Fulton County Fiscal Court

Regular Session

June 14, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM by Judge Jim Martin. The Pledge was led by Wade Adams and invocation given by Hugh Caldwell.

**Attendance:** Jim Martin, Hugh Caldwell, Wade Adams, Jim Paitsel, Shaun Parks, Naomi Jones, Leslie Woods, Barbara Atwill, J L Atwill, Rick Major, Alan Coffey, David Thomas, Mark Welch, Mike Gunn, April Gallimore, Derek Goodson, Kayla Mullis, Lynn Busby and Charles Choate.

**BUSINESS**

Motion made by Jim Paitsel, 2nd by Hugh Caldwell, carried by all members present to approve $22,225.00 from the general funds to help with the Alchemy project for City of Fulton, set aside the same amount for the City of Hickman, and to verify that the ARPA funds can be used for this project. This will be a partnership with the cities for Economic Development. Mike Gunn and Mark Welch addressed the Fiscal Court about a proposal for the Fiscal Court to help fund the Alchemy project for the City of Fulton. Alchemy is a data collection and plan proposal to increase the real estate in the community. Real estate is a key to increasing the Economic Development attraction to our County. The ARPA funds have language that states housing is one area the monies can be used.

**INRE: Minutes (Rec. Minute BK 2 PG 131)**

Motion made by Hugh Caldwell, 2nd by Shaun Parks, carried by all members present to approve the minutes.

**INRE: County Attorney’s Report**

Motion made by Wade Adams, 2nd by Hugh Caldwell, carried by all members present to approve the County Attorney’s excess fees, and remit them back to the County Attorney’s office. There were excess fees of $10.00 for one account and $15.00 in the other account, Rick Major has requested that those fees are returned back to his office for postage that will be used for the mailing of the 30 and 60 day delinquent tax letters.

**INRE: County Treasurer’s Report (Rec. Order BK 27 PG 517)**

Motion made by Wade Adams, 2nd by Shaun Parks, carried by all members present to approve the treasurer’s report.

**INRE: Bills**

Motion made by Hugh Caldwell, 2nd by Shaun Parks, carried by all members present to approve the bills. Jim Paitsel inquired about continuously paying late fees, for example Pioneer has a late fee, and he wants to know why we still pay this company. The copier lease was billed 5/7/21 then a late fee assessed on 5/27/21, JD Distributor was billed 5/3/21 and has a late fee, Security Bank has a late charge, with past due amount of $321.00, Energy & Environmental Cabinet of Natural Resources was billed in 11/2020, then there was a reimbursement of mileage to Leslie Woods that dates back six months. Leslie Woods stated that the Energy & Environment bill was not received, so they emailed a copy of the original bill dated 11/2020, but she just received it this month. Jim Martin stated that Security Bank is behind on posting, thus generating a late fee, but then Security Bank will credit the account the late fee since this has nothing to do with the Treasurer not paying on time.

**INRE: Transfers (Rec. Order BK 27 PG 528)**

Motion made by Wade Adams, 2nd by Hugh Caldwell, carried by all members present to approve the transfers. Hugh Caldwell asked if these transfers were just to clean up the last of the budget. Leslie Woods stated this will make the budget clean. Hugh Caldwell asked about the routine medical transfer. Leslie Woods stated these are the contracts and doctor bills, for the jail.

**INRE: Fulton County Employees (Rec. Order BK 27 PG 531)**

Motion made by Wade Adams, 2nd by Shaun Parks, carried by all members present to approve the employees.

**INRE:** **Board Appointments: Assessment Appeal Board & Transit Board**

Motion made by Hugh Caldwell, 2nd by Shaun Parks, carried by all members present to approve appointing Will Rice to the Board of Assessment of Appeals, for a three year term, effective July 1, 2021 and expiring June 30, 2024, and appointing Jessie Webb, Mike Gunn, Carol Parker & Barbara McIntee to the Transit Authority Board for a four year term effective July 1, 2021 and expiring June 30, 2025.

**INRE: Approval of HRA plan**

Motion made by Hugh Caldwell, 2nd by Jim Paitsel, carried by all members present to approve HRA plan with the amendment that the HRA plan run Jan 1st through Dec 31st retroactive to 1/1/2021. Jim Martin explained that the out of pocket anniversary dates are Jan 1st through Dec 31st of each year, and when the court approved to change the HRA plan to line up with the Courts fiscal calendar, this would cause some issues with the employees out of pocket expenses.

**INRE: AOC Agreement for Rental and Reimbursement on Courthouse (Rec. Order BK 27 PG 536)**

Motion made by Jim Paitsel, 2nd by Wade Adams to approve the AOC rental and reimbursement for use of the Courthouse. Jim Martin stated the lease is $21,000.00 lower than last year due to the debt being retired on the Fulton County Courthouse. Rick Major stated that this is an issue across the state.

**INRE: Earthquake Insurance Policy Renewal for FY 2021/2022 (Rec. Order BK 27 PG 540)**

Motion made by Wade Adams, 2nd by Hugh Caldwell, carried by all members present to approve the earthquake insurance policy renewal with all building being added to the policy and a $100,000.00 deductible per event. Hugh Caldwell asked if they could write the policy with a deductible. Jim Martin will get the new quote from the company.

**INRE: Approval of Flex Plan & Paving for FY 2021/2022**

Motion made by Shaun Parks, 2nd by Wade Adams, carried by all members present to approve the recommendation of Rush Creek Road and Cayce Street paving project for FY 2021/2022 for $133031.00. The flex plan work that was approved for FY 2020/2021 was put on hold to be added to this year’s projects. FY 2020/2021 projects were Townsend Road and Sutton Road for the amount of $127152.00.

