

Hamilton County Commissioner's Court

Regular Session

Tuesday, March 14, 2023

9:00 a.m.

Hamilton County Commissioner's Court met on Tuesday, March 14, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. with the following members present: County Judge James Yates, Commissioners Johnny Wagner, Keith Curry, Lloyd Huggins and Dickie Clary. Judge Yates called the meeting to order and a quorum was established. Clary led the invocation and all followed with the pledges.

There was an open comment by Dennis Looney. He complained of razor wire on the ground near the fairgrounds. He also suggested the County provide an inventory of County property. Richard Layne spoke, asking the Court to use the abatement policy as it is supposed to be used.

There were budget adjustments to consider. Clary made the motion to approve the budget adjustment, Huggins seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

The Court considered the following consent agenda:

- A. Minutes from previous Commissioner's Court meetings*
- B. Approve Departmental reports*
- C. Approve bills: payroll in the amount of \$80,660,20, in-between bills in the amounts of \$452.32 and \$17.90, and bills in the amount of \$108,225.65*
- D. Certificates of continuing education – Clary, Wagner, Curry, Yates, Lamb, Goodwin*
- E. Application(s) for Culvert – None*
- F. Building and Use Request – Annex meeting room for Central Appraisal District, March 23; Annex Courtroom for Tyler Enterprise Justice Live Training, May 20 – June 17*
- G. Bonds/Deputations – None*

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

There were no Hamilton County personnel issues to report.

Clary reported that Parson's Roofing has repaired the damage to the Courthouse.

No action was taken on the Burn Ban.

Precinct 4 is in need of a loader/backhoe. Clary made the motion to advertise for sealed bids for the Pct. 4 purchase of a loader/backhoe. Wagner seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Yates introduced a Resolution nominating Lloyd Huggins as HCAD Board Member. Wagner made the motion to adopt the Resolution nominating Lloyd Huggins as HCAD Board Member, Curry seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Clary initiated a discussion of proposed changes to the Hamilton County Tax Abatement Policy. Subjects discussed included:

- A. Raising minimum investment to \$500,000.00*
- B. Abatements tied to property improvements*
- C. Number of permanent, full-time employees tied to abatements*
- D. Whether employees shall work in the immediate area*
- E. Definition of person applying for abatement ("Applicant")*
- F. Annual audits of business*
- G. If business sells, whether new owner should re-apply for abatement*
- H. Road use agreement*
- I. Decommissioning plan*
- J. Cost/benefit analysis*
- K. Requiring plat showing roadways*
- L. Need for checklist*
- M. County Attorney to review all applications*
- N. Need for new appraisal if construction has begun before application*
- O. Change title of agreement*
- P. Need definition of "Method" for collecting taxes if abatement is cancelled*


Lacy Alexander updated the Court on the Communications Department. She released the latest call volume report and reported that the patch for Hico/Hamilton had been installed. She also reported that all handheld radios had been distributed to the fire departments. There will be a fire chief meeting on 3/23.

Regarding the FY2022-2023 budget, Huggins advised that his crew truck which he had requested for latest budget did not arrive. He may need to request again on the next budget, or solicit bids for a used crew truck for Precinct 3.

The Court adjourned at 10:15 a.m.



Judge James Yates

Attest: 

County Clerk

