

*Hamilton County Commissioner's Court*

*Regular Session*

*Tuesday, November 9, 2021*

*9:00 a.m.*

*Hamilton County Commissioner's Court met on Tuesday, November 9, 2021, at 9:00 a.m. with the following members present: County Judge Mark Tynes, Commissioners Johnny Wagner, Keith Curry, Lloyd Huggins, and Dickie Clary. Tynes called the meeting to order and a quorum was established. Tynes led the invocation and followed with the pledges.*

*Rodney Craddick, Mayor of Hamilton, addressed the Court on the progress of the Hamilton Community Center. The Center is now serving approximately 75 meals, including Meals on Wheels. He thanked the Court for helping in this endeavor.*

*There were no budget adjustments to consider.*

*The Court considered the following consent agenda:*

- A. Minutes from previous Commissioner's Court meetings*
- B. Approve Departmental reports*
- C. Approve payroll in the amount of \$73,451.18, bills in the amount of \$88,339.32*
- D. Certificates of continuing education – Johnny Wagner, Keith Curry and Lloyd Huggins*
- E. Application(s) for culvert – None*
- F. Building and Use Request – None*
- G. Bonds/Deputations – None*

*Huggins made a motion to approve the consent agenda and Curry seconded. The Court approved the consent agenda with a 4 to 1 vote. Clary then read a prepared statement regarding his reasoning for not voting for the consent agenda. Clary is concerned that County employees' using County vehicles to commute to and from their out-of-county residences violates proper use of County funds. As those expenses for use of vehicles cannot be separated from other expenses, he is unable to vote for the consent agenda package.*

*Isaac Partain has been named as Jail Administrator, and Deputy Robert Summers has been named as Investigator II.*

*There will be a new sign for the Annex. A motorist hit and damaged a light pole located on County property, and will pay for the damage personally.*

*Kent Reeves, CFO, offered his 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Investment Report. Hamilton County investment policy mirrors the guidelines of the Public Fund Investment Act. Investment objectives are safety, liquidity, diversification, yield and maturity. Reeves is currently managing the portfolio. There is approximately \$1.2 million in cash, \$1.7 million in short term investments, and \$1.6 million in multi-bank securities, The County is in a good financial position.*

*A replat of the Lone Mountain Ranch development was acknowledged by the Court.*

*Tynes spoke about the Retirement Health Insurance plan and questioned the requirements for participation in the plan. The Court will revisit the requirements at a future meeting.*

*The Court requested a ratification of the Hamilton County Policy on Tax Abatements. Tynes moved to ratify the Policy, Clary seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.*

*Jennifer Jones and Wes Lunsford spoke to the Court requesting a tax abatement on property they purchased in Hico. The property is to be used as an event venue. They are requesting a 100% tax abatement for five years. After discussion, it was determined that sales tax and employment opportunities would significantly offset the cost of the abatement. Hico EDC will send a letter of recommendation to the Court and the Court will consider a resolution allowing the abatement. Public hearing will take place at the next Court meeting November 23, 2021.*

*Tynes attended a meeting with Lampasas County and Mills County representatives regarding the SB 476 -SART plan. There is very little information available at this time and Tynes will update the Court as more information is received.*

*The Court considered the available position on the CAD Board of Directors. Huggins made the motion, and Clary seconded, that Tynes serve on the Board. The motion carried unanimously.*

*Regarding the Burn Ban, Huggins and Clary had been receiving calls from citizens to lift the ban, as the weather is currently good for burning. Huggins made the motion to lift the burn ban, Clary seconded and the motion carried by 4 votes, with 1 abstaining.*


*The Court discussed possible redistricting brought on by the newest census figures. Although the Court agreed that the lines would likely not change, there was a question as to whether to employ a firm to validate that information. Clary made the motion to hire Bickerstaff, Delgado and Acosta, the firm hired by the County after the*

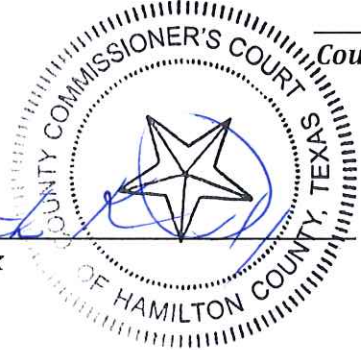
*last census, to look into the data. Huggins seconded and the motion carried unanimously.*

*The County Clerk presented the signature pages from the Constitutional Amendment election ballots to each member of the Court. Each member counted the signatures and confirmed the ballot canvass. Huggins made the motion to accept the canvass, Clary seconded and the motion carried unanimously.*

*The Court then went into closed session discussing the Hamilton County Emergency Communications project.*

*The Court adjourned at 11:40 a.m.*

Attest:  County Clerk

 County Judge 