



**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION  
AGENDA PREPARATION SESSION  
August 11, 2021**

1:01

**PRESENTATION – CERTIFICATE OF MERIT – SAM HALL**

Commissioner Fairbanks presented a Certificate of Merit to Sam Hall in recognition for his digital publication, ChattanoogaHistory.com, which provides access to rarely accessible historic resources, and was recognized for its excellence in publications related to historic preservation.

2:59

**PRESENTATION – CERTIFICATE OF MERIT – STEVEN SMITH**

Commissioner Fairbanks presented a Certificate of Merit to Steven Smith in recognition for authoring four books, establishing Soddy, Daisy, Montlake Historical Society and Good Old Days Museum, and for his leadership in the annual Pioneers Day event at the reconstructed Poe's Tavern.

**COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS**

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

- The Trustee's Monthly Report for July 2021 would be submitted for the record.
- A Report of Investment Activity for the Quarter Ending 06/30/21 would be submitted for the record.
- The 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Fee Office Reports would be submitted for the record.

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION  
AGENDA PREPARATION SESSION  
August 11, 2021**

- A Report appointing Justin Holland to the Chattanooga-Hamilton County Regional Planning Advisory Committee and reappointing Y.L.Coker to the Hamilton County Regional Plannind Advisory Committee would be submitted to the record.
- Resolution No. 821-14 was the usual County Clerk item regarding notaries, etc. This required no committee assignment.
- Resolution Nos. 821-22 through 821-30 were assigned to the Finance Committee, chaired by Commissioner Fairbanks.
- Resolution Nos. 821-14 through 821-21 were heard by a Committee of the Whole.

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 821-15**

6:02

This Resolution confirms the reappointment of Steve Slater and Terry L. Payne to the Hamilton County Industrial Development Board to serve a six year term beginning August 18, 2021 and ending August 18, 2027.

There were no questions from Commissioners.

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 821-16**

6:30

This Resolution confirms the reappointment by the County Mayor of Heather Bruggink and Deborah Noel-Maddox, and the appointment of Kimberly Strong to the Scenic City Beautiful Commission, with terms ending August 18, 2024.

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION  
AGENDA PREPARATION SESSION  
August 11, 2021**

There were no questions from Commissioners.

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 821-17**

Hamilton County Sheriff Jim Hammond spoke regarding this item, which increases the Sheriff's compensation from \$149,068.00 along with associated benefits of FICA and TCRS to a salary deemed appropriate by the Hamilton County Board of Commissioners. The request is based, in part, on the Sheriff's Office increase in responsibility which includes assuming operation of the Silverdale Detention Center on December 30, 2020.

Sheriff Hammond spoke of his accomplishments to transition the facility from CoreCivic and the closing of the downtown facility moving everyone to Silverdale. He stated it has been the most challenging 6 months of his career. He reported that TCA does allow Commissioners to increase the salary of the sheriff based on what he has accomplished especially in the area of the workhouse. He noted that Sheriffs in Rutherford County and Knox County both receive additional compensation.

In reponse to Commissioner Mackey's question, Sheriff Hammond stated he gave a percentage amount instead of a dollar amount. Additionally he shared state law authorizes up to a 15% increase but must be 5% less than the Mayor's salary. He

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION  
AGENDA PREPARATION SESSION  
August 11, 2021**

noted a dollar amount was not presented because he did receive the 2021 4% Cost of Living increase and wanted the Commission to decide what the fair amount between the 4% he received in 2021 and the 15% allowed by the State.

General Counsel for the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office Coty Wamp reported \$170,486.98 is 5% below the Mayor salary, the Sheriff's current salary is \$149,068. If the maximum allowed raise is granted, it would be around a 14% increase.

In response to Commissioner Boyd's question, Finance Administrator Lee Brouner stated the maximum allowed increase would not be a significant increase to the County budget.

17:33 Commissioner Geter noted she had concerns with the Sheriff's request. She stated her concerns noting "equity" was not a reason to justify a pay increase. She commended Sheriff Hammond for his 29 years of service and sated she would not be supporting the resolution next week.

In response to Commissioner Geter's statement, Sheriff Hammond stated the word "equity" is a popular word when speaking of the Sheriff and his salary. He stated the head of any organization should be paid a compensation that is equitable as to what

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION  
AGENDA PREPARATION SESSION  
August 11, 2021**

he is required and expected to do. He noted the continuing efforts made in his department to recruit minorities into the agency.

21:45

Commissioner Highlander commended Sheriff Hammond and his entire office. He stated a modification of the increase should be considered.

23:50

At this time a lengthy conversation took place among Commissioner's, Sheriff Hammond, and Hamilton County Sheriff's Office Director of Technology and Finance Ron Bernard regarding low pay, an upcoming salary study and the number of vacancies in the department.

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 821-18**

This Resolution makes an appropriation to Charles H. Coolidge National Medal of Honor Heritage Center in the amount of one thousand five hundred dollars from General Fund travel discretionary monies, as allotted to District Seven.

There were no questions from Commissioners.

