

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION
AGENDA PREPARATION SESSION
MAY 8, 2019**

STATE OF TENNESSEE) Agenda Preparation Session

COUNTY OF HAMILTON) May 8, 2019

BE IT REMEMBERED, that on this 8th day of May, 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:--

0:10 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.

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COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

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

- An Order of Designation to the Planning Commission would be submitted as a matter of record.
- Resolution No. 519-12 was the usual County Clerk item regarding notaries, etc. This required no committee assignment.
- Resolution Nos. 519-14 and 519-17 through 519-24 were assigned to the Finance Committee, chaired by Commissioner Fairbanks.
- Resolution Nos. 519-13, 519-15, 519-16, and 519-25 were heard by a Committee of the Whole.

1:19 **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 519-13**

This Resolution confirms the reappointments by the County Mayor of Karen Shostak to the Hamilton County Beer Board with a term expiring May 18, 2023.

There were no questions from Commissioners.

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1:37 **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 519-15**

Director of Support Services for the Sheriff's Office Geno Bennett spoke regarding this item, which accepts a donation of \$10,500 from Aegis Law Enforcement Foundation to reimburse the purchase of equipment and related supplies for the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office Reserve Deputy Program.

There were no questions from Commissioners.

2:21 **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 519-16**

Director of Support Services for the Sheriff's Office Geno Bennett spoke regarding this item, which authorizes the County Mayor to accept a \$24,999 grant from the City of Chattanooga, a \$1,000 grant from Blue Cross Blue Shield, a \$1,000 grant from the Tennessee Hospital Association, a \$25,000 grant from Erlanger Hospital, and a \$500 grant from Robinson Real Estate. The grants are to be used for the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office frequent user (FUSE) pilot project to reduce the number of people with mental illness in the County Downtown jail and Silverdale jail. Additionally, this item amends each of the revenue and expenditure budgets by \$52,499. He introduced several members of the FUSE Executive Committee and invited them to join him at the podium.

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5:11

Janna Jahn, Hamilton County Development Department – FUSE Project Director, presented information regarding the work the FUSE Executive Committee has done over the past two years to lay the groundwork for the program. She spoke about the accomplishments and challenges they have encountered to this point, including identifying frequent users and finding appropriate housing for them. She also noted the challenges they face in obtaining frequent user data from hospitals and jails. Ms. Jahn thanked the local foundations, FUSE partners, and private donors for their support in raising \$400,000 for the program.

7:18

Tyler Yount, City of Chattanooga, reported Chattanooga Mayor Andy Berke's Office has been involved in the program since last January. He spoke about the challenges and legalities of data sharing and provided several statistics regarding frequent jail users and the cost to Hamilton County taxpayers. He noted the Computer Science Department at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga (UTC) has been helpful in identifying frequent users.

12:13

John Benefield, Senior Health Data Analyst at Erlanger Hospital, provided information regarding frequent users in hospitals. He reported the average hospital stay for those in the identified group was eight days with the most common diagnosis being heart failure, drug and alcohol related, and infections.

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Chairman Smedley requested a copy of the presentation. A copy was filed in the Clerk's Office.

In response to Commissioner Baker's question, Director Bennett and Ms. Jahn stated the business plan changes constantly as new information is identified and updated.

18:51 **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 519-25**

Attorney Taylor spoke regarding this item, which adopts amendments to the Public Records Policy of Hamilton County General Government, and policies for the Hamilton County Health Services Department, Hamilton County Chancery Court Clerk & Master, Hamilton County Emergency Management Service and Homeland Security (OEM), Hamilton County Emergency Medical Service, (EMS), and Hamilton County Geographic Information Systems (GIS). He reported his office has reviewed all amendments.

In response to Commissioner Boyd's question, Attorney Taylor stated no money was involved in the process.

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

Chairman Smedley recognized District 8 School Board member Tucker McClendon in the audience.

21:07

PRESENTATION – RIVER CITY COMPANY

Kim White, President of River City Company, addressed Commissioners regarding the proposed Chattanooga Business Improvement District (BID) in downtown Chattanooga, which would range from the Riverfront to 11th Street and from Highway 27 to different areas bordered by Cherry Street, Lindsay Street, and Georgia Avenue. She explained a BID is a privately formed community improvement initiative used to provide revenue for a variety of local improvements and services, governed by a board of property owners. Ms. White explained several common BID services include public safety, beautification, marketing, programming, retail support, and capital improvements. She added BIDs are a way to enhance municipal services, but do not replace them. She added many cities across the country have implemented BIDs including several in Nashville. She noted River City, along with business owners in the area collected supporting the creation of the BID from 57.9 percent of property owners

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in the area. It was noted state law requires 50 percent. Ms. White explained commercial and non-profit property owners in the district would pay an estimated annual assessment of \$0.09 cents per square foot on either the lot or building, whichever is greater, plus an additional \$4.95 per linear foot of lot frontage. Residential property owners would pay a flat rate of \$150. Under the state statute, non-profits are allowed to apply for a hardship to waive the fee. She added there are 7 non-profits, including 2 churches, within the area. A copy of the presentation was filed in the Clerk's Office.

32:41

In response to Commissioner Martin's question, Ms. White stated county government has three parcels of property located within the proposed BID, which total \$23,000 should they choose to opt-in.

Commissioner Boyd voiced concern over legal issues regarding condemnation power. He noted he has asked Attorney Taylor to review the matter.

35:46

In response to Commissioner Boyd's question regarding the additional liability of having ambassadors interact with the public, Ms. White explained the services would be contracted, so any entity involved would have its own insurance. It was noted ambassadors would coordinate with local enforcement to address public nuisances.

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Commissioner Boyd recommended the Chamber of Commerce or the Chattanooga Area Convention and Visitor's Bureau (CVB) pay the \$23,000 county fee from their allocations.

In response to Commissioner Sharpe's question, Ms. White reported the owner of apartment buildings would be assessed the fee.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Smedley asked for announcements from members of the Commission.

44:01 Commissioner Baker announced two community forums to discuss the budget will be held on May 14th at 6:00 PM in Red Bank and May 20th at 6:00 PM in Signal Mountain. He asked a representative from the Finance Department to be present.

44:38 Commissioner Bankston announced the groundbreaking ceremony for the new Harrison Elementary School will take place this Friday at 1:00 PM.

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Attorney Taylor called for a brief legal meeting immediately following today's meeting. Commissioner Fairbanks stated the Finance Committee will meet following the legal meeting.

DELEGATIONS

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

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

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be Wednesday, May 15th, 2019 at 9:30 AM.

Respectfully submitted:



William F. (Bill) Knowles, County Clerk

Approved:

06-05-19
Date

W.F.K
Clerk's Initials