get the appropriate signatures. He noted any indication that his office has been dilly-dallying is grossly in error. He also stated they have been working on this in every phase, including efforts to obtain additional information since they became aware of the magnitude of this issue on March 5, 2025.

The foregoing Motion to defer was failed 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, "Nay," Commissioner Graham, "Nay," Commissioner Helton, "Nay," Commissioner Highlander, "Aye," Commissioner Mackey, "Aye," Commissioner Sharpe, "Aye," Commissioner Shipley, "Nay," Commissioner Smith, "Nay," and Chairman Eversole, "Nay." Total present – 11. Total absent – 0. Total "Aye" votes – 6. Total "Nay" votes – 5.

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26:16

Commissioner Sharpe stated the county has been aware of four other HIPAA breaches over the past year. He noted that intimidation, threats, or exposure of compliance workers, mainly those responsible for HIPAA compliance and privacy, constitutes a HIPAA violation. He stated moving the Risk Management Office under the Chief Operating Officer for the Mayor's Office would place employees directly in the line of fire of those who have been hostile to them over the past couple of years. He noted everyone on the commission was informed of the violation twice in private legal meetings. He stated he will not be supporting this resolution, but will support the people who work for Hamilton County and a safe working environment. He noted this move creates liability for the county and asked for this move to fail because it will, in turn, create additional liability.

32:06

Commissioner Mackey stated they should wait for the report and expert opinion from Baker Donelson before proceeding.

33:38

Commissioner Shipley stated he believes Baker Donelson would work with any department if employed by the county.

34:29

Administrator of General Services Christy Cooper stated she was present at the meeting, which was referred to multiple times. She noted there have been unfair

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statements made, which are patently false. She stated four commissioners attended the meeting, and the only person harassed or bullied at the meeting was Claire McVay, the Chief of Staff for the Mayor's Office. She noted she has done nothing but her job to the best of her abilities and does not deserve the treatment she has received. She stated she was not sure where the line had been crossed, but it was not on Mrs. McVay's part.

35:31

Commissioner Beck called for the vote.

The foregoing Motion to amend Resolution No. 425-5 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, "Nay," Commissioner Shipley, "Aye," Commissioner Smith, "Aye," and Chairman Eversole, "Aye." Total present – 11. Total absent – 0. Total "Aye" votes – 10. Total "Nay" votes – 1.

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**ON MOTION** of Commissioner Graham, seconded by Commissioner Chauncey, to adopt Resolution No. 425-5 as amended. 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, "Pass," Commissioner Mackey, "Pass," Commissioner Sharpe, "Aye," Commissioner Shipley, "Aye," Commissioner Smith, "Aye," and Chairman Eversole, "Aye." Total present – 11. Total absent – 0. Total "Aye" votes – 9. Total "Nay" votes – 0. Total "Pass" votes – 2.

Per the Commission's Rules of Order, any member having announced "Pass" on the first call of the vote should subsequently be called on by the Clerk to vote a second time.

Clerk Knowles called the roll of the members, having previously announced "Pass". Commissioner Highlander announced "Aye" on the second call of the vote, and Commissioner Mackey also announced "Aye." Total present - 11. Total absent – 0. Total "Aye" votes – 11. Total "Nay" votes – 0.

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38:21 Commissioner Baker stated he would like to introduce a new resolution. There was no objection.

**LATE ITEM**

38:59 **RESOLUTION NO. 425-13 A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE PROFESSIONAL ENGAGEMENT OF THE LAW FIRM OF BAKER, DONELSON, BEARMAN, CALDWELL & BERKOWITZ, PC, TO CONDUCT A COMPLIANCE ASSESSMENT FOR HAMILTON COUNTY GOVERNMENT AT A COST PROJECTED NOT TO EXCEED FORTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$40,000), TO AMEND THE FY25 GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES BUDGET AND TO AUTHORIZE THE COUNTY MAYOR TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS NECESSARY TO FORMALIZE SAID ENGAGEMENT.**

**ON MOTION** of Commissioner Baker, seconded by Commissioner Highlander, to adopt Resolution No. 425-13 that will appropriate \$40,000 to the Baker Donelson Law Firm for legal services.

39:51 Attorney Joe Conner with Baker Donelson stated they proposed assessing the overall structure of county government in terms of HIPAA and other federal regulations

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and laws to determine the county's level of compliance and then make recommendations. He noted that this will entail actual interviews with associates from the firm and individuals within county government who are responsible for specific areas where critical information is stored.

42:34 Commissioner Baker stated he introduced this item today to get the ball rolling.

42:57 In response to Commissioner Mackey's question, Mr. Conner stated there is no conflict of interest with Commissioner Baker and Baker Donelson.

46:01 In response to Commissioner Highlander's question, Mr. Conner stated they are very familiar with this type of inquiry and also with making recommendations.

