

**RECESSED MEETING  
HAMILTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
JUNE 26, 2019**

<b>STATE OF TENNESSEE</b>	)	Recessed Meeting
<b>COUNTY OF HAMILTON</b>	)	June 26, 2019

**BE IT REMEMBERED**, that on this 26<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2019, a Recessed Meeting 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:--

0:11

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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0:48

Commissioner Mackey introduced Reverend Tom Banks, Ashland Terrace Christian Church, who gave the invocation. Commissioner Mackey led in the pledge to the flag.

2:15

**RESOLUTION NO. 619-24B A RESOLUTION TO REZONE FROM A-1 AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT AND R-1 SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT TO R-1 SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT, PROPERTIES LOCATED IN THE 6600 BLOCK OF SNOW HILL ROAD.**

It was noted this Resolution was considered for the first time at the June 19, 2019 meeting. The vote resulted in no action being taken.

**ON MOTION** of Commissioner Bankston, seconded by Commissioner Geter, to deny Resolution No. 619-24B. The foregoing Motion to deny was adopted on a Roll Call vote, with the following members of the County Commission being present and voting as follows: Commissioner Baker, "Nay", Commissioner Bankston, "Aye", Commissioner Boyd, "Aye", Commissioner Fairbanks, "Aye", Commissioner Geter, "Aye", Commissioner Mackey, "Nay", Commissioner Martin, "Nay", Commissioner Sharpe, "Nay", and Chairman Smedley, "Aye. Total present – 9. Total absent – 0. Total "Aye" votes – 5. Total "Nay" votes – 4.

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3:15

**RESOLUTION NO. 619-14 A RESOLUTION ADOPTING A BUDGET FOR THE  
FISCAL YEAR 2019–2020 AND SETTING THE TAX LEVY FOR THE YEAR 2019  
FOR HAMILTON COUNTY, TENNESSEE.**

Chairman Smedley read a statement into the record regarding the 2019-2020 proposed budget. She explained the proposed budget includes a 34-cent real property tax increase and therefore in accordance with Resolution No. 419-14, adopted on April 3, 2019, was introduced on June 5, 2019 to meet the required 21-day discussion period.

Chairman Smedley noted the large crowd in attendance at today's meeting. She stated without objection she would waive the rules established in Resolution No. 315-13, adopted on March 4, 2015, to allow 20 combined minutes to all citizens in favor and 20 minutes to all those opposed to the budget to address Commissioners. There were no objections. She encouraged those who have previously addressed the Commission on this matter to allow those who have not spoken the opportunity to go first. Chairman Smedley reminded those wishing to speak not to levy any personal attacks or publicly call out the name of any Commissioner.

**ON MOTION** of Commissioner Baker, seconded by Commissioner Sharpe, to adopt Resolution No. 619-14.

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**ON MOTION** of Commissioner Bankston, seconded by Commissioner Boyd, to amend Resolution No. 619-14 to remove the 34-cent property tax increase for the Department of Education (DOE).

10:07

At this time, Chairman Smedley invited all those wishing to address the Commission to come forward. There were eleven total speakers; six spoke in favor of the proposed budget and five spoke in opposition.

Commissioner Martin disclosed his wife is an employee of the Department of Education and his son is currently working as an intern with the Convention and Visitor's Bureau (CVB). He emphasized their employment has no impact on his decision today.

52:48

In response to Commissioner Martin's question, Attorney Taylor clarified that if the amendment to remove the 34-cent tax increase from the Department of Education's budget were to be adopted; the entire budget would be in limbo until it could be approved as a whole (County General and DOE). He further clarified any changes to the Department of Education's budget must be sent back to the school board for approval and then resubmitted to the Commission for approval. Administrator of Finance Al Kiser added in the event the budget is not adopted today, any budget adopted later would be retroactive to July 1<sup>st</sup> unless the Commission specifies differently.

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57:12

Commissioner Sharpe addressed concerns that the proposed budget would negatively affect the senior population. He referenced Resolution No. 619-46, adopted June 19, 2019, which increases Hamilton County's match to the state's Tax Relief Program from 50% to 100% for fiscal year 2019-2020, contingent upon a real property tax increase. He added the increase could allow some of the senior population to receive a tax cut.

59:52

Mayor Coppinger clarified if the Department of Education budget is separated, the county general budget appropriations to nonprofit charitable and civic organizations (Resolution No. 619-15) would be held until the entire budget is put back together and approved. He added if the budget were not approved today, county government would operate under a continuation budget.

