

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION
AGENDA PREPARATION SESSION
OCTOBER 31, 2018**

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

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

- The Trustee's Monthly and Excess Fee Reports for September 2018 would be submitted for the record.
- Resolution No. 1118-1 was the usual County Clerk item regarding notaries, etc. This required no committee assignment.
- Resolutions Nos. 1118-7 through 1118-9 were assigned to the Finance Committee, chaired by Commissioner Fairbanks.
- Resolution Nos. 1118-10 through 1118-13 were assigned to the Zoning Committee, chaired by Commissioner Bankston.
- Resolution Nos. 1118-2 through 1118-6, 1118-14 and 1118-15 were heard by a Committee of the Whole.

0:30

PRESENTATION – HARRISON RECREATION BASEBALL TEAMS

Commissioner Mackey presented Certificates of Congratulations to Harrison Titans 12-year old and Harrison Express 7-year old Baseball Teams for winning the Tennessee State Championships.

1:25

Commissioner Mackey spoke about the positive impact of having students involved in recreational sports and invited longtime league volunteer Bobby Dunn to introduce the coaches.

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Harrison Express Coach Josh Cook gave details of the player's achievements and the combined efforts of the parents and community in getting the players to the championship. Commissioner Mackey invited some of the team members to speak.

6:05 Assistant Coach Smith, whose son is a member of the team, added the trip was a positive learning experience for the team.

6:20 Harrison Titans Coach Jeremy Griffin also gave details of the player's achievements and emphasized the importance of being a positive role model.

9:15 Several members of the Commission and Mayor Coppinger thanked Commissioner Mackey for the presentation and commended the coaches, players, and parents for their hard work. They also thanked Mr. Dunn for his many years as a volunteer in the Harrison Community. They also congratulated the teams for their achievements and pointed out the importance of good sportsmanship and building lifelong friendships.

15:15 Commissioner Mackey invited Commissioner Bankston to be a part of the group photo and asked that the certificates be read into the record. At this time a round of applause was given.

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17:40 **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 1118-2**

This Resolution confirms the reappointment by the County Mayor of Mark Matthews to the Emergency Communications District Board of Directors for a term ending November 5, 2022.

There were no questions from Commissioners.

18:01 **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 1118-3**

This Resolution confirms the reappointment of Kim Ray, Dennis Hasting, Wendall Whitmire, Timothy McClure, and Charles W. Evans, Jr. and the appointment of Brian Orr by the County Mayor to the Hamilton County Contractors Board of Appeals and Adjustments for terms ending November 5, 2022.

There were no questions from Commissioners.

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18:31

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 1118-4

This Resolution confirms the reappointment of Emerson Ingram, Thomas Raulston, Bennie Kinsey, and Beverly Johnson and the appointment of Tim Arendale by the County Mayor to the Hamilton County Board of Examiners for Gas Fitters and Installers for terms ending November 5, 2022.

There were no questions from Commissioners.

19:03

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 1118-5

Hamilton County Sheriff Jim Hammond spoke regarding this item, which accepts the 2018 Bulletproof Vest Partnership Award and amends the Sheriff's Office Operating Budget by adding \$20,601.08 to revenues and expenditures. He reported this is a continuing grant to replace bulletproof vests for officers and requires a 50% county match, which is currently budgeted.

There were no questions from Commissioners.

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19:36 **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 1118-6**

Sheriff Jim Hammond spoke regarding this item, which authorizes the County Mayor to accept a \$50,000 grant from the Lyndhurst Foundation and \$11,000 in private donations towards expenditures for the Sheriff's Office frequent user pilot or FUSE program which would reduce the number of people with mental illness in correctional facilities.

Retired orthopedic surgeon Dr. Bill Matthews spoke regarding the program and stated it could reduce costs by about one third. He gave examples of how beneficial this program has been in other areas and explained it would not only help financially, but would better serve those suffering with mental illness. Dr. Matthews added the program will require a lot of support to be successful.

23:40 In response to Commissioner Sharpe's question, Sheriff Hammond reported around 40% of the current incarcerated population is affected by mental illness and could be better served by a different facility. He confirmed it would save significantly on many levels. Commissioner Sharpe stated he would be supporting this item.

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24:50 In response to Chairman Smedley's question, Sheriff Hammond advised it took about 2 years to implement the Charlotte, North Carolina program, which has been operating approximately five years.

26:07 Commissioner Geter agreed the current system is fragmented and voiced her support for this Resolution.

26:43 In response to Commissioner Baker's question, Sheriff Hammond reported this program does not integrate with the new mental health facility at Erlanger, but they have reached out to Erlanger for support. Dr. Matthews advised the Erlanger facility could act as a bridge to this program.

