

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
SEPTEMBER 4, 2024**

STATE OF TENNESSEE)
Regular Meeting

COUNTY OF HAMILTON)
September 4, 2024

BE IT REMEMBERED that on this 4th day of September 2024, 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: --

0:18

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 Warren Mackey, Commissioner David Sharpe, Commissioner Gene-o Shipley, Commissioner Ken Smith, and Chairman Jeff Eversole. Commissioner Lee Helton arrived during Chairman Eversole's Oath reading. Commissioner Steve Highlander was absent. Total present - 10. Total absent -1.

0:29

Chairman Eversole reminded everyone that today's meeting is a combined Agenda Session and Regular Meeting. The meeting schedule got off rotation in June because the Juneteenth holiday fell on a Wednesday. Per the Commission's Rules of Order, Regular Meetings are on the first and third Wednesday of the month. Therefore,

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all items on the agenda will be heard by the Committee of the Whole and voted on today. Going forward, he said meetings will be back on track.

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

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.

0:47

Commissioner Mackey introduced Worship Pastor Ryan Showalter, Red Bank Baptist Church, to offer the invocation. Commissioner Mackey led in the pledge to the flag.

3:12

**OATH OF OFFICE - CHAIRMAN OF THE HAMILTON COUNTY BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS – COMMISSIONER JEFF EVERSOLE**

The Honorable Mike Dumitru, Circuit Court Judge Division II, administered the Oath of Office for Commission Chairman to Commissioner Jeff Eversole.

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4:52 **OATH OF OFFICE –DISTRICT 3 COMMISSIONER KEN SMITH**

The Honorable Mike Dumitru, Circuit Court Judge Division II, administered the Oath of Office to Ken Smith, elected District 3 County Commissioner.

5:59 **OATH OF OFFICE - CHAIRMAN PRO TEMPORE OF THE HAMILTON COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS – COMMISSIONER KEN SMITH**

The Honorable Mike Dumitru, Circuit Court Judge Division II, administered the Oath of Office for Commission Chairman Pro Tempore to Commissioner Ken Smith.

7:32 **OATH OF OFFICE - GENERAL SESSIONS COURT JUDGE DIVISION II – VICTORIA
(TORI) SMITH**

The Honorable Gary Starnes, General Sessions Court Judge Division V, administered the Oath of Office for the newly appointed General Sessions Judge to Victoria (Tori) Smith.

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APPROVAL OF MINUTES

9:51 **ON MOTION** of Commissioner Baker, seconded by Commissioner Sharpe, that the minutes of the Recessed Meeting of August 21, 2024, the Agenda Preparation Session of August 21, 2024, and the Regular Meeting of August 28, 2024, 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 Mackey, "Aye," Commissioner Sharpe, "Aye," Commissioner Shipley, "Aye," Commissioner Smith, "Aye," and Chairman Eversole, "Aye." Commissioner Highlander was absent. Total present – 10. Total absent – 1. Total "Aye" votes – 10. Total "Nay" votes – 0.

QUARTERLY INVESTMENT REPORT

10:32 The quarterly investment report of Hamilton County for the quarter ended June 30, 2024, was submitted as a matter of record.

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QUARTERLY FEE OFFICE REPORTS

Chairman Eversole directed that the following fee reports for constitutional offices be entered into the record.

Clerk and Master – April 2024 through June 2024

Circuit Court Clerk – April 2024 through June 2024

Register of Deeds – April 2024 through June 2024

County Clerk – April 2024 through June 2024

10:39

RESOLUTION NO. 924-1 A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE AND ACCEPT APPLICATIONS FOR NOTARY PUBLIC POSITIONS, THE BONDS AND OATHS OF NOTARIES PREVIOUSLY ELECTED, THE OATHS OF DEPUTY SHERIFFS, THE OATHS OF DEPUTY ASSESSORS OF PROPERTY, THE OATH OF ASSESSOR OF PROPERTY, AND THE BOND OF ASSESSOR OF PROPERTY.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Graham, seconded by Commissioner Smith, to adopt Resolution No. 924-1.

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 Mackey, "Aye," Commissioner Sharpe, "Aye," Commissioner Shipley, "Aye," Commissioner Smith, "Aye," and Chairman Eversole, "Aye." Commissioner Highlander was absent. Total present – 10. Total absent – 1. Total "Aye" votes – 10. Total "Nay" votes – 0.

RESOLUTION NO. 924-2 RESOLUTION NUMBER NOT USED

11:27

RESOLUTION NO. 924-3 A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE COUNTY MAYOR TO ACCEPT A GRANT WITH THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY, AND TENNESSEE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY IN THE AMOUNT OF \$906,051.41 TO REIMBURSE EXPENDITURES RELATED TO COVID-19 EMERGENCY INITIATIVES AND AMEND THE FISCAL YEAR 2025 REVENUE BUDGET OF THE GENERAL FUND.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Beck, seconded by Commissioner Chauncey, to adopt Resolution No. 924-3.

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12:11

In response to Commissioner Sharpe's question, Director of Emergency Management Chris Adams stated this is reimbursement from Covid 2020. He noted they are trying to recoup everything spent on the Baylor Lab, Health Department, and testing stations set up around the county. He stated the county did a great job keeping all the records and following proper procedures, so the county should be able to receive all those funds back.

Commissioner Sharpe commended the Finance Department for ensuring the proper procedure was followed to receive funds back for the county.

13:09

In response to Commissioner Sharpe's question, Chief Financial Officer Lee Brouner stated the funds will be returned to the General Fund.

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

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Mackey, “Aye,” Commissioner Sharpe, “Aye,” Commissioner Shipley, “Aye,” Commissioner Smith, “Aye,” and Chairman Eversole, “Aye.” Commissioner Highlander was absent. Total present – 10. Total absent – 1. Total “Aye” votes – 10. Total “Nay” votes – 0.

13:36 **RESOLUTION NO. 924-4 A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE DONATION OF THIRTY-FOUR THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED NINETY-NINE DOLLARS (\$34,499.00) FOR THE PURCHASE OF THE AUTONOMOUS PORTABLE REFRIGERATION UNITS (APRU) AND AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY MAYOR TO SIGN ANY DOCUMENTS NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THIS RESOLUTION.**

ON MOTION of Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Shipley, to adopt Resolution No. 924-4.

14:08 In response to Commissioner Baker’s question, Administrator of General Services Christy Copper stated Hamilton County EMS is embarking on a new program to provide whole blood infusions in the field before transport to the hospital. She noted this will make large-scale car wrecks, gunshot wounds, or anything that requires a blood infusion where time is of the essence possible in the field. She stated this kind of blood infusion requires special equipment to transport the blood. She noted that the CEO and

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Founder of Medictests.com, Joe Storm, is donating \$34,499.00 to purchase three coolers.

15:20 Director of Hamilton County EMS Wade Batson stated they are very excited about this program, and only 1 to 2 other agencies in the state do whole blood infusions. He noted it is a massive benefit to citizens in Hamilton County to give them blood while still at the scene of an accident. He also stated they have a program with Erlanger Hospital to buy back blood a couple of weeks before it expires to use at the hospital.

16:53 The CEO and Founder of Medictests.com, Joe Storm, stated they specialize in EMS education. He noted part of their budget is for EMS infrastructure and research, which fits their company's investment guidelines. He stated they are happy to donate funds to provide the state-of-the-art coolers required by the county.

17:32 In response to Commissioner Baker's Question, Mr. Batson stated there is always a shortage of blood, and this will allow Erlanger to purchase it so it does not go to waste. He thanked Medical Director Dr. Ron Buchheit for working out this deal with Erlanger.

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 Mackey, "Aye," Commissioner Sharpe, "Aye," Commissioner Shipley, "Aye," Commissioner Smith, "Aye," and Chairman Eversole, "Aye." Commissioner Highlander was absent. Total present – 10. Total absent – 1. Total "Aye" votes – 10. Total "Nay" votes – 0.

18:28 **RESOLUTION NO. 924-5 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY MAYOR TO SIGN A CONTRACT BETWEEN THE TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HAMILTON COUNTY TENNESSEE, THE HEALTH SERVICES DIVISION, OPERATING AS THE HAMILTON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT, TO BUILD LOCAL CAPACITY TO IMPROVE PUBLIC HEALTH RESPONSE TO THE SUBSTANCE MISUSE EPIDEMIC IN HAMILTON COUNTY, TENNESSEE USING FUNDS NOT TO EXCEED \$175,900.00 FOR THE PERIOD BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 1, 2024, AND ENDING AUGUST 31, 2025.**

ON MOTION of Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Baker, to adopt Resolution No. 924-5.

