

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION
AGENDA PREPARATION SESSION
AUGUST 14, 2019**

STATE OF TENNESSEE) Agenda Preparation Session
COUNTY OF HAMILTON) August 14, 2019

BE IT REMEMBERED, that on this 14th day of August, 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:--

0:12 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 Sharpe, and Chairman Smedley. Commissioner Martin was absent. Total present – 8. Total absent – 1.

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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PRESENTATION – SNACK PACK MINISTRY

0:36 Chairman Smedley introduced Janice Robertson, who founded the Snack Pack Ministry program at East Brainerd Church of Christ in 2014 in order to reduce the number of hungry children in Hamilton County. The ministry provides bags of food for children to take home on the weekends. Ms. Robertson stated the program has a budget of \$160,000, which is raised through private donors. She reported 2,020 bags are distributed each week to 24 Hamilton County schools. She emphasized the hunger problem is not limited to inner city areas; schools all over the county have requested to join the program. Mrs. Robertson distributed a photo of a young boy searching for food in a dumpster at a local elementary school. A copy of the photo was filed in the Clerk's Office.

Several Commissioners thanked Ms. Robertson for her work and volunteered to help pack bags at the next event.

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In response to Commissioner Geter's question, Ms. Robertson stated she would provide information on the number of schools on the waitlist to Commissioners.

Chairman Smedley reported the next packing event would take place on Wednesday, September 4th at 6:30 PM at East Brainerd Church of Christ. Ms. Robertson invited everyone to volunteer to pack bags or make a donation to help with food costs.

Commissioner Sharpe spoke about the importance of addressing social and emotional needs in children.

15:30

In response to Mayor Coppinger's question, Ms. Robertson stated the Snack Pack Ministry is not a 501c3 and all contributions go through East Brainerd Church of Christ. She stated anyone wishing to make a donation should send it to the church with attention to the Snack Pack Ministry. She noted everyone involved with the program does so as a volunteer. Ms. Robertson acknowledged Anita Kapperman, who assists with the Snack Pack program, as well as several local realtors who recently raised \$54,000 for the program.

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COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

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

- The Trustee's Monthly and Excess Fee Reports for July 2019 would be submitted for the record.
- Resolution No. 819-17 was the usual County Clerk item regarding notaries, etc. This required no committee assignment.
- Resolution Nos. 819-28 through 819-36 were assigned to the Finance Committee, chaired by Commissioner Fairbanks.
- Resolution Nos. 819-37A, 819-37B, 819-37C and 819-38 through 819-42 were assigned to the Zoning Committee, chaired by Commissioner Bankston.
- Resolution Nos. 819-18 through 819-27, 819-43, and 819-44 were heard by a Committee of the Whole.

19:06

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 819-18

This Resolution appoints Margaret Chastain to the Health and Safety Hearing Board for a one-year term beginning August 21, 2019 and ending August 21, 2020.

There were no questions from Commissioners.

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19:25

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 819-19

This Resolution appoints Emily O'Donnell, and reappoints Michael Baskette and John E. Shackelford to the Hamilton County Employee Appeals Board for a two-year term beginning August 21, 2019 and ending August 21, 2021.

There were no questions from Commissioners.

19:49

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 819-20

This Resolution appoints Tony Reavley, Sam Guin, Will Smith, Tara Viland, Shawn Whitfield, Jody Grant, Robert Hoff, and reappoints Ronnie Phillips and Gerald Perry to the Citizen's Advisory Board for Recreation for a two-year term beginning August 21, 2019 and ending August 21, 2021.

There were no questions from Commissioners.

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20:35 **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 819-21**

Commissioner Boyd spoke regarding this item, which approves the expenditure of matching funds committed from private donors and other grant sources not to exceed \$20,000 by December 31, 2019 from general fund travel discretionary funds, as allotted to District 8, to assist in workforce development training program conducted by the non-profit Soundcorps of Hamilton County. He explained the funds would assist with the program delivery of Soundcorps Master Craft program and an associated program by Dynamo Studios called Professional Career Pipeline.

Commissioner Boyd introduced Soundcorps Executive Director Stratton Tingle, who gave a brief presentation on the mission of Soundcorps, a non-profit 501c3 organization established in 2015. He stated Soundcorps is dedicated to growing the music economy in the Chattanooga area through helping to create more music venues, sound recording studios, record labels, record stores, retail outlets, music industry professional services firms, and more. He emphasized the importance of training a local creative workforce to step into these areas. He provided additional information regarding the Craft Masters program, which provides an 8-week intensive course on music business. A copy of the presentation was filed in the Clerk's Office.

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29:15

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 819-22

Commissioner Geter spoke regarding this item, which amends the official proceedings of the Hamilton County Board of Commissioners in order to accommodate the general public on matters of specific interest and concern. She explained in order to accommodate citizens who are unable to attend regularly scheduled daytime Commission meetings an evening recessed meeting could be called to allow the public additional opportunities to attend and be heard on matters that might generate great interest. Commissioner Geter thanked Mayor Coppinger and the IT Department for the livestreaming capabilities and stated additional meeting opportunities would expand transparency and public input.

