

Hamilton County Commissioner's Court

Regular Session

Tuesday, February 8, 2022

9:00 a.m.

Hamilton County Commissioner's Court met on Tuesday, February 8, 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. Tynes led the invocation and followed with the pledges.

There were public comments from two individuals: Alan Mathis and Rosemary Mathis. They spoke as representatives of the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature. They outlined the mission statement of the organization and asked for input on aging issues and for volunteers. The organization advocates and lobbies for seniors at the state level.

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 \$90,743.43, payroll in the amount of \$76,592.45**
- D. Certificates of continuing education – Amanda Phillips**
- E. Application(s) for Culvert – None**
- F. Building and Use Request – None**
- G. Bonds/Deputations – None**

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

Regarding personnel, Sandra Strickland of the Clerk's office resigned effective 2/4/2022, and Misty Darby moved from Dispatch to the Sheriff's Department.

The Annex sign had been delivered and the Court is preparing have someone hang it.

County Attorney Henkes presented a lease between Hamilton County and the City of Hamilton for the Park Tower land, to be signed by representatives of both entities.

Lacy Alexander spoke on the progress at EMC. The current electrical work has been accomplished and will be completed upon receipt of the three consoles and generator previously ordered.

Tynes updated the Court on SART, with names of the team members. He also included a signed Interlocal Cooperation Agreement between Lampasas, Mills, Milam, Coryell and Hamilton counties formally establishing the Adult Sexual Assault Response Team.

District Clerk, Sandy Layhew, asked the Court to increase her petty cash fund due to increased state filing fees. CFO Reeves suggested increasing the fund from \$50.00 to \$200.00, allowing the Clerk to make change for pro se filings. Tynes made the motion to increase the District Clerk petty cash fund from \$50.00 to \$200.00, Clary seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

The Court considered the three additions to the employee handbook passed at the meeting on January 25, 2022. They discussed whether it is necessary for the language inserted regarding a taxable benefit for personal use of a County vehicle because the IRS controls that issue and wording in the handbook would be redundant. Tynes made the motion to rescind the previous motion and vote which had added IRS benefit language, Clary seconded and the motion to rescind carried unanimously.

The Court then considered the language added to the employee handbook regarding passengers in County vehicles. Tynes questioned whether the language was too narrow. Clary was concerned about the County's liability for passengers. There was discussion as to whether to include passenger language or to eliminate passenger language in the handbook. The Court decided to revisit the issue at a later meeting.

The Court went on to discuss the language added to the employee handbook regarding personal use of County vehicles for employees residing out-of-county. Clary was concerned that the Sheriff's Department would deplete its fuel budget by allowing its employees to commute from another county in County vehicles. Sheriff Carraway was concerned that he would not be able to retain employees without the extra benefit of County vehicle usage. He expressed concern that salaries were not high enough to attract or retain candidates for employment. He also expressed concern that increased inflation and fuel prices contributed to the problem with the fuel budget. Huggins added that the County Budget needed transparency regarding fuel, benefits, and salaries. Tynes offered several alternatives to the problem. After heated exchange, CFO Reeves and Huggins offered to mediate with representatives of the Court and the Sheriff's Department in order to find a solution.

Jeremy Shell of BMY presented the results of the external audit for September 30, 2020. Shell found that Hamilton County is in a stable financial position.

The Sheriff updated the Court on the Enterprise Leasing vehicles for the Sheriff's Department fleet. The five vehicles are set to arrive within ten days. There are six vehicles ready for immediate disposal, however there is substantial cost to stripping the vehicles for public sale. There was discussion as to the number of vehicles needed by the Sheriff's Department on an on-going basis, and the number of vehicles which could be sold. Tynes will supply a list of vehicles to the Sheriff and a determination will be made.

Clay Mazur of Hilaco addressed the Court on his application for tax abatement, after resubmitting the applications for five properties located in Hico. Tynes announced the opening of the public hearing for the reinvestment zone for the Hilaco properties. There were no public comments and the hearing was closed. An Agreement and Resolution was introduced approving the tax abatement on improvements to the five properties. Huggins made the motion to approve the tax abatement for Hilaco, Clary seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

There was no further information on the Fire Depot/Domino Hall building adjacent to the Shell Station.

Tynes presented the TAC Risk Control Report for Hamilton County.

The Court adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Attest

Cynthia D. [Signature]
County Clerk



[Signature]
County Judge