

*Hamilton County Commissioner's Court*

*Regular Session*

*Tuesday, February 24, 2026*

*9:00 a.m.*

*Hamilton County Commissioner's Court met on Tuesday, February 24, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. with the following members present: County Judge James Yates, Commissioners Johnny Wagner, Keith Curry, Dickie Clary and David Ogle. Judge Yates called the meeting to order and a quorum was established. Judge Yates led the invocation and all followed with the pledges.*

*There were no Open Comments today.*

*There were no Budget Adjustment (L.I.T.) to consider.*

*The Court considered the following Consent Agenda:*

- a. Approve the Minutes from February 10, 2026.*
- b. Approve Departmental Reports*
- c. Payroll in the amount of \$77,758.92*
- d. Expenses in the amount of \$105,287.83*
- e. In-Between Bills in the amount of \$630.00*
- f. In-Between Bills in the amount of \$56,894.78*
- g. Culvert Application – Precinct 3 – Jack McGuire on CR 239*
- h. No Bonds to consider*
- i. Building & Use Request – Hamilton Ministerial Alliance – National Day of Prayer - May 7, 2026 at 12:00 pm – East steps*

*Commissioner Clary made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented and Commissioner Ogle seconded the motion. The Court approved the Consent Agenda with a 4-0 vote, Judge Yates abstained.*

*No Hamilton County Personnel Update at this time.*

**Hamilton County Treasurer's Report:**

**Treasurer, Tonya Cox, stated the County is currently in the midst of an audit and after wards all the bank reconciliations will now go to Timany McCarn, Chief Financial Officer, first and then Tonya will verify them and complete the necessary reporting.**

**No Hamilton County Investment Report at this time.**

**Hamilton County Infrastructure Update:**

**The parking lot behind the Annex has been completed. A special thank you to Commissioner Wagner and his crew for clearing the over grown brush and trash in the Annex's new parking lot. The County will work with the Jr. Master Gardeners Club to beautify the needed areas.**

**Commissioner Clary reminded the Court that with spring right around the corner they needed to start thinking about who will be maintaining the grounds around the tower sites. Commissioner Ogle stated they will maintain their own grounds at the Hico tower site since it is basically the back yard of his Precinct barn. Commissioner Clary stated that Carl Taylor had expressed interest in handling the maintenance on the other tower site.**

**The Court also discussed the need for a thorough evaluation of the camera security system for possible upgrades and the need to install a camera security system in the Annex building as well.**

**Communications Update:**

**Lacy Alexander stated that she will be having a meeting with Motorola to schedule the next steps of the equipment installation. Bearcom will be coming to complete the cabling process on the towers. On behalf of Hamilton County Mrs. Alexander will be applying for the \$2 million-dollar regional Siri grant along with Mills, San Saba, Lampasas and Coryell counties. The Siri grant will help provide a third tower that will be shared with the previously named counties. Commissioner Clary recommended also applying as an individual county in the event an agreement on location was unable to be made. Lacy will be communicating with Central Texas Council of Government to discuss the logistics of applying both regionally and individually.**

**Law Enforcement Update:**

**Sheriff Brad Boulton updated the court in regards to personnel. Sheriff Boulton stated they will have anew Deputy starting next week and two more potential Deputies are in the background stages of the hiring process.**

**Burn Ban:**

*The Commissioners Court ratified the Order terminating the Burn ban for Precincts One and Three by a 4-0 vote. Commissioner Wagner made the motion followed by Commissioner Ogle seconding the motion. The Burn Ban was terminated on February 17, 2026.*

*The Commissioners discussed the dry conditions and the excess of tinder throughout the County and voted to reinstate the Burn Ban. Commissioner Clary made the motion followed by Commissioner Curry seconding the motion. The Commissioners issued a Burn Ban for the entire County with a 4-0 vote, Judge Yates abstained.*

*The Court ratified Hunter Generator Service, LLC for the maintenance of the generators with a 4-0 vote, Judge Yates abstained. Commissioner Clary made the motion followed by Commissioner Wagner seconding the motion. Hunter Generator Services, LLC will provide the preventative maintenance on the Hico and Hamilton tower generators as well as the Generac for an annual cost of \$2,651.00. The monitoring system including the alarms that will virtually notify assigned personnel in the event of a sounding alarm or issues was quoted at \$6,200.00 with a \$39.00 monthly service fee for monitoring.*

*The Texas Water Development Board will be doing an over lay map of the County and providing it to the Commissioners Court once complete.*

*The Commissioners Court discussed the proposed contract for the Rural ambulance service grant program; HB300. Commissioner Clary pointed out there was not a termination clause in the contract and there are possible missing pages as well as many typos in the contract. The Court also discussed the need to carve out the cost of a single audit and any associated fees so the County is not financially responsible for the cost of the audit when the time comes.*

*No discussion on the Financial Workshop at this time.*

**FY 2025-2026-2027 Budget Workshop:**

- *Last budget cycle \$100,00.00 was put back to fund EWAP program and needs to be reallocated into the precinct budgets to fund the EWAP program. That money was moved out of the precincts and placed into a line item to help fund additional financial staff if needed due to the closing of the Auditors office. Commissioner Clary is suggesting those funds be reallocated to the precincts to help fund the EWAP program and ongoing FEMA repairs.*

*No discussion at this time on the Workshop for FEMA (TDEM) - DR4781 and DR4879.*

***Recess at 9:34 am until 10:00 am Wednesday, February 25, 2026.***

***Reconvene at 10:00 am for FEMA (TDEM) DR4781 and DR4879:***

***No FEMA Representatives were present during the meeting; only TDEM representatives.***

***Judge Yates called the meeting to order and then read aloud his letter to be sent to the FEMA agency.***

***\*Please see the attached letter from the Hamilton County Judge to FEMA\****

***Judge Yates turned the meeting over to Commissioner Clary. The Court discussed their concern about the request for advance funding because it states the County will only receive 75% of the total 75% of the FEMA allocations which is actually only 56% of the total cost of the projects. Commissioner Clary asked if there is a possible "work around" for this process because only receiving 56% of the total cost is unacceptable and makes it impossible to complete 100% of the work with only 56% of the funds.***

- ***TDEM suggested the County focus on the large projects and submit documentation as the work is completed in order to receive funding on completed work. The Commissioners can draw down funds as the work is completed.***
- ***TDEM is waiting on the request for reimbursement from the County to release funds on finished projects***
- ***TDEM'S proposal was to improve cash flow with what has already been allocated by FEMA***
- ***TDEM will have direct communication with FEMA as soon as they reopen. FEMA is unavailable due to the Department of Homeland Security shutdown.***
- ***Treasurer, Tonya Cox will provide specific financial documents as requested by TDEM***
- ***The Commissioners discussed various options to rework the organization of roads and projects into either large projects or small individual projects for better financial reimbursements at a more frequent rate.***
- ***Commissioner Clary questioned the options for the extension to be reset to "give back" the time FEMA has wasted over the past 22 months and hindering the County's ability to complete projects within the required time frame. TDEM rep, Kevin will ask FEMA (when DHS reopens) but he stated there is no guarantee FEMA will accept the request***

*Adjourned at 11:03 am*



Judge James Yates

Attest: Rachel Geesli  
County Clerk

