

COMMISSIONERS' COURT MINUTES 07-08-2013

[AGENDA](#)

[ATTESTATION](#)

SCROLL DOWN FOR MINUTES AND ATTACHMENTS

COMMISSIONERS' COURT
REGULAR MEETING
July 8, 2013

Notice is hereby given that the Titus County Commissioners' Court met in a regular meeting on Monday, July 8, 2013 at 9:00 a.m. in the Titus County Courtroom, with the following members present:

Judge Brian P. Lee	County Judge
Al Riddle	Commissioner Precinct 1
Mike Fields	Commissioner Precinct 2
Phillip Hinton	Commissioner Precinct 3
Thomas Hockaday	Commissioner Precinct 4
Christie Davis	County Assistant Auditor
Dianne Norris	County Clerk
Sheryl Preddy	County Treasurer
Tim Ingram	County Sheriff
Kay McNutt	Justice of the Peace 1,3,4
Chris Durant	Constable 1,3,4

Public Attending Meeting

David Wall	Kay Holloway	Norma Narramore
Rex McGee	Steve Austin TCHC/CVSO	Janice R. Chism
Pam Hill	Leonard Rockwell	John M. Shaffer
Ginger L. Shaffer	Jack Hooker	Emogene Proctor
Teresa Young	Milton Norman	Sharon Palmer
Judy Lee	Barbara Bruechner	Kathy Peoples
Troy K. Sellers	Wayne Isbell	David Horton
Judy Kent	Fred Harkrider	Lou Antonelli
Carolyn Norman	Joyce Simpson	

Invocation: Judge Lee

1. Public comments and/or requests for information on non-agenda items in accordance with Section 551.042, Texas Open Meetings Act (Listen to audio track 1 and/or see [attachment #1](#))

Dave Wall gave an update on the Boy Scout garden at the Sheriff's office. They were selected as The Best Vegetable Garden during the Tour of Gardens sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Wall voiced his thoughts on the concerns of the gas receipts shortage in Precinct 4. He states "It would be nice if everyone kept their mouths closed and let the investigation proceed. I would hate to think that this is about politics because that would be lower than a snake's belly. If there are criminal problems, take action. If not, I wonder how many who came after the first person would come back to apologize. Somehow, he doesn't think that many."

2. Consider and Possibly Approve Minutes from June 24, 2013 Special Meeting of the Commissioner Court. (Listen to audio track 1)

Motion made by Commissioner Hinton and seconded by Commissioner Hockaday to approve minutes from June 24, 2013 Special Meeting of the Commissioners Court.
Motion passed unanimously.

3. Consider and Possibly Approve the Temporary Closure of a Segment of Titus County Road No. 2500 (Listen to audio track 1 and/or see Order No. 2013-2 – [attachment #2](#))

Kerry Wooten, attorney for Luminant Mining Company, LLC, came before the court requesting the closure of Titus County Road No. 2500 beginning at the south intersection of County Road No. 2520 and County Road No. 2500 and just north of the intersection of County Road No. 2500 and County Road No. 2400. This segment of road located in Precinct 2 will be temporarily closed for a period of seven months; however, Luminant Mining Company, LLC shall have one (1) year from the date of the attached order to temporarily close the segment of County Road 2500 for the seven month period. See order for conditions and copy of map.

Motion was made by Commissioner Fields and seconded by Commissioner Hockaday to approve the Temporary Closure of a Segment of Titus County Road No. 2500. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Consider and Possibly Approve Purchase of Microsoft Office for the New Windows 7 Computers Approved at the June 24, 2013 Meeting of the Commissioners' Court at a Cost of \$219 Per Machine (Listen to audio track 1)

Motion was made by Commissioner Fields and seconded by Commissioner Hinton to approve the purchase of Microsoft Office for the New Windows 7 computers approved at the June 24, 2013 Commissioners' Court at a cost of \$219 per machine or the cost of a multiple user license. Motion passed unanimously.

5. Recognition of the Titus County Historical Commission's Receipt of a Distinguished Service Award for 2012 by the Texas Historical Commission (Listen to audio track 1 and/or see [attachment #3](#))

Judge Lee read an excerpt from a letter received from the Texas Historical Commission informing the County that the Titus County Historical Commission (CHC) is a recipient of the Distinguished Service Award for outstanding preservation work accomplished in the 2012 year of service. The Texas Historical Commission (THC) gives this award to CHCs who successfully manage preservation programs that educate citizens and generate interest in the history and character of Texas. He then presented the award to the members of the Titus County Historical Commission that were present.

Steve Austin, Chairman of the Titus County Historical Commission, told the court that this award came as a result of efforts during 2012. One of these being the reclaiming of the Evergreen Cemetery and eventually being designated as a Texas Historical Cemetery and the other being the Bankhead research and request received from the THC on issues of 14th Street Bridge as part of new road modifications going through. The 14th Street Bridge came under scrutiny as where it might be a historical entity that might need to be preserved, protected or otherwise identified. He went on to give some history and background on the Bankhead research.

6. Consider and Possibly Approve Hiring East Texas Shredding, Longview, TX, to Pick Up and Destroy Old County Documents at a Cost of \$57 for 200 lbs. Plus 17 Cents Per Pound in Excess of 200 lbs. (Listen to audio track 1)

Motion was made by Commissioner Hinton and seconded by Commissioner Hockaday to approve hiring East Texas Shredding, Longview, TX, to pick up and destroy old county documents at a cost of \$57 for 200 lbs. plus 17 cents per pound in excess of 200 lbs. Motion passed unanimously.

