

**Hamilton County Commissioner's Court**

**Regular Session**

**Tuesday, June 28, 2022**

**9:00 a.m.**

**Hamilton County Commissioner's Court met on Tuesday, June 28, 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 budget adjustments to consider. Huggins made the motion to approve the budget adjustments, Curry seconded and the motion passes unanimously.**

**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 \$250,839.98**
- D. Certificates of continuing education – Lacy Alexander**
- E. Application(s) for Culvert – None**
- F. Building and Use Request – Civil Associates, Inc. to use the Courtroom for meetings on 7/13/22 from 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., and on 8/10/22 from 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.**
- G. Bonds/Deputations – None**

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

**There were no Hamilton County personnel changes to report.**

**Leaks in Courthouse roof have been repaired, and other damage will be addressed and repaired after the next substantial rain. The light pole on the southwest corner of the Courthouse parking lot has been removed.**

**The District Judge issued an Order Setting Public Hearing concerning compensation for the 220<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court Reporter for 8/22/22 at 10:00 a.m. in the Courtroom.**

**The agreement between Hamilton County and Pathway Com-Tel will be continued. There is a question as to who will be responsible for moving Pathway's**

*equipment to the new tower. Lacy Alexander will get clarification from both Pathway and Motorola.*

*The Court considered the request for an Interlocal Cooperative Contract with the Department of Public Safety. DPS occupies space on the first floor of the Annex and has requested to improve their space. The Court will consider the request when it receives documentation of any potential cost to the County.*

*Funding for the Hico Communications Tower provided by Government Capital will go into effect on 7/1/22. The Court received an invoice from Government Capital for \$1,250.00 for professional services which was previously approved and will be paid.*

*The Court was asked to ratify CTCOG's naming of a private road in Precinct 1. The new private road will be named 364W in conjunction with adjacent private roads previously named. Wagner made the motion to ratify the naming of 364W, Huggins seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.*

*The Court discussed the need for a Burn Ban in the County. Huggins made the motion to Order the Burn Ban to become effective July 1, 2022. Curry seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The Order will be posted on the website.*

*Cody Lynch, seller of fireworks, addressed the Court saying that his company had voluntarily restricted its sale of fireworks to the period from July 1-4, 2022, and that further, they would not sell any fin-type fireworks in the County. The Court also considered adopting a disaster declaration for the County, but did not adopt one.*

*The Interlocal Cooperative Agreement between Hamilton County and Burnet County for jail services was not ready for signature and will therefore be considered at the next meeting.*

*Richard Layne addressed the Court on his concern about the life expectancy of the new communications towers. Huggins advised that the ongoing service contract for the towers called for inspection every five years. Lacy Alexander updated the Court on the new generator for the communications system which would be ready for use on July 15, 2022, and that the radios and equipment were also installed and ready for use. She also informed the Court that calls for service in one year had increased from 980 to approximately 1,500. Clary reported that Daily-Wells agreed to lease the microwave equipment to the County, which was previously approved for purchase, rather than continue with the purchase. This will result in substantial savings for the County.*

*The Court received an invoice from Motorola in the amount of \$4,914.00 for bases and headsets, which had not been previously invoiced. Huggins made the motion to approve payment of the invoice from Motorola, Curry seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. This amount will be expensed to the ARPA grant.*

*Huggins had received a quote from Randal's Tower Tech, Inc. in the amount of \$32,000.00 to decommission and take down the communication tower at Fair Park and a quote in the amount of \$11,000.00 to decommission and take down the communication tower at the Sheriff's Department. Huggins made the motion to approve the quotes from Randal's Tower Tech, Inc. to decommission and take down both towers after installation of the new communications towers. Clary seconded and the motion passed unanimously.*

*The Court discussed the FY2021-2022 budget. There were no new capital expenses requests. Regarding the Pilot Solar Project, the County is to be paid per megawatt hour, however Clary was concerned about verification of the usage, and who would supply the numbers. Clary was also frustrated with the Appraisal District, which would not respond to his repeated questions concerning the solar project. The Appraisal District denies receiving notice of the agreement between Hamilton County and the Solar Project which provided for payment in lieu of taxes. Their lack of information, however, would not change any part of the agreement. The Court also received invoices from Motorola representing the agreed-upon 25% down payment on the two communications towers. These expenses will be included in the ARPA grant.*

*Judge Tynes read a letter to the citizens of the County concerning his use of his County-assigned vehicle. Tynes personally pays for 100% of his fuel and the County only pays for the vehicle's repairs and maintenance. To date, Tynes has used less than 25% of the budgeted amount for the County vehicle.*


*The Court then entered into a workshop on the FY2022-2023 budget. Budget issues discussed and considered:*

- A. County Clerk's request for an additional employee*
- B. The only capital expense requests had come from the Sheriff's Department*
  - 1. Two additional vehicles (Tahoe and CID vehicle)*
  - 2. Body armor*
  - 3. Shield*
  - 4. Fence at back of property*
  - 5. Security camera system at Sheriff's Department*
- C. Salary supplement for County Judge; whether new County Judge would continue magistrations*
- D. Whether vehicle assigned to County Judge would be transferred to Lacy Alexander as Emergency Management Coordinator*
- E. Cost of living increase for retirees*
- F. Increase in cost of employee benefits*
- G. Major Courthouse repairs required*
- H. Request from Sheriff's Office for school resource officer position*
- I. Huggins's proposal to restructure positions at Sheriff's Department (one elected official, one administrative assistant, eight patrol officers)*
- J. Method to calculate fuel and oil for Sheriff's Department vehicles*
- K. Watchguard service contract increase in price*

*L. Fuel budgets for precincts (increase in cost of fuel)*

*The Court is to send CFO Reeves firm numbers enabling CFO to create the first run of the proposed budget.*

*The Court adjourned at 12:00 p.m.*

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
County Judge

Attest:   
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County Clerk

