



Ector County Commissioners' Court

April 17, 2024

10:00 AM

Commissioners' Courtroom, Ector County Administration Building Annex, 1010 E. 8th St.,
Odessa, Texas

CALL TO ORDER- JUDGE DUSTIN FAWCETT

Dustin Fawcett, County Judge
Mike Gardner, Commissioner Precinct #1
Greg Simmons, Commissioner Precinct #2
Don Stringer, Commissioner Precinct #3
Billy Hall, Commissioner Precinct #4
Minutes taken by Jennifer Martin, County Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m.

INVOCATION- COMMISSIONER DON STRINGER

The invocation was led by Commissioner Stringer.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE- UNITED STATES AND TEXAS

Commissioner Hall led the pledge of allegiance to the United States flag and the pledge of allegiance to the Texas flag.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS/REQUESTS/RESOLUTIONS

1. Ector County Library, Shelby Rigtrup- County Judge Admin. Assistant

To consider, discuss, and take any necessary action regarding the Ector County Library.

Tim Ogilvy from the Ector County Library Advisory Board addressed the court to give an update on the progress being made for the new library.

Randy Ham, also from the Ector County Library Advisory Board stressed the importance of hiring someone for the Ector County Library Foundation (once it is established) in order to request seed money and to be able to accept the donated funds.

Judge Fawcett asked about the amount of money that would be required from Ector County and how the partnership between the County and Foundation would work.

Mr. Ham stated that it would be approximately \$10 million for the county and could be prorated over 2-3 years.

They discussed if they would hire an architect, building manager and builder or would it just

be an architect to begin.

Commissioner Simmons asked what the role would be for the Foundation after the building is complete.

Mr. Ogilvy stated that it will help facilitate programs, fairs and emergency needs that may arise with the building. Mr. Ham used the Midland County Library Foundation as an example.

Commissioner Gardner stated that the foundation will be important to the success of the library.

NO ACTION WAS TAKEN ON THIS ITEM

2. Ector County Health Department, Shelby Rigtrup- County Judge Admin. Assistant

To consider, discuss, and take any necessary action regarding the Ector County Health Department.

This item was heard after agenda item #8.

Brandy Garcia, Director of the Ector County Health Department addressed the court regarding the annual report and their progress regarding a potential new location.

Dr. Jinadu spoke regarding public health in Ector County.

Judge Fawcett explained the need to look for another location for the Health Department since there was a flood in the basement and the location of the new library would be at that land location. He also discussed some of the options provided by Medical Center Hospital.

Staff from the Health Department spoke regarding the idea of separating departments from the Health Department to Planning and Development and the negative effect that it would have on their departments and processes.

Russell Tippin came forward to talk about the available locations that MCH has to offer.

NO ACTION WAS TAKEN ON THIS ITEM

12:22 P.M.

Commissioner Stringer made a motion to recess for 15 minutes; a second was made by Commissioner Hall. MOTION PASSED 5-0

12:37

Commissioner Simmons made a motion to reconvene; a second was made by Commissioner Hall. MOTION PASSED 4-0 (Commissioner Gardner had not returned yet)

3. Ector County Courthouse, Shelby Rigtrup- County Judge Admin. Assistant

To consider, discuss, and take any necessary action regarding the Ector County Courthouse.

Judge Fawcett explained that he would like to update everyone on a pathway to a new courthouse and discuss the best way to proceed.

There was discussion about a combined county and city facility with pros and cons being considered.

NO ACTION WAS TAKEN ON THIS ITEM

4. Ector County Annex, Shelby Rigtrup- County Judge Admin. Assistant

To consider, discuss, and take any necessary action regarding the Ector County Administration Building (Annex).

Judge Fawcett updated the court regarding the space available at the Annex for employees from the Health Department if they do get moved.

Commissioner Gardner asked about the space that is utilized by the credit union.

There was also discussion regarding the lack of security at the annex.

NO ACTION WAS TAKEN ON THIS ITEM

5. Ector County Juvenile Detention Center, Shelby Rigtrup- County Judge Admin. Assistant

To consider, discuss, and take any necessary action regarding the Ector County Juvenile Detention Center.

Kevin Mann, Director of the Juvenile Probation addressed the court giving an update on the minor building renovations that were budgeted for during this fiscal year. They have started the audit process with the state and the on-site portion will be in May.

Commissioner Gardner stated that he would continue to budget the \$1M but does not want to waste the money.

Mr. Mann also discussed the challenges of keeping the facility staffed.

NO ACTION WAS TAKEN ON THIS ITEM

6. Ector County Coliseum, Shelby Rigtrup- County Judge Admin. Assistant

To consider, discuss, and take any necessary action regarding the Ector County Coliseum.

Aaron Martin, Director of Coliseum addressed the court to go over the feasibility study that was completed.

A representative from JSA Architects spoke to the court regarding the costs of the top three items that came from the study. He also gave more detail about the projects and what it would entail.

