

*Hamilton County Commissioner's Court*

*Regular Session*

*Tuesday, February 15, 2022*

*9:00 a.m.*

*Hamilton County Commissioner's Court met on Tuesday, February 15, 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. Huggins led the invocation and Tynes followed with the pledges.*

*There were public comments from two individuals: Justice of the Peace James Lively and County Clerk Cynthia Puff. Both expressed their opinions that, if the Court was considering an unprecedented increase in salaries and/or benefits for the Sheriff's Department during the middle of a budget cycle, the Court should do the same for employees of all County departments. All departments are suffering from a hiring and retention problem.*

*The Court then considered Agenda item 7. Tynes is in agreement with an increase in salaries for the Sheriff's Department, and to keep salaries in line with those salaries in surrounding counties.*

*Clary agrees with a salary increase, however he advises waiting until budget discussions in several months, and implement a significant increase for all employees.*

*Wagner wants to wait until budget discussions because he is concerned that an increase would affect the entire budget.*

*Curry and Huggins agree with an across-the-board increase, but want to wait until budget discussions.*

*The Court moved to Agenda item 6. Tynes reported that the vehicle inventory he had requested from the Sheriff's Department had been received. There was also some confusion as to whether the five vehicles ordered from Enterprise Leasing had been delivered. Sheriff Caraway will find out.*

*The Court then revisited Agenda item 7. One citizen, Richard Layne, spoke to the Court, stating that he agreed with the Sheriff's Department salary and/or benefit increase, and that the Court was handling the situation well.*

*Tynes had offered a proposed solution regarding the Sheriff's Department fuel budget, and questioned the language previously inserted in the Employee Handbook regarding out-of-county use of County vehicles. Both Huggins and Clary supported the*

*inserted language. No solution was reached as to vehicle usage or depletion of the Sheriff's fuel budget.*

*The Court adjourned at 9:45 a.m.*

*[Handwritten signature]*

County Judge

Attest:

*[Handwritten signature]*  
County Clerk

