

Hamilton County Commissioner's Court

Regular Session

Tuesday, November 23, 2021

9:00 a.m.

Hamilton County Commissioner's Court met on Tuesday, November 23, 2021, at 9:00 a.m. with the following members present: County Judge Mark Tynes, Commissioners Keith Curry, Lloyd Huggins, and Dickie Clary. Tynes called the meeting to order and a quorum was established. Huggins led the invocation and Tynes followed with the pledges.

A public hearing was had on the reinvestment Zone in Hico, Texas, regarding an application for tax abatement. The abatement was requested for five years from the date of the proposed order. No comments were offered.

The Court proposed a resolution for Not A Bad Idea, LLC to receive the tax abatement above. Huggins made the motion to accept the abatement, Clary seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. An agreement was also offered pursuant to the abatement, however the Court will wait to sign the Agreement until after the City of Hico meets to approve the abatement.

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 bills in the net amount of \$18,345.58; payroll in the amount of \$77,908.56; FY2020-2021 bills in the amount of \$3,500.00**
- D. Certificates of continuing education - Tonya Cox**
- E. Application(s) for culvert - None**
- F. Building and Use Request - Hamilton Chamber of Commerce, use of Courthouse Grounds for Christmas on the Square, December 11, 2021**
- G. Bonds/Deputations - Terri Short, Robert Finley**

Clary made a motion to approve the consent agenda and Huggins seconded. The Court approved the consent agenda unanimously.

Karen Rister of the Sheriff's Department resigned effective 11/12/2021; Cheyenne Martinez was appointed Administrative Assistant at Sheriff's Department, effective 11/15/2021; Randy Allman of precinct 3 resigned 11/15/2021; Nishma Bettencourt was hired by EMC to begin 11/29/2021.

There were no Hamilton County Facilities issues to discuss.

The Sheriff's Department requested seven laptop computers in the amount of \$20,299.65, which will be attributed to capital expense. Huggins made the motion to approve the request, Tynes seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Lacey Alexander updated the Court on emergency communications. She had spoken with an electrical contractor who is obtaining three bids for different aspects of the build-out. She also obtained a bid from an architectural firm in excess of \$75,00000. Both Alexander and the Court decided that the architectural firm was not needed.

The Court considered the Interlocal Agreement and Tower Lease between the City of Hamilton and Emergency Communications. The County is to lease property located on the fair grounds for fifty years to erect the tower for Emergency Communications, in return for providing dispatch services to the City of Hamilton. Huggins made a motion to approve the lease, Clary seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

There were no changes to the D-13 Retirement portion of the health insurance program which had been discussed at the last meeting.

Tynes reported that the SB476-SART program is still a work in progress.

Tynes also reported that the 2021 Redistricting Project engagement agreement with the specialty law firm should be ratified. Huggins made the motion to ratify the Engagement Agreement, Clary seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

The Court received the initial assessment letter from Bickerstaff, Heath, Delgado, Acosta, LLP. Chuck Kimbrough of the firm appeared before the Court to discuss their findings. The County is out of balance with its census percentages per precinct. Kimbrough offered recommendations for new precinct lines; Clary offered the County's recommendations and both parties agreed to Clary's drawing of the lines to put the precincts in balance. Further, the Court agreed that it is imperative that Precinct 1, 2 and 4 lines converge at the Courthouse and Annex to enable consolidated elections.

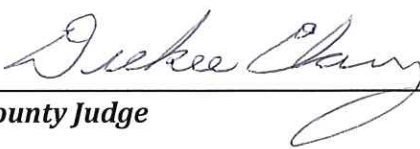
Per Kimbrough's suggestion, the Court proposed an Order adopting criteria for use in 2021 Redistricting process. Tynes made the motion to adopt the Order, Curry seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

The Court then proposed an Order adopting guidelines for persons submitting specific redistricting proposals and providing comments. Tynes made the motion to adopt the order, Huggins seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

The Court opened the floor for purposes of a public hearing on potential options for redrawing precinct boundaries. Kimbrough presented a GIS map allowing the lines to be revised. No public comments were made and the hearing. After Clary's suggestions, Draft Plan C was agreed upon and it then was renamed Illustrative Plan 1. The hearing was then closed.

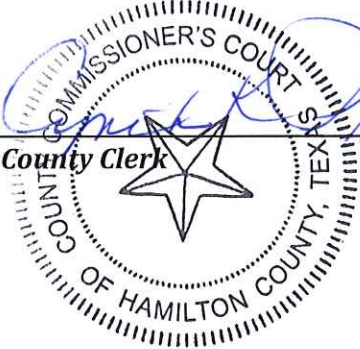
The Court then scheduled a meeting and public hearing for Thursday, December 2, 2021, at 9:00 a.m. to allow public comments on Illustrative Plan 1.

The Court adjourned at 11:00 a.m.



County Judge

Attest: 


County Clerk