50:46 In response to Commissioner Graham's funding question, Mayor Wamp stated he would amend the budget, draw from the General Fund, and allocate the funds to Risk Management.

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51:19 Clerk Knowles requested a revised resolution be submitted to the Clerk's Office for Resolution Nos. 425-5 and a new resolution be submitted to the Clerk's Office for Resolution No.425-13.

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.

52:06 Commissioner Helton stated he also has a late resolution to present today. He noted that the American Legion generally sends students from East Hamilton High School to Boys State but does not have the funds to send them this year. He noted he would like to appropriate \$1,000.00 from his discretionary travel budget to cover their costs.

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**LATE ITEM**

53:10

**RESOLUTION NO. 425-14 A RESOLUTION MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO EAST HAMILTON MIDDLE HIGH SCHOOL IN THE AMOUNT OF ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$1,000.00) FROM GENERAL FUND TRAVEL DISCRETIONARY MONIES, AS ALLOTTED TO DISTRICT SEVEN.**

**ON MOTION** of Commissioner Helton, seconded by Commissioner Highlander, to adopt Resolution No. 425-14.

53:40

Commissioner Highlander commended Commissioner Helton for bringing this forward. He stated Boys and Girls State are two outstanding programs. Commissioner Helton stated it teaches high school students about local, county, and state 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,

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

54:56

Clerk Knowles requested a new resolution be submitted to the Clerk’s Office for Resolution N. 425-14.

Without objection, Commissioner Helton asked for Resolution Nos. 425-6 and 425-7 to be read together.

55:16

**RESOLUTION NO. 425-6 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AND EXECUTE A LEASE AGREEMENT BETWEEN HAMILTON COUNTY AND THE FORGOTTEN CHILD FUND FOR OFFICE AND STORAGE SPACE LOCATED AT THE HARRISON RECREATION CENTER AT 5637 HIGHWAY TN-58, CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE.**

**RESOLUTION NO. 425-7 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AND EXECUTE A LEASE AGREEMENT BETWEEN HAMILTON COUNTY AND THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE FOR OFFICE AND COMMUNITY FUNCTION SPACE LOCATED AT THE J. MERLE CRAWLEY BUILDING, 6183 ADAMSON CIRCLE, CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE.**

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Commissioner Helton, Chairman of the Building and Economic Development Committee, provided details regarding Resolution Nos. 425-6 and 425-7, and stated the Building and Economic Development Committee reviewed and recommended approval.

**ON MOTION** of Commissioner Mackey, seconded by Commissioner Highlander, to adopt Resolution Nos. 425-6 and 425-7.

56:25

Commissioner Beck and Commissioner Highlander stated the fields at the Harrison Recreation Center were dedicated to Bobby Dunn and requested the sign recognizing Mr. Dunn's long involvement with the youth be replaced after being knocked down.

58:29

In response to Commissioner Mackey's question, Commissioner Helton stated that Parks and Recreation Department Director Matt Folz stated that the sign for Bobby Dun at the Harrison Recreation Center will be replaced.

There were no questions from 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.

58:52

**RESOLUTION NO. 425-8 A RESOLUTION FOR THE ACCEPTANCE OF A PROPOSAL BY THE TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO CONSTRUCT A PROJECT DESCRIBED AS (EAST BRAINERD ROAD) BRIDGE OVER CSX RAILROAD, LM 0.86 IN CHATTANOOGA (IA) ON ROUTE SR-320.**

Commissioner Chauncey, Chairman of the Roads Committee, provided details regarding Resolution No. 425-8 and stated the Roads Committee reviewed and recommended approval.

**ON MOTION** of Commissioner Chauncey, seconded by Commissioner Graham, to adopt Resolution No. 425-8.

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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, "Aye." Total present – 11. Total absent – 0. Total "Aye" votes – 11. Total "Nay" votes – 0.

59:45

**RESOLUTION NO. 425-9 A RESOLUTION OF THE HAMILTON COUNTY, TENNESSEE, COMMISSION ADOPTING CERTAIN FEES WITHIN THE DIVISION OF PUBLIC WORKS, INCLUDING FEES UNDER DEVELOPMENT SERVICES AND THE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT.**

Commissioner Smith, Chairman of the Finance Committee, provided details regarding Resolution No. 425-9 and stated the Finance Committee reviewed and recommended approval.

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**ON MOTION** of Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Beck, to adopt Resolution No. 425-9.

1:00:18 In response to Chairman Eversole's question, Director of Development Services Nathan Janeway stated the fees will only be assessed on new developments. He noted this will not affect a single individual building, and there are no inspections on the road.

In response to Commissioner Highlander's question, Mr. Janeway stated they have completed a preliminary engineering report on the idea of connecting Hilltop Drive to Volkswagen Drive and received an estimate of \$22.5 million to complete that project. He stated they are in a design phase for a roundabout on Hunter Road at the schools, as well as at the intersections of Shorttail Springs Road and Snow Hill Road. Commissioner Highlander thanked Mr. Janeway for bringing the matter to the public's attention.

