

Hamilton County Commissioner's Court

Regular Session
Monday, September 08, 2014
9:00 A.M.



Hamilton County Commissioner's Court met in Regular Session on Monday, September 08, 2014 at 9:00 A.M. with the following members present: County Judge Randy Mills, Commissioners Johnny Wagner, Lloyd Huggins and Dickie Clary. Commissioner Mark Tafel was absent.

Judge Mills called the public hearing on the proposed 2014 tax rate to order.

Damon Chumney stated that it was an unnecessary practice to raise taxes because the people sitting at the table wanted a pay increase especially when the elected officials receive more than the hourly people.

Chumney stated that he would like the court to hold the budget at the effective tax rate. He stated that he wanted to go on record as being opposed at the increase.

Huggins stated that from his prospective that there had been no raises in five years and the cost of living has gone up about 1 ½ percent per year which would be seven percent. We actually gave them back almost half of their buying power. We have to take care of our employees and officials.

At the end of this year the balance of the reserve funds will be \$1.28 million in 2014 and last year 2013 we were under \$1 million.

Clary added that it was unavoidable for the tax increase. The budgets have been cut to the point of cutting positions and services.

Mills agreed with Huggins. No one is 100% pleased but I am very satisfied with the tax rate with the changes made.

There being no more public comments the public hearing was closed.

Mills called the Regular Session to order and opened with prayer.

Billie Eller stated that if there were any questions regarding his bills in the future that he would appreciate that the questions are directed to him.

Damon Chumney stated that Huggins assumes that things are better in the county but it is not easy for others in the county to absorb the tax increase.

A motion was made by Mills and seconded by Wagner to approve a Memorandum of Understanding between The American Red Cross and Hamilton County in preparing for and responding to disasters. The motion carried unanimously. (Recorded in Commissioner's Court Papers book 49 Page 667)

A motion was made by Huggins and seconded by Clary to approve the contract between Hamilton County and Texas Health and Human Services Commission. County Clerk Debbie Rudolph stated to the court that this was the same annual contract that allowed the county access to obtain birth certificates from anywhere in the state of Texas. The motion carried unanimously. (Recorded in Commissioner's Court Papers Book 49 Page 521)

A motion was made by Clary and seconded by Huggins to approve the adoption of the debt service tax rate for Hamilton County 2014 of .0305. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Huggins and seconded by Wagner to approve the adoption of the maintenance and operations tax rate for Hamilton County 2014 of .5419 which breaks down as follows:

General Fund.....	0.4255
Precinct One0291
Precinct Two.....	.0291
Precinct Three.....	.0291
<u>Precinct Four.....</u>	<u>.0291</u>
Sub-total:5419
<u>Bonded Debt</u>	<u>.0305</u>
Total tax rate	.5724

A motion was made by Mills and seconded by Huggins to approve the total tax rate of .5724 which is composed of maintenance and operations and debt service. The motion carried unanimously. (Recorded in Commissioner's Court Papers Book 49 Page 524)

A motion was made by Mills and seconded by Clary to adopt Texas County District Retirement System (TCDRS) to maintain plan provisions for plan year 2014 at the required rate of 7.24%. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Mills and seconded by Clary to approve the second and fourth Monday of each month at 9:00 A.M. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Wagner and seconded by Clary to recess until 1:00 P.M. to allow time for Net Data to be fixed. The motion carried unanimously.

The court reconvened at 1:00 P.M.

A motion was made by Huggins and seconded by Clary to approve the following budget amendments submitted: County Jail from Bonding Insurance to Gas, Community Service/General Fund Revenue to amend the budget in Unclaimed Property Capital Credit and Economic Development, County Jail from Inmate Medical to Cable, County Judge from Non Capital Equipment to Supplies and Stationery and Equipment Rental, AgriLife from Equipment Repair and FCS Travel to Supplies, Road and Bridge, Pct. One from Fuel to Telephone and Capital Equipment, Sheriff's Office from County Retirement to Uniforms, Sheriff's Office from County Retirement to Auto and Equipment Liability, Sheriff's Office from County Retirement to Vehicle Repair, Sheriff's Office from County Retirement to Janitorial Supplies, Sheriff's Office from Certificate Pay, Deputy 3, Worker's Compensation, Telephone, Schools and Conferences, Equipment Repair, County Retirement and Oil to Capital Equipment, County Clerk from Supplies and Stationery to Equipment Rental,

County Jail from Dispatcher/Jail to Food, and County Jail from Supplies and Stationery to Janitorial Supplies. The motion carried unanimously. (Recorded in Commissioner's Court Papers Book 49 Page 445)

A motion was made by Wagner and seconded by Huggins to approve the following consent agenda:

- A. Minutes of 8-25-2014 Commissioner's Court Meeting
- B. Approve Department Reports (Recorded in Commissioner's Court Papers Book 49 Page 488)
- C. Approve bills submitted for payment \$86,754.76 –Recorded in Commissioner's Court Papers Book Page 49 Page 478)

The motion carried unanimously.

The court then discussed personnel using the debit card for purchases. County Auditor Marliessa Clark stated that this was not a good ideal when it was established; that the card has been shredded and will not be used. If the court would like a credit card policy which can be created there are two things that I want is the policy to be created and for the credit card to be used over the phone in the treasurer's office.

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

County Judge

Attest: _____

County Clerk