

Hamilton County Commissioner's Court



Public Hearing on Proposed Tax Rate for 2016
Public Hearing on Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year Ending 2017
Tuesday, August 30, 2016
9:00 A.M.

Hamilton County Commissioner's Court met for a Public Hearing on the Hamilton County Proposed Tax Rate for 2016 and a Public Hearing on the Hamilton County Proposed Budget for the Fiscal Year Ending 2017 with the following members present: County Judge Mark Tynes, Commissioners Johnny Wagner, Keith Allen Curry, Lloyd Huggins and Dickie Clary. Tynes left for a funeral at approximately 9:40 A.M.

Tynes called the meeting to order and explained to the court and the public that he would need to leave the meeting to serve as a pall bearer at a friend's funeral.

Tynes opened the public hearing on the Hamilton County proposed tax rate for 2016.

Richard Layne and Damon Chumney spoke against the .5805 tax rate. Renee French was also present stating that she was aware of the difficulty of preparing a budget. French stated that she had attended last week's meeting and that she was in support of the improvements that were needed. She also added that she saw that the court was thorough and thought through the decisions that they made.

Tynes closed the public hearing on the proposed tax rate.

Tynes opened the public hearing on the Hamilton County Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year Ending 2017.

The judge offered to Damon Chumney a copy of the notice which was published in the newspaper regarding the hearing for the County Auditor. Tynes continued stating that District Judge Phil Robertson held the hearing which had been posted according to law for the public to voice their objections and views of that budget. He advised Chumney that he was sure he would be welcomed to talk with Judge Robertson.

Tynes reviewed a few of the changes that the court would look at regarding the budget such as reducing the Sheriff's budget \$3174.00; General Fund Revenue amount changing from new numbers received as of 8/29/2016 from the Hamilton County Appraisal District from \$454,477,092.00 to \$458,636,688.00 which comes from the adjustable freeze tax revenue which would increase the revenue \$22,843.00. Each of the four road and bridge precinct revenues will be set at \$142,500.00. The other items from the General Fund that the court mentioned before the public comments were:

Table with 3 columns: Item ID, Description, and Amount. Includes rows for Reimbursements, JP #1 Fees, and JP #3 Fees.

The public hearing was opened for comments.

Damon Chumney went through the entire budget asking questions practically about each department which were responded to by the court.

Tynes left the meeting.

Richard Layne also asked about the (\$112,796) shortfall. He also asked about 010-339-200 Reimbursement and 010-370-100 TAC Surplus Credit line items. County Auditor Kent Reeves explained to Layne that one was a health insurance rebate and that the other was Texas Association of Counties Surplus refunds from our health insurance pool.

The dedicated funds were also discussed.

Hamilton County Tax Assessor Collector Terry Short addressed the court thanking them for not changing the county employees insurance and also thanked the court for the salary increase. Short also asked the court about the salary supplements. Although she did not begrudge any of those elected officials receiving the supplements she would also like for the court to give the same consideration for those other elected officials who did not receive them.

The court did not close the public hearing but recessed until 1:00 P.M.

The court reconvened at 1:00 P.M. still open for public comments on the proposed budget. Tynes addressed the TAC reimbursement stating that Texas Association of Counties said the check is in the mail.

The public hearing was closed.

Tynes asked the court that it is the consensus of the court that the \$99,000.00 in the jail budget in capital improvements is dedicated to jail repairs and that there will be no line item transfers from that line item later in the year should there be funds remaining.

There will be a meeting of the court on Friday, September 2, 2016 at 1:30 P.M. which will consist of a budget workshop and Justice of the Peace, Precinct 3.

The court discussed some of the dedicated funds: Courthouse Security, Courthouse-Debt Service and Court Reporter.

Clary asked for the court to revisit two items: (1) Salary Supplements and (2) Revenue in Justice of the Peace Precinct 1. The court took no further action on the salary supplements and decided to increase the JP # 1 Revenue to \$150,000.00.

The court adjourned.

County Judge

Attest: _____
County Clerk