1:02:15 In response to Commissioner Graham's question, Attorney Taylor stated they can add the verbiage to the resolution to specify that the funds will be allocated for new construction. Mr. Janeway noted he has no issue with adding the verbiage to the resolution.

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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, "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.

1:04:37 **RESOLUTION NO. 425-10 A RESOLUTION TO WAIVE THE PROCUREMENT RULES AND AUTHORIZE THE COUNTY MAYOR TO TRANSFER ONE (1) SURPLUS VEHICLE TO FIRE REHAB SERVICES IN MARION COUNTY, TN.**

Commissioner Smith, Chairman of the Finance Committee, provided details regarding Resolution No. 425-10 and stated the Finance Committee reviewed and recommended approval.

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**ON MOTION** of Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Highlander, to adopt Resolution No. 425-10.

Commissioner Sharpe expressed his appreciation to Mayor Wamp for looking out for his home county.

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, "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. 425-11 and 425-12 to be read together.

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1:05:45 **RESOLUTION NO. 425-11 A RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE FISCAL YEAR 2025  
GENERAL FUND REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES BUDGETS FOR THE OFFICE  
OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT BY \$6,400 TO ACCEPT FUNDING FROM THE  
STATE FIRE COMMISSION PER TENNESSEE CODE 4-24-202.**

**RESOLUTION NO. 425-12 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY MAYOR  
TO EXECUTE THE GOVERNMENTAL GRANT CONTRACT AND TO ACCEPT  
REIMBURSEMENT OF \$121,198.49 FROM THE TENNESSEE EMERGENCY  
MANAGEMENT AGENCY (TEMA) FOR DEBRIS REMOVAL COSTS RESULTING  
FROM SEVERE WEATHER ON MAY 8-9, 2024.**

Commissioner Smith, Chairman of the Finance Committee, provided details regarding Resolution Nos. 425-11 and 425-12, and stated the Finance Committee reviewed and recommended approval.

**ON MOTION** of Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Baker, to adopt Resolution No. 425-11 and 425-12.

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.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chairman Eversole asked for announcements from members of the Commission.

1:06:25 Commissioner Baker recognized former District 5 Commissioner Katherlyn Geter in the audience.

1:06:44 Commissioner Sharpe recognized the Chattanooga Mocs for making it to the National Invitation Tournament (NIT) finals and Mr. Honor Huff for setting the all-time three-point single-season scoring record for the NCAA.

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1:07:34 Commissioner Helton thanked everyone for allowing him to bring forth a late resolution for the Commission to vote on today. He also announced Friends of East Brainerd will host a community breakfast on April 26, 2025, at 8:00 AM, 1067 Graysville Road, with Linda Moss Mines as the speaker. He also thanked the Highway Department and citizens for a very successful clean-up day in District 7.

1:09:05 Commissioner Highlander urged citizens not to trash Hamilton County or Tennessee.

1:10:36 In response to Commissioner Highlander's question, Attorney Taylor stated the open records fee policy was implemented due to the time generally expended to retrieve the requested documents, inspect them, and redact any sensitive information before allowing them to be viewed. He noted that without the fee, our personnel may spend most of their time working for someone else, rather than for the county. He stated the final decision is for the Commission to decide.

1:11:37 Commissioner Graham stated that it is an assessment year, and people's taxes will fluctuate due to the assessment. He noted the Mayor is not proposing a tax increase for this budget cycle, nor would he support one.

1:12:23 Attorney Taylor announced there will be a continuation of today's Legal Meeting after the adjournment of today's Regular Meeting.

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION  
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1:12:28 Mayor Wamp announced that our two local professional soccer clubs, Chattanooga Football Club and the Chattanooga Red Wolves, will be playing each other tonight at Finley Stadium.

1:13:21 Chairman Eversole announced an Area 9 Planning Meeting scheduled for April 7, 2025, at 6:00 PM at the Highway 58 Fire Training Center to provide updates on the planning area and its associated plans. He urged the public to attend. He also spoke about the Chattanooga Times Free Press reporting that there will be no tax increase and questioned when the commission will see the budget. Mayor Wamp stated they are still in the planning process and should be presented in mid-May.

1:15:21 Chairman Eversole spoke about new growth and how the county needs to start setting aside funds for future generations. He also wished his wife a Happy Anniversary.

**DELEGATIONS**

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

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APRIL 2, 2025**

There being no further business, Chairman Eversole declared the meeting in recess until Wednesday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at 9:30 AM.

Respectfully submitted:



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William F. (Bill) Knowles, County Clerk

Approved:

04-16-25

WJK

Date

Clerk's Initials