

Hamilton County Commissioner's Court

Regular Session

Tuesday, September 9, 2025

9:00 a.m.

Hamilton County Commissioner's Court met on Tuesday, September 9, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. with the following members present: County Judge James Yates, Commissioners Johnny Wagner, David Ogle, Keith Curry and Dickie Clary. Judge Yates called the meeting to order and a quorum was established. Judge Yates led the invocation and all followed with the pledges.

Open Comments:

Damon Chumney began reviewing the Budget to the Commissioners Court and asking questions. Commissioner Clary politely stopped him and explained that the Court can not answer his questions during this time of open comments agenda item and advised him to wait until the public comments for the budget opened so that the Court could respond and provide feedback to his questions.

Open the Public Hearing on the Proposed Budget for FY 2025-2026.

9:19 am -Open Public Comments on the Proposed Budget for FY 2025-2026:

Damon Chumney reviewed multiple line items within the proposed budget, questioning the allocations of certain funds. Mr. Chumney disapproves of the annual 3% cost of living salary increases as well as having contingency in the budget. Mr. Chumney believes monies can be cut from other areas in order to present a balanced budget.

Richard Layne addressed the Court with gratitude on how well the Commissioners Court, Debbie, Lacy, Judge Yates and all others that are involved with the two FEMA disaster events. Mr. Layne commended the Commissioners for getting the roads open and pieced together with little to no funds. Mr. Layne feels that this years proposed budget had to be heavily manipulated in order to keep cash flowing while the County waits on the FEMA reimbursements.

9:51 am – Close the Public Comments on the Proposed Budget for FY 2025-2026.

9:52 am – Open the Public Hearing on the Proposed Maintenance and Operating Tax Rate of \$.3930 for FY 2025-2026.

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Damon Chumney inquired about the increase in the tax rate. The Commissioners Court explained to him that \$.0210 is a temporary tax rate that is helping pay the Towers project loan payment. Once the Towers have been paid off that small tax rate will go away.

9:55 am – Close the Public Comments on the Proposed Maintenance and Operating Tax Rate of \$.3930 for FY 2025-2026.

9:55 am – Open the Public Hearing on the Proposed Debt Service Tax Rate of \$.0210 for FY 2025-2026.

9:56 am – Open Public Comments on the Proposed Debt Service Tax Rate for FY 2025-2026.

Mr. Chumney stated that it appears the County has enough money in Reserves to pay for the Tower Project out of reserves instead of a loan. Judge Yates explained to Mr. Chumney that the Court does not agree with drawing down the Reserves so low because of possible disasters and the unknowns. It is in the best interest of the County to have a “nest egg” in order to keep daily operations functioning in the event of another natural disaster like Hamilton has faced the past 18 months.

10:00 am – Close the Public Comments on the Proposed Debt Service Rate of \$.0210 for FY 2025-2026.

Recess at 10:01 am

Reconvene at 10:11 am

Budget Adjustments (L.I.T.):

- *\$420.35 from 010-409-3110, Postage to 010-409-3100, Supplies; to replenish supply GL.*
- *\$2,782.00 from 010-409-3110, Postage to 010-409-4060, Appraisal District; to replenish Appraisal District GL.*
- *\$2,000.00 from 043-455-5700, Capital to 043-455-4000, Service Charge; to replenish Service Charge GL.*
- *\$994.63 from 022-613-4250, Schools & Conferences, \$1,000.00 from 022-613-3360, Uniforms, \$1,000.00 from Road Materials totaling \$2,994.63 going to 022-613-4500 R&M Equipment for Equipment supplies and parts in Precinct 2.*
- *\$5,000.00 from 022-613-3300, Fuel & Oil to 022-613-4500, R&M Equipment for Equipment parts and supplies for Precinct 2.*
- *\$650.00 from 010-560-2050, Clothing to 010-560-4050, Personal and \$1,000.00 from 010-560-2050, clothing to 010-560-4540, Vehicle repair to the Sheriff's Department; short on funds.*
- *\$139.35 from 010-400-4260, Reimbursement Mileage to 010-400-4250, Schools & Conferences to pay for TAC 2025 conference for County Judge.*

- **\$167.87 from 010-497-4250, Schools & Conferences to 010-497-3100, Supplies for the overage on paper printing allotment (Ricoh) in the Treasurer's Office.**
- **\$2,200.00 from 010-409-3110, Postage to 010-409-4800, Insurance Bond to replenish the Bond GL; Auditors Office.**

Commissioner Curry made a motion to approve the Budget Adjustments (L.I.T.) as presented and Commissioner Ogle seconded the motion. The Commissioner's Court approved the Budget Adjustments (L.I.T.) with a 4-0 vote and Judge Yates abstained.

