

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION
AGENDA PREPARATION SESSION
JANUARY 30, 2019**

STATE OF TENNESSEE) Agenda Preparation Session
COUNTY OF HAMILTON) January 30, 2019

BE IT REMEMBERED, that on this 30th day of January, 2019, 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:--

Present and presiding was the Honorable Sabrena Smedley, Chairman. County Clerk Bill Knowles called the roll of the County Commission and the following, constituting a quorum, answered to their names: Commissioner Baker, Commissioner Bankston, Commissioner Boyd, Commissioner Fairbanks, Commissioner Geter, Commissioner Mackey, Commissioner Martin, Commissioner Sharpe, and Chairman Smedley. Total present – 9. Total absent -0.

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

HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION AGENDA PREPARATION SESSION JANUARY 30, 2019

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

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

- The Trustee's Monthly and Excess Fee Reports for December 2018 would be submitted for the record.
- An Order of Designation to the Planning Commission would be submitted as a matter of record.
- An Order of Reappointment to the Savannah Valley Utility District Board of Commissioners would be submitted as a matter of record.
- An Order of Reappointment to the Eastside Utility District Board of Commissioners would be submitted as a matter of record.
- Resolution No. 219-1 was the usual County Clerk item regarding notaries, etc. This required no committee assignment.
- Resolutions Nos. 219-9 through 219-14 were assigned to the Finance Committee, chaired by Commissioner Fairbanks.
- Resolution Nos. 219-15 through 219-17 were assigned to the Zoning Committee, chaired by Commissioner Bankston.
- Resolution Nos. 219-2 through 219-8 and 219-18 through 219-20 were heard by a Committee of the Whole.

0:27

PRESENTATION – AVALANCHE CONSULTING

Charles Wood, Vice President of Economic Development for the Chattanooga Chamber of Commerce, introduced Avalanche Consulting President and CEO Amy Holloway and Vice President Tony DeLisi to present information regarding their economic study of Hamilton County as part of a long range visioning process known as Velocity 2040. Mr. DeLisi reported Avalanche is approximately halfway through four

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION
AGENDA PREPARATION SESSION
JANUARY 30, 2019**

planned stages of the five-year study and should be prepared to present a final “Chattanooga Climbs” economic development strategy by March 2019. The planning process has included community engagement in the form of workshops, surveys, focus groups, and ongoing tours and meetings. Mr. DeLisi spoke about five community narratives that have emerged from the group’s research that begin to frame goals and priorities for the economic strategy. He expanded on each of the narratives in details, which included the need for growth, preparation for disruptors, addressing disparities, investment in infrastructure, and accelerating innovation. . A copy of the presentation was filed in the Clerk’s Office. At this time, Mr. DeLisi asked for questions from Commissioners

15:09 Commissioner Boyd commented on several points Mr. DeLisi made regarding the local job market and growth. In response to Commissioner Boyd’s question, Mr. DeLisi stated Avalanche consultants had not met with Water and Wastewater Treatment Authority (WWTA) officials about future infrastructure needs. Commissioner Boyd stated without a wastewater treatment plan there would be no economic development.

21:31 Commissioner Mackey questioned how Avalanche planned to address racial disparity in the community. Mr. DeLisi reported consultants plan to meet with several diverse groups in the community to better understand and address how all residents can benefit from the county’s growth and success.

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION
AGENDA PREPARATION SESSION
JANUARY 30, 2019**

Commissioner Baker thanked the consultants from Avalanche and Mr. Wood for the focus groups they have organized within the community. He encouraged comprehensive strategic planning with City Council members.

Chairman Smedley added Superintendent of Schools Dr. Bryan Johnson and School Board members should also be included in planning discussions.

Mr. Wood stated Dr. Johnson and several School Board members are part of the steering committee, which also includes several Commissioners and City Council members. He acknowledged the important role Hamilton County leadership has played in encouraging economic development.

34:26

In response to Commissioner Sharpe's question, Mr. Wood stated a number of discussions have taken place regarding the need for vocational skills. Commissioner Sharpe encouraged continued emphasis on vocational skills.

Commissioner Geter thanked the Chamber of Commerce for the Velocity 2040 survey and noted the upcoming meeting to discuss results.

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION
AGENDA PREPARATION SESSION
JANUARY 30, 2019**

38:48

Mayor Coppinger responded to several comments made during Mr. DeLisi's presentation regarding growth in Hamilton County being centered on Volkswagen. He stated that the economic development strategy in recent years has involved recruiting suppliers for Volkswagen and the county has been successful in that area. He spoke about the hard work local leaders have put into economic development and emphasized that proper focus should be placed on small business growth, the work of the local business incubator, and expansion of local businesses like McKee, Komatsu, and Southern Tray.

Mr. DeLisi agreed with Mayor Coppinger's comments and commended local leadership on small business growth.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 219-2

45:23

This Resolution reappoints Johnny Johnson, Tammy Cotter, and Commissioner Randy Fairbanks to the Hamilton County Agricultural Extension Committee for two-year terms ending February 6, 2021.

There were no questions from Commissioners.

