

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

**STATE OF TENNESSEE**            )            Regular Meeting  
**COUNTY OF HAMILTON**        )            December 4, 2024

**BE IT REMEMBERED** that on this 4<sup>th</sup> day of December 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: --

0:16            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 members of the County Mayor’s 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.

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0:45

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

**PRESENTATION – HUMANE EDUCATION SOCIETY**

2:12

Volunteer Board President for the Humane Education Society Jim Kennedy introduced board members Bob Doke, Tai Federico, Margaret Haley, Susan Harris, Mary Kilbride, Martha Townsend, Executive Director Rebecca Bryan, and private sector supporter Ann Gary. He gave a detailed presentation on the Foy Animal Center, stating they have 235 shelter volunteers and 375 foster homes for the animals. He spoke about a tax dilemma the Humane Society faces with the new building due to not applying for a tax exemption when they purchased the property and built their new building. He asked the commission for a \$250,000.00 contribution to help with the sustainable increases beginning in 2025 and for assistance on the property tax matter. He encouraged everyone to come out and take a tour of their new state-of-the-art building. A copy of the presentation has been filed with the Clerk's Office.

14:45

At this time, Mr. Kennedy and the Commissioners had a lengthy conversation about the back taxes owed.

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21:16 In response to Commissioner Graham's question, Mr. Kennedy stated the only remaining funds for HES are \$700,000.00. Commissioner Graham requested a copy of their current financials.

22:30 In response to Commissioner Helton's question, Ms. Bryan stated the 19 huskies they received had special medical needs and could not be adopted for six months. She noted they had to be in special isolation, and their care was expensive.

In response to Commissioner Helton's question, Mr. Kennedy stated they are searching for a Development Director and have cut back on marketing efforts.

27:36 In response to Commissioner Beck's question, Ms. Bryan stated they partner with the national organization ASPCA, which transports animals to other states for adoption.

29:27 Commissioner Sharpe stated everyone needs to look at the county as a whole. He noted this should not be looked at district by district.

30:59 In response to Chairman Eversole's question, Ms. Bryan stated a judge decides if an owner has to reimburse HES for their services when making rescues. Chairman Eversole stated the prosecutors need to do their due diligence and ask the judge at every hearing.

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**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

35:56

**ON MOTION** of Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Highlander, that the minutes of the Recessed Meeting of November 13, 2024, the Agenda Preparation Session of November 13, 2024, and the Regular Meeting of November 20, 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 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**

36:39

The Trustee's Monthly and Excess Fee Report for October 2024 was submitted and made a matter of record.

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**ORDER OF REAPPOINTMENT**

An order reappointing Ronnie Blaylock Jr. as a Commissioner to the Savannah Vally Utility District Board of Commissioners, with a term beginning December 3, 2024, and expiring December 3, 2028.

36:45

**RESOLUTION NO. 1224-1 A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE AND ACCEPT  
APPLICATIONS FOR NOTARY PUBLIC POSITIONS AND THE BONDS AND OATHS  
OF NOTARIES PREVIOUSLY ELECTED.**

**ON MOTION** of Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Highlander, to adopt Resolution No.1224-1

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.

37:25

**RESOLUTION NO. 1224-2 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN AMENDMENT TO THE 2022-2025 HAMILTON COUNTY JUVENILE COURT IV-D CHILD SUPPORT CONTRACT WITH THE STATE OF TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES AND AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY MAYOR TO SIGN ANY CONTRACTS NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THIS RESOLUTION.**

**ON MOTION** of Commissioner Beck, seconded by Commissioner Smith, to adopt Resolution No. 1224-2.

38:14

In response to Commissioner Baker’s question, Juvenile Court Director Sam Mairs stated this is a routine housekeeping amendment. He noted it is a budget-neutral request that will offset salary costs.

38:56

In response to Commissioner Mackey’s question, Mr. Mairs stated this would cover the cost of living and merit raises for the 2024-2025 budget.

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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.

40:51

**RESOLUTION NO. 1224-3 A RESOLUTION MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO FRIENDS OF HIXSON IN THE AMOUNT OF ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$1,000.00) FROM GENERAL FUND TRAVEL DISCRETIONARY MONIES, AS ALLOTTED TO DISTRICT THREE.**

**ON MOTION** of Commissioner Mackey, seconded by Commissioner Baker, to adopt Resolution No. 1224-3.

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.

