



## **HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION AGENDA PREPARATION SESSION FEBRUARY 13, 2019**

### **COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS**

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

- A Report of Investment Activity for the quarter ending December 31, 2018 was submitted for the record.
- Fee Office reports for the quarter ending December 31, 2018 would be submitted for the record.
- An Order of Designation to the Planning Commission would be submitted as a matter of record.
- Resolution No. 219-22 was the usual County Clerk item regarding notaries, etc. This required no committee assignment.
- Resolutions Nos. 219-27 through 219-37 were assigned to the Finance Committee, chaired by Commissioner Fairbanks.
- Resolution Nos. 219-38A, 219-38B, 219-39A, 219-39B through 219-41 were assigned to the Zoning Committee, chaired by Commissioner Bankston.
- Resolution Nos. 219-23 through 219-26, 219-42 and 219-43 were heard by a Committee of the Whole.

0:17

### **PRESENTATION – EAST HAMILTON HIGH SCHOOL**

Chairman Smedley presented a Certificate of Congratulations to East Hamilton High School for being chosen as one of the first Special Olympics Unified Schools in Tennessee. She reported they have been involved with Special Olympics since 2010 and gave an overview of how Special Olympics Unified Schools are aimed at promoting social inclusion. She introduced East Hamilton Middle High School Principal Brent Eller.

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2:59

Mr. Eller thanked Chairman Smedley and the Commission for the honor and recognition in being the first Special Olympics Unified Schools in Tennessee. He introduced Coordinating Teacher and Coach Timothy Goode.

Mr. Goode stated he was proud to help fulfill a need in Hamilton County for more inclusive programs like Unified Sports and reported East Hamilton High School now has two State Championships. He detailed how they implemented a successful program and remain committed to whole-school engagement and keeping a climate of acceptance.

Chairman Smedley asked that the certificate be read into the record. At this time a round of applause was given.

9:16

Several members of the Commission thanked and commended Mr. Eller and Mr. Goode for their hard work and passion and gave personal accounts of how this has positively impacted their own children.

13:41

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 219-23**

Health Services Director Becky Barnes spoke regarding this item, which supports the passage of House Bill 9/Senate Bill 9 as before the 111th session of the Tennessee General Assembly prohibiting smoking on the grounds of any playground owned or

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operated by a local government, and requesting of the Hamilton County Legislative Delegation that Hamilton County be included therein. She reported this is an opt-in bill that would afford Hamilton County the opportunity to prohibit smoking on playgrounds they own and/or operate.

15:25            In response to Commissioner Boyd's question, Ms. Barnes advised she believes this would allow prohibiting vaping, but does not speak to all tobacco. She stated she would report back with additional details.

17:26            In response to Commissioner Fairbanks' question, Ms. Barnes reiterated, this is an initial bill that gives local government the ability to prohibit smoking at their discretion on playgrounds they own and/or operate.

18:34            In response to Commissioner Baker's question, Ms. Barnes reported vaping has increased among youth and current studies have not yet determined all possible dangers related to vaping.

19:34            In response to Commissioner Mackey's question, Ms. Barnes advised tobacco settlement funds have been beneficial in various non-smoking campaigns and although usage has decreased, Tennessee's tobacco usage rates remain higher than other states.

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20:46 In response to Mayor Coppinger's question, Ms. Barnes confirmed this item is a means for local governments statewide to show support to the General Assembly.

21:28 In response to Commissioner Martin's question, Ms. Barnes clarified although this item does not directly allocate funds to help implement the bill, reinstated tobacco settlement funds could be utilized towards related services and equipment.

22:34 **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 219-24**

Administrator of Public Works and County Engineer Todd Leamon spoke regarding this item, which approves the proposal from S&ME, Inc. for special inspections and construction materials testing services for the Howard High School track & field complex project for the Hamilton County Board of Education and would come out of previously budgeted funds for the Howard High School project.

In response to Commissioner Boyd's question, Mr. Leamon reported typically projects like this are done on an hourly rate not to exceed a set scope and may include an additional contractor. He agreed to forward Commissioner Boyd's request for additional information to Justin Witt, Director of Maintenance and Operations for the Department of Education.

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In response to Commissioner Mackey's question, Mr. Leamon confirmed he will advise Mr. Witt of his request for a meeting with contractors to address environmental concerns.

26:09

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 219-25**

County Auditor Jenneth Randall spoke regarding this item, which recommends an audit firm for the performance of a financial and compliance audit of County Government, County Constitutional Offices, and County School Activity Funds for each of fiscal years 2019 through fiscal year 2023. She explained Mauldin and Jenkins was selected by the Audit Committee as the low bid. She confirmed with Chairman Smedley this is a five-year contract and the second time using this CPA firm.