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION
AGENDA PREPARATION SESSION
JANUARY 30, 2019**

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 219-3

45:47 This Resolution reappoints George W. Maffett, Jr. and Laura Paschall to the Hamilton County Health and Safety Hearing Board for a four-year term beginning February 6, 2019 and ending February 6, 2023.

 There were no questions from Commissioners.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 219-4

46:12 Justin Witt, Director of Maintenance and Operations for the Department of Education, spoke regarding this item, which accepts the bid of Tri-Con, Inc. for the construction of East Hamilton Middle School amounting to \$42,395,000.00 for the Hamilton County Board of Education.

 Chairman Smedley reported the construction amount is under budget, but does not include furnishings.

47:28 In response to Commissioner Baker’s question, Mr. Witt stated the new school will be located behind Apison Elementary and will have a capacity of 1,200 students.

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION
AGENDA PREPARATION SESSION
JANUARY 30, 2019**

In response to Chairman Smedley's question, Mr. Witt stated conversations are taking place regarding capacity and growth at both East Hamilton Middle/High School and Ooltewah High School.

In response to Commissioner Sharpe's question, Mr. Witt confirmed the construction cost includes athletic facilities.

Chairman Smedley stated it was not necessary for Mr. Witt to return next week.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 219-5

49:44

Christie Jordan, Director of Accounting and Budgeting for the Department of Education, spoke regarding this item, which amends the School Federal Projects Fund budget by adding \$10,038,299.00 to the FY 2018-2019 budget and amends the Self-Funded Projects Fund budget by appropriating fund balance of \$606,711.00 and additional revenue of \$423,979.00 to the FY 2018-2019. Additionally, it amends the General Purpose Fund budget by appropriating fund balance of \$500,000.00 and additional revenue of \$4,648,200.00 to the FY 2018-2019 budget. She noted this was the annual true up to the Department of Education's budget. Ms. Jordan announced she will be retiring in June and introduced the new Hamilton County Schools Chief Business Officer, Brent Goldberg.

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION
AGENDA PREPARATION SESSION
JANUARY 30, 2019**

51:16

Commissioner Boyd congratulated Ms. Jordan on her upcoming retirement. In response to Commissioner Boyd's question, Ms. Jordan reported the Department of Education's general purpose operating budget is approximately \$390 million. She added the federal projects budget has increased to \$37.3 million and the self-funded budget is \$7.2 million. Ms. Jordan stated she would contact Commissioner Boyd with the number of administrative employees for 2017 and 2019.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 219-6

54:32

Brent Goldberg, Chief Business Officer for Hamilton County Schools, spoke regarding this item, which accepts the proposal of Suntrust Bank to provide procurement card services for the Hamilton County Board of Education for a period of three years, with an option for a renewal of three years.

In response to Commissioner Fairbanks' question, Mr. Goldberg stated currently the Department of Education uses purchase orders, purchase vouchers, and contracts for purchases. He added eventually purchases cards will replace vouchers but the department plans to implement them in phases.

In response to Mayor Coppinger's question, Mr. Goldberg confirmed Suntrust has a robust fraud detection department.

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION
AGENDA PREPARATION SESSION
JANUARY 30, 2019**

59:27

Mayor Coppinger congratulated Ms. Jordan on her upcoming retirement. He stated he looks forward to working with Mr. Goldberg.

Chairman Smedley stated it was not necessary for Ms. Jordan and Mr. Goldberg to return next week.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 219-7

1:01:29

Human Resources Director Alecia Poe spoke regarding this item, which approves the proposal from JW Software, Inc. for a Risk Management Information System for the Risk Management Office.

In response to Commissioner Fairbanks' question, Risk Manager Bill Stoll stated the contract approves support, maintenance, and licensure to access the web based system. He clarified there is a one-time fee of \$25,000.

In response to Commissioner Boyd's question, Mr. Stoll stated the data is stored on the Cloud.

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION
AGENDA PREPARATION SESSION
JANUARY 30, 2019**

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 219-8

1:08:24 Administrator of Public Works and County Engineer Todd Leamon spoke regarding this item, which authorizes the County Mayor to enter into and execute an agreement with Artech Design Services through Construction Administration for the new Hamilton County Emergency Medical Services Station #5 and Station #15 for an amount not to exceed \$134,900.00.

In response to Commissioner Boyd's question, Mr. Leamon stated the replacement station will be on Apison Pike and the new station will be located on Ooltewah-Georgetown Road, but the final site is still pending.

1:10:34 In response to Commissioner Baker's question, Mr. Leamon stated there is typically a 15% markup on billed expenses. He added these expenses are usually reimbursable.

In response to Commissioner Sharpe's question, Administrator of Finance Al Kiser stated a fee for ambulance service is charged and collected by the county. Commissioner Sharpe requested additional information regarding the amount charged for ambulance service.

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION
AGENDA PREPARATION SESSION
JANUARY 30, 2019**

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 219-18

1:13:05 This Resolution confirms the appointment by the County Mayor of Lamar Flint as Chairman of the Hamilton County Employee Appeals Board for a term ending February 6, 2021.