41:30

**RESOLUTION NO. 1224-4 A RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE FISCAL YEAR 2025  
GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES BUDGET FOR THE PRE-TRIAL SERVICES  
PROGRAM TO ADDRESS INCREASES IN PROGRAM CASELOADS RESULTING  
FROM A CHANGE IN STATE LAW.**

**ON MOTION** of Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Highlander, to adopt Resolution No. 1224-4.

42:10

In response to Commissioner Sharpe's question, Administrator of General Services Christy Cooper stated changes went into effect July 1, 2024, on Tennessee Code Title 40 Chapter 11, which addresses criminal procedures regarding bail. She noted mandatory GPS monitoring and victim notification of offender location in certain

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criminal charges are required. She stated the number of offenders has dramatically increased the pretrial assignments by 385 percent. Commissioner Sharpe noted that offenders who are not in jail save taxpayers money.

44:35 In response to Commissioner Sharpe's question, Chief Finance Officer Lee Brouner stated the funds will come from the Fund Balance.

45:23 In response to Commissioner Baker's question, Ms. Cooper stated it took time to determine the increased amount and its impact on the budget. She noted the new law requires the defendant to pay for the monitoring cost. The only alternative for an individual who cannot afford these fees would be to remain in jail or have a judge waive them, which means the county ends up paying for them.

47:50 In response to Chairman Eversole's question, Director of Alternative Sentencing Chris Jackson stated \$12,000.00 for operating costs, \$159,000.00 for two full-time probation officers, and \$329,000.00 for unrecoverable electronics costs. He noted this is an estimated breakdown of the last four months.

51:07 In response to Commissioner Baker's question, the Chief Operating Officer for the Mayor's Office, David Roddy, stated they are having conversations with the representatives of the four primary counties who are in the same financial dynamics as

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we are so they can better understand their solutions. He stated it is an effort now to design a collective conversation.

53:02 Commissioner Highlander stated he hopes the legislation will get this paid for by the State. He also commended Ms. Cooper and Mr. Jackson for all their hard work for the county.

54:32 Commissioner Sharpe stated this needs to be placed on the Hamilton County Government Legislative Agenda Meeting to be discussed before the Legislative Sessions start.

55:19 Chairman Eversole stated everyone needs to do a better job of working together as a team.

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, "Nay," 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 – 10. Total “Nay” votes – 1.

57:33

**RESOLUTION NO. 1224-5 A RESOLUTION AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 924-12 WHICH AMENDED THE CHATTANOOGA AIR POLLUTION CONTROL REGULATIONS TO INCLUDE THE DEFINITION OF "EMERGENCY", AND AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY MAYOR TO EXECUTE SAID AMENDED REGULATIONS.**

**ON MOTION** of Commissioner Graham, seconded by Commissioner Highlander, to adopt Resolution No. 1224-5.

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.

58:23

**RESOLUTION NO. 1224-6 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE OFFICE OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TO ACCEPT A \$1,198,617 BUREAU OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE (BJA) COMPREHENSIVE OPIOID, STIMULANT, AND SUBSTANCE USE SITE-BASED PROGRAM (COSSUP) GRANT WHICH SPANS THREE YEARS AND TO AMEND THE OFFICE OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FISCAL YEAR 2025 REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE BUDGETS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$237,463 AND THE HAMILTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE FISCAL YEAR 2025 REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE BUDGETS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$160,794.**

**ON MOTION** of Commissioner Mackey, seconded by Commissioner Graham, to adopt Resolution No. 1224-6.

59:25

Director of Economic and Community Development Alexa LeBoeuf stated this grant is a testament to the intergovernmental efforts between the ECD and the Sheriff's Office. She commended the Chief of Staff for the Sheriff's Office, Ron Bernard, and

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Deputy Director of Administration, Sarah Spencer, who have worked consistently on this grant from the beginning.

Commissioner Smith thanked everyone for their excellent work getting this grant.

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.

**RESOLUTION NO. 1224-7 A RESOLUTION TO REALLOCATE CERTAIN  
PREVIOUSLY ALLOCATED FUNDS RECEIVED FROM THE FEDERAL AMERICAN  
RESCUE PLAN ACT FOR ATHLETIC FACILITIES AT HAMILTON COUNTY  
SCHOOLS.**

1:01:07

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**ON MOTION** of Commissioner Graham, seconded by Commissioner Shipley, to adopt Resolution No. 1224-7.