29:51 **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 1118-14**

Chairman Smedley spoke regarding this item, which amends the Protocol (Expense Allowance Policies) for the members of the Hamilton County Board of Commissioners as previously established pertaining to office space, cell phone and travel expenses. She reported this item is a result of inquiries about office space and the need to clarify these policies. She noted the original policy (*Resolution No. 1198-59A*) allowed for office space within a Hamilton County owned building, but stated no sufficient space has been identified.

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32:21 Administrator of Finance Al Kiser stated this item reiterates the original policy setting the monthly cell phone allowance at \$100.00 per Commissioner and \$125.00 for the Chairman and Chairman Pro Tempore. He noted the combined limit of other expenses remains at \$12,500.00. Chairman Smedley added all expenses must have proper documentation and meet all IRS guidelines in order to qualify for reimbursement.

32:50 At this time, a lengthy discussion took place between Commissioners and Mr. Kiser. Topics included cell phone and internet expense limits, rolling over unused travel expense funds, and additional office space. Several Commissioners agreed that choosing to rent or use space appropriate for hosting meetings should be eligible for reimbursement from their expense account.

51:50 **LATE ITEM – COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 1118-15**

Commissioner Mackey spoke regarding this item, which appropriates \$6,000.00 to the County Commissioners budget for travel expenses incurred by serving on State or National boards. He stated expenses incurred while traveling to serve on such boards should not come from individual travel expense accounts.

53:58 In response to Commissioner Martin's question, Chairman Smedley confirmed Commissioner Mackey and Commissioner Boyd serve on state boards.

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57:38 Commissioner Fairbanks noted he will support this item and emphasized how valuable it is having representation on state and national boards. He thanked Commissioner Mackey for his service with the Tennessee County Commissioners Association board.

1:01:08 Commissioner Mackey stated the importance of board memberships. Chairman Smedley asked Administrator of Finance Al Kiser to look into the history of costs incurred by Commissioners serving on state and national boards.

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.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Smedley asked for announcements from members of the Commission.

1:06:28 Commissioner Martin invited everyone to attend the Hixson Kuwanis ham and chicken dinner fundraiser Sunday from 11:00 AM to 1:30 PM.

1:07:15 Commissioner Mackey recognized District 2 School Board member Kathy Lennon in the audience at today's meeting.

Commissioner Mackey requested the homeless camp next to Howard High School be removed immediately.

1:08:14 Commissioner Geter agreed that the homeless camp should be removed and requested any available resources be used to find a location for those individuals.

1:09:21 Mayor Coppinger stated he has met with City of Chattanooga Mayor Andy Berke and the city will be utilizing their resources to remove the homeless camp and find a location for them.

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Commissioner Geter announced the Governor's Foundation for Health and Wellness has expanded their Healthier Tennessee initiative to Hamilton County. She noted two neighborhoods in District 5 have joined the initiative and thanked Regional Director of the Governor's Foundation for Health and Wellness Russell Cliché, who was present and today's meeting.

1:12:05 Commissioner Baker welcomed District 2 School Board member Kathy Lennon to today's meeting. He announced he would be recognizing some state champions in the near future.

1:12:41 Attorney Taylor called for a legal meeting regarding threatened and pending litigation in the Mayor's Conference Room following today's committee meetings.

1:13:03 Mayor Coppinger stated he and Commissioner Geter recently presented a Blue Ribbon Award to the Parents are First Teachers program and spoke about the emphasis Hamilton County government places on early childhood development and literacy.

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DELEGATIONS

Chairman Smedley asked for delegations on matters other than zoning.

1:14:55

Russell Cliche, Regional Director of the Governor's Foundation for Health and Wellness, spoke about the Healthier Tennessee initiative and noted six neighborhoods in Hamilton County have signed on.

1:18:35

Christopher Dahl, residing at 2020 East 12th Street Chattanooga, TN 37404, addressed Commissioners regarding the sewage overflow at the Hampton Creek golf course.

1:21:04

Ron Ray, residing at 613 Pan Gap Road Chattanooga, TN 37419, addressed Commissioners regarding office space for Commissioners. He encouraged the use of free space throughout the community. Chairman Smedley stated the intent of the Resolution discussed earlier was to clarify policy and no extra expense is being allotted.

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

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be Wednesday, November 7th at 9:30 AM.

Respectfully submitted:



William F. (Bill) Knowles, County Clerk

Approved:

11-21-18
Date

W.F.K.
Clerk's Initials