

TYLER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT
SPECIAL MEETING

November 16, 2007 ---- 11:00 a.m.

THE STATE OF TEXAS ON THIS THE 16th day of November, 2007 the
Commissioners' Court in and for Tyler County, Texas convened in a Special Meeting at
the Commissioners' Courtroom in Woodville, Texas, the following members of the Court
present, to wit:

JACQUES L. BLANCHETTE	COUNTY JUDGE
MARTIN NASH	COMMISSIONER, PCT. #1
RUSTY HUGHES	COMMISSIONER, PCT. #2
JOE MARSHALL	COMMISSIONER, PCT. #3
JACK WALSTON	COMMISSIONER, PCT. #4
DONECE GREGORY	COUNTY CLERK, EX OFFICIO

The following were absent: none thereby constituting a quorum. In addition to
the above were:

JOE SMITH	CRIMINAL DISTRICT ATTORNEY
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The meeting opened at 11:16 a.m.

Ben Bythewood presented the request for the county's match of the **courthouse restoration project**. If the **grant application** scores high enough, this first round will only fund plans and specifications of approximate \$862,000. The county's match would be around \$260,000. The county had allowed \$100,000 in next year's budget.

Commissioner Marshall concerned about allocating one quarter of million dollars to something to lose. Joe Marshall preferred seeing public's input since they, and probably their grandchildren will be funding this in the future. Ben answered this could be done with a bond election in conjunction with enlarging the county jail.

Sandy Hargrove, chairman of Tyler County Historical Commission, representing all areas of the county have input from their communities that support the restoration of the courthouse.

In answer to Judge Blanchette, Ben stated the \$862,000 was part of funding the entire project of 9.5 million dollars. Mr. Bythewood reported he had not received real opposition in the areas around county. New construction of a new courthouse would also be close to six million dollars. The restoration would be taking advantage of money from the State and have a greater impact on economic issues and be the least expensive way of doing it. The restored courthouse would tie into other historic areas of the counties for heritage tourist and see an economic benefit from this project.

Jess Collins stated that he and his wife spend many hours trying to keep the "past from escaping us".

Jewel Bell, Fred area, stated this project reminds her of the biblical aspect - that this "big Ox" (courthouse) is in the ditch. The court has an opportunity to get it out by voting to restore it.

Mayor Elton Lawrence, Chester area, reported "not much opposition" when hearing that the State will be funding the majority of the project. The County desperately needs industry to help bear the tax burden and keep the communities alive.

Jack Whitmeyer, reminded of comments by the late Phoebe Armstrong knowing Tyler County, people that do things for the County are the people that leave and come back to Tyler County. This courthouse is a "concrete" tie to history for children.

Gayle Burton most offices have already moved out of the courthouse. Mrs. Burton said this is a win-win opportunity. This is a window of opportunity to have an investment that would have a return.

Commissioner Nash stated this is one of the toughest issues he has had to face. Commissioner Marshall stated funding in the county is limited and is hesitate to make such a decision to make the citizens pay for it. Ben responded that acting now rather than later would save millions of dollars in the future of the county. If this project is delayed he could see the county have to foot 100% of the bill rather than 40%.

Smith reminded that court had budgeted \$100,000 next year and pledged \$100,000 per year for this restoration, but wanted to know when the county would be responsible for the entire \$260,000. If the bond issue fails, the county would loose its \$260,000 if pledged for the first phase.

Commissioner Nash has received a 50/50 split of public comments. He noted the old school building in Warren would be refurbished today if those citizens had their way. He doesn't want to see the courthouse get in that condition and feels it is worth the \$260,000 "dice roll" to pull the "ox out of the ditch". He further motioned to proceed, feeling it is the right time. **Commissioner Hughes** seconded the motion. Commissioner Marshall agreed to go along with this, but wants to see the people's decision for any further commitments as to whether the county is in favor of the next step of supporting the grant application. Judge Blanchette summarized this is a hard decision but also feels it is the right time to commit to restoring the courthouse. All voted yes and none no. SEE ATTACHED RESOLUTION.

