

COMMISSIONERS COURT MEETING 09/06/2013

[AGENDA](#)

[ATTESTATION](#)

[AUDIO](#)

SCROLL DOWN FOR MINUTES AND ATTACHMENTS

**COMMISSIONERS' COURT
REGULAR MEETING
September 6, 2013**

Notice is hereby given that the Titus County Commissioners' Court met in a regular meeting on Monday, September 6, 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
Carl Johnson	County Auditor
Dianne Norris	County Clerk
Sheryl Preddy	County Treasurer
Tim Ingram	County Sheriff
Judy Cook	Tax Assessor/Collector

Public Attending Meeting

Norma Narramore	Kay O'Dell	Troy Sellers
Patricia Scarborough	Al Burkhalter	Rex McGee
Leonard Rockwell	Lou Antonelli	Carolyn Norman
Joyce Simpson		

Invocation: Judge Lee

Pledge of Allegiance: 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 video)

Al Burkhalter voiced his thoughts on the leadership of the Commissioners Court.

Lou Antonelli expressed his outrage on the demolition of the Depot and the way it was handled. He urged the court to apply for a Community Based Grant from the railroad department next year. He feels that the Texas Quality Environmental Commission should be contacted to see if the depot was torn down properly. Mr. Antonelli also feels that everyone should call in when they obstruct traffic for more than ten (10) minutes as this is considered a misdemeanor. (See Section 471.007 of the Transportation Code) In closing, he reminds the Court that the Optimist Club is working on saving the old gym and asks for support from the court and public.

Patricia Scarborough urged the Commissioners and Judge to give more thought to the final vote on the budget before approving. She commented on the quote that the average wage for a Titus County Employee was \$35,000.00. She stated that this figure is quite skewed when in fact, some employees are actually making barely more than the poverty level. Ms. Scarborough also praised the Commissioners Court on the accomplishments they have achieved in the past and closed with asking the Court to consider if we want to move forward or go backwards.

2. Consider and Possibly Approve Minutes from August 26, 2013 Special Meeting of the Commissioner Court. (Listen to audio track 1 and/or see video)

Motion made by Commissioner Hinton and seconded by Commissioner Hockaday to approve minutes from August 26, 2013 Special Meeting of the Commissioners Court. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Consider and Possibly Approve a County Wide Burn Ban (Listen to audio track 1 and/or see video)

Motion made by Commissioner Hockaday and seconded by Commissioner Fields to approve a county wide burn ban. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Consider and Possibly Approve a Request by Workforce Solutions to Continue to Rent the Riddle Street Building through October 31, 2013 in Accordance with their 30 Day Option (Listen to audio track 1 and/or see video)

Motion was made by Commissioner Hockaday and seconded by Commissioner Fields to approve a request from Workforce Solutions to continue to rent the Riddle Street building through October 31, 2013 in accordance with their 30 day option. Motion passed unanimously.

5. Consider and Possibly Take Action on Alternative Uses for the Riddle Street Building, including Long Term Lease, Sale or Use by the County During and After the Possible Remodel of the Annex (Listen to audio track 1 and/or see video)

Kay O'Dell from Workforce Solutions asked the court about possibly looking at a long term lease in which they would be willing to assist in any renovations necessary. They have issued an RFP for additional space but have not received any adequate responses. Another RFP has been sent out and is due back September 11, 2013. By law, they cannot own the building and if a location is not found, they may possibly have to close down the office in Mt Pleasant and service Titus County residents at a another workforce office in one of the other nine (9) counties that make up Workforce Solutions.

Judy Cook, Tax Assessor/Collector, voiced her concerns on moving her office to the Riddle Street Building. She doesn't feel that this would be a good location. When asked about moving to the Ratliff building in conjunction with the Elections office, she told the court that she did not feel that there would be enough space by the time they moved what she had in storage along with her

employees. They would also have to widen the hallways by two feet which would come off of her space. An extra bathroom would have to be added and she did not know whose space this would come off of.

Leonard Rockwell, Elections Administrator, said that in speaking with Mr. Bassham, he admitted he did not realize that the move would consist of a total of 15 females and had not considered the addition of an extra bathroom. A separate room each is also needed for the Republican and Democrat parties for tabulation during voting time. Mr. Rockwell feels that this would not allow them enough space. Therefore, he would like to reconsider maybe moving to Riddle Street even though he does not feel like this would be a good location.

