

**COMMISSIONERS' COURT  
12.14.2015  
REGULAR MEETING**

**[AGENDA](#)**

**[AUDIO](#)**

**[ATTESTATION](#)**

**SCROLL DOWN FOR MINUTES AND/OR ATTACHMENTS**

**COMMISSIONERS' COURT  
REGULAR MEETING  
DECEMBER 14, 2015**

**The Titus County Commissioners' Court, after notice posted in the manner, form and contents as required by law, met in Regular Meeting on Monday, December 14, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. in the Titus County Courtroom, Room 205, located at 100 West 1<sup>st</sup> Street 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
Jimmy Parker	-	Commissioner Precinct 4
Joan Newman	-	County Clerk
Sheryl Preddy	-	County Treasurer
Tim Ingram	-	County Sheriff
Carl Johnson	-	County Auditor

**PUBLIC ATTENDING:**

David K. Wall	Jerry Clark
Janice R. Chism	Charles L. Smith
Chris Byars	Judah Byars
Mike Ahrens	Judy Kent
Isabelle Smith	Troy Sellers
Leonard Rockwell	Chris Durant
Royce Camp	Marcia Davis
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)**

There were no public comments and/or requests for information on non-agenda items.

**2. CONSIDER AND POSSIBLY APPROVE MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER 23, 2015 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 Parker to approve minutes from November 23, 2015 of the Commissioners' Court. Motion passed unanimously.

**3. CONSIDER AND POSSIBLY APPROVE ABATEMENT AGREEMENT WITH DIAMOND C TRAILERS (CHARLIE SMITH) (LISTEN TO AUDIO TRACK 1 AND/OR SEE VIDEO)**

Charles Smith, Industrial Development Corporation, presented to the Court a Tax Abatement Agreement with RoadClipper Enterprises (dba Diamond C Trailers) for approval which had been approved by the City Council on November 17, 2015.

The company will construct a 30,000 sq. ft. building costing \$610,000 in order to add a production line. New equipment will be purchased with a projected value of \$102,000. A minimum of 30 new full time positions will be created within 12 months with an additional 20 full time positions in the next 13-24 months for a total of 50 new full time employees. The tax abatement will be three years: 90% in Year One – Tax Year 2016; 75% in Year Two – Tax Year 2017 and 45% in Year Three – Tax Year 2018.

Motion was made by Commissioner Fields and seconded by Commissioner Riddle to approve Abatement Agreement with Diamond C Trailers (RoadClipper Enterprises). Motion passed unanimously. [\(SEE ATTACHMENT 01\)](#)

**4. CONSIDER AND POSSIBLY APPROVE ABATEMENT AGREEMENT WITH PRIEFERT MFG (CHARLIE SMITH) LISTEN TO AUDIO TRACK 1 AND/OR SEE VIDEO)**

Mr. Smith presented the Tax Abatement Agreement with Priefert Manufacturing Co., Inc. for approval which had been approved by the City Council on November 17, 2015.

Priefert Manufacturing Co. will construct a new 42,500 sq. ft. building with an estimated cost of \$2,500,000. Equipment to be installed in this building are components of a "tube mill" with a value of \$2,500,000. Total investment will be \$5,000,000. Also included is a new sales office valued at \$275,000. Total investment for both projects is \$5,275,000. A minimum of 20 new full time positions will be added. The tax abatement will be ten years from Tax Year 2017 – Tax Year 2026 as follows: 90%-90%-90%-75%-75%-75%-75%-50%-50%-50%.