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 Mackey, "Aye," Commissioner Sharpe, "Aye," Commissioner Shipley, "Aye," Commissioner Smith, "Aye," and Chairman Eversole, "Aye." Commissioner Highlander was absent. Total present – 10. Total absent – 1. Total "Aye" votes – 10. Total "Nay" votes – 0.

19:24

RESOLUTION NO. 924-6 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY MAYOR ON BEHALF OF HAMILTON COUNTY, TENNESSEE, THE HEALTH SERVICES DIVISION, OPERATING AS THE HAMILTON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT TO SIGN A CONTINUATION CONTRACT WITH THE TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH IN THE AMOUNT OF \$545,482.00 TO PROVIDE SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTION EDUCATION, PREVENTION, AND CONTROL SERVICES IN HAMILTON COUNTY FOR A TIME PERIOD OF JANUARY 1, 2023, THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2026.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Graham, seconded by Commissioner Smith, to adopt Resolution No. 924-6.

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 Mackey, "Aye," Commissioner Sharpe, "Aye," Commissioner Shipley, "Aye," Commissioner Smith, "Aye," and Chairman Eversole, "Aye." Commissioner Highlander was absent. Total present – 10. Total absent – 1. Total "Aye" votes – 10. Total "Nay" votes – 0.

20:19

RESOLUTION NO. 924-7 A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE COUNTY MAYOR TO ENTER IN AND EXECUTE A CONTRACT WITH CROY ENGINEERS, LLC FOR PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR THE EXTENSION OF EXISTING HILLTOP DRIVE TO VOLKSWAGEN DRIVE ADJACENT TO 1-75 FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$210,500.00.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Beck, seconded by Commissioner Chauncey, to adopt Resolution No. 924-7.

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 Mackey, "Aye," Commissioner Sharpe, "Aye," Commissioner Shipley, "Aye," Commissioner Smith, "Aye," and Chairman Eversole, "Aye." Commissioner Highlander was absent. Total present – 10. Total absent – 1. Total "Aye" votes – 10. Total "Nay" votes – 0.

21:05

**RESOLUTION NO. 924-8 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN ALLOCATION TO
HAMILTON COUNTY SCHOOLS FOR THE PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF
NEW BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL FIELD LIGHTING SYSTEMS AT THE HOWARD
SCHOOL AS PART OF THE SOUTH BROAD STADIUM DEVELOPMENT
AGREEMENT.**

ON MOTION of Commissioner Graham, seconded by Commissioner Beck, to adopt Resolution No. 924-8.

21:36

Mayor Wamp stated the first installment of the \$10,000,000.00 commitment to Howard School came as upgrades to career and technical programming for their welding labs. He noted this is the second and only other project defined upfront. He stated it was essential to support the work of Coach John Johnson, who brought back

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the programs at Howard and has done an incredible job advocating for student-athletes. He anticipates they will be able to play under the lights this spring for the first time in many decades. He noted they are working closely with Principal Ware, Commissioner Graham, and the school system for a comprehensive package representing the rest of the investment.

23:07

Commissioner Mackey commended Mayor Wamp for assisting Howard and hopes the county continues to support public schools.

23:32

Commissioner Shipley thanked Mayor Wamp for everything happening for different schools and for investing in all programs throughout our schools.

24:15

Commissioner Sharpe stated all schools should be equipped equally or equitably and appreciates this investment at Howard.

24:47

In response to Commissioner Sharpe's statement, Mayor Wamp stated the South Board Development agreement included the county's \$10,000,000.00 investment in Howard.

24:57

In response to Commissioner Sharpe's question, Chief Financial Officer Lee Brouner stated funds are set aside in a bond fund.

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25:47 Mayor Wamp noted the county felt like Howard should benefit upfront and not in the form of promises down the road, so the county made a \$10,000,000.00 commitment. He stated as part of the commitment, the county was taken out of the loan repayment, so the long-term increment does not repay the loan from the developers and team owners. He noted this will allow the county to benefit sooner and in a different way than the city.

