

Hamilton County Commissioner's Court

Regular Session

Tuesday, July 26, 2022

9:00 a.m.

Hamilton County Commissioner's Court met on Tuesday, July 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. Clary led the invocation and Tynes followed with the pledges.

There were no budget adjustments to consider.

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 \$51,185.99; in-between bills in the amount of \$815.18**
- D. Certificates of continuing education - Randall Whiddon, April Phillips, Victoria Hazlewood, Keith Curry, Lloyd Huggins**
- E. Application(s) for Culvert - None**
- F. Building and Use Request - None**
- G. Bonds - Rodney Finch, Stephanie Guthrie, Jason Hume, Lisa Keeping, Rachel Lamb, Tuwana Quigg, Joy Stephens; Deputations - Quinten Sells**

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

Misty Darby was rehired in Dispatch, effective 7/13/22.

There were no issues to report concerning Hamilton County facilities.

The Court certified receipt of \$1,536.00 as surplus distribution from TAC Health & Employees Benefit Pool, FY2022.

The Court took no action on whether to participate in the Healthy County Specific Incentive program for 2022-2023.

August 19, 2022, is the deadline for the AgriLife Extension Service request for a Feral Hog Grant. The Court took no action at this time.

Huggins reported that the deadline for all employees with access to County computer terminals to complete Cybersecurity training is August 31, 2022.

Curry reported that his precinct no longer used his excavator. Curry made a motion to sell Precinct 2 Kabelco 150 excavator as surplus. Huggins seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

The Court will keep the current burn ban in effect.

Lacy Alexander updated the Court on the Emergency Communications project. There is a one-year warranty from Motorola on the towers. They are waiting on the arrival of the generator, and a reimbursement has been requested for the workstations.

Tynes reported that \$600,000.00 had been moved from the general fund into an interest-bearing account. Tynes also reported that he had turned the Dodge Ram truck which had been assigned to him over to the County. He then suggested the truck be assigned to Lacy Alexander as Emergency Communications Manager. Huggins made the motion to assign the Dodge Ram truck to Lacy Alexander, Clary seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

The County had received funds from the sale of several surplus vehicles from the Sheriff's Department. More funds are expected from further sales.

The County received a quote of \$1,100.00 to repair the clocks on top of the Courthouse. Huggins made the motion to accept the bid to repair the clocks, Clary seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Clary reported on the PILOT Solar Project. Collection of funds will be through the County, not the Appraisal District. ERCOT is to certify megawatt capacity which will verify funds to be received. Clary also wanted a certification as to the funds paid to the other nonprofits as a result of the tax abatement contract between the County and the project.

All requirements for the second payment of the ARPA grant have been completed and the Court is waiting on the funds.

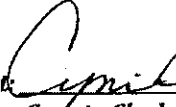
The Court then entered into a workshop on the FY2022-2023 budget. Richard Layne asked the Court to clarify the amount of proposed wage increases for elected officials. Budget issues discussed and considered:

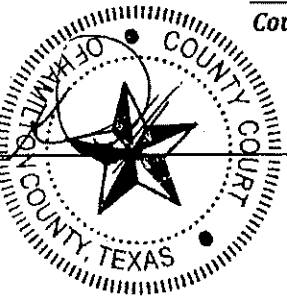
- A. Slight increase in revenue from current fiscal year to next fiscal year*
- B. County Clerk's request for additional employee*
- C. Longevity pay/retirement compensation, as well as debt principal/interest, in how to be allocated among accounts*

- D. Tax rate levy affected by: State criminal justice department shifting inmate housing expense to the counties; no funding from State; female and juvenile offender housing is a particular problem
- E. Sheriff's Department employee salaries; Sheriff requesting 16% increase to \$43,000.00; in exchange for the higher pay, the Sheriff will eliminate out-of-county commuting
- F. Increase in juvenile court probation
- G. Information received from Appraiser: 1,700 tax protests had been received; tax base of \$730 million, up from \$629 million last year
- H. Whether to use effective rate, de minimis rate, or roll-back rate.

The Court then went into closed session for the remainder of the meeting.

The Court adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Attest: 
County Clerk

 County Judge 