



**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION  
AGENDA PREPARATION SESSION  
FEBRUARY 25, 2015**

0:30 **PRESENTATION – UTC MOCS FOOTBALL TEAM SUBDIVISION PLAYOFFS**

Commissioner Fairbanks and Commissioner Smedley honored the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga Mocs football team for advancing to the Football Championship Subdivision Playoffs for the first time since 1984. Commissioner Fairbanks read from a press release that highlighted the Mocs record breaking finish for the 2014 Season. Commissioner Fairbanks introduced Senior Associate Athletic Director, Andrew Horton; Head Coach, Russ Huesman; Director of Football Operations, Carter Crutchfield; and Chattanooga Mocs football players, Keionta Davis and Jacob Huesman. They were given a round of applause. Commissioner Fairbanks congratulated the staff and players for their 2014 season, and thanked them for the excitement and recognition they brought to Chattanooga.

Commissioner Smedley presented the team with a plaque on behalf of the officials and citizens of Hamilton County. She congratulated them on posting their first 10 win season in 107 years, a 10-4 overall record, and for a perfect record of 7 wins against 0 losses in the Southern Conference. Commissioner Smedley also thanked the staff and players for their excellent spirit of sportsmanship and competition in bringing prestige and recognition to Hamilton County and its citizens.

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Coach Russ Huesman thanked the Commission on behalf of the group for today's recognition.

Commissioner Mackey and Mayor Coppinger each commended Coach Huesman for maintaining a high standard for his players on and off the field.

9:33

### **COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS**

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

- The Trustee's Excess Fee Report and Monthly Report for January 2015 would be submitted for the record.
- Resolution No. 315-1 was the usual County Clerk item regarding notaries, etc. This required no committee assignment.
- Resolutions No. 315-4A and 315-4B were assigned to the Zoning Committee, chaired by Commissioner Haynes.
- Resolutions No. 315-5 through 315-9, and 315-12 were assigned to the Finance Committee, chaired by Commissioner Graham.
- Resolution No. 315-13 was assigned to the Legal and Legislative Committee, chaired by Commissioner Bankston.
- Resolutions No. 315-2, 315-3, 315-10, 315-11, and 315-14 would be heard by the Committee of the Whole

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Chairman Fields stated that Resolution No. 315-2 would now be heard by the Committee of the Whole.

9:45 **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 315-2**

This item confirms the reappointment of Hicks Armor by the County Mayor to the Carter Street Corporation Board of Directors for a term ending March 4, 2019. There were no questions regarding this Resolution.

10:12 **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 315-3**

Assessor of Property, Bill Bennett, spoke regarding the Resolution which would proclaim the month of March 2015 as Myeloma Awareness Month. Assessor Bennett spoke about his diagnosis of multiple myeloma in July 2008, his treatment in a medical center in Tampa Florida, and the recovery process that followed. He stated that because of the medication, help from family, and prayers he received during that time, he was fortunate to be in remission.

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11:46

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 315-10**

Finance Administrator, Albert Kiser, spoke regarding the Resolution which would begin the process of issuing \$132 million dollars in bonds with the intent of financing new capital projects, paying off \$35 million dollars in the line of credit, and refunding some previously issued bonds issued in 2009 and 2011 that have a higher interest rate. He explained that refunding those previously issued bonds would result in a significant savings.

12:19

Mr. Kiser briefly described a handout which was previously distributed to the Commissioners that outlined the dollar amounts for this project. He noted that it was important to allow for market and interest rate fluctuations. Mr. Kiser explained that Resolution No. 315-10 set the parameters for the project and served as a public notice that new debt would be issued in an amount not to exceed \$40 million dollars. It was noted that this Resolution does not approve the issuance of new bonds. Mr. Kiser added that a Resolution would be coming before the Commission in the near future that would seek to authorize the issuance and the final terms of the bonds.

In response to Commissioner Haynes question, Mr. Kiser clarified that the savings from refunding previously issued bonds would be seen in the form of fewer debt payments.