7. Consider and Possibly Approve the Placement of a Monument on the Courthouse Grounds Recognizing Those Killed in the Line of Duty/First Responders to be Paid by Public Donations (Steve Austin, Veterans Service Officer) (Listen to audio track 1 and/or see [attachment #4](#))

Steve Austin is asking for permission to place a Memorial Monument on the Courthouse grounds near the east side entrance for Peace Officers, Firefighters and Emergency Medical Personnel that die in the “Line of Duty” to be paid by public donations specifically designated to this project and delivered to the County Treasurer’s office. The monument would be black stone with Laser etched badges, engraved names and inscription with the minimum cost being \$1000.00. Names can be added by use of a portable machine.

Eligibility requirements are: (1) Died as a result of injuries sustained in the performance of duties and (2) born in Titus County, or (3) Resident of Titus County or (4) Serving the citizens of Titus County, including officers of the court.

Those names being placed on the monument are: (1) Titus County Pct. 8 Constable Edward Price, EOW – March 22, 1933; (2) MPPD Patrol Sgt. Charlie Jerry Shepard, EOW – July 17, 1985 and (3) Texas Forestry Service Firefighter Roland Lambert, EOW – May 27, 1990.

Motion was made by Judge Lee and seconded by Commission Fields to approve the placement of a monument on the Courthouse grounds recognizing “Those Killed in the Line of Duty/First Responders” to be paid by public donations. Motion passed unanimously.

8. Consider and Possibly Approve Changes to County Provided Employee Life Insurance Policy (Listen to audio track 1)

Judge Lee brought this before the court because he was not aware until recently that the Employee Life Insurance Policy did not pay out the full amount once an employee reaches 60. The policy is 1-1/2 time annual salary upward to \$50,000.00. After the employee reaches age 60, payment is reduced to 65% and 35% after 65 years of age.

Motion made by Commissioner Hockaday and seconded by Commissioner Fields to table any changes to the County provided Employee Life Insurance Policy until they have a chance to check for other options. Motion passed unanimously.

9. Consider and Possibly Approve Annual Changes to County Road and Bridge Fees/Child Safety Fee that is Charged on Vehicle Registration (Listen to audio track 1 and/or [see attachment #5](#))

Motion made by Commissioner Hockaday and seconded by Commissioner Riddle not to make any changes to County Road and Bridge Fees/Child Safety Fee that is charged on Vehicle Registration. Motion passed unanimously.

10. Consider and Possibly Approve Moving the Elections Administration Office to the Riddle Street Building (Listen to audio track 1)

Judge Lee called upon Chris Basham to give a report of the space needed at the Annex and availability at the Ratliff Building and Riddle Street property. Mr. Basham presented a Space Needs Summary of the existing square footage versus the needed square footage of the offices in the Annex and on the recommendation of moving the Elections Administration Office to Riddle Street and the Tax Office to the Ratliff Building. ([See attachment #6](#))

The court next heard from Leonard Rockwell, Elections Administrator, and Teresa Young, representative from Mt Pleasant Chapter of the NAACP, who voiced their concerns and opposition on the moving of the Elections Administration Office to the Riddle Street Building due to visibility of location. ([See attachment #7](#)) Judge Lee recognized others from the audience who also voiced their concerns. One recommendation was to add on to the Justice Center thus leaving them in their current location and sell the Riddle Street Building.

Motion was made by Commissioner Hockaday and seconded by Commissioner Hinton to table the moving of the Elections Administration Office to the Riddle Street Building until further study. Motion passed three to two with Judge Lee and Commissioner Riddle voting nay.

11. Consider and Possibly Approve Sale of Surplus Office Equipment from the Riddle Street Building to High Bidders (Listen to audio track 1 and/or [see attachment #8](#))

Motion made by Commissioner Riddle and seconded by Commissioner Hinton to approve sale of surplus office equipment from the Riddle Street building to high bidders per attachment. Motion passed unanimously.

12. Consider and Possibly Approve Travel and Seminars for Titus County Employees and Elected Officials (Listen to audio track 1 and/or see [Attachment #9](#))

Motion was made by Commissioner Fields and seconded by Commissioner Hinton to approve travel and seminars for Titus County Employees and Elected Officials. Motion passed unanimously.

13. Approve Oral and Written Reports of County Officials (Listen to audio track 1 and/or see [Attachment #10](#))

Motion was made by Commissioner Hockaday and seconded by Commissioner Hinton to approve oral and written reports of County Officials. Motion passed unanimously.

14. Consider and Possibly Approve Treasurer's Report (Listen to audio track 1 and/or see [Attachment #11](#))

Motion was made by Commissioner Hinton and seconded by Commissioner Fields to approve Treasurer's Report. Motion passed unanimously.

15. Approve Budget Amendments (Listen to audio track 1)

There were no Budget Amendments.

16. Sign Pay Orders and Approve Payments (Listen to audio track 1 and/or see [Attachment #12](#))

Motion was made by Commissioner Hinton and seconded by Commissioner Fields to sign pay orders and approve payments. Motion passed unanimously.

17. Closing Comments by County Judge and Commissioners, if any

Commissioner Hinton is still having issues with signs being removed and asked the public not to remove road signs.

Judge Lee thanked the Sheriff's office for their assistance in moving the surplus equipment from the Riddle Street Building to allow the Workforce Center to move in.

Commissioner Fields reported that he had checked on the web cam and that it should be installed by the next Commissioners' Court meeting.

18. ADJOURN (Listen to audio track 1)

Motion was made by Commissioner Hockaday and seconded by Commissioner Fields to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously.