

*Hamilton County Commissioner's Court**Special Session**Tuesday, September 19, 2023**9:00 a.m.*

*Hamilton County Commissioner's Court met on Tuesday, September 19, 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. County Judge James Yates called the meeting to order a quorum was established. Judge Yates led the invocation and all followed with the pledges.*

*Open Comments:*

*Damon Chumney addressed the court and stated that he feels the only reason the Commissioners agreed to salary increases in the FY 2023-2024 budget is to be able to increase their retirement benefits. D. Chumney related a quote from JFK asking the Commissioner "Ask not what the County can do for you, but what you can do for the County".*

*Richard Layne addressed the court and stated that originally, he was in favor of the .4005 Tax Rate. R. Layne stated he believes the constant salary increases will negatively impact the tax payers of Hamilton County. He also believes the tax rate will be difficult for those citizens that are on a fixed income.*

*There were no Budget Adjustments to consider.*

*The court considered the following Consent Agenda:*

- A. Minutes from previous Commissioner's Courts – September 12, 2023, September 13, 2023 and September 14, 2023.*
- B. Approve Departmental Reports*
- C. No Bills submitted for payment to approve*
- D. No Certificates of Continuing Education to approve*
- E. No Culvert Applications*
- F. No Building and Use Requests*
- G. No Bonds to Approve*

*L. Huggins made a motion and D. Clary seconded the motion. The court approved the Consent Agenda with a 4-0 vote, Judge Yates abstained.*

*There were no Hamilton County Personnel updates to consider.*

*There were no Hamilton County Facility updates to consider.*

*L. Alexander gave the court an update on the Communications department. L. Alexander stated that the last section of the Hamilton Tower is in place and now they will work on the tensioning and final adjustments. September 14, 2023 L. Alexander attended a Fire Chief meeting where they discussed preparedness for next year's Solar Eclipse and whether or not to lift the Burn Ban.*

*The Commissioners Court discussed lifting the Burn Ban. D. Clary made a motion and L. Huggins seconded the motion to lift the Burn Ban. The court approved lifting the Burn Ban with a 3-0 vote, Johnny Wagner opposed lifting the Burn ban and Judge Yates abstained from voting. The Commissioners agreed to put the Burn Ban on a future agenda to re-access the situation. Lifting of the Burn ban is effective immediately.*

*The court discussed and took action on Precinct #1 requesting a transfer of \$5,000.00 from Capital Equipment Funds to Precinct #2 to purchase parts of the Diamond Brush Cutter. J. Wagner made a motion to approve and D. Clary seconded the motion. The court approved the transfer with a 4-0 vote, Judge Yates abstaining.*

*L. Huggins made a motion to Adopt a Policy for Road & Bridge Fund 020. D. Clary seconded the motion. The court took a vote and approved the Policy for Road & Bridge Fund 020 with a 4-0 vote, Judge Yates abstained.*

*The court discussed and took action on paying out the accrued Employee Compensation Time for all county employees as an exception to the Hamilton County Personnel Policy and should not set any precedents for future payouts. L. Huggins made a motion and K. Curry seconded the motion. The court took a vote and approved the payout of the accrued compensation time with a vote of 4-0, Judge Yates abstained. The accrued compensation pay will be paid in this Fiscal year, most of the payout monies will come from within each department's budget and will reflect as "over budget" in each department as well. Hamilton County Attorney, Mark Henkes, suggested the Commissioners place this item on a future agenda in order to amend the current Hamilton County Policy with an exception rule for Compensation Time payout.*

*No discussion on the need to allow time for Commissioner's Court to make any changes in the 2023-2024 Proposed Budget for the best interest of the Tax payers.*

No discussion on the FY 2023-2024 Budget Workshop.

D. Clary made a motion to approve the FY 2023-20204 Budget and L. Huggins seconded his motion. The 2023-2024 Budget was adopted with a recorded vote of 4 approving and Judge Yates opposing.

D. Clary YES

L. Huggins YES

J. Wagner YES

K. Curry YES

J. Yates NO

Commissioner L. Huggins made a motion to approve the Tax Rate of .4005 and Commissioner D. Clary seconded the motion. The court took a recorded vote of 5-0 to adopt the FY 2023-2024 Tax Rate of .4005.

D. Clary YES

L. Huggins YES

J. Wagner YES

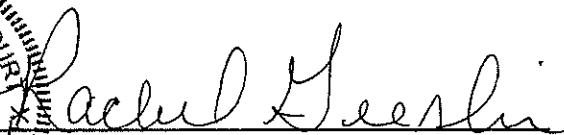
K. Curry YES

J. Yates YES

The court adjourned at 9:31 am.

  
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Judge James Yates



  
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Rachel Geeslin  
County Clerk