1:01:46

Assistant Financial Administrator Vonda Patrick stated this resolution reallocates ARPA funds given to the schools for various projects. She noted some of the previous projects came in under budget and additional funds needed to be added. She stated the change would be in the body of the resolution.

1:03:07

Commissioner Mackey recommended having some time to review the resolution before it came to a vote.

1:05:11

Chairman Eversole called for a 5-minute recess.

Chairman Eversole called the meeting back in order.

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.

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1:06:01

Commissioner Mackey stated after speaking to commissioners who would be impacted by the reallocation and are okay with the outcome, he is also okay with the reallocations.

1:06:53

Commissioner Highlander stated Central High School desperately needed lights on the track and thanked the county for making this happen for those students.

1:07:09

Commissioner Sharpe stated after speaking to the Department of Education's Director of Maintenance and Operations, Justin Witt, several small projects at Red Bank High School can be put on hold to allow the funds to be shifted for the track lighting at Central High School. He noted they agreed to address those projects in the coming year with bond money.

1:09:17

In response to Commissioner Baker's question, Mr. Witt stated these are ARPA funds coming from the commission. He noted once this resolution is approved, it will be sent to the school board to manage the funds, and then the commission will reimburse the school board.

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1:10:38            In response to Commissioner Beck's question, Mr. Witt stated the intent at Brainerd High School was to include the softball field as part of the renovation and construction.

1:11:57            Chief Deputy County Clerk Brooke Weaver requested an official resolution be provided to the Clerk's Office.

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.

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**RESOLUTION NO. 1224-8 RESOLUTION PULLED**

Resolution No. 1224-8 was pulled before the December 4, 2024, Regular Meeting.

1:12:34

**RESOLUTION NO. 1224-10 A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE COUNTY MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AND EXECUTE A CONTRACT WITH TINKER MA, LLC FOR PRELIMINARY ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN PHASE BASIC SERVICES OF THE MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. BUILDING HVAC UPGRADE AND INTERIOR RENOVATION FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$42,767.50.**

**ON MOTION** of Commissioner Baker, seconded by Commissioner Highlander, to adopt Resolution No. 1224-10.

1:13:18

In response to Commissioner Helton's question, Administrator of Public Works and County Engineer Todd Leamon stated the previous resolution was to select an architect for this project. He noted this resolution is a phase 1 contract.

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1:14:13 In response to Commissioner Sharpe's question, Mr. Leamon stated they will go through phase 1, have the options and evaluations done, and then bring a resolution before the commission for an overall contract with Tinker Ma LLC.

1:15:57 At this time, Commissioner Highlander, Attorney Taylor, Mr. Leamon, and Chief Financial Officer Lee Brouner are discussing procurement rules and professional services.

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.

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Without objection, Chairman Eversole asked for Resolution Nos. 1224-11 through 1224-13 to be read together.

1:23:28

**RESOLUTION NO. 1224-11 A RESOLUTION TO ROLLOVER CERTAIN UNSPENT APPROPRIATIONS INCLUDED IN THE FISCAL YEAR 2024 GENERAL FUND BUDGET TOTALING \$107,757 INTO THE FISCAL YEAR 2025 GENERAL FUND BUDGET BY ADDING AN ADDITIONAL \$107,757 TO EXPENDITURES FROM PREVIOUSLY UNBUDGETED FUNDS.**

**RESOLUTION NO. 1224-12 A RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT A GRANT FOR THE HUMANE TRANSPORT OF PATIENTS FROM THE MENTAL HEALTH TRANSPORT PROGRAM FOR THE HAMILTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,023,570 TO BE EXPENDED BY JUNE 30, 2025.**

**RESOLUTION NO. 1224-13 A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE PURCHASE OF ONE (1) VEHICLE AMOUNT TO \$51,325.00 FROM WILSON COUNTY MOTORS FROM TENNESSEE STATEWIDE CONTRACT SWC-209 FOR THE HAMILTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE, AND AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY MAYOR TO SIGN ANY CONTRACTS NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THIS RESOLUTION.**

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**ON MOTION** of Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Baker, to adopt Resolution Nos. 1224-11 through 1224-13.

