

Hamilton County Commissioner's Court

Regular Session

Tuesday, August 8, 2023

9:00 a.m.

Hamilton County Commissioner's Court met on Tuesday, August 8, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. with the following members present: County Judge James Yates, Commissioners Johnny Wagner, Lloyd Huggins, Keith Curry and Dickie Clary. Judge Yates called the meeting to order and a quorum was established. Judge Yates led the invocation and all followed with the pledges.

Open Comments:

Richard Layne spoke to the court in reference to Local Government Code 84.002, sub chapter A and sub chapter B in regards to the appointment of an Auditor and the rights of the Commissioners court.

Budget adjustments for multiple departments were approved. L. Huggins made the motion to approve and Dicky Clary seconded the motion. A vote was made and J. Wagner, K. Curry, L. Huggins and D. Clary all voted to approve. Judge Yates did not vote.

The Court considered the following consent agenda:

- A. Minutes from previous Commissioner's Court meetings*
- B. Approve Departmental reports - None*
- C. Approve Expense register in the amount of \$757,394.61*
- D. Certificates of Continuing Education - None*
- E. Application(s) for Culvert – None*
- F. Building and Use Request – None*
- G. Bonds/Deputations – Rachel Geeslin, Alejandra Moncada and Carla DeLaHoya*

J. Wagner made a motion to approve the consent agenda and D. Clary seconded. Commissioners; J. Wagner, K. Curry, L. Huggins and D. Clary all voted to approve the consent agenda. Judge Yates did not vote.

Personnel Updates: Hamilton County Communications department had two resignations; Judy Erick and Neshmah Betancourt as well as having one new hire, Melissa Erexson. There was one position change appointing Carla DeLaHoya as Auditor.

D. Clary provided one facility update on the Precinct 4 barn roof repairs. The Commissioners court also gave thanks to Gary Sparks for the great job they did on the renovation project of the courthouse front steps.

There was not a Treasurer's report to approve.

The Burn Ban is still in place, no discussion needed.

D. Clary made a motion to approve the Interlocal agreement between Hamilton County and CTCOG (Central Texas Counsel of Government) with the only change in the agreement being the name change from Hamilton County Sherrif's Department to Hamilton County Communications Department. L. Huggins seconded the motion and the court passed the Interlocal agreement.

L. Huggins made a motion to Ratify the signatures on the Funding agreement for the bridge replacement at CR 203 @ Leon River #206. D. Clary seconded the motion. All the commissioners voted in agreeance to ratify the signatures on the Advanced Funding agreement. Due to this agreement the bridge can be rebuild with no additional costs to the tax payers.

The court approved the Interlocal Agreement between DPS and Hamilton County for use of the towers. This will allow DPS and National Weather Service to use Hamilton County's towers. J. Wagner made the motion to approve and L. Huggins seconded the motion a vote was had and the court approved the Interlocal Agreement.

The Commissioners discussed ratifying the District Court order from July 25, 2023 open meeting appointing the Auditor. Judge Carpenter appointed Carla DeLaHoya as County Auditor. L. Huggins made a motion to approve and K. Curry seconded the motion. The action passed with a vote of 4-0. Judge Yates abstained from voting.

District Clerk Sandy Layhew addressed the court about the need to increase Juror pay in compliance with HB3474. L. Huggins made the motion to approve and K. Curry seconded the motion. The increased juror pay was passed in agreeance by all commissioners.

The court had further discussion about the Commissioner's request to move money from the road and bridge fund into the precinct budget. Further discussion will be had on Friday, August 11, 2023. No action taken at this time.

The court discussed the need to rescind an action taken in a prior meeting accepting Kent Reeves resignation due to the ongoing external audit for Hamilton County. District Judge Carpenter expressed a need to keep K. Reeves throughout the budget process as well as throughout the Auditor transition process. There will be no change in rate of pay and once the new auditor is appointed then K. Reeves term will end. K. Reeves will report directly to County Judge Yates as Judge Yates is the Budget Officer. L. Huggins made a motion to approve and Keith Curry followed by seconding the motion. The motion was passed with J. Wagner, K. Curry, Lloyd Huggins voting for, Judge Yates abstaining, and Clary voting against

The court took a brief recess at 9:58 am

The court was back in session at 10:07 am

FY 2023-2024 Budget Workshop


Judge Yates discussed the possible need to increase revenue in order to decrease the large deficit within the county precinct budgets.

The court discussed the .4005 tax rate with the need and intention to lower the tax rate to .39783.

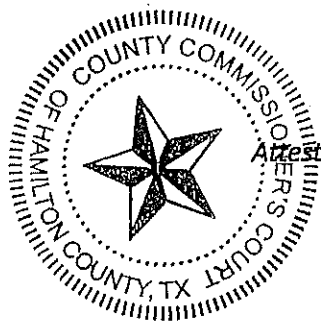
County Judges Administrative Assistant salary was proposed to be set at \$34,880.00. L. Huggins made a motion to approve the salary and K. Curry seconded the motion to approve. The Judge called for a vote and L. Huggins, K. Curry and J. Wagner all voted to approve the proposed salary and one non-vote by D. Clary.

The court briefly discussed SB22 which is a grant designed to increase the salary of the Sherriff as well as other peace officers. The court has decided that more detailed information is needed before they can take action on this matter.

Adjourn at 10:52 am



Judge James Yates



Attest:



County Clerk