

Hamilton County Commissioner's Court

Regular Session

Tuesday, April 28, 2026

9:00 a.m.

Hamilton County Commissioner's Court met on Tuesday, April 28, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. with the following members present: County Judge James Yates, Commissioners Johnny Wagner, Keith Curry, Dicky Clary and David Ogle. Judge Yates called the meeting to order and a quorum was established. Commissioner Wagner led the invocation and all followed with the pledges.

Open Comments:

Lucy Lee provided the reports and updates for the Community Center. Ms. Lee stated they deliver meals five days a week to roughly 85 elderly or homebound people and have 25 dedicated drivers. In addition, the Community Center serves about 15-30 dine-in meals five days a week. The Hamilton Community Center serves about twenty meals a month and volunteers donate about twelve meals and the remaining meals are purchased and prepared by members of the Community Center. Ms. Lee also provided a construction update for the new community center. The final engineering is nearing completion (foundation, structural, mechanical, electrical, and plumbing), site engineering is complete and the target date to meet with the city is early to mid-May. The new Community Center will be approximately 7,000 sq. feet with multiple meeting rooms and a half court multipurpose gym.

Budget Adjustment (L.I.T.) to consider:

- \$25,902.19 from 010-495-1030, Auditor to 010-495-1010, Auditor – no Assistant Auditor, New Finance Director (Auditor) coming in.*
- \$10,000.00 from 023-614-5720, Precinct 3 to 023-614-4500, Precinct 3 – Move from Contingency to R&M equipment repairs*
- \$250.00 from 010-409-5720, Non-Departmental Contingency to 010-409-4350, Non-Departmental refunds – release of Bonds*

Commissioner Wagner made a motion to approve the Budget Adjustments (L.I.T.) as presented and Commissioner Curry seconded the motion. The Court approved the Budget Adjustments (L.I.T.) with a 4-0 vote, Judge Yates abstained.

The Court considered the following Consent Agenda:

- a. Approve the Minutes from April 10, 2026 and April 14, 2026.*
- b. Approve Departmental Reports*
- c. Payroll in the amount of \$78,651.49*
- d. Expenses in the amount of \$73,118.32*
- e. In-Between Bills in the amount of \$985.57*
- f. Culvert Applications - Precinct 3 – CR133*
- g. Building and Use Requests –*
 - *Ratify HISD Prom Grand march on April 18, 2026*
 - *Approve Pecan Creek Outfitters for October 3, 2026 from 9:00 am – 6:00 pm for Octoberfest*
 - *St. John's Lutheran Church use of southwest corner of parking lot for their annual Mother's Day BBQ; May 7-9, 2026*
- h. No Bonds to consider*

Commissioner Clary made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented and Commissioner Ogle seconded the motion. The Court approved the Consent Agenda with a 4-0 vote, Judge Yates abstained.

Hamilton County Personnel Update:

New Hire:

William Hines – Sheriff's Department (rehire)

Resignations/Terminations – Jenny Chapman – Tax Assessor

Hamilton County Treasurer's Report:

- State Quarterly Reports have been submitted and paid*
- Bank of America is only allowing 5 days to pay the bill so the Treasurer's office will start paying this bill with an E-Check to ensure the payment is not submitted late*

No Hamilton County Investment Report at this time.

No Hamilton County Infrastructure Report at this time.

Communications Update:

- *Still short two employees but will be able to start interviews next week with potential applicants*
- *The generators are now being monitored and sending notifications to Lacy Alexander if attention is needed on one of the generators*
- *Everbridge will be replacing the Code Red system; contracts are still in negotiations*

Law Enforcement Update:

- *Sheriffs' department is only down two employees at this time*

No Financial Directors Report at this time.

No discussion on the Burn Ban at this time.

The Hamilton County Jail passed the State inspection conducted by Texas Commission on Law Enforcement with zero deficiencies.

Jay Kingston, supervisor over twenty counties for AgriLife, provided a presentation to the Court. Mr. Kinston spoke on all the achievements and programs Bruce Boyd and Christie Keay have established and successfully maintain for Hamilton County.