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 Highlander, "Aye," Commissioner Mackey, "Aye," Commissioner Sharpe, "Aye," Commissioner Shipley, "Aye," Commissioner Smith, "Aye," and Chairman Eversole, "Aye." Commissioner Helton stepped away during the vote. Total present – 10. Total absent – 1. Total "Aye" votes – 10. Total "Nay" votes – 0.

Without objection, Chairman Eversole asked for Resolution Nos. 1224-14 through 1224-17 to be read together.

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1:25:21 **RESOLUTION NO. 1224-14 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ALTERNATIVE SENTENCING TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH VOLUNTEER BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE SO THEY MAY PROVIDE A BEHAVIORAL HEALTH LIAISON TO IMPROVE OUTCOMES FOR ADULTS ON COMMUNITY SUPERVISION.**

**RESOLUTION NO. 1224-15 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ALTERNATIVE SENTENCING TO APPLY FOR A \$30,000 ARNOLD VENTURES INNOVATION DAYS GRANT TO CREATE AND DEVELOP A TENNESSEE PRE-TRIAL TRAINING CONFERENCE.**

**RESOLUTION NO. 1224-16 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ALTERNATIVE SENTENCING TO APPLY FOR A \$250,791 OPIOID ABATEMENT COUNCIL COMMUNITY GRANT TO IMPROVE OUTCOMES FOR ADULTS ON COMMUNITY**

**RESOLUTION NO. 1224-17 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ALTERNATIVE SENTENCING TO APPLY FOR A \$150,000 OPIOID ABATEMENT COUNCIL COMMUNITY GRANT TO IMPROVE OUTCOMES FOR ADULTS ON COMMUNITY SUPERVISION.**

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**RESOLUTION NO. 1224-17 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ALTERNATIVE SENTENCING TO APPLY FOR A \$150,000 OPIOID ABATEMENT COUNCIL COMMUNITY GRANT TO IMPROVE OUTCOMES FOR ADULTS ON COMMUNITY SUPERVISION.**

**ON MOTION** of Commissioner Graham, seconded by Commissioner Shipley, to adopt Resolution Nos. 1224-14 through 1224-17.

1:26:40 In response to Commissioner Sharpe's question, Administrator of General Services Christy Cooper stated they are applying for a grant to create a statewide collaboration regarding pre-trial practice.

1:27:50 The Program Manager for Pre-Trial Services, Elizabeth Hammond, stated Arnold Venture Foundation is a national foundation tasked with finding challenges in criminal justice across the country. She noted the Innovation Days Grant is meant to bring different agencies together to overcome some of the challenges they face. She stated Hamilton County has started creating a Tennessee Pre-Trial Conference because of all the changes in law, which will assist other counties in collaborating and developing their Pre-Trial processes. She noted Hamilton, Davidson, Shelby, and Knox Counties are part of the initial pre-trial team. She stated these meetings have been going on since 2018.

Time Code  
Position

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1:30:48 Ms. Cooper commended the Alternative Sentencing team and spoke about how they are considered leaders in Tennessee.

1:31:44 In response to Commissioner Mackey's question, Ms. Cooper stated a third of the people in the county jail are awaiting trial.

1:34:09 Commissioner Shipley commended Ms. Cooper, Director of Alternative Sentencing Chris Jackson, and staff for everything they do. He stated they attend the Security and Corrections meeting every month.

1:35:02 Commissioner Highlander thanked Ms. Cooper for keeping non-violent people out of jail.

1:35:20 Chairman Eversole also commended Ms. Cooper on everything she does for the 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,

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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.

Without objection, Chairman Eversole asked for Resolution Nos. 1224-18 and 1224-19 to be read together.

1:36:00 **RESOLUTION NO. 1224-18 A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE REAPPOINTMENT BY THE COUNTY MAYOR OF TEDDY ROGERS AND RICHARD BROWN TO THE EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR A TERM ENDING NOVEMBER 21, 2028.**

**RESOLUTION NO. 1224-19 A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT OF MIKE DOUBLEDAY BY THE COUNTY MAYOR ON THE HAMILTON COUNTY BEER BOARD, WITH A TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 1, 2028.**

**ON MOTION** of Commissioner Graham, seconded by Commissioner Mackey, to adopt Resolution Nos. 1224-18 and 1224-19.

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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.

