

Hamilton County Commissioner's Court

Regular Session

Tuesday, September 12, 2023

9:00 a.m.

Hamilton County Commissioner's Court met on Tuesday, September 12, 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. Dickie Clary led the invocation and all followed with the pledges.

Open Comments Public Comments at 9:05 am:

Damon Chumney questioned the court on multiple FY 23-24 Budget items:

- Why is there a need to increase personnel salaries across the board?*
- Why is there a salary supplement for County Clerk and Tax Accessors office?*
- Why the increase in Treasurer's salary?*
- Questioned the amount being spent in the transport of offenders and asked if it would be more cost efficient to just house inmates within the county?*
- Questioned Judge Yates mileage reimbursement*
- Appraisal District Budget*
- Why is there an additional \$5k in Sheriffs dept. budget?*

Richard Layne asked the court if this is the budget they intend on passing. L Huggins stated that some additional changes are still to be made. Richard Layne also stated that the county can not compete with private companies in regards to pay rates.

Closed Public Comments at 10:00 am

There were budget adjustments in the amount of \$ 38,994.00.

L. Huggins made a motion to approve and K. Curry seconded his motion. The court approved the budget adjustments with a 4-0 vote, Judge Yates abstained.

The court considered the minutes from September 1, 2023 Commissioners Court meeting and approve departmental reports. There were in-between bills in the amount of \$2,874.20, payroll in the amount of \$77,735.92 and the Expense Register in the amount of \$1,047,675.95. Certificates of Continuing Education for Keith Curry, Tonya Cox, Lacy Alexander, and Randall Whiddon. There were no culvert installations to consider. One bond to consider for Mariah Whitehead. There were three building and use requests to consider:

- 1. American Legion Post 222 – 9/15/23 – POW/MIA Recognition Day - All Day*

2. *Hamilton Police Dept. – 10/3/23 – Police Night Out – 5:00pm-9:00pm*
3. *Hamilton Main Street – 10/31/23 – Trunk or Treat – after 4:30pm*

J. Wagner made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda and K. Curry seconded his motion. The court voted on the Consent Agenda and it was approved with a 3-1 vote. D. Clary opposed and Judge Yates abstained from voting.

Hamilton County personnel update:

1. *Dane Reehl - Full Time for Precinct #3*
2. *Jerry Galloway – Part Time for precinct #3*
3. *Stephanie Brown – Investigator for Sheriffs Dept.*

Hamilton County Facilities update; the court received a quote from Kyle Norman out of Hico to remodel and build a carport canopy at the Recycling Center to help solve a long-time records storage issue in the county. Judge Yates also presented the court with the ongoing A/C problems within the courthouse, stating at least four units needs to be replaced sooner than later. No action was taken at this time.

Lacy Alexander updated the court on the Communications department stating that the call volume has increased by over 500+ calls compared to August of 2022. The steel for the Hamilton Communications Tower was delivered today and the crane for construction will be delivered Wednesday, September 20, 2023. The shelter and the generator were both delivered last Thursday. The Hico Tower structure is complete. The generator and shelter are due to be completed at the manufacturer on September 25, 2023 and then will notify the county for delivery. Once both Hico and Hamilton Towers have received their Certificates of Completion the project will move on to phase 2 of getting the radio racks and antennas in place.

NO action was taken on the Burn Ban. Burn Ban remains in place.

The court discussed Precinct 3 hauling used shavings from Hico ISD Ag barn to a dump area on Morning Star Ranch. L. Huggins made the motion to approve followed by a second from D. Clary. The court approved the action with a 4-0 vote, Judge Yates abstained.

The court discussed a Resolution regarding a financing agreement by Government Capital financing in order to procure a work vehicle for Precinct 3. L. Huggins made a motion to approve and D. Clary seconded his motion. The court passed the agenda item with a 4-0 vote, Judge Yates abstained.

No action was taken on the confirmation of Judges Administrative Assistants salary. Discussion and clarification of a previously recorded vote made in the Commissioners Court meeting July 25, 2023.

No action taken at this time on the Communications department Comp time.

Recess at 10:31 am

Open Public Tax Rate Hearing at 11:00 am

Public Comments on Proposed Tax Rate:

Richard Layne spoke in favor of the increased tax rate in hopes of putting increased funds into the individual precincts in the future. R. Layne complimented the court and stated they are doing a good job.

Closed Public Comments on the Proposed tax Rate at 11:02 am.

Record Vote on Proposed Tax Rate: Vote 5-0

J. Wagner – YES

K. Curry – YES

D. Clary – YES

L. Huggins – YES

J. Yates – YES

The court will continue further discussions on the FY 23-24 Budget beginning tomorrow, Wednesday, September 13, 2023.

Adjourn at 11:05 am



Judge James Yates





County Clerk