Motion was made by Commissioner Fields and seconded by Commissioner Riddle to approve Abatement Agreement with Priefert Manufacturing Co., Inc. Motion passed unanimously. [\(SEE ATTACHMENT 02\)](#)

**5. CONSIDER AND POSSIBLY APPROVE ACCEPTANCE OF INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS BY THE CITY OF MT. PLEASANT AS PART OF THE CITY CONTRIBUTION TOWARD THE LOOP PROJECT (MIKE AHRENS, CITY MANAGER) (LISTEN TO AUDIO TRACK 1 AND/OR SEE VIDEO)**

Carl Johnson, County Auditor, told the Court that different entities had pledged different amounts toward the loop project when it was first initiated. The City of Mount Pleasant had pledged \$4,000,000 toward the loop project. City Manager, Mike Ahrens, informed the Court that existing water and sewer lines had to be relocated due to the US 271 and FM 4000 loop project, and their cost toward this was \$339,489.30. He is asking the Court to consider this as in-kind payment toward their contribution. [\(SEE ATTACHMENT 03\)](#)

Motion was made by Commissioner Fields and seconded by Commissioner Riddle to approve acceptance of infrastructure improvements by the City of Mount Pleasant as part of the City contribution toward the loop project in the amount of \$339,489.30. Motion passed unanimously.

**6. CONSIDER AND POSSIBLY APPROVE THE REPLACEMENT OF A 2006 FORD PATROL CAR WITH A RETIRED TCSO 2009 DODGE FOR USE BY THE CONSTABLE PRECINCT 1 (CHRIS DURANT) (LISTEN TO AUDIO TRACK 1 AND/OR SEE VIDEO)**

Motion made by Commissioner Riddle and seconded by Commissioner Parker to approve the replacement of a 2006 Ford Patrol car with a retired TCSO 2009 Dodge for use by the Constable Precinct 1. Motion passed unanimously.

**7. PRESENTATION BY DAVID WALL ON THE BOY SCOUT VEGETABLE GARDEN LOCATED BY COUNTY JAIL (LISTEN TO AUDIO TRACK 1 AND/OR SEE VIDEO)**

David Wall presented to the Court a report on the Troop 101 vegetable garden located by the County Jail. He reported that this was one of the worst years for gardening due to the rains. Vegetables grown from the garden are given to Titus County Cares and the jail. He will continue to bring reports to the County each year. [\(SEE ATTACHMENT 04\)](#)

**8. CONSIDER AND POSSIBLY APPROVE CHANGING THE TIERED PAYMENT ARRANGEMENT WITH THE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENTS BACK TO EQUAL PAYMENTS (LISTEN TO AUDIO TRACK 1 AND/OR SEE VIDEO)**

Motion was made by Commissioner Hinton and seconded by Commissioner Parker to approve changing the tiered payment arrangement with the Volunteer Fire Departments back to equal payments of \$1200.00 per month. Motion passed unanimously.

Judge Lee informed the Court that the Volunteer Fire Departments had requested to not move forward on ratifying a contract with the county at this time but would continue to work towards the stated objectives.

**9. CONSIDER AND POSSIBLY APPROVE THE ALLOCATION OF 6587 SQUARE FEET AT THE COUNTY OWNED FACILITY AT 303 E. 11<sup>TH</sup> STREET TO THE TEXAS HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION FOR A PERIOD OF FIVE YEARS BEGINNING NOVEMBER 26, 2016 THROUGH NOVEMBER 30, 2021 (LISTEN TO AUDIO TRACK 1 AND/OR SEE VIDEO)**

Motion was made by Commissioner Hinton and seconded by Commissioner Parker to approve the allocation of 6587 square feet at the County owned facility at 303 E. 11<sup>th</sup> Street to the Texas Health and Human Services Commission for a period of five years beginning November 26, 2016 through November 30, 2021. Motion passed unanimously. [\(SEE ATTACHMENT 05\)](#)

**10. CONSIDER AND POSSIBLY APPROVE PAYMENT FOR A PAUPER'S FUNERAL FOR KEITH HOWARD WALTERS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$950 (LISTEN TO AUDIO TRACK 1 AND/OR SEE VIDEO)**

Motion was made by Commissioner Parker and seconded by Commissioner Hinton to approve payment for a Pauper's Funeral for Keith Howard Walters in the amount of \$950.00. Motion passed unanimously. [\(SEE ATTACHMENT 06\)](#)

**11. CONSIDER AND POSSIBLY APPROVE PURCHASE OF A 15 FOOT SHREDDER THROUGH THE BUYBOARD PROGRAM (COMMISSIONER FIELDS, PRECINCT 2) (LISTEN TO AUDIO TRACK 1 AND/OR SEE VIDEO)**

Motion was made by Commissioner Fields and seconded by Commissioner Riddle to approve purchase of a 15 foot shredder through the BuyBoard program. Motion passed unanimously.