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 821-19**

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION  
AGENDA PREPARATION SESSION  
August 11, 2021**

Administrator of General Services Christy Cooper spoke regarding this item, which accepts a donation from the Field of Interest Fund, Mental Health Fund, held at The Community Foundation of Greater Chattanooga, Inc. Ms. Cooper stated it is a grant from the Community Foundation of Greater Chattanooga with no match required. Ms. Cooper also stated the grant was a flexible fund grant which means it can be used at their discretion for various needs of the program. She noted Director of Mental Health Anna Protano-Biggs was present to answer any questions.

There were no questions from Commissioners.

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 821-20**

Administrator of General Services Christy Cooper spoke regarding this item, which amends the fiscal year 2022 General Fund Expenditures Budget for the Emergency Medical Services department by \$2,012,000.00, amends the General Fund Expenditures Budget for the County Accounting Department by \$62,000.00, and amends the fiscal year 2022 General Fund Revenue Budget by \$933,000.00. Additionally the net balance of \$1,141,000.00 from previously unbudgeted funds enables the EMS Department to provide emergency medical response and transport to the city of East Ridge, Tennessee. Ms. Cooper also stated Deputy Director of HCEMS John Miller was present to answer any questions.

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION  
AGENDA PREPARATION SESSION  
August 11, 2021**

57:45

In response to Commissioner Boyd's question, Ms. Cooper stated an \$8.00 per capita would be charged over the next four years to help offset expenses. She explained two trucks must be purchased and they will need to hire 16 full time staff members which would include eight EMT's and eight paramedics. It was noted the city of East Ridge would not be taking on the full cost to provide emergency medical response and transport to the city of East Ridge.

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 821-21**

Administrator of General Services Christy Copper spoke regarding this item, which accepts the quote from Stryker Medical for an upgrade to all current equipment on all Hamilton County ambulances amounting to \$3,325,172.74 for the Emergency Medical Services department. She stated Hamilton County was the only county in East Tennessee to use manual cots. She stated this was a perfect use of the American Rescue Plan money designated to Hamilton County.

1:02:48

In response to Chairman Baker's question, Finance Administrator Lee Brouner stated they have until December 31, 2024 to use the American Rescue Plan money.

Mayor Jim Coppinger added a plan on the use of the money is required to be posted by August 31, 2021 and plans to meet Commissioner's individually on where the



**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION  
AGENDA PREPARATION SESSION  
August 11, 2021**

money will go. He noted primary focus is on broadband, sewers and waste water, adequate equipment for the Health Department, renovations to the Health Department, and an Emergency Operations Center.

1:06:04 In response to Commissioner Boyd's question, Stryker Medical Account Manager Lacey Barr stated the automatic stretchers should last seven to ten years.

Mayor Jim Coppinger thanked HCEMS Deputy Director John Miller and the men and women in his department that serve the community every single day.

Commissioner Fairbanks, Chairman of the Finance Committee, stated the Finance Committee would meet in the Commission Room immediately following today's Agenda Session.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chairman Baker asked for announcements from members of the Commission.

Commissioner Boyd spoke about Hamilton County District Attorney Neal Pinkston and his disappointment of him not appearing before the Commission to clarify questions that have been raised. Commissioner Boyd reiterated a series of complaints

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION  
AGENDA PREPARATION SESSION  
August 11, 2021**

about two staff positions of District Attorney Pinkston's office. He stated his concerns regarding budget, and possible nepotism.

Commissioner Martin encouraged Commissioner Boyd to share his research with the Attorney General.

Commissioner Boyd indicated he wasn't accusing District Attorney Pinkston of fraud. However, he would like for him to address the commission regarding misleading statements.

1:25:57

Commissioner Geter spoke of Covid-19 and our numbers still rising. She asked teachers and parents to be safe as schools reopen tomorrow, using every tool in their tool box that is available. She spoke in favor of vaccination, social distancing, and the wearing wear of masks.

1:28:50

Commissioner Highlander introduced Jeanette Omarkhail a representative for teachers, who was in attendance at today's meeting. He stated he hoped for a safe learning environment for our children this year.

1:29:45

Commissioner Mackey invited everyone to attend a community meeting being held August 12, 2021 at the Kingdom Center off M.L. King Blvd. at 5:00pm. Sheriff

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION  
AGENDA PREPARATION SESSION  
August 11, 2021**

Hammond will give an update and discuss his response to a two year old investigation involving one of his deputies. He invited the community to come and ask questions.

1:33:44 Commissioner Sharpe noted Hamilton County schools are starting back tomorrow and the importance of wearing of masks.

1:38:10 Mayor Jim Coppinger stated everyone should consult with their doctors when deciding whether or not to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. He also stated a mask mandate in schools is solely up to the Superintendent and the Hamilton County School Board.

1:40:47 Chairman Baker stated his son finished hiking the Pacific Crest Trail. He hiked a total of 2,650 miles in 94 days.

**DELEGATIONS**

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

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION  
AGENDA PREPARATION SESSION  
August 11, 2021**

Being no further business, Chairman Baker declared the meeting adjourned until  
Wednesday, August 18<sup>th</sup>, at 9:30 AM.

Respectfully submitted:



---

William F. (Bill) Knowles, County Clerk

Approved:

09-01-21  
Date

W.F.K.  
Clerk's Initials