

Hamilton County Commissioner's Court

Regular Session

Tuesday, August 23, 2022

9:00 a.m.

Hamilton County Commissioner's Court met on Tuesday, August 23, 2022, 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.

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 \$73,619.19; in-between bills in the total amount of \$336.97; bills in the total amount of \$154,891.83**
- D. Certificates of continuing education - Mark Tynes, Johnny Wagner**
- E. Application(s) for Culvert - Pct. 1 - Charlie Bottlinger**
- F. Building and Use Request - Chamber of Commerce, Courthouse grounds 8/31 - 9/4/22; American Legion, flags Courthouse grounds 9/16/22**
- G. Bonds/Deputations - None**

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

David Guthrie was hired as Deputy Sheriff, effective 8/22/22.

Clary reported the Courthouse roof had no new leaks, and he would speak with Parsons Roofing about repairing previous leak damage to the interior.

County Treasurer Cox reported that the County had \$3,805,019.11 in cash and \$1,423,384.19 in investments at the end of June; and \$2,002,321.73 in cash and \$3,524,310.42 in investments at the end of July, 2022.

The Court discussed lifting the Burn Ban, effective today. Huggins made the motion to lift the Burn Ban, Clary seconded and the motion passed: 3 for the motion, Wagner voting against the motion, and Tynes abstaining.

Curry asked the Court to approve private roads in Lanham Estates subdivision. Curry made the motion to approve three private roads, PR16017, PR16018, and PR16019. Huggins seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Tynes reported that the County had again allocated \$7,500.00 to support Central Counties Services which had been included in the Proposed Budget.

Tynes clarified a public question concerning the Court's management of funds in the County Judge's office, County Treasurer's office, and the Auditor's office. He offered data from FY14/15 through FY21/22. In each year the budget exceeded actual expenses and it appears that the citizen was basing his question on incorrect information.

Huggins reported that Cybersecurity training for all employees with access to computer terminals must be completed by the end of August, 2022. Only one person had not completed the training.

Lacy Alexander updated the Court on Emergency Communications. She reported a call count for July of 1,370. The permanent generator had been installed. Clary asked about obtaining a maintenance agreement for the generator through CTCOG. She will look into that.

Tynes introduced the annual Interlocal Agreement between CTCOG 911 services and the County. Tynes made the motion to approve the Interlocal Agreement, Huggins seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Wagner introduced an Interlocal Agreement between the City of Hamilton and the County, whereby McCaleb Lane and Park Road, between CR 101 and Hwy. 281 N, would be maintained by the City, effective immediately. Wagner made the motion to allow the City of Hamilton to maintain McCaleb Lane and Park Road, between CR 101 and Hwy. 281 N. Curry seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

The Court considered the FY2021-2022 budget:

- a. \$12,200 was received and certified by the Court, representing sale of surplus vehicles*
- b. CFO is still working on obtaining the second installment of the ARPA grant*

The Court then considered the FY2022-2023 budget:

Data had been received from the Central Appraisal District, suggesting the following tax rates:

- .4455 voter approval rate*
- .4122 de minimis rate*
- .3533 no new revenue rate*

Clary was concerned that the above rates were not accurate and wanted accurate tax rate numbers from 2020 and 2021. He wanted an explanation on how the numbers were calculated. Those rates were obtained from the Central Appraisal District and new calculations ensued.

Clary offered suggestions on cutting expenses at the Sheriff's Department: electricity, telephone, health insurance.


Huggins also offered suggestions on cutting expenses at the Sheriff's Department: allowing the Sheriff to drive his personal vehicle and giving his County vehicle to CID, giving the Sheriff an annual stipend of \$10,000, delaying the requested camera purchase, adjusting requested salary increases for deputies, decommission three vehicles as surplus, lease one new vehicle each year. Clary agreed with the suggestions. Sheriff Caraway suggested zero-scaping the front lawn in order to reduce maintenance.


Other expense savings:

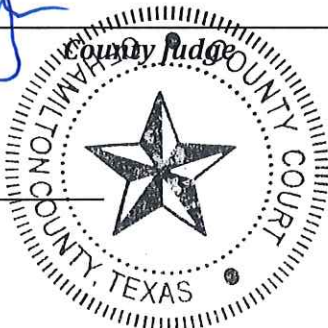
- a. Reduce health insurance at the County Attorney's office
- b. Eliminate ADP
- c. Reducing Courthouse repairs and maintenance budget
- d. Consideration of whether to give additional pay to District Attorney

Tynes asked the Court to consider a proposed tax rate. After basing The calculations on the 2020 and 2021 tax rates, the Court proposed .3783 as their proposed tax rate. The budget hearing is Friday, August 26, 2022. The tax rate hearings are set for September 6 and September 9, 2022.

The Court adjourned at 12:03 p.m.

Attest: 
County Clerk


County Judge



***CLARIFICATION: Minutes for August 9, 2022, should reflect that there were two votes on the bills presented for payment. Clary moved, and Huggins seconded, to approve all bills with the exception of the Sheriff's Department bills. That motion passed unanimously. Huggins then made the motion to approve the Sheriff's Department bills, Tynes seconded, and the motion passed 4 to 1, with Clary voting against.