There were no questions from Commissioners.

27:28

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 219-26**

Mr. Leamon spoke regarding this item, which authorizes the County Mayor on behalf of Hamilton County, to execute a deed conveying Hamilton County's interest to

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the City of Chattanooga in certain property acquired through a previous delinquent tax sale and jointly-owned by Hamilton County and the City of Chattanooga.

Mr. Leamon explained this is a request from the City for the County to transfer their interest in the Lupton City site and later acquire a grant for the remediation of that site. He also reported the County would receive net proceeds once the property is cleaned and sold.

28:38

In response to Commissioner Baker's question, Executive Director of the Regional Planning Agency John Bridger reported considering the proximity to residential areas there is not a specific plan in place of how the site will be used, but may include a park. He also confirmed the property would need to be stabilized before being conveyed.

30:36

Real Property Manager Paul Parker reiterated there will be language in the deed outlining that if the property is sold, net proceeds will be split between the city and county.

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31:00 **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 219-42**

Mr. Leamon spoke regarding this item, which authorizes the County Mayor, on behalf of Hamilton County, to accept the donation of certain real property from the State of Tennessee (State) and enter into and execute a License Agreement with the State and sign any documents necessary to accept said property donation and effectuate the License Agreement.

Mr. Leamon explained the first part of this item is the acceptance of the former TDOT site on Cromwell Road and allowing the State to continue to utilize and maintain communication equipment housed on the site. He stated the next part involves completing a Quit Claim Deed to transfer said property.

33:03 In response to Commissioner Boyd's question, Mr. Leamon confirmed there were two underground storage tanks (UST) that have been removed from the property and any remaining above ground tanks will be removed as well.

34:10 Mayor Coppinger thanked Governor Haslam and Governor Lee for conveying this property and announced the location is good for future development as well as other possible future endeavors.



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35:09 **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 219-43**

Commissioner Sharpe spoke regarding this item, which rescinds the appointment of William "Bill" Hall to the position of " On-Call" Judicial Commissioner as authorized by Resolution no. 219-21.

Commissioner Sharpe spoke about adopting different procedures for the Judicial Commissioner hiring process to prevent another situation similar to this one from occurring.

36:11 Attorney Taylor explained after Mr. Hall was appointed to serve as an "on-call" Judicial Commissioner a conflict of interest was discovered making Mr. Hall ineligible to serve.

37:17 In response to Chairman Smedley's question, Attorney Taylor stated the best way to know if a conflict exists is for the applicant to disclose it during the interview process. Commissioner Bankston verified that specific questions regarding possible conflicts of interests were asked during this candidate's interview.

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

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.

38:58

Commissioner Boyd announced tomorrow will be the one-year anniversary of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School shooting in Parkland, Florida. He spoke about meeting with Commissioner Barbara Sharief of Broward County, Florida around the time of the tragedy and the heartbreaking stories she shared from the parents of children who were killed in the shooting. He voiced his support for Sheriff Hammond and his guidance on school safety in Hamilton County.

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41:14                Commissioner Baker agreed with Commissioner Boyd in supporting school safety and announced he will be meeting with the School Board next month to address this and other issues.

41:42                Commission Bankston announced tomorrow will be the three-year anniversary of his massive heart attack and expressed his gratefulness to God for having survived the incident.

42:30                Chairman Smedley reminded Commissioners they are to submit budget requests for needs in each district as soon as possible. She also suggested forming a committee made up of Commissioners, School Board Members, Mayor Coppinger, and Superintendent of Schools Bryan Johnson to address those needs.

                      Mayor Coppinger voiced his support of Chairman Smedley's idea of forming a committee to address needs in each district.

43:59                In response to Commissioner Mackey's question, Chairman Smedley reported she believes the committee will help prioritize items that require immediate attention such as safety concerns as well as maintain fairness in rotating requests.

Time Code  
Position

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45:34

Mayor Coppinger confirmed there are measures in place to help rotate items to the top that were previously pushed back. He added projects such as the Ed Johnson Memorial, which involve City of Chattanooga funding, should not wait and asked the Commission to consider moving forward on funding that project immediately.

47:23

Commissioner Sharpe mentioned two very informative presentations relating to Velocity 2040 and the State of the System address, which included \$500,000 toward research studies. He stated he was not sure how to address lower cost projects when there are significant capital projects and backlogs that need attention.

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**DELEGATIONS**

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

Being no further business, Chairman Smedley declared the meeting adjourned. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be Wednesday, February 20<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 AM.

Respectfully submitted:



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William F. (Bill) Knowles, County Clerk

Approved:

03-06-19  
Date

W.F.K.  
Clerk's Initials