After a lengthy discussion between the Commissioners Court, it was determined that a workshop between the Commissioners Court, Judy Cook, Leonard Rockwell and Chris Bassham needed to be posted in order to discuss space needs and possibly take action.

Motion was made by Commissioner Hockaday and seconded by Commissioner Hinton to table taking action on alternative uses for the Riddle Street Building, including Long Term Lease, Sale or Use by the County during and after the possible remodel of the Annex. Motion passed unanimously.

6. Consider and Possibly Approve a Plan to Dispose of Surplus Computer Equipment, Furniture and Files located in the Storage Area of the Annex (Listen to audio track 1 and/or see video)

Judge Lee began with the vacant area on the West end of the Annex on floor 1. There are computers, monitors, printers, etc. that are no longer being used. Floor 2 is being used for storage area for files. Carl Johnson suggested that each Elected Official contact the State to see what the retention period is for the records on the second floor and if those records do not need to be kept, then destroy them. Commissioner Fields also stated that someone from Austin could come and assist with the removal of files. When completed, East Texas in Commerce is climate controlled and could store files.

Motion was made by Judge Lee and seconded by Commissioner Riddle for Judge Lee to contact all Department heads regarding storage and unused space in the Annex giving them a 45 day time frame, maybe until the end of October to either have their stuff out of there that needs to be stored permanently and do not want to dispose of but get it out where it is now, and whatever is left, disposable action will begin. Motion passed unanimously.

7. Consider and Possibly Approve a Resolution to Support the Addition of Kaufman County to the North East Texas Regional Mobility Authority (NET RMA) (Listen to audio track 1 and/or see video)

Motion was made by Commissioner Hockaday and seconded by Commission Fields to approve a resolution to support the addition of Kaufman County to the North East Texas Regional Mobility Authority (NET RMA). Motion passed unanimously. ([See Attachment #1](#))

8. Consider and Possibly Approve 2013 Tax Year Resolution for Exemptions and Discounts (Listen to audio track 1 and/or see video)

There are no changes from last year. It is no longer necessary to add the exemption and discount for Veterans since this is a State requirement.

Motion made by Commissioner Fields and seconded by Commissioner Hinton to approve 2013 Tax Year Resolution for Exemptions and Discount. Motion passed unanimously. ([See Attachment #2](#))

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

Motion was made by Commissioner Fields and seconded by Commissioner Hinton to approve travel and seminars for Titus County Employees and Elected Officials with the stipulation that \$20.00 be added to Sheila Moon's request for per diem for meals. Motion passed unanimously. ([See Attachment #03](#))

10. Approve Oral and Written Reports of County Officials (Listen to audio track 1 and/or see video)

Motion was made by Commissioner Hinton and seconded by Commissioner Fields to approve Oral and Written reports of County Officials. Motion passed unanimously. ([See Attachment #04](#))

11. Consider and Possibly Approve Treasurer's Report (Listen to audio track 1 and/or see video)

Motion was made by Commissioner Hinton and seconded by Commissioner Fields to approve Treasurer's Report. Motion passed unanimously. ([See Attachment #5](#))

12. Approve Budget Amendments (Listen to audio track 1 and/or see video)

Motion was made by Commissioner Hinton and seconded by Commissioner Fields to approve Budget Amendments #32. Motion passed unanimously. ([See Attachment #6](#))

13. Sign Pay Orders and Approve Payments (Listen to audio track 1 and/or see video)

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

[\(See Attachment #7\)](#)

14. Closing Comments by County Judge and Commissioners, if any (Listen to audio track 1 and/or see video)

a.) Judge Lee thanked Lou Antonelli on his comments regarding the depot and everyone who commented on the discussion relating to space needs.

b.) Commissioner Fields also thanked Mr. Antonelli regarding the depots and expressed his feelings that the old gym did need to be saved. He also reminded the court that an agenda item needed to be added to the next meeting regarding the fees at the County Park during the Jam Fest.

c.) Judge Lee gave the following dates for the upcoming Commissioners Court meetings:

Monday, September 23, 2013 at 5:30 p.m. – Budget Hearing

Monday, September 23, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. or immediately following the Budget Hearing, Special Meeting of the Commissioners Court

Friday, September 27, 2013 at 9:00 a.m. – Special Meeting for approval of the budget and tax rate.

15. ADJOURN (Listen to audio track 1 and/or see video)

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