

Hamilton County Commissioner's Court

Regular Session

Tuesday, September 10, 2024

9:00 a.m.

Hamilton County Commissioner's Court met on Tuesday, September 10, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. with the following members present: County Judge James Yates, Commissioner Keith Curry, Commissioner Johnny Wagner, Commissioner Dickey Clary and Commissioner Loyd Huggins. Judge Yates called the meeting to order and a quorum was established. Commissioner Wagner led the invocation and all followed with the pledges.

9:02 am – Open the Public Hearing on the Proposed Budget for FY 2024-2025.

9:03 am – Public Comments on the Proposed Budget FY 2024-2025:

Richard Layne stated that he feels the County could save money if they put the positions back into their respective departments. The example he gave was the Communications Department moving back under the Elected Official at the Sheriff Department. Mr. Layne believes we need to send some representatives down to Austin to discuss the unfunded mandates that continue to be placed on the Texas counties which particularly hurt the smaller counties that have less funding.

Damon Chumney spoke to the Court about his concerns over the increased Tax Rate and County employees receiving a cost-of-living salary increase. Mr. Chumney believes the County is spending money on things we don not need and believes the County should be able to fund all the road maintenance and repairs, including the damages from the May flooding without receiving assistance from FEMA. Mr. Chumney stated that he doesn't feel that the elected officials should receive pay raises for a job "not well done". Mr. Chumney suggested that the salary increases be removed and the money be put into the infrastructure. He also stated that he feels the County is turning into a "Socialism Employment Agency".

9:35 am – Close the Public Hearing on the Proposed Budget for FY 2024-2025.

9:35 am – Open the Public Hearing on the Proposed Tax Rate FY 2024-2025.

9:36 am – Public Comments on the Proposed Tax Rate FY 2024-2025.

Damon Chumney asked the Court how much money will the increase in the proposed tax rate generate. The Court responded with \$233,000.00 will be collected with the increased proposed Tax Rate. Mr. Chumney feels that the County has a "designated spending issue". He suggested again to remove salary increases and put the money into the precincts.

9:38 am – Close the Public Hearing on the Proposed Tax Rate for FY 2024-2025.

Record Vote on the Proposed Tax rate of .4300 for FY 2024-2025

Judge Yates – YES
Commissioner Wagner – YES
Commissioner Curry – YES
Commissioner Huggins – YES
Commissioner Clary – YES

Budget Adjustments:

- \$1,200.00 from 010-561-4590, Service Contracts to 010-560-4050, Personnel Cost pre-evaluation in the Sheriff's Department.
- \$400.00 from 021-612-3600, Contract Services, to 021-612-3360, Uniforms for Uniform Expenses.
- \$1,000.00 from 010-561-4500, Equipment Repair and maintenance to 010-560-4540, Vehicle Repair for the Sheriff's Department Uniform expenses.
- \$1,500.00 from 010-560-4010, Investigation; \$6,000.00 from 010-560-4640, Repairs and Maintenance; \$1,200.00 from 010-560-4820, Auto Insurance; totaling \$8,700.00 into 010-560-3300, Fuel and Oil for Fuel Fleet Expense.
- \$2,000.00 from 023-614-3600, Contract Services to 023-614-3300, Fuel and Oil for Precinct 3.
- \$650.00 from 010-409-5720, Contingency to 010-562-1200, FEMA Salary for \$400.00; 010-562-2010, FICA for \$100.00; 010-562-2030, County retirement for \$150.00
- \$400.00 from 010-495-1010, Auditor to 0110-495-1160, FEMA Salary for the Auditors FEMA Salary Supplement.
- \$2,050.00 from Contingency to 010-400-1200, FEMA Salary for \$1,550.00; \$200.00 to 010-400-2010, FICA taxes, \$300.00 to 010-400-2030, County Retirement for the Judges Administrative Assistants FEMA Expense FY 2024.
- \$200.00 from 010-455-4510, Rental Equipment to 010-455-4250, Schools and Conferences for the JP's Office training and conference.
- \$500.00 from 023-614-4050, Personnel Cost to 023-614-4260, Milage Reimbursement for CDL training in Precinct 3.
- \$1,500.00 from 022-613-1520, Road Hand 2 to 022-613-1090, Temporary Employee for Precinct 2.

Commissioner Clary made a motion to approve the Budget Adjustments (L.I.T.) and Commissioner Curry seconded the motion. The Commissioners Court approved the Budget Adjustments (L.I.T.) with a 4-0 vote, Judge Yates abstained.

