

Hamilton County Commissioner's Court

Regular Session

Tuesday, April 12, 2022

9:00 a.m.

Hamilton County Commissioner's Court met on Tuesday, April 12, 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.

Hamilton Mayor Rodney Craddick spoke to the Court regarding the Hamilton Community Center. Craddick updated the Court on the Center's financial situation and stated that the Center is continuing to grow and serve the community.

Lloyd Huggins addressed the Court with three separate issues. First, he gave credit to Deputy Lisa Keeping for her professionalism and sensitivity in a recent event. Second, he acknowledged National Telecommunications Week and thanked Lacy Alexander for her hard work. Finally, he read a letter he had received from the Hico Emergency Services District praising Hamilton Emergency Communications and Lacy Alexander in particular.

Mark Tynes addressed the Court updating them on the healing progress of Hamilton County CFO, Kent Reeves. Reeves is still in critical condition, with no damage to spinal column or cord however. He is expected to be hospitalized for another month.

There were no budget adjustments.

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 \$177,682.34; payroll for two pay periods in the amount of \$151,617.61; in-between bills of \$254.86**
- D. Certificates of continuing education - Dickie Clary, Tonya Cox**
- E. Application(s) for Culvert - None**
- F. Building and Use Request - Ratify use of Courthouse Steps for Hamilton High School prom; use of Courthouse grounds for Men's Group of St. John Lutheran Church for May 5,6,7**
- G. Bonds/Deputations - None**

Huggins made a motion to approve the consent agenda and Curry seconded. The Court approved the consent agenda 3 to 2, with Clary and Tynes voting against.

Misty Darby resigned from the Sheriff's Department on 4/8/22; Linda Goodwin and Amanda Phillips were promoted in Emergency Communications on 4/2/22.

Work on the Courthouse roof was completed recently. After a recent rain, several leaks were discovered and repaired.

Lacy Alexander updated the Court on Emergency Communications, sharing a COG 2-year report on 9-1-1 calls in Hamilton County. The Department will "go live" in mid-June. The Code Red system is progressing with the Court expressing confidence in Alexander to determine emergency situations.

An Interlocal Agreement concerning inmate housing between Lampasas County and Hamilton County was introduced. Huggins made the motion to approve the Interlocal Agreement, Curry seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

An agreement for lease of County office space for the Forest Service was also introduced. Tynes made the motion to approve the lease agreement, Clary seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Huggins informed the Court that his precinct needed a drum roller. The precinct could pay for the equipment with its reserves, but Huggins prefers to finance and not deplete reserves. The matter will be handled between Huggins and the financial office.

Clary had previously asked for sealed bids for a used brush cutter for his precinct. He received one bid from Big Blue River Conservancy District in Indiana. Clary moved to accept the bid from Big Blue River for a 2015 Kubota brush cutter, approve the purchase, and finance the purchase in the amount of \$89,995.00. Wagner seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

A 5-year Cooperative Agreement was introduced between Hamilton County and Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service. Clary moved to accept and approve the Cooperative Agreement, Wagner seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Clary asked the Court for approval of using Precinct 4 personnel and equipment to allow the FFA to conduct land evaluations and judging. Clary then made the motion to approve the use of County labor and equipment for FFA land judging, Huggins seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Tynes addressed the Court on a capital expense request for two towers, one to replace the one now existing in Fair Park and the other to be constructed in Hico. The towers would complete the Emergency Communications transition and allow all citizens of the County to be served. The cost of the Hamilton tower is \$1,112,721.00 and the Hico tower is \$1,078,757.00. The remaining ARPA funds would not cover the entire

cost options were discussed regarding ways to purchase the two towers. Alexander had applied for an additional grant to help with some of the funds, but had received no definite information. Motorola also offered a lease/purchase option for financing the towers. The topic needs more discussion before a decision can be made.

There are twelve surplus vehicles at the Sheriff's Department which must be sold. Chief Deputy Young related that he was waiting until June when the vehicles could be stripped. There are local entities which would strip the vehicles immediately. There are several vehicles which could possibly be sold to local police departments if the vehicles were available for viewing. Hico Police Department had previously expressed interest. Chief Deputy Young then told the Court that some of the vehicles were still in use and could not be viewed. Tynes, Huggins, and all the Commissioners then advised Young that the twelve vehicles, with keys, would be available on Wednesday, April 13, 2022, at 12:00 p.m. for the Commissioners and road hands to transport all working vehicles to Precinct 3 yard for viewing. If any local department wished to purchase a surplus vehicle, County Attorney Henkes will supply the contract.

The current BURN BAN expires on April 21, 2022. Clary made the motion to extend the BURN BAN for another ninety days. Tynes seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

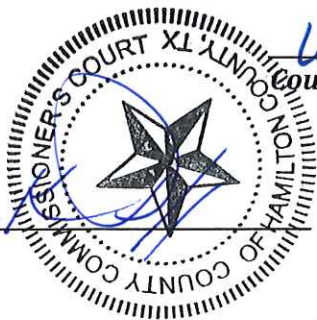
Carla Broome and Lacy Alexander asked the Court for permission to establish a Hamilton County social media page for strictly informational purposes. There would be no comment section. Broome and Alexander would maintain the website. Tynes made the motion to establish a Hamilton County social media page, Huggins seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

The Court considered the FY2022-2023 budget, the importance of an accurate budget, and the impact of budget adjustments. The most prominent budget adjustment from the current budget is the cost of fuel. Another issue concerns the temporary loss of Hamilton County CFO. Tynes advised the Court to be vigilant regarding expenses and to continue to pull together to minimize any disruption.

The Court adjourned at 11:09 a.m.

Attest:

Cynick
County Clerk



[Signature]
County Judge