

Hamilton County Commissioner's Court

Special Session
Monday, October 1, 2013
5:30 P.M.



Hamilton County Commissioner's Court met in a Special Session at Lee Conference Center with the following members attending: County Judge Randy Mills, Commissioners Johnny Wagner, Mark Tafel and Dickie Clary. Commissioner Lloyd Huggins was absent. Others attending this meeting were Mayor Betty Jenkins, City Administrator Bill Funderburk, City Secretary Ryan Polster; Council present were Mike Collett, Beverly Gilstrap, and Holly May. Sheriff Bewley, Geri Bewley, Mark Tynes, Maria Weaver, Chief Deputy Kenneth Lovell, Deputy Justin Slone and County Clerk Debbie Rudolph.

Judge Mills called the meeting to order.

Jenkins stated that the law enforcement committee was not working well. Jenkins stated that she would like to see both entities meet during the year and talk about our issues.

Collett stated that we believe in this arrangement that it was good for the taxpayers. He continued stating that he believed that we had come full circle since 2005 and it seemed that communication has been strained. In 2005-2006 we set up the committee drafting a proposed budget to present to the court and council. The formula is a moving target. We are under contract now and good for a whole year. The city is the same as the county not enough money to do the things that we want to do. Last year the sheriff took himself out of the contract not attending the city council meetings.

Gilstrap voiced her opinion that it is the frustration because of the constant change not knowing what to expect.

Clary stated that the committee sits around the table we come out winners and it works fine until the difference of opinions begins then the court and city council needs to work out the dynamics of the problems. If both entities agree with the contract then the other dynamics come into play because the sheriff has the right and power to choose.

The formula continues to be the hang up whether it is based on per capita or cost basis; we need a transparent contract beyond anyone's ability to manipulate for personal gain. I am interested in tomorrow. I am an advocate to this program.

Mills stated that the problem is that we are meshing two types of government. A police chief is hired and a sheriff is elected to represent the people. Finding a stable funding mechanisms is the key.

Collett said we need a two to three year contract.

Mills said it doesn't protect the county.

Jenkins stated that when there was a chief of police and a sheriff there was lots of conflict. We want the sheriff and the department to work out.

Gilstrap we need to be able to stabilize our budget.

Mills added that there would probably be more fuel costs next year and there had been no salary increases for some time for the county employees, and the fleet would need to be added.

Bewley stated that the committee is the reason we have this contract and I believe that it would be a big mistake to do away with the committee. I am the largest advocate for this law enforcement contract. The court unanimously supported the contract for the people.

With all that discussed the main thought from the group was that the two entities meet quarterly to air their thoughts. Communication is the key to the success of any program.

A motion was made by Clary and seconded by Wagner to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

County Judge

Attest: _____

County Clerk