In response to Commissioner Fairbanks' question, Attorney Taylor stated the Commission must adopt a budget for fiscal year 2019-2020 by August 31, 2019. He reiterated his earlier comments that while it is permissible for the Commission to consider parts of the budget separately, the final budget must include all parts. He further stated the Commission does not have the authority to alter the Department of Education's budget; all changes must be approved by the school board and resubmitted to the commission.

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1:05:25

Mayor Coppinger recommended the Commission provide direction to the school board if today's budget is not approved as presented.

Commissioner Boyd stated per his understanding of state law, the Commission can amend any portion of the county budget, including funding for the Department of Education, so long as the funding is no less than the previous year. Commissioner Boyd called for the question; Commissioner Bankston properly seconded the Motion.

The foregoing Motion by Commissioner Boyd to Move the Previous Question failed on a Roll Call vote, with the following members of the County Commission being present and voting as follows: Commissioner Baker, "Nay", Commissioner Bankston, "Aye", Commissioner Boyd, "Aye", Commissioner Fairbanks, "Nay", Commissioner Geter, "Nay", Commissioner Mackey "Nay", Commissioner Martin, "Aye", Commissioner Sharpe, "Nay", and Chairman Smedley, "Nay". Total present – 9. Total absent – 0. Total "Aye" votes – 3. Total "Nay" votes – 6.

1:12:13

Commissioner Baker spoke in support of the proposed budget and addressed how he reached that conclusion. He stated educational leaders and business community leaders are aligned in support and encouraged everyone to take advantage of this opportunity to work together.

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Chairman Smedley disclosed her son is an employee of the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office, but is presently serving with the Armed Forces in Iraq. She thanked teachers in the community and noted this decision has not been an easy one. She highlighted additional revenue in growth money schools will receive without a tax increase.

1:25:17 Commissioner Sharpe disclosed his brother and sister-in-law are both employees of the Department of Education. He emphasized their employment has no impact on his decision today.

At this time, Chairman Smedley asked Clerk Knowles to call the roll on the Motion by Commissioner Bankston, seconded by Commissioner Boyd, to amend Resolution No. 619-14 to remove the 34-cent property tax increase for the Department of Education.

The foregoing Motion to amend Resolution No. 619-14 to remove the 34-cent property tax increase for the Department of Education was adopted on a Roll Call vote, with the following members of the County Commission being present and voting as follows: Commissioner Baker, "Nay", Commissioner Bankston, "Aye", Commissioner Boyd, "Aye", Commissioner Fairbanks, "Aye", Commissioner Geter, "Nay", Commissioner Mackey "Nay", Commissioner Martin, "Aye", Commissioner Sharpe,

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“Nay”, and Chairman Smedley, “Aye”. Total present – 9. Total absent – 0. Total “Aye” votes – 5. Total “Nay” votes – 4.

Attorney Taylor explained no further action was needed, as the Commission’s action today meant none of the budget is approved until the school board submits a revised budget to the Commission omitting the requested \$34 million in new funds.

Commissioner Martin explained his vote today and emphasized a need for a strategic plan between school board members and Commissioners to address school funding. He added raising property taxes is not the only solution.

Commissioner Baker agreed with Commissioner Martin’s comments regarding working together with members of the school board.

**RESOLUTION NO. 619-46 A RESOLUTION AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 917-16  
(CONTINGENT UPON A REAL PROPERTY TAX INCREASE) BY AUTHORIZING  
HAMILTON COUNTY TO MATCH AT ONE HUNDRED PERCENT (100%) THE  
STATE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE TAX RELIEF PROGRAM, AS AUTHORIZED BY  
TENNESSEE CODE ANNOTATED SECTION 67-5-701-704.**

This Resolution was adopted on June 19, 2019. It was placed on today’s agenda in error and was subsequently withdrawn.



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1:40:13  
**RESOLUTION NO. 619-47 A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE TENNESSEE  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY AMEND TENNESSEE CODE ANNOTATED SECTION 67-5-  
701-704 BY INCREASING TO FORTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$40,000) THE  
MAXIMUM HOUSEHOLD INCOME ALLOWED FOR SENIOR CITIZENS, DISABLED  
VETERANS, AND THE WIDOWS OF DISABLED VETERANS, FOR ELIGIBILITY  
UNDER THE TAX RELIEF PROGRAM.**

It was noted this Resolution was considered for the first time at the June 19, 2019 meeting. The vote resulted in no action being taken.