1:37:31 At this time, Chairman Eversole stated if there is no objection, he would like to send Resolution No. 1224-9 to the Public Health and Public Relations committee.

1:38:16 Commissioner Helton objected, seconded by Commissioner Chauncey.

Commissioner Helton stated this is a proforma vote, and the architect has been selected by regular process. He asked no money be spent without notifying the

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commission if this resolution goes to a vote. He noted he sees no reason not to proceed, considering it will not change who the architect is. It is just proforma.

1:39:20 Commissioner Graham stated this has been delayed too long and needs to be voted on. He noted that he does not want to slow down the process of building the new Health Department and objected to sending it to the committee.

1:39:44 In response to Commissioner Smith, Chairman Eversole stated if this resolution goes to committee, it will be brought to a vote during the December 11, 2024, Recessed Meeting.

1:40:40 Commissioner Baker stated no time frame has to be met. He noted they need to get the basics out there so everyone knows what services are required at the new Health Department. He stated there is no reason not to delay.

1:41:42 Commissioner Sharpe stated the commission's rules need to be respected, and the Commission's agenda is to be followed.

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1:42:47 Commissioner Shipley stated this should be voted on today since it is only the hiring of an architect.

1:44:07 Chief Financial Officer Lee Brouner stated the clock is ticking on some of the funding sources for the new Health Department. He noted that 3.5 to 4 million of ELC grant money must be spent by June 30, 2026.

1:45:30 In response to Commissioner Baker's question, Administrator of Public Services and County Engineer Todd Leamon stated his recommendation is relative to a design professional. He stated many of the conversations that will happen in the next several weeks with the committee will inform and provide input to the architect. He noted this will allow conversations and negotiations on a contract.

1:50:06 In response to Commissioner Highlander's question, Commissioner Helton stated he would withdraw his objection to sending the resolution to the committee if they recessed, went into a committee meeting now, and return for the vote today.

Commissioner Helton withdrew his objection.

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1:52:58 Commissioner Graham objected, seconded by Commissioner Chauncey.

1:53:40 Commissioner Chauncey stated questions should be answered on the record instead of going to a committee meeting. He noted there has been plenty of time in the last two weeks for everyone to have gotten their questions answered.

1:56:54 Chief Deputy County Clerk Brooke Weaver stated Resolution No. 1224-9 needs to be read into the record.

**RESOLUTION NO. 1224-9 A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE FIRM OF HK  
ARCHITECTS FOR DESIGN OF THE NEW HAMILTON COUNTY HEALTH  
DEPARTMENT.**

**ON MOTION** of Commissioner Graham, seconded by Commissioner Chauncey, to adopt Resolution No. 1224-9.

The foregoing Motion on objecting to send Resolution No. 1224-9 to committee 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, "Aye," Commissioner Chauncey, "Aye," Commissioner Graham, "Aye," Commissioner

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Helton, "Aye," Commissioner Highlander, "Nay," Commissioner Mackey, "Pass," Commissioner Sharpe, "Pass," Commissioner Shipley, "Aye," Commissioner Smith, "Nay," and Chairman Eversole, "Nay." Total present – 11. Total absent – 0. Total "Aye" votes – 5. Total "Nay" votes – 4. 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.

Chief Deputy County Clerk Weaver called the roll of members having previously announced "Pass." Commissioner Mackey announced "Nay" on the second call of the vote, and Commissioner Sharpe announced "Nay" on the second call of the vote. Total present – 11. Total absent – 0. Total "Aye" votes – 5. Total "Nay" votes – 6.

2:01:37                    **ON MOTION** of Commissioner Highlander, seconded by Commissioner Graham, to recess today's regular meeting and go into the committee meeting to discuss Resolution No. 1224-9 and then reconvene and vote today.

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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 Sharpe, "Aye," Commissioner Shipley, "Aye," Commissioner Smith, "Aye," and Chairman Eversole, "Aye." Total present – 10. Total absent – 1. Commissioner Mackey stepped away during the vote. Total "Aye" votes – 10. Total "Nay" votes – 0.

2:04:39

Chairman Eversole called for a recess to go into the Public Health and Public Relations Committee to discuss the details of the new Hamilton County Health Department.