NO ACTION WAS TAKEN ON THIS ITEM

7. Ector County Cemetery, Shelby Rigtrup- County Judge Admin. Assistant

To consider, discuss, and take any necessary action regarding the Ector County Cemetery.

Anna Marie Torres, Cemetery Director, spoke to the court stating that surrounding counties have increased the cost of plots for people who are not residents of their county because so many Ector County residents are being buried there.

Commissioner Hall addressed the court regarding the lack of space at the cemetery. He went over the possible locations next to the existing cemetery but they are not completely available. They performed a dig test at the property next to the jail which was successful, meaning that they were able to dig a good amount in a reasonable amount of time.

John Henderson discussed the cost of the new plots and the time frame for which the phases would last.

NO ACTION WAS TAKEN ON THIS ITEM

8. Odessa-Schlemeyer Field Airport, Shelby Rigtrup- County Judge Admin. Assistant

To consider, discuss, and take any necessary action regarding the Odessa-Schlemeyer Field Airport.

This item was heard second on the agenda due to time restraints of Luis Camango the TxDot participant.

Mr. Camango went over the plans for Odessa-Schlemeyer Field Airport and the match from the TxDot grant with a 50/50 match bringing Ector County's portion to \$970K.

Judge Fawcett asked for him to describe what the IJJ funds are.

Mr. Camango stated that the funds can be used for anything they wish so it can be money generating or non-generating projects but they do have time restrictions on them. Also, all monies have to be matched. All of the funds being discussed are all federal dollars.

Judge Fawcett asked when the matching funds would be required.

TxDot explained that they would first find a consultant and then request funds from the county.

Mr. Camango explained to the court that they will need a resolution to present to the State Commission.

Commissioner Stringer stated that it will be adopted at the May 14th Commissioner Court Meeting.

Mark Merritt with the Airport Advisory Board addressed the court to discuss the goals and projects for the airport. He also handed out information regarding the county running the FBO.

Mr. Ritter stated that it can be run by the county more efficiently and has done a survey of other county run airports. He went over his findings for the court. He found that several airports are moving from private operators to county or municipal operators.

Commissioner Simmons stated that it would be beneficial to help with matching grants and the county contributions.

Commissioner Hall asked if there was a plan to staff the facility.

Mr. Merritt stated that they would use the same crew that is already there.

Judge Fawcett shared concern that staffing could be an issue as the county has been seeing more job openings that are hard to fill.

Commissioner Simmons made a motion to move towards a county operated FBO and to pull the current RFP; a second was made by Commissioner Stringer. MOTION PASSED 4-1 (Judge Fawcett voted against)

9. Ector County Medical Examiner's Office Buildings, Shelby Rigtrup- County Judge Admin. Assistant

To consider, discuss, and take any necessary action regarding the Ector County Medical Examiner's Office buildings.

Carl Rogers, Medical Examiner's Office, spoke to the court regarding the inconvenience of making trips back and forth from the office to the morgue facility at the Sheriff's Office. They lose approximately 4-6 hours per day of employee work time due to the inefficiency of the location.

Commissioner Hall discussed that he has been looking at a new location by the morgue and working with Mr. Rogers to find a solution.

Mr. Rogers discussed personnel and staffing challenges as well.

NO ACTION WAS TAKEN ON THIS ITEM

10. Ector County E. Texas St. Properties, Shelby Rigtrup- County Judge Admin. Assistant

To consider, discuss, and take any necessary action regarding all Ector County-owned properties located off of N. Texas Ave. Odessa, TX.

Judge Fawcett discussed these properties because if the library is built where health

department is, it will take away courthouse parking. Would like the court to consider this property for parking and asked the court to think about places to move adult probation if that were to happen.

2:36 p.m.

Commissioner Simmons made a motion to adjourn to Executive Session; a second was made by Commissioner Hall. MOTION PASSED 5-0

2:53 p.m.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hall to reconvene; Commissioner Stringer seconded the motion. MOTION PASSED 5-0

EXECUTIVE SESSION

11. Legal Matters, Shelby Rigtrup- County Judge Admin. Assistant

To consider and discuss legal matters pursuant to Title 5, Chapter 551, Section 551.071, Texas Government Code.

NO ACTION WAS TAKEN ON THIS ITEM

12. Real Estate, Shelby Rigtrup- County Judge Admin. Assistant

To consider and discuss real estate issues/transactions pursuant to Title 5, Chapter 551, Section 551.072, Texas Government Code.

NO ACTION WAS TAKEN ON THIS ITEM

13. Personnel Matters, Shelby Rigtrup- County Judge Admin. Assistant

To consider and discuss personnel matters pursuant to Title 5, Chapter 551, Section 551.074, Texas Government Code.

NO ACTION WAS TAKEN ON THIS ITEM

Time: 2:54 p.m.

With no further business to discuss a motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Simmons with a second by Commissioner Gardner.

THE STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF ECTOR

I, Jennifer Martin, County Clerk, do hereby attest to the accuracy of the Commissioners Court Proceedings for the workshop held on the above date.

April 24, 2024 at 03:01 PM



Jennifer Martin, Ector County Clerk