

Franklin County Commissioners' Court
Commissioner Court Minutes
Regular Session
August 11, 2014

The Franklin County Commissioners' Court met in Regular Session August 11, 2014 at 9:00 AM at the District Courtroom at the Franklin County Courthouse Annex located at 208 Highway 37, Mount Vernon, Texas

Members present: Paul Lovier, County Judge
Danny Chitsey, Commissioner, Precinct 1
Donnie Surratt, Commissioner, Precinct 2
Deryl Carr, Commissioner, Precinct 3
Sam Young, Commissioner, Precinct 4
Betty Crane, County Clerk

VISITORS: Margaret Sears, Bob McFarland, Sandra Dunn, Bryan Giguere, Lou Antonelli, Sue Ann Harper, Elizabeth Aden, Tina Phillips, Betty Sue Allen, Leon Pless, John Reeves, Ricky Jones, Vivian Rhoades, Bill Wilson, Jim Alford, Ellen Jagers, Robert Zinn, Chris Mars and Lillie Bush-Reves

Judge Lovier called the meeting to order and offered prayer.

APPROVE MINUTES FROM THE JULY 28, 2014 REGULAR SESSION AND JULY 28, 2014

WORKSHOP SESSION- COUNTY CLERK – Commissioner Young made a motion to approve the minutes from the July 28, 2014 regular session, and the July 28, 2014 workshop session. Commissioner Surratt seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

AUDIT CLAIMS AGAINST THE COUNTY AND AUTHORIZE THEIR PAYMENT – TREASURER -

Commissioner Chitsey made a motion to approve all the claims against the county and Commissioner Surratt seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. See Vol. 1X Page _____

MONTHLY REPORTS - County Treasurer Betty Sue Allen presented the July monthly reports.

Commissioner Surratt made a motion to approve the July monthly reports as presented and Commissioner Young seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. See Volume 1X Page _____

CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION ON APPROVING PROPOSALS FOR THE AIRPORT ROOF

REPAIR – TREASURER – Treasurer Betty Sue Allen presented two proposals for the airport roof repair.

- Whitaker Construction - \$2,350.00 – See Volume 1X Page _____
- Hefner Roofing, LLC - \$4,250.00 – See Volume 1X Page _____

Commissioner Surratt made a motion to approve Whitaker Construction's bid proposal in the amount of \$2,350.00 and Commissioner Young seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION ON APPROVING CHANGING THE DECISION MADE IN AN OCTOBER 2011 SESSION THAT ALLOWED OVERTIME PAY FOR COUNTY CLERK

EMPLOYEES WORKING ON ELECTIONS - TREASURER - Treasurer Betty Sue Allen suggested changing the wording to the decision made in an October 2011 Session that allowed overtime pay for county clerk employees working on elections to "The Clerks in the County Clerk's office may receive overtime pay for working outside the normal work day (8AM – 5PM) for election purposes **after they have worked 40 hours for the work week**" and the overtime will be charged to the Elections

Department. Commissioner Carr made a motion to approve changes to the wording on the decision for overtime for county clerk employees to state "after they have worked 40 hours for the work week" and Commissioner Surratt seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. See Volume 1X Page _____ County Clerk Betty Crane asked if someone worked a holiday would that be considered double time since the person worked on a holiday. She reported this instance happened this year on Memorial Day. She was assured they would be paid per the labor laws.

CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION ON APPROVING TOWER AND LAND LEASE AGREEMENT BETWEEN FRANKLIN COUNTY AND PEOPLES TELEPHONE - SHERIFF - Commissioner Surratt made a motion to approve the Tower and Land Lease Agreement between Franklin County and Texas RSA 7B3; Texas Limited Partnership and Commissioner Chitsey seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. The lease commences on September 1, 2014 and terminates on January 31, 2019 unless sooner terminated. The Tenant (Texas SRA 7B3; Texas Limited Partnership) agrees to pay the Landlord (Franklin County) as Base Rent the annual sum of \$1,800 payable in advance in monthly installments of \$150.00 on or before the first business day of each and every calendar month. See Volume 1X Page _____ for more in depth information

CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION ON APPROVING REPAIRS ON NETO BUILDING – BOB STINSON - Mr. Stinson was not available for discussion. County Judge Lovier read off numerous items that needed repaired at the NETO building. See Volume 1X Page _____ to see what repairs are needed. Commissioner Surratt made a motion to table this agenda item until more information on how much the repairs would cost and who would be paying for it. Commissioner Carr seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously. See Volume 1X Page _____

CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION ON APPROVING BID SUBMITTED BY WHITAKER CONSTRUCTION FOR WORK AT THE AIRPORT TO REPLACE DOORS, CEILING TILES AND TINTING WINDOWS - TREASURER –No action was taken on this agenda item since the roof needs to be repaired before these repairs can be made.

CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION ON APPROVING CHANGING THE POSITION OF COUNTY FAMILY CONSUMER SCIENCE AGENT TO A FULL-TIME POSITION RATHER THAN SHARING THE AGENT WITH SURROUNDING COUNTIES - No action was taken on this agenda item since talking with Mr. Hurley and he reported he would be getting with the State. The Commissioners' reported they had not heard back from Hurley yet.

CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION ON APPROVING APPRISS R-11 SERVICE AGREEMENT RENEWAL FOR THE VINE PROGRAM FOR 2014 – 2015 PAID THROUGH THE OAG SAVNS GRANT PROGRAM – COUNTY AUDITOR – Commissioner Carr made a motion to approve the Appriss R-11 Service Agreement renewal for the VINE program for 2014 – 2015 which is paid through the OAG SAVNS grant program with quarterly payments in the amount of \$1,550.82 and Commissioner Young seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. See Volume 1x Page _____

CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION ON APPROVING 2014 BUDGET AMENDMENTS FOR PAYING OFF THE JAIL LOAN – COUNTY AUDITOR – Commissioner Carr made a motion to approve the 2014 Budget Amendments for paying off the jail loan and Commissioner Young seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. See Volume 1X Page _____

CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION ON APPROVING PROPOSED TAX RATE INCREASE, TAKE RECORD VOTE AND SCHEDULE PUBLIC HEARINGS – COUNTY JUDGE – The Court reviewed the level of funding required to fund the FY 2015 budget and determined the level of the proposed tax rates for the FY 2015 budget:

General Fund 0.308826
Lateral R&B 0.132369
Total Tax Levy – 0.471015

Road and Bridge Special 0.023663
Interest and Sinking 0.006157

2015 Total Tax Levy 0.471015
2015 Effective Tax Rate 0.437407
Increase over Effective Rate 0.033608

Commissioner Carr made a motion to approve the proposed tax rate of 0.471015 with the increase over Effective Rate being 0.033608 and Commissioner Young seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Public hearings were scheduled to be held in the District Courtroom on August 25, 2014 at 9:45 AM, September 8, 2014 at 9:45 AM and September 15, 2014 at 9:00 AM to adopt the tax rate and set the budget. See Volume 1X Page _____

CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION ON APPROVING FRANKLIN COUNTY INDUSTRIAL FOUNDATION'S REQUEST FOR FRANKLIN COUNTY TO JOIN TEX-21 – BOB MCFARLAND

Bob McFarland, Executive Director of the Franklin County Industrial Foundation encouraged the County to join TEX-21 and support the effort to upgrade Interstate 30. He reported the opening of the expanded Panama Canal is projected to occur in the first half of 2016 and will double the capacity of the Canal and increase the truck traffic on Interstate 30. TEX-21 is bringing the I-30 communities together to educate the Legislature on the improvements needed to accommodate the increase in traffic. All the counties from Dallas to Texarkana are members of TEX-21 with the exception of Franklin and Morris Counties. Mr. McFarland recommended Franklin County to make the commitment now and pay dues in the amount of \$2,125.00 in January 2015. Commissioner Surratt made a motion to approve Franklin County joining TEX-21 and Commissioner Chitsey seconded the motion. Commissioner Young abstained and the motion carried with three commissioners and the County Judge voting in favor.

CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION ON APPROVING PROPOSAL FROM MMI FOR INSTALLATION OF SECURITY WALL IN THE COURTHOUSE FOR THE JUSTICE OF THE PEACE OFFICE – COUNTY JUDGE – Commissioner Surratt made a motion to approve MMI's proposal in the amount of \$5,300 for the installation of a security wall in the courthouse for the Justice of the Peace office and Commissioner Carr seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Auditor Tina Phillips reported these funds could be paid out of the Courthouse funds 034. See Volume 1X Page _____

CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION ON APPROVING PROPOSAL FROM MMI TO REMOVE AND REPLACE CONCRETE WALKS ON EITHER SIDE OF THE WEST ENTRANCE FROM THE STAIRS AT THE CITY SIDEWALK TO THE STAIRS AT THE WEST BASEMENT ENTRANCE AND TO REMOVE AND REPLACE THE TWO RETAINING WALLS, ONE NORTH AND ONE SOUTH RUNNING ALONG THE WALKWAY BE REPLACED – COUNTY JUDGE – Commissioner Carr made a motion to approve the MMI's proposal in the amount of \$4,976.00 to remove and replace the concrete walks on either side of the west entrance from the stairs at the city sidewalk to the stairs at the west basement entrance and to remove and replace the two retaining walls, one North and one South running along the walkway be replaced. Commissioner Young seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously. See Volume 1X Page _____

COURTHOUSE RESTORATION – Bill Wilson reported the fence on top of the retaining wall in the parking lot north of the courthouse had been installed, the final painting has started, the sound and the AV system has been installed and he reported they will be getting three small benches from the District Courtroom at the Annex to begin restoration.

DISCUSSION ITEMS: Commissioner Precinct 2, Donnie Surratt announced he will retire on December 31, 2014 and will be filling a Certificate of Withdrawal to remove his name from the ballot with the County Clerk's office today. He went on to say he was not sick. He just wanted to be able to spend time with his family and grandchildren.

Commissioner Surratt made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Commissioner Young seconded the motion. Motion carried.

I, Betty Crane, County Clerk certify that this is an accurate accounting of the proceedings of Commissioner's Court Regular meeting on August 11, 2014.

Witnessed and recorded this 11th day of August, 2014.

Betty Crane, County Clerk