

Hamilton County Commissioner's Court

Regular Session

Tuesday, March 28, 2023

9:00 a.m.

Hamilton County Commissioner's Court met on Tuesday, March 28, 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. Huggins led the invocation and all followed with the pledges.

There was an open comment by Dennis Looney. He complained a second time of razor wire on the ground on private property near the ballpark. He demanded a County Commissioner do something about the wire and he was prepared to put his demand in writing.

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: payroll in the amount of \$78,747.99, in-between bills in the amount of \$186.93, and bills in the amount of \$126,299.58*
- D. Certificates of continuing education – Alexander, Short*
- E. Application(s) for Culvert – Pct. 2, Josh Boatwright*
- F. Building and Use Request – County Job Fair, 4/20, Courthouse hallways; Child Abuse Awareness, 4/1-4/30, flags on Courthouse lawn; Friends of Library, 4/29, Courthouse parking lot 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.*
- G. Bonds – Clifton, Halpin, Guthrie, Bailey, Lamb*

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

There were no Hamilton County personnel issues to report.

Curry had received a bid from Adam Geeslin for the installation of the awning at the Annex. Curry made the motion to accept the bid from Geeslin, Huggins seconded, and the motion carried unanimously. Clary did report that he is attempting to have motor oil removed from the recycling center.

No action was taken on the Burn Ban.

The Investment Policy for 2023 remains unchanged. It does, however, need to be updated as to names and signatures.

Renee French of CPS Board, along with other board members read a Proclamation regarding Child Abuse Prevention Month. French introduced new board member Bettyann Rainwater. The CPS Board supports CPS with financial and material needs, as well as support for Child Abuse Awareness.

The Court considered the nomination of Cynthia Puff as Library Board Representative for Hamilton County. Huggins made the motion to nominate Puff to the Library Board, Curry seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Clary asked to declare Pct. 4's 1987 JCB backhoe/loader as surplus property. Clary made the motion to declare the backhoe/loader as surplus, Huggins seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Huggins sought approval from the Court for Pct. 3 to dig trenches at Blue Bonnet Country Club for a range contest by the Hico FFA. Huggins made the motion to approve use of Pct. 3 to dig trenches for the Hico FFA, Clary seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Yates introduced a bid for janitorial services at the Annex. Huggins questioned which budget item would be affected. The Court will table the discussion.

Lacy Alexander informed the Court of the April 8, 2024, solar eclipse. Hamilton will be in the path for viewing the eclipse. Alexander's research indicated that past such events had tripled the population of cities in the viewing area, both before and after the event. She advised that the County departments be prepared for this type of situation. Huggins suggested she visit with the Chamber of Commerce. Yates suggested attempting to obtain viewing glasses for the school children.

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

- A. Whether abatements would be assignable*
- B. Definition of "full-time employee"*
- C. Principal work location/reinvestment zone*
- D. Court may require assessment of environmental footprint*
- E. Bond for decommissioning*
- F. Certification delivered to Commissioners' Court and CAD only*
- G. Annual certification basis of breach of contract*

- H. Requiring recent and accurate survey plat
- I. Provide description of "cost/benefit analysis"
- J. Only accurate and complete applications to be placed on Agenda
- K. Abatement only eligible a certain period after construction/improvements cease
- L. When must required jobs be available

County Attorney Henkes suggested flexibility in verbiage and requirements, defining difference between "consideration/discussion" and "requirement," and that specifics could be tailored to the individual contract.

The Court considered the Personnel Policy and whether to change wording on the following:

- A. Non-exempt employee
- B. Electronic time recording or paper recording
- C. Wording of overtime/comp time
- D. Travel expense raised as to meals
- E. County vehicle usage
- F. Longevity schedule
- G. Verify when retirement pay will be received after separation from County

Alexander updated the Court on the Communications Department, relating that the Hamilton Tower was still being discussed with various agencies, and that the security cameras had been installed at the Annex.

There were no issues to discuss concerning the FY2022-2023 budget.

The Court went into closed session regarding on-site septic inspection.

The Court adjourned at 11:20 a.m.



Judge James Yates

Attest: 

County Clerk