The Court considered the following Agenda:

- **Approved the Minutes from August 12th, August 13th, August 15th, August 18th, August 26th, August 27th and September 2, 2025.**
- **Approved Departmental Reports**
- **Expense Register in the amount of \$169,776.12**
- **Payroll in the amount of \$84,549.10**
- **No Culvert Applications to approve**
- **Building and Use Requests – Sheriff's Department requesting the Courthouse lawn and parking lot for National Night Out to be held on October 7, 2025 from 5:00 pm-8:00 pm**

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

Hamilton County Personnel Update:

New Hire:

David DeLeon, Precinct 1 – Part Time Temporary

Resignations/Terminations:

Jannie Stanosch, Auditor (September 30, 2025)

Kimberly Kaczmarczyk, Assistant Auditor (September 30, 2025)

James Lively, Justice of the Peace (October 31, 2025)

Position Changes:

Lance Christian, Deputy to Sergeant

No Hamilton County Treasurer's Report at this time.

No Hamilto County Investment Report at this time.

No Hamilton County Infrastructure update at this time.

Communications Department Update:

Lacy Alexander stated that August was the highest call volume since 2020 which is when the calls started being tracked. August 2025 the Communications Department received 3,2334 calls. Non-Emergency calls totaled 1,058 and 911 calls totaled 407. The department is answering the 911 calls in five seconds or less.

Law Enforcement Update:

Ron Schmidt provided the update to the Commissioners Court. The agency had 119 reports written in the month of August. Booked in 22 inmates (15 male, 7 female). Out of those individuals there were 14 Felony charges and 16 Misdemeanor charges. Conducted a total of 149 stops outside of Hamilton City limits resulting in 61 citations, 74 violations were cited for fines and 109 warnings issued. There were 117 traffic stops within the Hamilton City limits, resulting in 39 written citations where 46 violations were cited for fines and 105 warnings were issued. The department provided 12 hours of Bailiff duties between three courts. 24 Civil Process requests which tool 25 attempts to complete. The office answered 35 open records requests resulting in \$24.00 revenue for August. The Hamilton County Sheriff's Department responded to 1,058 calls from dispatch. Prisoner transports totaled 27 times in August. The department seized approximately 59.34 ounces of Marijuana, 127.9 ounces of THC wax and 269.22 grams of Methamphetamines.

No discussion on the Burn Ban at this time.

The Court discussed the need to approve a letter to District Judge Shaun Carpenter in regards to not pursuing the appointment of a County Auditor at this time. Commissioner Clary made a motion to approve the letter followed by Commissioner Curry seconding the motion. The Commissioners Court approved the letter to District Judge Shaun Carpenter with a 4-0 vote, Judge Yates abstained.

Hamilton County Outside Audit Update:

Phil with Vaughn and Armstrong will be attending the first Commissioners Court scheduled for October 14, 2025 to present the Audit to the Court.

Judge Yates asked the Commissioners Court if they had any last-minute changes to the budget. This is the last time the Commissioners will be able to make any changes in the

proposed budget that it considers warranted by law and required in the best interest of taxpayers. The Commissioners had no changes.

Commissioner Clary made a motion to adopt the Budget for FY 2025-2026; Commissioner Curry seconded the motion. The record vote is as follows:

Record Vote to Adopt the Budget for FY 2025-2026:

Judge Yates – No

Commissioner Clary – Yes

Commissioner Ogle – Yes

Commissioner Curry – Yes

Commissioner Wagner – Yes

Commissioner Wagner made a motion to adopt the Tax Rate for Maintenance and Operation and the Tax Rate for Debt Services, Commissioner Clary seconded the motion and the recorded vote is as follows:

Record Vote to Adopt Tax Rate for Maintenance and Operation of .4020 and Tax rate for Debt Services of .021 for a total Tax rate of .4230 for FY 2025-2026:

Judge Yates – Yes

Commissioner Clary – Yes

Commissioner Ogle – Yes

Commissioner Curry – Yes

Commissioner Wagner – Yes

Recess at 10:37 am

Reconvene at 1:00 pm

FEMA

Commissioner Clary led the FEMA workshop once the Court reconvened. Precinct three road inspections were completed last week. Two additional roads will need to be added to the damage inventory. One road from Precinct One and another road in Precinct Four. After the two additional roads are added to the damage inventory Brandy will compare both

damage inventories to check for accuracy and possible over lapping roads from the previous disaster. The Court has agreed for FEMA to provide the cost estimates and to keep each road as a small project in order to expedite the reimbursement process. Commissioner Ogle will still need to create his own cost estimate to include the labor, subcontracting of any services, equipment usage and/or rental as well as other documentation for each road. FEMA will calculate the cubic yardage of material needed to make the road repairs. Debbie Rudolph requested for the Commissioners to provide all work and documentation that has not yet been submitted from June 1st to present day.

No discussion on the Hamiton County Tower project at this time.

Adjourned at 1:42 pm.



Judge James Yates

Attest: 

County Clerk