**12. CONSIDER AND POSSIBLY APPROVE ALLOWING TCEQ TO PLACE AN AIR MONITORING STATION ON COUNTY PROPERTY PCT 4 (LISTEN TO AUDIO TRACK 1 AND/OR SEE VIDEO)**

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality is requesting to place an Air Monitoring Station on Precinct 4 property near the Welsh Power Plant located on CR 2348.

Motion was made by Commissioner Parker and seconded by Commissioner Hinton to table this item until the next meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

**13. 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 Hinton and seconded by Commissioner Parker to approve travel and seminars for Titus County employees and elected officials. Motion passed unanimously. [\(SEE ATTACHMENT 07\)](#)

**14. APPROVE ORAL AND WRITTEN REPORTS OF COUNTY OFFICIALS (LISTEN TO AUDIO TRACK 1 AND/OR SEE VIDEO)**

County Auditor, Carl Johnson, reported that the computers were down and they were unable to print the reports.

Motion made by Commissioner Hinton and seconded by Commissioner Fields to table this item until the next meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

**15. 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 Parker to approve Treasurer's report. Motion passed unanimously. ([SEE ATTACHMENT 8](#))

**16. APPROVE BUDGET AMENDMENTS (LISTEN TO AUDIO TRACK 1 AND/OR SEE VIDEO)**

Motion was made by Commissioner Parker and seconded by Commissioner Hinton to approve budget amendment #71 for FY15. Motion passed unanimously. ([SEE ATTACHMENT 9](#))

**17. SIGN PAY ORDERS AND APPROVE PAYMENTS (LISTEN TO AUDIO TRACK 1 AND/OR SEE VIDEO)**

Motion was made by Commissioner Hinton and seconded by Commissioner Parker to sign pay orders and approve payments. Motion passed unanimously. ([SEE ATTACHMENT 10](#))

**18. CLOSING COMMENTS BY COUNTY JUDGE AND COMMISSIONERS, IF ANY (LISTEN TO AUDIO TRACK 1 AND/OR SEE VIDEO)**

Judge Lee announced that Leonard Rockwell was retiring at the end of the year and the County Elections Commission will meet next week for his replacement.

Judge Lee reported that Bob Ratcliff from the Texas Department of Transportation called stating that the last payment that Titus County had received on the loop payment had errors and there had been an overpayment. They are still calculating and waiting on traffic counts on 4000. Mr. Ratcliff stated that the next payment will likely be significantly less.

Commissioner Riddle stated that he had recounted those attending night and day meetings and found that more had attended night meetings. Judge Lee has attendance records available for anyone who would like to view them.

Commissioner Fields commented that at the last Commissioners' Court meeting, that the subject was brought up by Commissioner Riddle that Chris Basham had not given us the information on references that was requested. Commissioner Fields has copies of email that was sent to the commissioners, especially one that was addressed to Commissioner Riddle, of his references and people he had worked with along with Letters of Recommendation. ([SEE ATTACHMENT 11](#))

Commissioner Fields also reported that there were several roads underwater with big trees down. Most of them have been removed. He thanked Tri Lakes Volunteer Fire Department and Sheriff Ingram for their help in clearing the roads.

Commissioner Hinton reported that his precinct had total washouts and damaged culverts on CR 3070, 3375 and 3290. He asked that everyone be patient and hopes to have part of them open by Christmas or by the end of the year.

Commissioner Parker has three roads closed, CR 4754, 3285 and 4265. He hopes to get CR 3285 and 4265 open today. County Road 4754 will be closed until after Christmas. County Road 4705 was closed over the weekend but is open now.

## **ADJOURN**

Motion was made by Commissioner Hinton and seconded by Commissioner Fields to adjourn at 10:08 a.m. Motion passed unanimously.