

Hamilton County Commissioner's Court

Regular Session
Tuesday, November 24, 2015
9:00 A.M.



Hamilton County Commissioner's Court met in Regular Session on Tuesday, November 24, 2015 at 9:00 A.M. with the following members present: County Judge Mark Tynes, Commissioners Johnny Wagner, Keith Allen Curry, Lloyd Huggins and Dickie Clary.

Tynes called the meeting to order and established that a quorum was present.

Huggins opened with prayer and Tynes led both of the pledges.

Hamilton Herald News' Maria Weaver made a public statement to be of record that she was against changing the Hamilton County Commissioner's Court from the second and fourth Monday to the second and fourth Tuesday. Weaver stated that the newspaper had covered the court meetings for years and this could delay the reporting of the courts actions a week as the paper deadline was at 10:00 A.M. on Tuesday and this placed a hardship for them to cover the court and make their deadline. She asked the court to reconsider their change.

A motion was made by Clary and seconded by Huggins to approve the request from the Hamilton Chamber of Commerce for the use of Hamilton County Courthouse parking lot, the west porch and the west lawn for the Christmas on the Square (parade and vendors) December 10, 2015. Chamber Manger Gayle Edwards was present to request permission for the use of the grounds and to address any issues the court might have. Edwards stated that they had addressed the music being too loud for offices to conduct their business stating it would not be played until 4:30 when the county offices were closed. As for as the handicap parking they were only going to block entrance to entrance allowing those needing the handicap parking available prior to closing time. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Huggins and seconded by Clary to approve a budget amendment from contingency to inmate housing in the amount of \$31,000.00. The motion carried unanimously.

Tynes noted that the minutes of November 9, 2015, Paragraph III should reflect the following change: *The court deliberated on this issue for quite a while as this would change the existing policy previously established for the use of the courthouse interior and the courthouse grounds. County Clerk acknowledged the change as directed by the court.*

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

- A. Minutes of 11-09-2015 Commissioner's Court Meeting
- B. Minutes of 11-16-2015 Commissioner's Court Meeting
- C. Approve Department Reports (Recorded in Commissioner's Court Papers Book 53 Page 292)
- D. Approve Bills Submitted for Payment: In between bills -\$2,190.86 Normal bills \$61,472.78 (Recorded in Commissioner's Court Papers Book 53 Page 280 and 282)

The motion carried unanimously.

County Auditor, Kent Reeves thanked the court for changing the commissioner's court meeting days to allow him to be more readily accessible. Reeves stated that he would have a financial update on December 8, 2015. Continuing he said that he would be emailing the departments a more detailed financial report. The website would also be updated for the Texas Transparency and that the purchase order system was going well.

A motion was made by Huggins and seconded by Clary to adopt the Credit Card Use Policy as presented. The motion carried unanimously. (Recorded in Commissioner's Court Papers Book 53 Page 333)

A motion was made by Huggins and seconded by Wagner to approve the proposal of Boucher, Morgan and Young which had been submitted for the 2015 Outside Audit and approve the execution of the engagement letter by County Auditor Kent Reeves. The auditor had received two proposals; one from Rutledge and Crain in the amount of \$23,850.00 and Boucher, Morgan and Young in the amount of \$22,100.00. Reeves recommended to the court Boucher, Morgan and Young. The motion carried unanimously. (Recorded in Commissioner's Court Papers Book 53 Page 351)

Tynes stated that he had contacted Brad Whitehead for an estimate for security fencing around the communications tower.

The court discussed the appointment of County Judge W. Mark Tynes as County Public Information Officer. After approaching this topic the court asked for the county attorney and the county auditor to discuss this at length to try and make a determination of how this needs to be addressed.

A motion was made by Wagner and seconded by Clary to ratify the acceptance of Commissioner Lloyd Huggins to serve another three year term on the Hill County Community Action Association Governing Board of Directors. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Huggins and seconded by Clary to approve the Resolution for Joint Primaries on March 1, 2016. County Clerk Debbie Rudolph explained that she had failed to also put on the agenda the date of the joint primary run off date of May 24, 2015. The clerk asked for this to be put on the next agenda for the court to ratify or approve. The motion carried unanimously. (Recorded in Commissioner's Court Papers Book 53 Page 336)

A motion was made by Wagner and seconded by Clary to approve the bond for Hamilton County Deputy Clerk Mashell Thompson. The motion carried unanimously. (Recorded in Commissioner's Court Papers Book 53 Page 366)

A motion was made by Huggins and seconded by Clary to ratify the 2016 Hamilton County Resolution Indigent Defense Grant Program. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Huggins and seconded by Curry to approve the revised Historical Hamilton County Courthouse Building and Use Policy. Changes were to require a deposit of \$1,000.00, redefined the common areas, which also removed the commissioners courtroom first floor from the common areas, established that any group requesting the use should be non-profit and be recognized as a leadership development organization. Additionally, each group requesting to use the facility should be sponsored by an elected official. Further, the facility would not be used for religious purposes. The motion carried unanimously. (Recorded in Commissioner's Court Papers Book 53 page 364)

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

County Judge

Attest: _____
County Clerk