This Resolution would authorize an evening recessed meeting to be called on a specific matter by a two-thirds majority vote of the members of the Commission during any regularly scheduled Commission meeting where voting is authorized. The evening meeting would be convened no sooner than one week immediately following the regularly scheduled meeting in which the specific matter was discussed by the Commission and would begin no sooner than 6:30 PM in the Commissioner's regular meeting place (Hamilton County Courthouse, 4th floor).

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33:17 In response to Chairman Smedley's question, Commissioner Geter stated the Chairman or an individual Commissioner could call for an evening recessed meeting and then it would require a two-thirds majority vote of the members of the Commission.

 In response to Commissioner Baker's question, Commissioner Geter noted this would only be for specific matters and would not impact regularly scheduled meeting times. Commissioner Baker voiced support for evening meetings.

35:43 In response to Commissioner Boyd's question, Mayor Coppinger stated he does not anticipate a significant fiscal impact.

 Chairman Smedley commended Commissioner Geter for working to maximize the accessibility of meetings for the public.

39:19 Commissioner Bankston asked Clerk Knowles how it would affect his office. He stated evening meetings would require overtime for his staff since his Commission meeting secretarial staff had other duties prohibiting split shifts. He added additional Courthouse security would be needed.

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In response to Commissioner Fairbanks' question, Mayor Coppinger stated building security is reduced around 5:00 PM each day. He noted funds for additional security would come from the Sheriff's Office budget.

41:25 **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 819-23**

Hamilton County Sheriff Jim Hammond spoke regarding this item, which accepts a Maclellan Foundation grant for a Law Enforcement Chaplain pilot program with an expected term ending July 31, 2020 and amending the Sheriff's Office operating budget by adding \$30,000 to revenues and expenditures. He stated the program would designate an existing uniformed officer on special assignment as a road chaplain working with both internal personnel and the general public. Sheriff Hammond stated Hamilton County Sheriff's Deputy Jonathan Parker, who runs Cop Church Chattanooga, would be running the pilot program. It was noted no county match is required.

In response to Commissioner Baker's question, Sheriff Hammond stated the department currently has four volunteer chaplains.

In response to Commissioner Sharpe's question, Sheriff Hammond explained several officers carry toys or stuffed animals in their vehicles for children involved in any

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kind of trauma. He spoke briefly about the wellness programs in place for officers to cope with trauma.

In response to Commissioner Geter's question, Sheriff Hammond provided details regarding the training process for chaplains.

In response to Mayor Coppinger's question, Sheriff Hammond confirmed Hamilton County does have a Crisis Intervention Team.

50:27

Officer Parker spoke about the chaplain program and the resources the grant will provide in growing that mission. He emphasized that wellness for officers and first responders are an important factor in their ability to serve the community. He provided information about Cop Church Chattanooga, which is a local ministry that meets on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of every month at 6:30 PM at Metro Tabernacle. Cop Church Chattanooga specifically targets the needs of law enforcement and first responders, but all members of the public are welcome.

56:16

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 819-24

Mayor Coppinger spoke regarding this item, which authorizes awarding five (5) total days of paid leave for the purpose of encouraging all Hamilton County employees to participate in the United Way Campaign through payroll deduction subject to approval

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by their supervisor. He stated one day of leave would be awarded to five different employees. It was noted Register of Deeds Marc Gravitt is the United Way representative for Hamilton County this year.

Register Gravitt reported United Way contributions by Hamilton County employees have declined and this would be an incentive to inspire giving.

In response to Commissioner Geter's question, Register Gravitt stated contributions totaled approximately \$91,000 last year. He noted this year's goal is \$95,000.

1:00:03

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 819-25

Mayor Coppinger spoke regarding this item, which authorizes awarding three (3) separate three day camping passes for the purpose of encouraging all Hamilton County employees to participate in the United Way Campaign through payroll deduction. He stated a number of Hamilton County employees receive help through United Way for a variety of reasons.

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Register Gravitt reiterated this is designed to encourage employees to contribute to United Way. He added employees who contribute will also be eligible to win 2020 Riverbend Festival wristbands and VIP passes.

1:02:48 **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 819-26**

Director of General Service Lee Norris spoke regarding this item, which approves the entering into of an amended and restated agreement for Recreational Rental Services between Rock Creek Outfitters, Inc. / Uncle Dan's LTD and Hamilton County, Tennessee for the Parks and Recreation Department. Mr. Norris explained Uncle Dan's LTD. recently bought out Rock Creek Outfitters, Inc.

There were no questions from Commissioners.