Judge Robinson addressed the Court in regards to a Video Magistrate Service Agreement for the Justice of the Peace, Precinct One. Zoom is no longer compliant per the Office of Court Administration and is requesting Counties to move to a video magistrate service in order to be compliant. BizProtec will be the host for the magistrate service and the cost is \$155.00 per month and can be shared with surrounding counties. The fee for the Video Magistrate Service can be paid out of the Technology Fund. Commissioner Clary made the motion followed by Commissioner Wagner seconding the motion. The Court approved the Video Magistrate Service Agreement with a 4-0 vote, Judge Yates abstained.

Hamilton County Treasurer, Tonya Cox, provided the Court with an updated list of all County accounts and signatories due to personnel changes. Commissioner Wagner made the motion followed by Commissioner Curry seconding the motion. The Commissioners Court accepted the updated banking list of accounts and signors with a 4-0 vote, Judge Yates abstained.

Commissioner Clary made a motion to ratify the letter received stating Government Capital has assigned finance contract #11025; motor grader for Precinct Four; to the Commercial Bank of Mason, Texas. Commissioner Wagner seconded the motion. The Court agreed to ratify the letter with a 4-0 vote, Judge Yates abstained.

Steve Manning addressed the Court in regards to the Fire Prevention Grant. Key points include:

- **\$10 million dollar grant**
- **Working on combining Coryell and Hamilton Counties in the grant process**
- **Next stakeholder meeting to be held May 28, 2026**
- **Blackland and Natural Resource Solutions working together on the grant**
- **Commissioner Clary made the motion followed by Commissioner Ogle seconding the motion. The Court agreed to sign the Memorandum of Understanding with a 4-0 vote, Judge Yates abstained.**

County Clerk, Rachel Geeslin, addressed the Court in regards to going “paperless” in the Real property Records. Mrs. Geeslin stated that the cost of the recording paper and recording books have more than doubled in costs over the past five years and the County Clerks office no longer has any room to store the Real Property books. Volume 675 will be the last Real Property Book printed for the County Clerks Office. Commissioner Clary made the motion followed by Commissioner Curry seconding the motion. The Court accepted the request to go “paperless” in Real Property Records with a 4-0 vote, Judge Yates abstained.

The Court discussed a landowners request to have the County grade the road in front of their property entrance if the property owner purchases and hauls the materials to their entrance on CR133. Commissioner Ogle made the motion followed by Commissioner Clary seconding the motion. Since the actual work being requested of the County is only on the County Road the motion carried with a 4-0 vote, Judge Yates abstained.

SB 3 Outdoor Warning Sirens Alert Grant:

- **Advertisement going out for bids has been put in the newspaper and will run for two weeks before Bids received will be opened.**

No discussion on the SB 5 Hamilton County/ Hamilton General Hospital Ambulance Grant.

FY 2025-2026-2027 Budget:

- **Communications Department – Due to lack of personnel retention the department will drop down to 7 full time positions and 1 part time position. The rate of pay will increase to \$39,750.00 for the seven positions and the assistant supervisor position will increase to \$42,178.74. Commissioner Clary made the motion followed by Commissioner Ogle seconding the motion. The Commissioners Court approved the position changes and payroll increases with a 4-0 vote; Judge Yates abstained.**

- **Commissioner Clary requested to have a future agenda item on the next agenda to discuss moving monies from the General Fund Reserve to the precinct Road and Bridge funds in order to continue fixing the flood damaged roads. This action will require an Emergency Declaration from the Court in the future.**

Phase II Communications Towers:

- **Towers are still on track to be completed by the projected date**
- **Microwave will be installed mid-May**
- **Antennas and guidewires will be installed June 29th – July 6th and then will be “on-air”**
- **Warranty will begin once the Towers are officially “on-air”**
- **\$65,000.00 needs to be moved out of the Transfer line and into the Tower Maintenance line**


FEMA – DR4781 and DR4879:

- **Did not approve any of the Counties requested extensions and the repetitiveness of reasons for the requested extensions**
- **Precinct Three and Precinct Four are currently under review**

Adjourned at 10:07 am



Judge James Yates

Attest: 

County Clerk

