

Hamilton County Commissioner's Court

Regular Session

Tuesday, June 8, 2021

9:00 a.m.

Hamilton County Commissioner's Court met in regular session on Tuesday, June 8, 2021, at 9:00 a.m. with the following members present: County Judge Mark Tynes, Commissioners Johnny Wagner, Lloyd Huggins, Keith Curry and Dickie Clary. Tynes called the meeting to order and a quorum was established. Wagner led the invocation and Tynes followed with the pledges.

There were five (5) line-item transfers. Huggins moved to accept the line-item transfers, Clary seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

The Court considered the following consent agenda:

- A. Minutes from previous Commissioner's Court meetings*
- B. Approve Departmental reports*
- C. Approve bills submitted for payment in the amount of \$2,973.25, payroll in the amount of \$70,792.16*
- D. Certificates of continuing education - none*
- E. Application(s) for culvert - none*
- F. Building and Use Requests - none*
- G. Bonds/Deputations - none*

Huggins made a motion to approve the consent agenda and Curry seconded. The Court approved the consent agenda unanimously.

The Sheriff's Department reported the hiring of Deputy Lisa Keeping, effective 6/7/21.

The Court discussed the need for weed control on Sheriff's Department property, along with possible solutions. There is a need for an automatic door on the east side of the Courthouse, which Tynes will look into. There is a trailer with spotlights located on Sheriff's Department property which could possibly be declared as surplus.

Regarding Cyber-Security training mandated by the State, only one person at the Sheriff's Department has failed to complete the training. Tynes asked Chief Young to speak to that person and urge him/her to complete the training.

County Treasurer presented the report for May, 2021 - Cash of \$1,286,911.90, Investments of \$3,328,867.96.

CFO Kent Reeves discussed property tax collections and a possible need for the preparation of a report by an outside firm. He also reported the receipt of CTIF grant funds.

Huggins reported the need to request an extension to finish the CR 235 Fall Creek Bridge Equivalent Match Project, due to weather delays. Huggins moved for the extension request, Curry seconded, and the Court approved the motion unanimously.

Tynes reported that the TXDOT County Road Inventory report had been submitted.

Huggins is to head a task force exploring answers to the Hamilton County Emergency Communications system. The task force will consist of Commissioner Huggins, Chief Robert Young of the Sheriff's Department, Patrick Cobb of EMS, Brandon Gomez of the Combined Fire Departments, Officer Ashmore of the Hico Police Department, and a representative of the Hamilton Police Department, as yet unnamed. The first priority will be to determine the best vendor to completely overhaul the emergency communications system. This determination will be implemented soon. The Court is looking for funds from the American Rescue Plan Act 2021 to fund the overhaul. At this date, all the requirements for application have been completed and submitted, and the funds should arrive soon. Upon arrival, the funds will be placed in a special Grant Fund, awaiting determination by the task force.

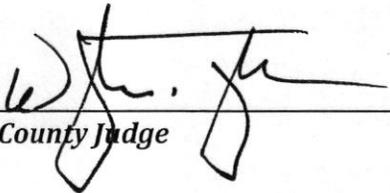
Huggins has read the 151-page ARPA bill and has reached the conclusion that the emergency communications system overhaul would qualify and be approved for the funds. Clary urged the Court to prepare a Resolution, outlining all reasoning and steps taken to reach that conclusion. The same reasoning would also be noted in the budget as a "Potential Grant." This grant by the ARPA would require an external audit.

The Court discussed items in the proposed 2021-2022 budget:

- A. The proposed budget calendar follows the Texas Government Code*
- B. There is a need for a special meeting of the Court for September 7, 2021, with public hearings to follow*
- C. Court will rely on the Appraisal District for tax rate upon which the budget will be prepared*
- D. Rise in health insurance costs for County employees will be addressed, due to an increase of over 11%; and other solutions will be explored*
- E. Court will check into a Health Savings Account from TAC, or possibly self-insuring deductible costs, if considering raising deductibles*
- F. Tax revenues are up; County Clerk revenues are up; District Court revenues are down; Justice Court revenues are down*

- G. Delinquent taxes to be adjusted downward**
- H. TCDRS retirement funding might require placing unused cash in that fund to account for deficit caused by market sensitivity**
- I. Longevity program is working as expected and County is retaining employees**
- J. Court will explore grant funding for emergency management coordinator/communications**
- K. Court to consider moving indigent healthcare management in-house**
- L. Proposed budget will be filed with County Clerk before August 1, 2021.**

The Court adjourned at 10:55 a.m.



County Judge

Attest: 

County Clerk