1:03:53 **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 819-27**

Administrator of Finance Al Kiser spoke regarding this item, which approves reimbursement to the Hamilton County 911 Emergency Communications District for 50% of the cost of roof replacement at the County's White Oak Facility.

There were no questions from Commissioners.

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1:04:27 **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 819-43**

This Resolution appoints Doug Martin, Sylvester Harris, and Bill McCord to the Hamilton County Industrial Development Board to serve a six-year term beginning August 21, 2019 and ending August 21, 2025.

There were no questions from Commissioners.

1:04:51 **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 819-44**

Administrator of Finance Al Kiser spoke regarding this item, which authorizes the County Mayor to sign a contract for professional services with Will Denami to represent the interests of Hamilton County before the Tennessee General Assembly and other governmental entities.

There were no questions from Commissioners.

Commissioner Bankston, Chairman of the Zoning Committee, stated the Zoning Committee would meet in the Commission Room following the Finance Committee Meeting.

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Commissioner Fairbanks, Chairman of the Finance Committee, asked Clerk Knowles what sound equipment was available in the conference room. The Clerk stated that the room wasn't equipped with technology such as in the Commission room. Commissioner Fairbanks stated the Finance Committee would meet in the Commission Room immediately following today's Agenda Session.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Smedley asked for announcements from members of the Commission.

1:07:11 Commissioner Geter announced the 18th Annual Minority Health Fair this Saturday, August 17th from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM at the Eastgate Town Center. The event is organized by Southeast Tennessee Health Consortium and will feature a number of sponsors, vendors, health screenings, health education services, door prizes, and entertainment. Commissioner Geter thanked Southeast Tennessee Health Consortium President Chris Ramsey as well as all the sponsors and volunteers for making this event possible.

1:08:45 Commissioner Fairbanks asked Sheriff Hammond to provide an update on a situation occurring in his district involving the use of the binary explosive Tannerite in a residential area.

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1:09:20 Commissioner Baker referred to a lawsuit filed over the Chattanooga Business Improvement District (BID) recently approved by the Chattanooga City Council.

1:09:46 Attorney Taylor called for a brief legal meeting to discuss pending litigation immediately following today's Agenda Session. Chairman Smedley stated Committee Meetings would take place following the legal meeting.

1:01:31 Mayor Coppinger announced Superintendent of Schools Dr. Bryan Johnson would be holding a press conference at 1:00 PM regarding student performance and the 2018-2019 test results.

1:11:05 Chairman Smedley referred to an article in yesterday's paper about open records, which mentioned Hamilton County Attorney Rheubin Taylor. She clarified that Attorney Taylor advised her to share anything with the reporter.

1:12:19 Sheriff Hammond spoke briefly about the recent complaints over the use of Tannerite in residential areas. He reported Tannerite is a legal explosive that can be purchased at almost any gun store. It explodes when something at a velocity of 200 feet per second or above strikes it, usually a high caliber rifle.

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DELEGATIONS

Chairman Smedley asked for delegations on matters other than zoning.

1:13:59 Steve Langley, residing at 9938 Rolling Wind Drive Soddy Daisy, TN 37379, spoke about the detonation of the legal explosive Tannerite in his neighborhood, which has caused foundation cracks and broken windows in his home. He stated other neighbors have reported damage to their homes as well. Mr. Langley stated the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office was called out to investigate and in retribution, the neighbors set off more explosions. He questioned how an explosive capable of causing damage to that extent was legal. Mr. Langley provided the Commission and Mayor with documents explaining what Tannerite is. A copy was filed in the clerk's office.

1:17:00 Leslie Langley, 9938 Rolling Wind Drive Soddy Daisy, TN 37379, also addressed Commissioners regarding the use of Tannerite in her neighborhood. She provided a timeline of the events and detailed the extent of the damage. She stated she was able to drive around and locate the address of where the explosions were taking place.

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Commissioner Fairbanks reported he lives in the same neighborhood and heard the explosions. He stated he called the Sheriff's Office because of the noise level. He questioned if there is any legal avenue to stop the explosions. Attorney Taylor reported unless legislation is changed the issue would be a civil matter and could be taken up in private litigation.

At this time, discussion took place among Commissioners, Mayor Coppinger, Sheriff Hammond, Administrator of Public Works and County Engineer Todd Leamon, and Mr. and Mrs. Langley about the legalities of using Tannerite.

1:25:54

Hamilton County Chief Deputy Sheriff Austin Garrett provided additional information regarding the use of Tannerite. He stated the Sheriff's Office is actively investigating what avenues can be taken to address the issue. He stated the matter is a quality of life issue and invited Commissioners to witness a Tannerite explosion demonstration by the Chattanooga Bomb Squad.

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Being no further business, Chairman Smedley declared the meeting adjourned until Wednesday, August 21st, 2019 at 9:30 AM.

Respectfully submitted:



William F. (Bill) Knowles, County Clerk

Approved:

09-04-19
Date

W.F.K.
Clerk's Initials