

**COMMISSIONERS' COURT
REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 10, 2014**

[AGENDA](#)

[AUDIO](#)

[ATTESTATION TO MINUTES](#)

**COMMISSIONERS' COURT
REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 10, 2014**

Notice is hereby given that the Titus County Commissioners' Court met in a Regular meeting on Monday, February 10, 2014 at 9:00 a.m. in the Titus County Courtroom, with the following members present:

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
Dianne Norris	County Clerk
Sheryl Preddy	County Treasurer
Carl Johnson	County Auditor
Tim Ingram	County Sheriff

Public Attending Meeting:

Clint Cooper	Larry Snopel	Mike Ahrens
Sue Evenwel	David Horton	Harley Lamb
Chris Shelton	Judy Lee	Ted Aikman
Rodney Glenn	Faustine Curry	Brian Niblett
Barbara Wertz	Kay Holloway	Roger Ledbetter
Norma Narramore	Jim Chambers	John Burk
Nick Derby	Teresa Cox	Barbara Bruechner
Ryan Taylor	Paul Lindsey	Jerry Boles
Judy Kent	Gerry Evenwel	John Chambers
Angela Chambers	Jesi Barrett	Jordan Chambers
Emily Aikman	Tammy Shelton	Keith Kridler
Carolyn Norman	Joyce Simpson	

Invocation: Judge Brian Lee

Pledge of Allegiance: Judge Brian 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)

There were no public comments and/or requests for information on non-agenda items in accordance with Section 551.042, Texas Open Meetings Act.

2. CONSIDER AND POSSIBLY APPROVE MINUTES FROM JANUARY 27, 2014 SPECIAL MEETING OF THE COMMISSIONERS' COURT (Listen to audio track 1 and/or see video)

Motion was made by Commissioner Hinton and seconded by Commissioner Hockaday to approve minutes from January 27, 2014 special meeting of the Commissioners' Court. Motion passed unanimously.

3. CONSIDER AND POSSIBLY APPROVE MINUTES FROM JANUARY 31, 2014 SPECIAL MEETING OF THE COMMISSIONERS COURT (Listen to audio track 1 and/or see video)

Motion was made by Commissioner Hinton and seconded by Commissioner Fields to approve minutes from January 31, 2014 special meeting of the Commissioners' Court. Motion passed unanimously.

4. DISCUSS AND POSSIBLY TAKE ACTION ON CHANGES PROPOSED BY TxDOT TO THE NORTH END OF THE 271 LOOP (Listen to audio track 1 and/or see video)

Roger Ledbetter from TxDOT gave a brief presentation on the proposed changes that TxDOT is requesting to the north end of the 271 loop. They would like a turnaround in the median on the south side of the interstate which was not included in the initial plan. The original plan included a concrete barrier wall going to the ramp intersection of the interstate. This change would provide an opportunity for a turn around so the north bound traffic on the north frontage road can make a U-turn to go to the south bound frontage road heading south. This should provide access for all businesses on the west side of the road between 67 and I-30. The U-turn will be south of where the ATM is now located. The same low profile concrete traffic barrier that is on 49 & FM 1735 will be used and will keep the south bound traffic from entering into the median area. The project will take approximately three (3) weeks at a projected cost of \$12-25,000. ([SEE ATTACHMENT #01](#))

Motion was made by Commissioner Hockaday and seconded by Commissioner Riddle to approve the changes proposed by TxDOT to the north end of the 271 loop. Motion passed unanimously.

5. DISCUSS AND POSSIBLY TAKE ACTION ON WHETHER TO OPEN THE NORTH END OF THE 271 LOOP BETWEEN HIGHWAY 49 AND INTERSTATE 30 (TABLED 1-27-14) (Listen to audio track 1 and/or see video)

John Burk, manager of McCoy's, came before the court stating that his business had dropped ten percent in 2013 and had already dropped nine percent this year. The big trucks are using his parking lot as a turn around and tearing it up.

Chris Shelton stated that he had spoken with businesses and was told that some had lost as much as 50 percent and asked that the north end be opened as soon as possible in order to help these businesses.

Commissioner Fields pointed out that the county is still responsible if anything happens between now and when TxDOT approves opening the north end.

Motion was made by Commissioner Riddle and seconded by Commissioner Hockaday to open the north end of the 271 loop between Highway 49 and Interstate 30. Motion passed unanimously.

6. CONSIDER AND POSSIBLY APPROVE HIRING AN INDEPENDENT ENGINEER TO REPRESENT TITUS COUNTY ON THE UPRR BRIDGE REPAIR (TABLED 1-27-14) (Listen to audio track 1 and/or see video)

After reading an email and comments on the above subject, Commissioner Riddle voiced his opinion on hiring an independent engineer to represent the county stating that he felt it would be in their best interest. ([SEE ATTACHMENT #02](#))

Motion was made by Commissioner Riddle to approve hiring an independent engineer to represent Titus County on the UPRR bridge repair. Motion died due to no second.

Motion was then made by Judge Lee and seconded by Commissioner Hockaday to not hire an independent engineer to represent Titus County on the UPRR bridge repair. Motion passed four to one with Commissioner Riddle voting nay.

7. CONSIDER AND POSSIBLY APPROVE A RETAINER AGREEMENT WITH ALLISON, BASS & MAGEE, LLP TO REPRESENT TITUS COUNTY PERTAINING TO THE LOOP PROJECT AND THE UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD OVERPASS, OR SUCH OTHER MATTERS AS MAY BE ASSIGNED BY THE COMMISSIONERS COURT (TABLED 1-27-14) (Listen to audio track 1 and/or see video)

Motion was made by Commissioner Hinton and seconded by Commissioner Fields to approve a retainer agreement with Allison, Bass & Magee, LLP to represent Titus County pertaining to the Loop project and the Union Pacific Railroad Overpass, or such other matters as may be assigned by the Commissioners' Court. Motion passed unanimously. ([SEE ATTACHMENT #03](#))

8. DISCUSS AND POSSIBLY TAKE ACTION ON PRIORITIZATION OF ROAD PROJECTS RELATED TO THE INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT (Listen to audio track 1 and/or see video)

Motion was made by Commissioner Riddle and seconded by Commissioner Hockaday to accept the attached prioritization of road projects related to the infrastructure grant. Motion passed unanimously. ([SEE ATTACHMENT #04](#))

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. Motion passed unanimously. ([See Attachment #05](#))

10. APPROVE ORAL AND WRITTEN REPORTS OF COUNTY OFFICIALS (Listen to audio track 1 and/or see video)

Motion was made by Commissioner Hockaday and seconded by Commissioner Hinton to approve oral and written reports of County Officials. Motion passed unanimously ([See Attachment #06](#))

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 Hockaday to approve Treasurer's Report. Motion passed unanimously. ([See Attachment #07](#))

12. APPROVE BUDGET AMENDMENTS (Listen to audio track 1 and/or see video)

There were no budget amendments.

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 Hinton to sign pay orders and approve payments. Motion passed unanimously. ([See Attachment #08](#))

14. CLOSING COMMENTS BY COUNTY JUDGE AND COMMISSIONERS, IF ANY (Listen to audio track 1 and/or see video)

Judge Lee informed the court that East Texas Shredding would be at the Elections office next week if any other offices had anything that needed to be shredded. He also commented on the training held last week and that he thought it was the best he had attended.

Commissioner Fields stated that the Tri Lakes Volunteer Fire Department's Chili benefit was a success and that the money went back into the fire department. They are now rated a #6 which should lower the homeowners' insurance rates that live in that area

ADJOURN

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