

# **HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION AGENDA PREPARATION SESSION MAY 9, 2018**

**STATE OF TENNESSEE** ) Agenda Preparation Session  
**COUNTY OF HAMILTON** ) May 9, 2018

**BE IT REMEMBERED**, that on this 9<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2018, an Agenda Preparation Session 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:--

0:10

Present and presiding was the Honorable Sabrena Smedley, Chairman Pro Tempore. County Clerk Bill Knowles called the roll of the County Commission and the following, constituting a quorum, answered to their names: Commissioner Bankston, Commissioner Boyd, Commissioner Fields, Commissioner Graham, Commissioner Mackey, Commissioner Martin, and Chairman Pro Tempore Smedley. Chairman Fairbanks and Commissioner Beck were absent. Total present – 7. Total absent -2.

Also in attendance were County Mayor Jim Copping, members of his administrative staff, County Attorney Rheubin Taylor, and County Auditor Jenneth Randall.

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**COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS**

Chairman Pro Tempore Smedley indicated the upcoming agenda items would be considered as follows:

- An Order of Reappointment to the Union Fork-Bakewell Utility District Board of Commissioners would be submitted as a matter of record.
- An Order of Designation to the Planning Commission would be submitted as a matter of record.
- Resolution No. 518-15 was the usual County Clerk item regarding notaries, etc. This required no committee assignment.
- Resolution No. 518-16 was not used.
- Resolution Nos. 518-23, 518-24, 518-25A, 518-25B, 518-26 through 518-28, and 518-35 were assigned to the Zoning Committee, chaired by Commissioner Bankston.
- Resolution Nos. 518-29 through 518-34 were assigned to the Finance Committee, chaired by Commissioner Smedley.
- Resolution Nos. 518-17 through 518-22, and 518-36 were heard by a Committee of the Whole.

0:38

Commissioner Graham asked to make a presentation at next week's meeting honoring the Lookout Valley High School baseball team for winning the Division 4A title Tuesday night. Chairman Pro Tempore Smedley approved his request.

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 518-17**

1:42

This Resolution reappoints David Roddy and Charline Kilpatrick to the Chattanooga-Hamilton County Regional Health Council for four-year terms beginning May 16, 2018 and ending May 16, 2022.

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There were no questions from Commissioners.

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 518-18**

2:11        This Resolution appoints Sharon Moody and Robert Nodes and reappoints Jesse Kukier to the Hamilton County Board of Equalization for two-year terms beginning May 30, 2018 and ending May 30, 2020.

There were no questions from Commissioners.

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 518-19**

2:48        Hamilton County Sheriff Jim Hammond spoke regarding this item, which authorizes the Sheriff's Office to submit a grant application to the Federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Agency for up to \$678,000.00 a year for five years to establish an Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) team in Hamilton County to support the frequent user initiative. He stated similar initiatives conducted in other cities have resulted in significant reductions in the use of jails, hospitals, and emergency services. It was noted there is no county match.

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4:17                   In response to Commissioner Graham's question, Geno Bennett, Director of Support Services for the Sheriff's Department, reported the county's chances of obtaining the grant are good, although it is a competitive grant with only seven being awarded throughout the country. Commissioner Graham thanked Dan Saieed, Development Director, and Janna John, Development Department, for their grant writing skills. It was noted Mr. Saieed and Ms. John were both present to answer any questions.

In response to Commissioner Graham's question, Ms. John explained that if awarded, the grant money will be used to contract with a behavioral health agency to provide intensive 24/7 support services for participants. She added the grant will provide the start-up costs needed to establish the project until the services become billable under TennCare.

Sheriff Hammond added the county could also see significant savings with the reduction of mental health patients in the county jail.

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 518-20**

8:04                   Purchasing Director Gail Roppo spoke regarding this item, which accepts the proposal of Mansfield Oil of Gainesville, Inc. to provide fuel services for Hamilton

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County beginning May 16, 2018 for a contract period of four years, with the option to renew annually thereafter. She reported fuel-dispensing equipment and hardware required to monitor fuel levels and tank conditions is aging and often inoperable. Currently the County has eight different fueling locations, and only four of those are available for use by all departments. She noted this can be problematic for certain departments, particularly law enforcement and emergency services as they are frequently required to leave their worksite and drive miles to refuel, which could slow emergency response times.

She explained the objective of the proposed program is to supplement county owned fuel tanks with a fuel card that can be used at a large number of retail locations across Hamilton County and locations throughout the state where the vendor has participating merchants. The fuel card program would also provide more cost effective fuel access for law enforcement and emergency services vehicles, eliminating the need for units to leave their assigned districts in order to refuel. Additionally, Ms. Roppo stated the County is evaluating the potential elimination of a portion of its fuel storage tanks as a result of the implementation of the fuel card program.

12:47

Commissioner Boyd expressed his support for the program and thanked Ms. Roppo and Administrator of Finance Al Kiser. He noted this could be a tremendous savings for the County.

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In response to Commissioner Graham's question, Ms. Roppo stated the cost analysis study showed significant savings in both fuel costs and employee time. Commissioner Graham expressed his support for this Resolution.

16:57 Mayor Copperger added a committee was put together in order to compile this information. He noted emergency services vehicles are not permitted to get below half a tank of gas, which proved to be costly in traveling to refilling stations.