**ON MOTION** of Commissioner Sharpe, seconded by Commissioner Mackey, to adopt Resolution No. 619-47.

In response to Commissioner Baker's question, Administrator of Finance Al Kiser stated the County Auditor's office did a study on the financial impact and determined, assuming the state continues to provide income verification, it would cost an additional \$75,000.

In response to Commissioner Martin's question, Attorney Taylor reported the state legislator requires six signatures from the local legislative body for a private act. The Resolution as presented does not request a private act.

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In response to Commissioner Boyd's question, Mr. Kiser reported additional staff would only be required if the county is required to do its own income verification. Currently, the state provides income verification for all counties participating in the Tax Relief Program.

The foregoing Motion to adopt Resolution No. 619-47 failed on a Roll Call vote, with the following members of the County Commission being present and voting as follows: Commissioner Baker, "Nay", Commissioner Bankston, "Nay", Commissioner Boyd, "Nay", Commissioner Geter, "Aye", Commissioner Mackey "Aye", Commissioner Martin, "Nay", Commissioner Sharpe, "Aye", and Chairman Smedley, "Nay". Commissioner Fairbanks stepped away during the roll call. Total present – 8. Total absent – 1. Total "Aye" votes – 3. Total "Nay" votes – 5.

1:53:37

**RESOLUTION NO. 619-48 A RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE SCHOOLS FEDERAL PROJECTS FUND BUDGET BY ADDING \$965,598 TO THE FY2018-19 BUDGET; TO AMEND THE SELF-FUNDED PROJECTS FUND BUDGET BY APPROPRIATING INVESTMENTS OF \$2,250, FUND BALANCE OF \$1,075,156 AND ADDITIONAL REVENUE OF \$908,222 TO THE FY2018-19 BUDGET; TO AMEND THE GENERAL PURPOSE FUND BUDGET BY APPROPRIATING FUND BALANCE OF \$20,100,000 AND ADDITIONAL REVENUE OF \$48,719 TO THE FY2018-2019 BUDGET.**

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**ON MOTION** of Commissioner Martin, seconded by Commissioner Sharpe, to adopt Resolution No. 619-48.

Brent Goldberg, Chief Business Officer for Hamilton County Schools, stated this item is approving all the amendments approved by the school board since January 2019.

In response to Commissioner Boyd's question, Mr. Goldberg reported the total funds received by the Department of Education including local, state, and federal funds and grants is approximately \$459 million. Commissioner Boyd thanked Mr. Goldberg for being open and responsive to questions.

Mr. Goldberg clarified the Department of Education has no discretion over approximately \$49 million of those funds.

The foregoing Motion to adopt Resolution No. 619-48 was unanimously adopted on a Roll Call vote, with the following members of the County Commission being present and voting as follows: Commissioner Baker, "Aye", Commissioner Bankston, "Aye", Commissioner Boyd, "Aye", Commissioner Fairbanks, "Aye", Commissioner Geter, "Aye", Commissioner Mackey "Aye", Commissioner Martin, "Aye", Commissioner Sharpe, "Aye", and Chairman Smedley, "Aye". Total present – 9. Total absent – 0. Total "Aye" votes – 9. Total "Nay" votes – 0.

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1:58:27

**RESOLUTION NO. 619-49 A RESOLUTION AMENDING RESOLUTIONS NOS. 218-13 AND 518-39 RELATIVE TO THE DATE EACH APPOINTED JUDICIAL COMMISSIONER IS TO RECEIVE THE APPROPRIATED SALARY INCREASE AND THE TERM OF THE CHIEF JUDICIAL COMMISSIONER, RESPECTIVELY.**

**ON MOTION** of Commissioner Baker, seconded by Commissioner Fairbanks, to adopt Resolution No. 619-49. The foregoing Motion was unanimously adopted on a Roll Call vote, with the following members of the County Commission being present and voting as follows: Commissioner Baker, "Aye", Commissioner Bankston, "Aye", Commissioner Boyd, "Aye", Commissioner Fairbanks, "Aye", Commissioner Geter, "Aye", Commissioner Mackey "Aye", Commissioner Martin, "Aye", Commissioner Sharpe, "Aye", and Chairman Smedley, "Aye". Total present – 9. Total absent – 0. Total "Aye" votes – 9. Total "Nay" votes – 0.

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Being no further business Chairman Smedley declared the Recessed Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted:



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William F. (Bill) Knowles, County Clerk

Approved

07-17-19  
Date

W.F.K.  
Clerk's Initials