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Commissioner Graham clarified that the refinance of previously issued bonds does not increase the term or the principal balance. He also clarified that if the market fluctuates and it is no longer beneficial to sell the bonds, the financial staff can choose not to do so.

In response to Commissioner Fairbanks question, Mr. Kiser explained that only the necessary amount of bonds would be issued.

Chairman Fields distributed a copy of the handout to Clerk Knowles to be made a matter of record.

18:35 **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 315-11**

Mr. Kiser spoke regarding this item that would approve the selection of bond counsel and a financial aid advisor to assist with the proposed issuance of new general obligation bonds. There were no questions concerning this Resolution.

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19:14 **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 315-13**

Chairman Fields indicated that according to Commission rules of procedure, Resolution No. 315-13 must first go before the Legal and Legislative Committee, chaired by Commissioner Bankston, before it can be presented to the Commission. This item was not heard by the Committee of the Whole.

19:34 **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 315-14**

County Attorney Taylor spoke regarding this item which would allow narcotics and patrol dogs to be donated to their respective Sheriff's Department handlers upon their retirement from service.

20:30 Sheriff's Department Director of Administration, Don Gorman, added that this Resolution would release the County's liability while also making sure the dogs are either placed with their handlers, or an appropriate organization that would house them after they are retired.

Commissioner Boyd thanked Attorney Taylor for bringing this item to the Commission. He clarified that the reason he had asked for this Resolution was to make sure the animals could live out their natural lives unattached to the County.

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23:24 **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chairman Fields asked for announcements from members of the Commission.

To accommodate members of the audience, Commissioner Haynes, Chairman of the Zoning Committee, announced that the Zoning Committee would meet in the Commission Room after the Finance Committee.

25:31 Commissioner Graham, Chairman of the Finance Committee, announced that the Finance Committee would have a brief meeting in the Commission Room following today's meeting.

Commissioner Bankston, Chairman of the Legal and Legislative Committee, announced that the Legal and Legislative Committee would meet in the conference room following today's meeting.

Commissioner Boyd announced that the joint meetings of the Education Committee and the Facilities Planning Committee had been rescheduled to March 18<sup>th</sup> at CSLA at 8:00 am. He invited the public and the media to attend.

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23:47

Commissioner Boyd issued a public apology to members of the Commission, the Mayor, and Jennifer Stanley as well as her husband for comments made during the February 4<sup>th</sup> Commission meeting. These comments pertained to her suitability to continue service on the Board at Erlanger Hospital. He added that his announced assessments as to Mrs. Stanley's character, or her husband's character were in error, and based on news articles printed in the Times Free Press and the Chattanooga.com.

Commissioner Graham commended Commissioner Boyd for his public apology. He also explained that a late item would be added to the agenda at next week's meeting which would proclaim March 9<sup>th</sup> Luther Masingill Day.

Commissioner Haynes recognized members of the audience that attended today's meeting, and thanked them for the input regarding Resolution Nos. 315-4A and 315-4B.

26:47

Mayor Coppinger thanked Commissioner Boyd for his public apology. He noted that citizens serving on boards are volunteers who are willing to give of their time. He expressed thanks to them for helping move Hamilton County forward.

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**DELEGATIONS**

Chairman Fields asked for delegations on matters other than zoning.

28:34 Mark West residing at 2315 Heavenly View Drive Ooltewah, TN 37363 addressed the Commission. Mr. West spoke briefly about his resistance to PILOT programs, and encouraged the Commission to give tax breaks equally among developers.

31:46 Commissioner Graham clarified that PILOT programs are designed to help areas of Chattanooga be more sustainable and grow. He added that any project or developer that qualifies for a PILOT agreement may make application.

In response to Mr. West's comments, Commissioner Mackey agreed that tax breaks should be given equally or not at all.

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Being no further business, Chairman Fields declared the meeting recessed until  
Wednesday, March 4<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 AM.

Respectfully submitted:



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William F. (Bill) Knowles, County Clerk

Approved:

03-18-15  
Date

W.F.K.  
Clerk's Initials