Ms. Roppo noted Brian Hutchinson with Mansfield Oil of Gainesville, Inc. was present to answer any questions. Chairman Pro Tempore Smedley stated it was not necessary for Mr. Hutchinson to return next week.

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 518-21**

18:58 Director of General Services Lee Norris spoke regarding this item, which authorizes the appointment of J. Cameron Yunker and Martin Reeves to the Hamilton County Community Corrections Advisory Board for three-year terms beginning June 30, 2018 and ending June 30, 2021.

There were no questions from Commissioners.

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**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 518-22**

19:39

Development Director Dan Saeed spoke regarding this item, which authorizes the County Mayor to continue grant contracts beginning June 1, 2018 and ending September 1, 2018 between Hamilton County and the Tennessee Department of Human Services for a \$116,000.00 Title XX Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) to provide adult daycare and adult homemaker services to eligible individuals and families. It was noted these services are provided through Signal Centers, Inc. and the Partnership for Families, Children, and Adults, Inc.

There were no questions from Commissioners.

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 518-36**

21:41

County Attorney Rheubin Taylor spoke regarding this item, which prohibits the possession and consumption of alcoholic beverages inside Hamilton County owned buildings. It was noted an inquiry was recently made and it was discovered a formal policy prohibiting alcohol consumption in public parks (Res. No. 1284-40) was adopted but not buildings.

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In response to Commissioner Martin's question, Attorney Taylor stated the question was raised when some tenants in a County owned building questioned if they could have alcohol for consumption at an event. He added the Sheriff's Department could enforce the policy.

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

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

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

25:16           Commissioner Graham congratulated the Lookout Valley baseball team on winning the District 4A title on Tuesday night.

Commissioner Graham requested a copy of the Commissions budget. Chairman Pro Tempore Smedley asked Legislative Assistant Patricia Moore to distribute a copy to all Commissioners.

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Commissioner Graham distributed a proposed renovation of the Hamilton County Judicial Commissioners Program. He stated when the recent pay increase is fully phased in; the four magistrates will be compensated \$92,000.00 each, which totals \$128,000.00 with benefits. He said that brings the program cost to over \$515,000.00 not including the extra pay for the chief magistrate position. Commissioner Graham explained he is proposing the county hire only one fully paid chief magistrate, who could be given up to a four-year term, and appoint on call magistrates who are paid by the hour for the rest of the schedule and not entitled to benefits. He noted this would also allow those on call magistrates to resume engaging in their private law practice, which they are currently prohibited from doing as full time judicial magistrates. A copy of the handout was filed in the Clerk's Office.

34:09                   Commissioner Martin recognized teachers in Hamilton County in honor of "Teacher Appreciation Week". He emphasized the importance of recognizing the positive aspects of the public school system.

In response to Commissioner Martin's question, Mayor Coppinger reported the Chairman of the Commission submits their budget to the Finance Department.

Commissioner Boyd stated Commissioner Graham's proposed change to the judicial magistrate program should be discussed further.

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35:38      Commissioner Boyd spoke about discretionary funds he allotted to Girls Inc. Chattanooga in order to implement the Bookworm Club, which is an after school program designed to increase childhood literacy rates for first to third grade girls. He stated the program has over a 70% success rate at bringing young girls to reading at grade level and noted with additional funding the program could be significantly expanded.

Commissioner Bankston invited everyone to the Commons at Collegedale Saturday at 12:00 for D9 Taste & Family Day to raise money for public elementary schools in Ooltewah and Harrison. He added there would be a dunk tank with several Commissioners, Mayor Coppinger, and Superintendent of Schools Dr. Bryan Johnson participating.

Mayor Coppinger reminded everyone about the upcoming budget workshop on May 15<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM at the McDaniel Building. He announced budget hearings will begin on May 30<sup>th</sup> after the Commission Agenda Session.

Mayor Coppinger thanked all the Hamilton County teachers in honor of "Teacher Appreciation Week". He spoke about the recent ACT score statistics in which several students received scores over 30. He noted the average score at East Hamilton Middle High School was a 22.

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Chairman Pro Tempore Smedley thanked Mayor Coppinger for yesterday's education budget workshop. She also announced she attended Senior Night at East Hamilton Middle High School and was impressed with the number of scholarships that were handed out. She reported over 25 students in that school scored over a 30 on the ACT with 2 students receiving a perfect score of 36. She stated she was impressed with the student's achievements and goals.

Chairman Pro Tempore Smedley asked that Commissioner Boyd, Chairman of the Security and Corrections Committee, schedule a meeting to discuss the proposed revisions to the judicial magistrate program. She encouraged all Commissioners to attend. Commissioner Graham asked that the Human Resources Department also attend the meeting.

County Clerk Bill Knowles reminded Commissioners that T.C.A 5-9-109 (c) require non-profit agencies and civic organizations receiving county funding to file annual financials with the Clerk's Office.

Commissioner Boyd announced a Security and Corrections Committee meeting will take place immediately following next week's Commission Meeting.

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**DELEGATIONS**

Chairman Pro Tempore Smedley asked for delegations on matters other than zoning. There were none.

Being no further business, Chairman Pro Tempore Smedley declared the meeting adjourned. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be Wednesday, May 16<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 AM.

Respectfully submitted:



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William F. (Bill) Knowles, County Clerk

Approved:

06-06-18  
Date

W.F.K.  
Clerk's Initials