

**COMMISSIONERS' COURT
SPECIAL MEETING
JANUARY 6, 1994**

**BE IT REMEMBERED THAT THE TITUS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' COURT
met in *Special Session* on January 6, 1994 in the Mt. Pleasant Civic Center with the
following members present:**

ALFORD L. FLANAGAN
MIKE PRICE
MIKE FIELDS
J. W. TERRELL, JR.
THOMAS E. HOCKADAY
SHELIA D. PRICE

COUNTY JUDGE
COMMISSIONER PRECINCT 1
COMMISSIONER PRECINCT 2
COMMISSIONER PRECINCT 3
COMMISSIONER PRECINCT 4
COUNTY CLERK

MEMBERS OF MT. PLEASANT CITY COUNCIL

RICHARD WITHERSPOON
RICK CHAFFIN
ROBERT NANCE
PAUL MERIWETHER

ERMAN HENSEL
JIM BLANCHARD
BRIAN LEE

PUBLIC AND COUNTY OFFICIALS ATTENDING MEETING

BILL GOHMERT
JOHN MOSS
BRUCE KING
TOMMY KING
MIKE BOLEN

LOUIS GOHMERT
JUDGE JIMMY SMITH
JERRY FIELDER
PAT DISMUSKES
CHERIE BELL

**IN THE MATTER OF
CONSIDERING APPROVAL OF BID FOR
CONSTRUCTION OF NEW JAIL FACILITY**

Mayor, Jim Blanchard called meeting to order and called for any questions from the floor.
County Judge, Alford L. Flanagan requested Mr. Bill Gohmert present a historical
breakdown of the jail project to the assembly. Mr. Gohmert presented folders with data
and covered the 2 year history of planning the county jail expansion project. He
explained the modifications in the contract, with lots of amenities, including a Command
Post, and an \$11,000 contingency fund set aside, bringing the city's cost to \$776,887.00.

Mr. Bill Gohmert went on to address expansion options for the future. A smaller building could be built for \$200,000.00 but the county will have to spend an additional \$200,000.00 to build the same jail because of shared options.

After Mr. Gohmert's briefing, Mayor Jim Blanchard opened the meeting up for questions.

Councilman Brian Lee asked if external stairwells were necessary? County Judge, Alford L. Flanagan explained the requirement for a exit within 150 feet of cells. However, enclosed stairwells are not required.

Councilman Lee asked where the figures of \$200,000.00 came from? Mr. Bill Gohmert replied due to all the heating, cooling and foundation and etc. It is the finishing that is so costly.

Mayor Blanchard asked why standards vary between jails and police stations? Mr. Gohmert stated the difference is due to the Texas state jail standards.

Mr. Robert Nance stated he felt the cost per square foot of \$95.00 was misleading due to State requirements and the county taking on cost.

Mr. Rick Chaffin asked , "Would it cost more or less to build on another site?" He expressed that he felt it was an outstanding facility and working with the County was great. Mr. Tommy King reply he could not speculate if another site would cost more or less.

Commissioner Mike Price inquired whether the city is paying for roofing. Mr. Bill Gohmert answered Commissioner Price's question with a simply no.

Mr. Robert Nance asked, "What would be the difference if we went free standing?" Mr. Tommy King was unable to answer Mr. Nance's question without specifics and further research.

County Judge, Alford L. Flanagan then discussed the County purchasing the parking lot with a lease factor.

Mr. Erman Hensel pointed out the City had only set aside \$750,000.00 for this project.

Mr. Bill Gohmert pointed out eliminating the stairwell would get the project within the budget.

Sheriff John Moss pointed out that the county jail now has 107 prisoners. It was built to house 48 prisoners.

Commissioner Mike Fields then stated that if we did not start on a county jail soon, we would have to start having to send our prisoners to other counties at a cost to the county of \$40.00 per day per prisoner.

County Judge, Alford L. Flanagan said, "We must move ahead in good faith with the Texas Jail Commission."

Motion was made by Councilman Brian Lee that the City continue the project as it was started; he asked for some scaled back costs, and recommended awarding the contract with the stipulation of cutting back on amenities. No second was made to the Councilman Lee's motion.

Councilman Richard Witherspoon requested more time to review the proposal.

Mr. Tommy King stated that the contract must be awarded as an entire project, as bid, then the county could back off from there, with alterations.

The City Council would like more time to study projected bid. A meeting was set for Tuesday for further discussion.

Motion was made by Commissioner Thomas E. Hockaday and seconded by Commissioner J. W. Terrell, Jr. to approve the bid by Diamond K of \$5,818,550.00 for the City/County Jail project on the contingent of City's approval. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Mike Price and seconded by Commissioner J. W. Terrell, Jr. to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.