There were no questions from Commissioners.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 219-19

1:13:26 This Resolution confirms the appointment of Tim Fowler by the County Mayor to the Hamilton County Board of Electrical Examiners for a term ending February 7, 2023.

There were no questions from Commissioners.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 219-20

1:13:44 Commissioner Bankston spoke regarding this item, which appropriates \$182,598.00 from the County's line of credit toward the construction of a press box at Ooltewah High School. He stated the current press box is unsafe and needs to be replaced.

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION
AGENDA PREPARATION SESSION
JANUARY 30, 2019**

1:14:18

Commissioner Martin questioned the process in which this request has been submitted and where the amount for replacement originated. He emphasized that needs exist all over the county and those needs should be studied and submitted through the budget process.

In response to Commissioner Martin's comments, Commissioner Bankston stated Justin Witt, Director of Maintenance and Operations for the Department of Education, submitted the press box replacement figure after a study was completed.

1:16:48

Commissioner Boyd disagreed with the process in which this item was brought before Commissioners. He stated that these requests should go through finance and the budgeting process before being considered. He encouraged citizens in the area to contribute to the press box replacement. Commissioner Boyd stated he will not be supporting this Resolution and asked that it be pulled and further studied. He ended his comments by asking Commissioner Bankston if he had made a deal regarding the press box issue.

Commissioner Bankston said that he didn't make deals.

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION
AGENDA PREPARATION SESSION
JANUARY 30, 2019**

1:22:57

Commissioner Fairbanks provided several examples of recent appropriations that have been approved by Commissioners without going through the budgeting process. He reminded Commissioners after individual discretionary funds were removed from the budget, \$900,000 was designated in the line of credit to be used for capital projects in each district with Commission approval. He stated at this time Commissioners were encouraged to bring projects in their districts before the entire body for approval using funds from the line of credit. Commissioner Fairbanks questioned if that procedure has changed and requested clarification on what the proper procedure should be.

In response to Commissioner Fairbanks' question, Mr. Witt stated he currently has a list of 25 items that need attention and will be assessed.

In response to Chairman Smedley's question, Mr. Witt stated the items on his list do not all pose safety concerns. He agreed to share the list with Commissioners.

1:33:58

Commissioner Martin reiterated earlier statements that these types of requests should go through the budgeting process. He added he was never made aware of the discussion Commissioner Fairbanks referred to regarding the \$900,000 in the line of credit.

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION
AGENDA PREPARATION SESSION
JANUARY 30, 2019**

Commissioner Fairbanks' asked for more consistency in statements that are made and voting records.

1:39:59

Commissioner Sharpe asked if guidelines exist detailing what is included when a new school is built. Mr. Witt stated it typically depends on capacity and location. Commissioner Sharpe emphasized that school facilities should be safe and any existing safety concerns should be addressed.

Chairman Smedley suggested forming a committee to address the safety needs within the county.

1:46:36

Mayor Coppinger recalled the discussion that took place when the \$900,000 was set aside in the line of credit for capital projects. He asked that Commissioners keep in mind that projects will always arise that need immediate attention and that some flexibility exists for money to be spent when needs exist outside of the budget cycle.

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

HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION AGENDA PREPARATION SESSION JANUARY 30, 2019

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Smedley asked for announcements from members of the Commission.

1:52:34 Commissioner Sharpe announced the Security and Corrections Committee will meet following the Zoning Committee meeting in the Commission Conference Room.

1:52:39 Commissioner Baker expressed his condolences to Commissioner Mackey over the recent loss of his brother.

Commission Bankston also expressed his condolence to Commissioner Mackey as well as Dr. Steve Highlander, School Board District 9, whose mother recently passed away.

1:53:30 Mayor Coppinger stated that playgrounds and athletic facilities were included in new school construction after an elementary school in District 4 was constructed without a playground.

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION
AGENDA PREPARATION SESSION
JANUARY 30, 2019**

1:54:31 Chairman Smedley expressed her condolences to Commissioner Mackey and Dr. Highlander.

Chairman Smedley congratulated Times Free Press reporter Judy Walton on her recent retirement. She invited her into the Commission Conference Room for cake baked by her mother.

Commissioner Mackey also thanked Ms. Walton for her fair reporting over her 35 years at the Times Free Press.

1:56:20 Ms. Walton expressed her appreciation to Commissioners and stated it was a privilege to report Commission Meetings over the years.

DELEGATIONS

Chairman Smedley asked for delegations on matters other than zoning.

1:57:28 Emily Kate Boyd, residing at 519 Lytle Street Chattanooga, TN 37405, addressed Commissioners regarding issues with the Wi-Fi connection in the Commission Room. She asked that the IT Department look into the issue.

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION
AGENDA PREPARATION SESSION
JANUARY 30, 2019**

Being no further business, Chairman Smedley declared the meeting adjourned.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be Wednesday, February 6th at 9:30 AM.

Respectfully submitted:



William F. (Bill) Knowles, County Clerk

Approved:

02-20-19
Date

W.F.K.
Clerk's Initials