**INRE: Approval of bidding for certified voting machine system for Fulton County**

Motion made by Wade Adams, 2nde by Hugh Caldwell, carried by all members present to approve advertising the bid for the voting equipment. The ad will go out in July with bids being returned by August 13th @ 8:00 AM. The bids will be presented to the Fiscal Court at the regular August meeting.

**INRE: Discussion of Opioid Litigation**

Motion made by Hugh Caldwell, 2nd by Shaun Parks, carried by all members present to approve the Judge Exec to sign the Opioid Agreement, pending confirmation from Mr. Rhoades, and sending the agreement to the AG office. Fulton County’s approximate share in this litigation is 0.104% of the total awards. This comes out to $249,000.00, which would be paid over an 18 year period, giving the County $13,800.00 per year to put toward the Opioid crisis.

**INRE: First Reading of the FY 2020/2021 Budget Amendment (Rec. Order BK 27 PG 511)**

Motion made by Shaun Parks, 2nd by Hugh Caldwell, carried by Wade Adams, Shaun Parks and Hugh Caldwell, with Jim Paitsel opposing, to approve the first reading of the 2020/2021 Fiscal Court budget Amendment. Jim Paitsel stated that there was a new Grant Account opened at Citizens Bank, the existing account wasn’t even used, and this is costing the County $7200.00 in interest. Leslie stated that the ARPA funds were required to go into a separate grant account, due to regulation. Hugh Caldwell asked if the second round of ARPA funds will go into the same account, Jim Martin stated they would.

Jim Martin stated there will be a special call session on Friday June 18, 2021 @ 1:00 PM to have the 2nd reading of the 2021/2022 budget.

Motion made by Wade Adams, 2nd by Shaun Parks, carried by all members present to take a recess @ 10:00 AM.

The meeting resumed at 10:07 AM.

**INRE: Discussion of Cleaner Water Grant Program**

Motion made by Jim Paitsel, 2nd by Hugh Caldwell, carried by all members present to approve splitting the grant monies, in the amount of $219,217.76, equally between the City of Fulton and the City of Hickman, as the County doesn’t have a water system. The City of Fulton would be using the money to upgrade/repair the lift station and the City of Hickman would use the money to upgrade/repair the booster system in the Brownsville area.

**INRE: Discussion of Beech Grove Road**

Motion made by Shaun Parks, 2nd by Hugh Caldwell, carried by all members present to approve providing limited maintenance on Beech Groove Road, and posting signage on both ends of the road. The signage should read minimal/limited maintenance, enter at your own risk.

**INRE: Grant for Bicycle Repair Station**

Jim Martin addressed the Court about a regional grant that Fulton County received for bicycle repair equipment. These items will be located at the County Office Building for public use.

**INRE: Discussion of HRA settlement with County Attorney**

Motion made by Hugh Caldwell, 2nd by Shaun Parks, carried by all members present to approve the County Attorney’s office to refrain from contributing to the HRA plan for a period of 19.7 months starting July 1, 2021. There has been an excess of fees paid by the County Attorney’s Office, in the amount of roughly $16,800.00. Since the County is only contributing at a 71% rate, this allows the County Attorney’s credit to cover these 19.7 months. The contribution rate could change next year, so this will be reevaluated to determine if the County Attorney needs to make adjustments.

**INRE: Receipt of State & Local Fiscal Recovery Funds**

No action to be taken. This was discussed at a previous meeting.

**INRE: Ag Day Celebration July 22**

Mark your calendar for AG Day. Naomi Jones asked if there are any permits required by the County to set up and sell items.

Motion made by Hugh Caldwell, 2nd by Shaun Parks, carried by all members present to approve the MOU between the City of Fulton, City of Hickman, County of Fulton and Dispatch. The Cities amount will increase. This MOU will be signed by the Judge and then sent to the Cities for signatures. **(Rec. Order BK 27 PG 513)**

Motion made by Wade Adams, 2nd by Shaun Parks, carried by all members present to approve the MOU between Fulton County Detention Center and Dispatch. **(Rec. Order BK 27 PG 512)**

Charles Choate asked if the Court knew why the Gibson Connect construction has been delayed in Fulton County. Jim Martin stated that Fulton, Hickman and Carlisle counties have teamed up and sent a proposal to the State for a 6.1 million dollar grant. The state is gathering the data from the counties, then will design an RFP. Then we will have to apply for the grant monies. Gibson is holding off on the last mile buildout in hopes that the grant monies can be used for that last mile buildout project.

Jim Martin stated the EMS grant has been approved. There will be invoices coming through the Court, to account for the expenditures for this grant.

Motion made by Hugh Caldwell, 2nd by Wade Adams, carried by all members present to approve $22,123.59 request from the Sheriff out of the discretionary fund. These monies will cover the withholdings for the Sheriff’s Department. This will leave $5,512.17 in that discretionary fund.

Shaun Parks asked about an email that was going around about some funds that might be able to be used to build a baseball field. Derek Goodson stated Justin Lane is involved with that project.

David Thomas inquired about the Hickman Medical Clinic. Jim Martin stated that the occupants were told they could go ahead and start using the facility, but they had refused until the cabinets were put in. April Gallimore stated the cabinets should be in today or tomorrow. Jim Martin stated the occupants have decided they would wait until July 1, 2021 to reopen.

JL Atwill gave an update on Covid numbers for Fulton County, there have been 502 total cases, 1 current active case, 3985 vaccinated, and 14 deaths.

There was no closed session.

Motion made by Shaun Parks, 2nd by Hugh Caldwell, carried by all members present to adjourn at 10:45 AM.

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Naomi T. Jones, Fulton County Clerk