

HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION AGENDA PREPARATION SESSION SEPTEMBER 13, 2023

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

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

- Revised Unaudited Financial Reports Ending June 30 2023 will be submitted for the record.
- Revised #2 Trustee Monthly Report for June 2023 will be submitted for the record.
- Procurement Purchase Order Report \$25k - \$50k for August 2023 would be submitted for the record.
- Resolution No. 923-15 was the usual County Clerk item regarding notaries, etc. This required no committee assignment.
- Resolutions Nos. 923-26 through 923-32 were assigned to the Finance Committee, chaired by Commissioner Smith.
- Resolutions Nos. 923-33, 923-34A, 923-34B, and 923-35 were assigned to the Zoning Committee, chaired by Commissioner Chauncey.
- Resolution Nos. 923-16 through 923-25 were heard by a Committee of the Whole.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 923-16

1:14

Administrator of Public Works and County engineer Todd Leamon spoke regarding this item, which confirms the appointment by the County Mayor of Michael S. Kirk as Director of Property Management for Hamilton County Government. He stated having a position with authority over properties and facilities in Hamilton County would allow better management of assets. He noted the county has 125 facilities they

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maintain. He stated it is a budgeted position and will be under the Public Works Department.

5:14

Mayor Wamp stated Mr. Kirk is a very well-known and respected member of the Hixson community, one of the leaders of the Hixson Alumni Association, a multigenerational Hixson resident, an Army Veteran, served on the Parks and Recreation Board, and a great recruit into this position. He is currently the Chief Operating Officer at Boyd Buchanan School which covers facilities, security, overseeing new projects, and managing daily operations for the cafeteria. He noted this position would bring support to managing projects and would be the point of contact within County Government for projects underway.

7:47

In response to Commissioner Mackey's question, Mr. Leamon stated the tipping point has been there relative to the amount of facilities and interactions with other departments. He noted for this to be managed appropriately and more efficiently a Director of Property Management is needed. Commissioner Mackey thanked Mr. Leamon and Mayor Wamp for their explanation on bringing in this new full-time position.

10:17

In response to Commissioner Sharpe's question, Mr. Leamon stated the job description was left out of the Resolution, but was job description number 2407.

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Chairman Eversole requested a copy of the job description and a copy has been filed with the Clerk's Office.

11:24 In response to Commissioner Highlander's question, Mr. Leamon stated all details would be worked out relative to his start date. He noted the starting salary for the Director of Property Management will be \$81,000.00.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 923-17

12:03 Engineering Coordinator at Bledsoe Telephone Cooperative Matthew Boynton spoke regarding this item, which rescinds Resolution No. 322-20, which authorized the allocation of \$40,000.00 from ARPA funds as received by Hamilton County and previously allotted as a local match for the expansion of broadband internet access and construction of the fiber network in the Sale Creek area of Hamilton County. He stated it also authorizes the appropriation of said funds to Bledsoe Telephone Cooperative to be used along with an Appalachian Regional Commission Grant. He stated a previous grant was not accepted and the State Broadband Grant Director reached out to Bledsoe Telephone Cooperative to see if they were interested in applying to use Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) funds to expand into Sale Creek. He noted it is a \$656,000.00 project with the ARC grant of \$328,466.00 and will pass 128 address points on top of the mountain.

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15:36 Mayor Wamp stated this was an administrative change and Bledsoe Telephone Cooperative stepped up to serve the residents of Sale Creek.

Commissioner Shipley stated broadband is needed in the Sale Creek area.

16:58 Commissioner Highlander stated he will be supporting this resolution. He noted that rural areas need broadband. He stated helping our citizens with broadband is a necessity in these modern days.

17:57 Mr. Boynton stated Bledsoe Telephone Cooperative is the sole owner of a competitive local exchange company BTC Communications. He noted the grant was awarded to BTC Communications.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 923-18

18:38 This Resolution authorizes the expansion of the facilities of the Hamilton County 9-1-1 Emergency Communications District Center.

There were no questions from the Commissioners.

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COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 923-19

19:07 Juvenile Court Director Sam Mairs spoke regarding this item, which authorizes the County Mayor to enter into and execute a contract with the State of Tennessee, Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth, to receive \$40,000.00 to be used for the Courts Appointed Special Advocate Program (CASA) within the Hamilton County Juvenile Courts. He stated this was a continuation contract and the funds would be used to offset the salary of the CASA coordinator who oversees the program. He noted this is a no-match grant and is double the revenue from last year.

There were no questions from the Commissioners.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 923-20

20:04 Juvenile Court Director Sam Mairs spoke regarding this item, which authorizes the Hamilton County Juvenile Court to apply for and accept a grant from the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC). He stated this was a first-time application for a grant with the AOC to augment the medication program. He noted the funds would be used to mediate 244 mediation sessions for Tennessee-neglected children and families. He also stated this will help speed up the docket process by getting these families the services they need quicker. He noted this is a no-match grant.

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21:13 Commissioner Highlander recognized Juvenile Court Judge Robert Philyaw in the audience.

21:47 Commissioner Graham thanked Mr. Mairs and Judge Philyaw for the tour of the Juvenile Court facilities and spoke about the attention those facilities need.

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22:30 Juvenile Court Director Sam Mairs spoke regarding this item, which authorizes the Juvenile Court to accept a grant from the Department of Mental Health to establish a Safe Baby Court and authorize the County Mayor to sign any contracts necessary. He noted this is a 100% reimbursement grant of \$200,000.00 from the Department of Mental Health to establish, implement, and operate a Safe Baby Court.