26:25 In response to Commissioner Sharpe's question, Chief Financial Officer Lee Brouner stated the bond fund is not included in the county's annual budget document. He noted the county has a bond plan for spending the funds. He stated all bond money expenditures come back to the Commission for approval.

27:11 Commissioner Graham thanked Mayor Wampfor for his involvement with public schools in every district.

30:40 Dean of Students and Baseball Coach at Howard School John Johnson thanked Mayor Wamp for his investment and vision to provide athletic facilities in Hamilton County Schools. He noted over the last five years at Howard High School, he has raised over \$500,000.00 annually. He stated sports are a reason for kids to come to school. He thanked the Commission for letting him speak at the meeting and for all the investments in Hamilton County Schools. A round of applause was given.

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35:38 Commissioner Mackey thanked Coach Johnson for going above and beyond for the students and spending many hours improving the school. He stated teachers and coaches are incredible.

36:29 Commissioner Sharpe spoke about Coach Johnson's inspiration to the Howard students and noted that he is happy to support this resolution.

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 Mackey, "Aye," Commissioner Sharpe, "Aye," Commissioner Shipley, "Aye," Commissioner Smith, "Aye," and Chairman Eversole, "Aye." Commissioner Highlander was absent. 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.

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40:46 Commissioner Shipley spoke about Recreation Centers and what Mayor Wamp is doing for the county and children, which is impressing people.

42:10 Commissioner Baker thanked Coached Johnson for inspiring the children and doing what he does for the right reasons. He stated that people like him make our kids great.

42:32 Commissioner Smith thanked Coach Johnson for everything he has done for Howard School. He also thanked District 3 and the Commissioners for trusting him with the Chairman Pro Tempore role and all the responsibilities that go with it. He also thanked his wife for attending today's Commission Meeting to support him. He recognized City Councilman Darrin Ledford in the audience.

44:22 Several Commissioners congratulated Chairman Eversole on his second term as Chairman. Commissioner Smith was also congratulated on being elected Chairman Pro Tempore.

44:42 Commissioner Beck spoke about the dedication ceremony for the new turf football field at Reggie White Field, which he attended with Mayor Wamp.

47:23 Commissioner Sharpe stated keeping kids engaged is very important. He thanked the board for the unanimous vote on Resolution No. 924-8 and said he is glad

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to be part of the Board of Commissioners that supports investments in youth for our community. He also thanked Commissioner Chauncey for serving as Chairman Pro Tempore this past year.

49:20 Commissioner Graham spoke about Howard School and all the great things that are starting to happen there. He congratulated McKenzie Cohen for her second-place finish in the Paralympics. He also announced Water and Wastewater Authority (WWTA) Executive Director Mike Patrick will be recognized in Kentucky next week and receive the “Golden Manhole Award.” He stated he greatly appreciates his leadership at the WWTA.

53:12 Chairman Eversole congratulated Olivia Reeves on her gold medal at the Paris Olympics and McKenzie Cohen on her silver medal at the Paralympics. He thanked the board for his renomination to lead and looks forward to a good, productive year working together.

54:23 In response to Chairman Eversole’s question, Chief Financial Officer Lee Brouner stated the county had its \$260 million bond priced on August 27, 2024, and will close on September 12, 2024. He noted it will be a 20-year bond issue. He also noted the County’s debt will top a billion dollars when the issue closes and will affect the county’s future bond market requests.

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DELEGATIONS

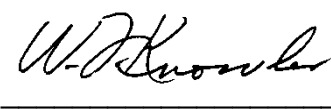
Chairman Eversole asked for delegations on matters other than zoning.

1:00:50

Monty Bell, A homeless journalist for the Grey-Haired Foxx, stated he resides at 625 Georgia Avenue and 1000 Lindsay Street. He spoke about the economic benefit of black people in Hamilton County and an open records request he submitted.

There being no further business, Chairman Eversole declared the meeting in recess until Wednesday, September 11th, 2024, at 9:30 AM.

Respectfully submitted:



William F. (Bill) Knowles, County Clerk

Approved:

09-18-24 W.F.K

Date Clerk's Initials