The Court considered the following Consent Agenda:

- a. Approve the Minutes from August 13, 2024; August 21, 2024; August 27, 2024 and August 29, 2024.*
- b. Approve Departmental Reports*
- c. Expense Register in the amount of \$115,619.66*
- d. In-Between bills in the amount of \$12,037.71*
- e. Payroll in the amount of \$67,602.95*
- f. Continuing Education – Tuwana Quigg – JP’s Office*
- g. Culvert Applications – CR 601, 604, 612, 617, 620 in Precinct 1 and CR 604 – Precinct 4 – in association with Bahai Pipeline LLC.*
- h. No Building and Use requests*
- i. No Bonds*

Commissioner Huggins made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented and Commissioner Curry seconded the motion. The Commissioners Court approved the Consent Agenda as presented by a 4-0 vote; Judge Yates abstained.

Hamilton County Personnel Update:

New Hire – Carl Musick; Precinct 1 Road Hand – September 3, 2024

Resignation – Brandon Wright; Sheriff’s Department – September 6, 2024

Position Changes –

Hollie Whitten (Communications) – Part time to Full Time

Ed Hood (Sheriff’s Dept.) – Captain to Chief Deputy

John Donahoo (Sheriff’s Dept.) – Deputy to Captain

There was no Treasurer’s Report or Investment Report provided at this time.

Lacy Alexander provided the update for the Communications Department stating that the calls for service are averaging 1600 per month. Central Texas Council of Government will be pulling Hamilton Counties call logs in order to see if we qualify for a third Vesta phone system. Lacy also stated that the generator at the Hamilton location has serviced and she has received a quote for the minor repairs needed.

The Court ratified the Order terminating the Burn Ban. Commissioner Clary made the motion and Commissioner Huggins seconded the motion and the Court terminated the Burn Ban with a vote of 4-0; Judge Yates abstained.

Discussion on the Bahai Pipeline LLC project

The Court discussed the installation of a new pipeline to be installed through southern Hamilton County with a representative from Bahai Pipeline LLC. The Court was told that all excavations will be on private property, not on County ROW. The construction should start in November or December and access to the pipeline construction path from county road entrances should last approximately 12 months.

Commissioner Clary questioned if the Contractors used to install the pipeline would continue working when weather conditions make the county roads soft or would stop working if a commissioner requested a stoppage to prevent the roads from being damaged due to inclement weather. The Bahai Pipeline representative stated that there should be a conversation about the condition of county roads prior to construction and Tony would contact a commissioner one week before each project begins.

Lacy Alexander and Sheriff Elect, Brad Boulton are communicating with Kologik SaaS Solutions representatives in order to get a prorated amount for the contract renewal. Commissioner Huggins suggested all information and numbers be provided to the Court before any action taken.

The County Clerk's office provided a list of names to be Appointed as the Central Count Station members for the November 5, 2024 General Election. Commissioner Huggins made a motion to approve the names provided and Commissioner Curry seconded the motion. The Commissioners Court approved the Central Count Station members by a 4-0 vote; Judge yates abstained.

The Commissioners Court voted on the approval of the 2024-2025 Holiday schedule. Commissioner Huggins made a motion followed by Commissioner Curry. The Commissioners Court approved the 2024-2025 Holiday schedule with a 4-0 vote; Judge Yates abstained.

No discussion on the Law Enforcement, personnel budge at this time.

Commissioner Clary commended Lacy Alexander for all of the many revisions and work done on the Damage Inventory.


10:17 Recess

10:25 Reconvene

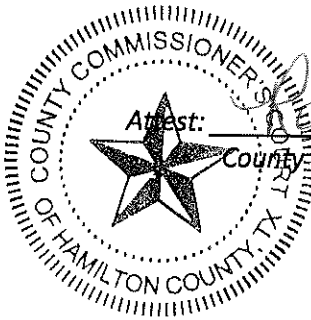
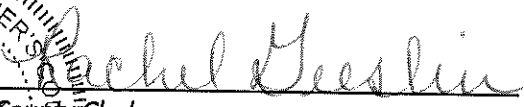
FY 2024-2025 Budget Workshop:

The Commissioners Court reviewed the Proposed Budget line by line, highlighting any changes that would need to be made before the final Adopted Budget.

Adjourned at 10:45 am



Judge James Yates


Attest: 

County Clerk