

Hamilton County Commissioner's Court

Regular Session
Tuesday, May 10, 2016
9:00 A.M.

Hamilton County Commissioner's Court met in Regular Session on Tuesday, May 10, 2016 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.

The meeting was called to order. Huggins led the invocation and Tynes led the pledges to both the United States and Texas Flags.

Clary read a quote from John Adams one of our founding fathers.

There were no public comments.

A motion was made by Huggins and seconded by Curry to approve the line item transfer requests and budget amendment request. The motion carried by a majority vote with Tynes, Wagner, Curry and Huggins voting for and Clary against.

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

- A. Minutes of 4/26/2016 Commissioner's Court Meeting
- B. Approve Departmental Reports
- C. Approve Bills Submitted for Payment -\$47,014.48

The motion carried unanimously.

Hamilton County Auditor Kent Reeves gave his report.

Judge Tynes addressed the Texas Local Government Code, Title 4, Finances, Chapter 11 County Budget. Reminding the court that before the end of this budget year there will be a need for a budget amendment; we will be moving into the budget process which will be interesting, challenging and fun.

This budget amendment will be discussed further in our budget workshop addressing law enforcement overtime and prisoner housing.

A motion was made by Huggins and seconded by Clary to approve Boucher, Morgan and Young, a PC for the Fiscal Year Ending 2015 for outside auditing services. The court had received their engagement letter. The motion carried unanimously.

Pass on Item 12.-Adopt Hamilton County Precinct Mapping for 9-1-1 with Central Texas Council of Governments

A motion was made by Huggins and seconded by Clary to approve Precinct 3 access into John Rhody (O I Garner) and Riverside Ranch properties on CR 210 to solve drainage problems and to re-install fencing/gate as needed when work is completed.

Huggins explained that Rhody had bought a tin horn and that the county would replace it as well as cut the ditches appropriately to improve drainage to the county road. The county will tear down the gateway in the process and would like to put it back (little welding required).

Huggins continued that at Riverside Ranch on CR 210 he would like to go into the gate and cut a ditch at the correct spot to improve the drainage to the county road there too.

Clary added that one of the trues that Jim Allison has always advised is that if there is any doubt about personal property take it to the commissioner's court for it to be made transparent to the public.

Wagner added that by replacing the gate it could appear that you are doing business on his land using county equipment and funds.

Huggins added to the discussion stating that the question is does it benefit the county? I believe that if I cut the ditches the county will benefit. I am always for the interest of the taxpayer. I think it is better to work with people rather than being confrontational.

The motion carried by a majority vote with Tynes, Curry, Huggins and Clary voting for and Wagner voting against.

Tynes added that in the minutes of April 26, 2016 it was stated during the public comments that the county was being involved in the unlawful use of using the county equipment, materials, and road hands for the use on private property. The court today stands and believes that it is not involved in such behavior.

A motion was made by Clary and seconded by Huggins to approve the request from the American Legion for the use of the Hamilton County Courthouse Annex Parking Lot on May 30, 2016 from 10:00 A.M. until 1:00 P.M. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Huggins and seconded by Clary to approve the Hamilton County Commissioner's Court request Hico EDC exercise its powers as a corporation to fund an economic development project within the unincorporated portion of Hamilton County, specifically at the Bluebonnet Country Club, pursuant to Title 12, Section 501.159 POWERS CONCERNING PROJECTS JURISDICTION. The motion carried unanimously.

There was no action taken regarding the Liberty National Life Insurance.

No mention of any future agenda items.

A motion was made by Huggins and seconded by Clary to ratify the appointment of Renee French to the Child Protective Services Board of Directors. The motion carried unanimously.

The court took a short recess and then kicked off the beginning of this budget cycle with a budget workshop.

The projected timeline to file the proposed budget will be no later than July 29, 2016.

The topic of most concern to the court today was the overtime expenditures that were being experienced from the sheriff's department. Clary stated that he had talked with the sheriff and asked him to control his budget more specifically in the line items of overtime and food; the last week it appears it reduced to 37.5 hours overtime from a weekly average of 62 hours.

The court reviewed the county judge's budget.

Clary apologized but he kept moving back to the overtime issue at the sheriff's department and asked the auditor what can we do to stop it? Reeve's stated that the code/statute says that the budget has to be approved by the commissioner's court.

The court is still under the assumption that Sheriff-Elect Justin Caraway will take office on June 1, 2016 although there has been no official resignation tendered by Sheriff Gregg Bewley.

The court reviewed the county clerk's budget and looked at non-departmental; but basically kept going back to the burden at hand of the overtime being experienced.

After a long deliberation the court decided to adjourn at approximately 12:10 PM.

County Judge

Attest: _____

County Clerk