Chairman Eversole called the meeting back in order.

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,

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Commissioner Gene-o Shipley, Commissioner Ken Smith, and Chairman Jeff Eversole.

Total present - 11. Total absent -0.

2:05:14 Chairman Eversole asked Deputy Clerk Jennifer Smith to reread Resolution No. 1224-9.

**RESOLUTION NO. 1224-9 A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE FIRM OF HK ARCHITECTS FOR DESIGN OF THE NEW HAMILTON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT.**

2:05:51 In response to Commissioner Baker, Mr. Leamon stated he is comfortable moving forward and hiring the architect.

2:06:58 In response to Commissioner Mackey, Mr. Leamon stated they must define a scope relatively before moving into a final design process. He noted involving the design professional in some of the conversations moving forward is essential.

2:08:51 Commissioner Highlander called for the question.

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.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chairman Eversole asked for announcements from members of the Commission.

2:09:18 Commissioner Shipley stated he hopes we are doing everything we can to help individuals get into a program to get better help when it comes to insurance.

2:10:26 Commissioner Smith thanked everyone for passing *Resolution No. 1224-3*. He also announced the Hixson annual Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony will be held Saturday, December 7, 2024, at Clear Creek Church of Christ beginning at 6:00 PM. He noted there would be music and fun events for the family and urged everyone to attend.

Time Code  
Position

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2:11:20 Commissioner Sharpe spoke about the Health Department's redundancy of services. He stated during the COVID-19 pandemic, this redundancy helped serve and reduce the brittleness of our healthcare system.

Commissioner Highlander thanked constituents for attending the Plan Hamilton meeting. He also thanked staff for getting the much-needed lights at the Central High School track and CEMPA CEO Dr. Shannon Burger for her comments and participation in today's committee meeting regarding the future of the Health Department.

2:12:47 Commissioner Graham announced Saturday, December 7, 2024, kicks off MAINx24. He noted it is a fun event for the whole family and encouraged everyone to join. He also announced the engagement of his daughter last week.

2:13:55 Attorney Taylor announced Hamilton County Risk Management Manager Bill Stoll and Assistant County Attorney Mary Neill Southerland will retire at the end of this month. He noted Mr. Stoll has been with the county for 26 years, and Attorney Southerland has been an attorney for Hamilton County for 35 years.

In response to Commissioner Highlander's question, Attorney Taylor stated the Hamilton County Attorney's Office can contract out her services if necessary.

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2:14:37

Chairman Eversole thanked Press Secretary for the Mayor's Office Haley Burton for everything she did setting up the Plan Hamilton Meetings. He noted what an asset she was in her role in the Mayor's Office. He stated Plan Hamilton will be delayed going to the Planning Commission until the first of the year. He also spoke about the true asset Administrator of Public Works and County Engineer Todd Leamon is to Hamilton County. He announced the Collegedale Christmas Parade will be on Sunday, December 8, 2024, at 3:00 PM.

**DELEGATIONS**

Chairman Eversole asked for delegations on matters other than zoning.

2:16:50

Hamilton County Trustee Bill Hullander spoke to the commission about the tax fees owed by the Humane Education Society (HES). He stated the Humane Society started in 1984 on Highland Park Avenue. He noted they filed for a tax exemption with the State of Tennessee on the Highland Park Avenue property and received the exemption. In 2018, they purchased a new property, which is on the assessor's books at \$6.8 million, and tax officials are required to issue tax bills when no exemption is in place. He stated if the new property's back taxes remain unpaid, the HES facility will be on track to be in the tax sale next June. He noted the Trustee's Office is doing what they are legally supposed to do, and they can not forgive taxes.

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2:24:50            In response to Commissioner Shipley’s question, Trustee Hullander stated the property is in the HES name. Commissioner Graham questioned if the resolution allocated \$10 million to them for a new building had a reversionary clause in it.

2:28:21            Director of Operations for the Mayor’s Office, Jennifer Pukenas, thanked everyone who attended the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony at the Courthouse. She also announced Christmas at the Courthouse Concert series has begun and will take place over the next two weeks, with the Commissioner being recognized next Friday.

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

Respectfully submitted:



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William F. (Bill) Knowles, County Clerk

Approved:

12-18-24

WJK

Date

Clerk's Initials