

Hamilton County Commissioner's Court

Regular Session

Tuesday, April 26, 2022

9:00 a.m.

Hamilton County Commissioner's Court met on Tuesday, April 26, 2022, at 9:00 a.m. with the following members present: County Judge Mark Tynes, Commissioners Johnny Wagner, Keith Curry, Lloyd Huggins and Dickie Clary. Tynes called the meeting to order and a quorum was established. Wagner led the invocation and Tynes followed with the pledges.

Tynes updated the Court on the continued progress of CFO Kent Reeves's healing.

Leon New inquired into obtaining a county report on underground water decline.

There were no budget adjustments.

The Court considered the following consent agenda:

- A. Minutes from previous Commissioner's Court meetings**
- B. Approve Departmental reports**
- C. Approve bills in the amount of \$104,052.20; payroll in the amount of \$75,260.23; in-between bills of \$864.46; Precinct 4 purchase in the amount of \$89,995.00**
- D. Certificates of continuing education – Linda Goodwin**
- E. Application(s) for Culvert – Precinct 3; Larry Renfro, Brian Cook**
- F. Building and Use Request – None**
- G. Bonds/Deputations – Holly Bailey, Susan Halpin bonds**

Clary made a motion to approve the consent agenda and Huggins seconded. The Court approved the consent agenda unanimously.

Christoff Brand of Precinct 4 resigned effective April 13, 2022.

The Treasurer's Report will be presented at the next meeting of the Court.

Patrick Wagner of Middle Trinity Groundwater Conservation District spoke to the Court on the benefits of a water district. The Commissioners asked Mr. Wagner to speak in response to many questions they had received concerning proliferation of water well drilling in Hamilton County. The water district would monitor wells, permit

wells, offer water quality testing, plug wells, and educate. Their goal is to preserve and protect ground water and to offer regulations on well spacing. Middle Trinity is tax-based funding rather than fee-based.

Huggins offered the Resolution from Government Capital to finance the purchase of the drum roller for Precinct 3. Huggins made the motion to approve the Resolution to finance the equipment, Clary seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Donald Kelm of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension gave his annual report to the Court regarding his organization. He thanked the Court for their continued cooperation and support.

Huggins presented the Court with a spreadsheet of the project status of the Emergency Communications system, including the status of the ARPA funds.

Emergency Communications department had requested a capital purchase in the amount of \$5,079.30 for three chairs. Huggins made the motion to approve the purchase of the three chairs, Curry seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Huggins reported that Hico Police Department asked to purchase three surplus vehicles from the County at a price of \$1,000.00 per vehicle. HPD will replace the graphics on the vehicles. Corbitt Automotive will begin decommissioning the other surplus vehicles at the rate of \$100.00/hour. County Attorney Henkes drafted an Interlocal Agreement for the sale of the three vehicles to the Hico Police Department. Huggins made the motion to approve the Interlocal Agreement, Clary seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

The Court then addressed the FY2021-2022 budget and the options for financing the balance of the two communications towers. Vince Viaille of Specialized Public Finance Inc. spoke to the Court with financing options including Tax Notes and Certificates of Obligation. There is a contingent-fee cost to initiating these options, as well as a special tax to be imposed on the taxpayers for the duration of the financing. Tynes offered his suggestion of paying for the balance from current County reserves. This has the advantage of relieving the taxpayers of an interest payment or tax. There are funds available in the County reserve account to pay the balance without depleting those reserves significantly. Huggins made the motion to issue two purchase orders for the Hamilton and Hico communications towers, with financing options to be considered later. Clary seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Huggins brought up the question of using approximately \$227,000 of the ARPA funds for mobile and portable radios for the nine volunteer fire departments. Huggins made the motion to use approximately \$227,000 of available ARPA funds to purchase radios for the nine volunteer fire departments in Hamilton County. Clary seconded. After discussion of a plan to offer the radios to the fire departments, it was agreed that

Huggins would reach out to the nine departments to determine which units they would like to receive. The Court voted unanimously to approve the motion.

The Court adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

[Handwritten signature]

County Judge

Attest: *[Handwritten signature]*
County Clerk

