

Hamilton County Commissioner's Court

Regular Session

Tuesday, July 23, 2024

9:00 a.m.

Hamilton County Commissioner's Court met on Tuesday, July 23, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. with the following members present: County Judge James Yates, Commissioner Keith Curry, Commissioner Dickey Clary and Commissioner Loyd Huggins. Judge Yates called the meeting to order and a quorum was established. Commissioner Clary led the invocation and all followed with the pledges.

Open Comments:

PJ Jones spoke in support of the Hamilton Public Library asking for the Commissioners Court to consider increasing the financial support back to \$20,000 as it was in previous years instead of the \$3,000.00 provided in the FY2023-2024 budget. Ms. Jones also expressed to the Court that as a Hamilton County tax payer for multiple properties she would be more than happy for her taxes to increase in order to assist the funding for the Hamilton County Library.

Renee French also spoke on behalf of the Hamilton County Public Library expressing her willingness to accept a tax increase in order to help increase the funding the library receives. Ms. French stated that if the Commissioners Court increased their contribution from \$10,000.00 to \$20,000.00 in would only cost each tax payer an extra \$2.00 per year.

Diana Freeman addressed the Commissioners Court expressing the impact that the Hamilton Public Library has on the County as a whole. Ms. Freeman spoke about the economic benefit the library provides stating that people come from outside Hamilton to use the library facilities and then proceed to visit local business and restaurants. Ms. Freeman also stated that because of the multiple programs and activities at the Hamilton Public Library that it provides enrichment and assistance to Hamilton County residents.

Wesley Overmeier spoke to the Court in regards to a petition that is currently being circulated for the Unit system to be added to the November Ballot to be voted on. Mr. Overmeier does not believe that the unit system is favorable for Hamilton County because of the overall cost as well as it eliminating current employment opportunities. Mr. Overmeier also told the Court how much he appreciates their hard work during this difficult time.

Maria Weaver provided an update on the Community Center saying last month they served 1,403 meals averaging 100 meals a day. The Community Center did a little reconstructing on their processes and now the home delivered meals are only for 60 years and older or people with disabilities. The reconstructing of their process has greatly helped in the

workload for the volunteer drivers delivering the meals to those in need. Ms. Weaver stated that 75% of the Community Centers operating budget is via donations and the other 25% is provided by the City of Hamilton and the County of Hamilton.

There were multiple Budget Adjustments (L.I.T.) to consider:

- *\$20,000.00 from 023-614-5720, Contingency to 023-614-3500, Road Materials (\$10,000.00) and 023-614-3600, Contract Services (\$10,000.00)*
- *\$200.00 from 010-450-3100, Supplies to 010-450-4250, Schools & Conferences for District Clerk training expense.*
- *\$2,000.00 from 010-409-5720, Contingency to 010-560-4400, Electricity for the payment to the Sheriff's Department for the electricity consumed due to the Communications Department Towers.*
- *\$2,000.00 from 010-409-5720, Contingency to 010-409-3110, Postage for Postage needs.*
- *\$81,670.00 from 022-613-5720, Contingency to 022-613-3500, Road Materials and Supplies for the road repair caused by May flooding (DR4781)*
- *\$3,500.00 from 010-409-5720, Contingency to 010-409-4010, Audit for the first payment for auditing services.*

Commissioner Huggins 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 3-0 vote, judge Yates abstained.

The Court considered the following Consent Agenda:

- a. *Approve the Minutes from July 9, 2024, July 15, 2024, July 16, 2024 and July 17, 2024*
- b. *Approve Departmental Reports*
- c. *Expense Register in the amount of \$93,391.76*
- d. *Payroll in the amount of \$69,674.43*
- e. *Certificates of Continuing Education for Commissioner Huggins and Commissioner Curry*
- f. *Culvert Application for Barry Tipton in Precinct #3*
- g. *No Building & Use Requests to consider*
- h. *No Bonds to consider*

Commissioner Clary made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented and Commissioner Huggins seconded the motion. The Commissioners Court approved the Consent Agenda with a 3-0 vote, Judge Yates abstained.

Hamilton County Personnel Update:

- *Deputy Sixto Rocha, Sheriff's Department – Resignation*
- *Assistant Auditor Janie Stanosch to Auditor.*

There was no Treasurer's Report provided at this time.

There was not an Investment Report provided at this time.

Hamilton County Facilities Update provided that a claim has been filed in regards to the Mold damage in the County Clerk's basement. The adjustor should be assessing the damages later this week.

There was not a Communications Update provided.

There was no discussion on the Burn Ban at this time.

The Commissioners Court opened the only sealed bid received for HC2024-04, Repairs on the Low Water Crossing on CR 402. Gary Sparks Construction provided a bid in the amount of \$19,695.00. Commissioner Curry made a motion to accept the bid and Commissioner Huggins seconded the motion. The Commissioners Court accepted the bid from Gary Sparks Construction with a 3-0 vote, Judge Yates abstained.

There were no updates or discussion on the Law Enforcement Contract at this time.

Nancy Diaz with the Hamilton Public Library introduced Stacey Moore to the Court. Stacey Moore is the Genealogy Supervisor and the Tech "Guru" for the library. Mrs. Diaz spoke on the importance of the Hamilton Public Library and reminded the Court of the need for their financial support during this budgeting process. The Hamilton Public Library did not present their budget nor did they provide the Financial Statements at this time.

FEMA talks began at 9:35 am

Commissioner Huggins will be submitting three of his completed projects next week. The three projects cost between \$30,000.00 and \$35,000.00 after completion. Commissioner Huggins asked Judge Yates when the completed project submission actually gets sent to FEMA. Judge Yates has received two separate answers in regards to the reimbursement of these completed projects. Judge yates will be reaching out to Mike Bell (FEMA) and to TDEM to get clarification on return payments.

FEMA talks ended at 9:42 am



Discussion on the FY2024-2025 Budget Workshop:

- *Judge Yates updated the Court that the Hamilton County Appraisal District should be submitting their numbers by Thursday, July 25, 2024.*
- *Commissioner Huggins and Commissioner Clary have done some preliminary research on the procurement of a Law Enforcement truck.*

Adjourned at 9:44 am.



Judge James Yates


Attest


County Clerk