

Hamilton County Commissioner's Court

Public Hearing on Proposed Budget

Budget Workshop

September 1, 2017

9:00 A.M.



Hamilton County Commissioner's Court met in a Budget Workshop on Friday, September 1, 2017 @ 9:00 A.M. with the following members present: County Judge Mark Tynes, Commissioners Johnny Wagner, Keith Allen Curry, Lloyd Huggins and Dickie Clary.

The meeting was called to order and a quorum was established.

The purpose of this hearing was a public hearing on the proposed budget.

Tynes opened the floor for the public to speak.

Damon Chumney mentioned some of his concerns including the \$1,500.00 salary supplement for the County Judge, debt service principle, contingency, the extra person budgeted for the District Clerk's office, Justice of the Peace full time employee, software maintenance, building liability insurance on the courthouse vs. the annex, new employee at the Sheriff's office, investigation increase, phones increase, all utilities being moved to the Sheriff's office and out of the jail, prisoner transfer and housing, records management in the County Clerk's budget increase, Court Reporter in district court and money budgeted for the Constable Pct. 3's schools and conferences when there is no longer a position there. When Chumney was finished speaking he thanked the court for the opportunity to speak.

Richard Layne also stood up and thanked the court for the opportunity to speak. He said the Mr. Chumney pretty much spoke on every topic that he was going to speak about. He did though want the court to know how much he disagrees with the contingency. He said that it allowed the court to make changes to the budget without notification to the public and he just couldn't agree with that. He did commend the court on the job well done with the budgeting they are doing.

The court wanted Layne to know that it would take 3 people from the court from the court to have anything taken out of the contingency.

Mr. Layne wanted to thank all the court for their new approach with the transparency of the budget. He commended the court for that.

A motion was made by Huggins and seconded by Curry to approve the proposed tax rate at .5605. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Clary and seconded by Huggins to approve salaries and expensed for elected officials for FY2018. The motion carried unanimously.

Tynes also wanted to confirm with the court the FY2018 budget schedule. That the first public hearing was going to be on September 12, 2017 @ 9:00 A.M., the second public hearing will be September 15, 2017 @ 9:00 A.M. and the adoption of the budget will be September 19, 2017 @ 9:00 A.M.

Tynes recessed the court at 10:05 A.M. for ten minutes.

The called the court back to order @ 10:15 A.M. for a budget workshop.

Huggins mentioned that the jail staff was now down to 5 people which are a skeleton crew. He thought that the court should seriously consider the court adding one more dispatch position and raising the Jail Administrator a few dollars in order to make that an exempt position.

Clary expressed his concerns over the money from taxes that we have not received yet, but that we had already allocated that money to future expenses and his concern being about the county never getting the money.

Reeves and Tynes stated that they are still working on getting numbers from the appraisal district. They have delinquent tax dollars of about \$128,000.00. They have currently requested a detailed report on this amount. Reeves said that hopefully by the end of the day he would get the report.

Reeves said that possibly they could have allocated it to another entity for example, but that we would not know exactly what is going on until we get this report.

Clary expressed some more of his concerns and asked the court to give serious consideration to these numbers. He said that we need to get these numbers shored up and plug them in before he can support this budget or at least parts of it.

Tynes requested that Clary look at the history data.

Clary stated that his preferred method of budgeting is to play it safe.

Tynes asked the court when they would like to start voting on some of the things brought before the court. The court preferred to wait until Tuesday, September 5, 2017 during the budget workshop. The three things they would vote on would be:

- 1) Proposals on the way to spend/budget the excess \$80,000.00 in the Justice of the Peace budget
- 2) Contingency
- 3) Extra dispatcher

Clary asked the court if anyone had done a sweep with the excess funds left over from this year? He questioned if we could use that for the \$80,000.00 debt services?

Tynes adjourned the court at 11:10 A.M.

W. Mark Tynes

County Judge

Kiesha F. Bagwell

County Clerk