

Hamilton County Commissioner's Court

Regular Session

Tuesday, January 11, 2022

9:00 a.m.

Hamilton County Commissioner's Court met on Tuesday, January 11, 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. Clary led the invocation and Tynes followed with the pledges.

There were two public comments. One from newly elected Hamilton VFD Fire Chief, Danny Walton. Chief Walton named the members of his department and will be sending contact information to the Court. The other public comment was from District Judge Shaun Carpenter who advised of an upcoming prolonged murder trial, calling for a jury panel of 300 persons. He will add security and implement covid protocols.

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 in the amount of \$166,829.83, in-between bills in the amount of \$2,344.25, and payroll in the amount of \$74,012.38*
- D. Certificates of continuing education - None*
- E. Application(s) for Culvert - Precinct 2 - Darrel and Dina Schuman*
- F. Building and Use Request - None*
- G. Bonds/Deputations - None*

Huggins made a motion to approve the consent agenda and Curry seconded. The Court approved the consent agenda 4 to 1, with Clary voting against.

Regarding personnel, EMC hired Bill Murphy and Amanda Phillips this month. Sandra Strickland was hired in the County Clerk's office on January 3, 2022. The Sheriff's Department terminated Brent Shelnett and Cheyenne Martinez on 1/3/2022.

There were no facilities issues to report.

The Hamilton County Treasurer reported \$1,557,836.32 in cash-on-hand.

Precinct 1 assisted in the clean-up of the Hamilton County Junior Livestock Show last weekend, using County equipment, and asked the Court to ratify that assistance. Wagner made the motion to ratify Precinct 1's assistance in the clean-up activities, Huggins seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

FY2021-2022 budget issues were discussed. Clary continues to oppose the fuel consumption at the Sheriff's Department, and their allowing County vehicles to be used for certain employees to commute from their out-of-county homes. Although the fuel rate is decreasing, at the current rate of consumption, the Sheriff's fuel budget will be exhausted in May of this year.

Precinct 1 received one bid for a motor-grader. The bid was from RDO Equipment of Hewitt, TX, for \$195,000.00, with under 1,800 hours, and still under warranty. Wagner made the motion to accept and purchase the motor-grader from RDO Equipment, Curry seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

CFO Reeves and Wagner have completed arrangements for the funding of the above motor-grader.

Lacy Alexander updated the Court on the Emergency Communications project. Don Rudolph has completed renovations on the server room. The flooring will begin this week. The electrical work is to begin at the end of January.

Judge Shaun Carpenter spoke to the Court regarding implementation of a Uniform Case Management System which would benefit both the District Clerk's and the County Clerk's offices. Of the three companies who bid on the project, Tyler Technologies was considered by the Judge to be the best choice. The current system has not been upgraded or improved since implementation, and the Tyler system would integrate e-filing and case management tasks more efficiently. The cost would be offset somewhat by a grant through OCA, but would cost the County unbudgeted funds. A special session will be called to discuss the options. The Court, as well as the County Clerk, expressed questions and concerns regarding cost, customer service, timeline, and available funds. Judge Carpenter would like an answer by January 21, 2022, as to whether the District and County clerks would participate in the uniform case management system.

Wagner in Precinct 1 had been contacted by an environmental specialist who wanted County approval of a waste water drainage culvert on County Road 120. The culvert had been in operation approximately 20 years. The specialist asked for a no-objection letter to the drainage project at Broumley Heifer. The County Attorney agreed to draft the letter. Tynes made the motion to ask the County Attorney to draft the letter, and allow Wagner to sign the letter. Huggins seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Huggins reported that CTCOG had requested the renumbering of two private roads: one off CR 228, to be named PR 2281; the other off CR 210, to be named PR

2101. Huggins made the motion to approve the renumbering of the two roads, Clary seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

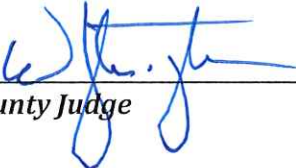
Huggins also reported that a person was to purchase the fire depot/domino hall building adjacent to the old Shell station. The building shares a common wall with County property, and is in need of repair. Wagner and Clary will represent the Court in negotiations with the person for future use of the building. The issue will be continued to the next regular meeting.

Mr. Win Adams, representing Clay Mazur of Hico, requested a tax abatement from the Court on five buildings in Hico. Construction had begun, and halted, on three of those buildings. Two buildings were untouched. After some discussion, it was agreed that Mr. Adams would resubmit his tax abatement request to include all five buildings with an appraised value as of January 1, 2022, to be in compliance with the current tax abatement policy.

There was also some discussion on amending the current Tax Abatement Policy language to be more precise on the appraised value of tax abatement requests. The County Attorney agreed to amend the policy language and present it to the Court for approval.

The Court went into closed session.

The Court adjourned at 11:50 a.m.



County Judge

Attest: 

County Clerk