23:20 Judge Philyaw stated in 2017 the State of Tennessee put more tools in place for juvenile courts across the state to try to effect real change in family's trajectory. He noted the Safe Baby Court is an intensive problem-solving court that relies on lots of programs and services to help stabilize families.

25:17 In response to Commissioner Baker's question, Judge Philyaw stated a coordinator will work directly with providers and families and a Magistrate will hear the

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cases very intensely with many cases being reviewed weekly. He noted parents are counseled in drug abuse, mental health, employment, and stable housing, all to find “safe permanency for a child.”

26:47 Commissioner Sharpe thanked Judge Philyaw for the tour of the Juvenile Courts facilities and stated they need to be on the list of facilities that need attention. Judge Philyaw stated a lot of work has been done with the Administrator of Public Works and County Engineer Todd Leamon. He noted a study was done on the facilities last year.

28:25 Chairman Eversole thanked Judge Philyaw for his commitment and passion for the judicial system.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 923-22

28:45 Commissioner Helton spoke regarding this item, which makes an appropriation to East Hamilton Middle School in the amount of \$1,000.00 from General Fund travel discretionary monies as allotted to District Seven. He stated the funds would help with their capital campaign for tumbling mats.

There were no questions from the Commissioners.

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COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 923-23

29:22 Commissioner Shipley spoke regarding this item, which makes an appropriation to Sale Creek High School in the amount of \$1,500.00 from General Fund travel discretionary monies as allotted to District One. He stated the funds would go towards the purchase of new basketball uniforms and would appreciate the support.

There were no questions from the Commissioners.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 923-24

30:07 Commissioner Shipley spoke regarding this item, which makes an appropriation to Keep Soddy Daisy Beautiful in the amount of \$1,200.00 from General Fund travel discretionary monies allotted to District One. He stated Soddy Daisy Beautification has volunteered to move out into the rural areas of Sale Creek and Bakewell to clean up roads. He noted the funds would go towards supplies to help with this project and would appreciate the support.

There were no questions from the Commissioners.

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COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 923-25

30:56 Grants Coordinator for the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office Megan Webb spoke regarding this item, which approves an interlocal agreement between the Office of the Sheriff and the City of Chattanooga. She stated this resolution would move the body of work for housing navigation from the FUSE-funded team to the City of Chattanooga's Office of Supportive Services. She noted they are the front pioneer housing navigation team in Hamilton County. She also stated the goal is to house more FUSE clients. She noted they have 27 individuals currently enrolled with one person being permanently housed. She stated the purpose of the interlocal agreement is to continue to augment and support the goal of housing clients.

32:39 In response to Commissioner Baker's question, Hamilton County Sheriff's Office Chief of Staff Ron Bernard stated the program has gone from 0-27 clients in the past year. Commissioner Baker requested regular updates about the FUSE program.

34:33 Commissioner Sharpe thanked Ms. Webb and Mr. Bernard for keeping this program going.

35:45 In response to Commissioner Sharpe's question, Ms. Webb stated this will be funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSA)

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grant. She noted the total amount including salary and benefits will be \$76,210.00 and will sit on Occupational Safety and Health Administration's (OSHA) housing team.

37:36 Commissioner Smith, Chairman of the Finance Committee, stated the Finance Committee would meet in the Commission Room after the adjournment of the Agenda meeting.

37:48 Commissioner Chauncey, Chairman of the Zoning Committee, stated the Zoning Committee would meet in the Commission Room following today's Finance Committee.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Eversole asked for announcements from members of the Commission.

38:11 Commissioner Baker announced he will be out of town for the next two weeks.

38:29 Commissioner Beck spoke about Resolution No. 618-37 and asked the commissioners to study it because the project has yet to be completed. At this time, he asked Deputy Clerk Jennifer Smith to read the title and first three paragraphs of the Resolution.

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42:24 In response to Commissioner Beck, the Administrator of General Services stated the plaques were received yesterday and will be installed within the next couple of weeks. She noted her next task will be to schedule a dedication ceremony for the plaques. Commissioner Beck thanked Ms. Cooper and stated that 40 years of service for this county should be recognized.

43:33 Commissioner Sharpe announced the Hamilton County School Board Facilities Committee will have a meeting on September 14, 2023, from 5:30 PM – 7:00 PM at 3074 Hickory Valley Road to discuss future facility plans for Hamilton County Schools. He noted there will be no public comments at this meeting but encouraged anyone interested to attend.

45:45 Commissioner Chauncey announced Jones Memorial United Methodist Church will be hosting their 44th annual BBQ this Saturday, September 16, 2023, from 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM. The proceeds go to benefit the children and missions in the East Ridge community.

46:08 Commissioner Highlander and Commissioner Graham asked everyone to remember the Skillern Family as they navigate losing Bettye Jean Stroud Skillern. They stated she was a matriarch of the community.

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Commissioner Highlander thanked Mayor Wamp for setting up the Roads Task Force. He also thanked everyone involved with the "Welcome Home Parade" for Signal Mountain Vietnam Veteran and Medal of Honor recipient Larry Taylor.

49:42 Chairman Eversole spoke about County Commission Committees and stated they will be publicized on the county website on September 14, 2023. He also spoke about the importance of getting agendas out 48 hours before a meeting to give Commissioners time to review their packets.

DELEGATIONS

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

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Being no further business, Chairman Eversole declared the meeting adjourned until Wednesday, September 20th, at 9:30 AM.

Respectfully submitted:



William F. (Bill) Knowles, County Clerk

Approved:

10-04-23
Date

W.F.K.
Clerk's Initials