Bringing the heart to this project, Joe Smith stated this project was special to him more than anyone because he was the third generation to try cases in the courtroom.

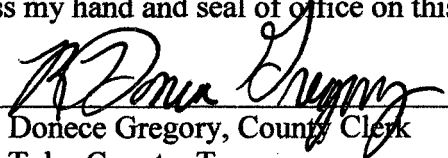
Commissioner Walston motioned the meeting adjourned. Commissioner Nash seconded the motion. All voted yes and none no.

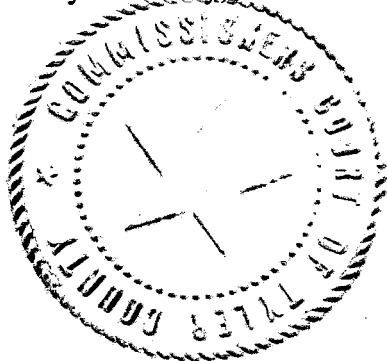
THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, THE MEETING ADJOURNED: 12:30 p.m.

I, Donece Gregory, County Clerk and ex officio member of the Tyler County Commissioners Court, do hereby certify to the fact that the above is a true and correct record of the Tyler County Commissioners Court session held on November 16, 2007.

Witness my hand and seal of office on this the 10th day of January, 2008.

Attest:


Donece Gregory, County Clerk
Tyler County, Texas





TYLER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT
November 16, 2007 Tyler County Courthouse, Room 101
11:00A.M. Woodville, Texas

NOTICE Is hereby given that a *Special Meeting* of the Tyler County Commissioners Court will be held on the date stated above, at which time the following subjects will be discussed;

AGENDA

➤ **CALL TO ORDER**

- Establish quorum
- Invocation

1. **CONSIDER/APPROVE:** County match for the Courthouse Restoration Project.– *Ben Bythewood*

➤ **ADJOURN**

Jacques L. Blanchette
JACQUES L. BLANCHETTE
County Judge

I do hereby certify that the above Notice of Meeting of the Tyler County Commissioners Court is a true and correct copy of said Notice and that I posted a true and correct copy of said Notice in the Tyler County Courthouse at a place readily accessible to the general public at all times and that said Notice remained so posted continuously for at least 72 hours preceding the scheduled time of said meeting, as is required by Article 6252-17, V.T.C.S.

Executed on November 13 2007

Donece Gregory, Tyler County Clerk

By: *[Signature]* (Deputy)

NO. _____ TIME 11:30 AM

NOV 13 2007

DONECE GREGORY, COUNTY CLERK
TYLER COUNTY, TEXAS
By: *[Signature]*



TYLER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT

November 16, 2007 Tyler County Courthouse, Room 101
11:00 A.M. Woodville, Texas

RESOLUTION

Whereas, Tyler County has previously established a need for and support of restoration of our 1891 historic Tyler County Courthouse, and

Whereas, the Texas Historical Commission is accepting grant applications for participation in the Courthouse Preservation Program, and

Whereas, Tyler County has previously committed to the grant process outlined in the Texas Historical Commission Courthouse Preservation Program, and

Whereas, Tyler County is proactively involved in preserving its historic structures, and

Whereas, Tyler County has revised the Master Plan for full restoration of the historic Tyler County Courthouse to its original 1891 condition, and

Whereas, a grant application has been prepared for submission requesting full funding to complete the restoration of the 1891 historic Tyler County Courthouse, and

Whereas, Tyler County reaffirms its commitment to the grant process and all duties and responsibilities outlined in the Texas Historical Commission Courthouse Preservation Program,

We the Commissioners Court of the County of Tyler and State of Texas on this the 16th Day of November, 2007, do hereby affirm our desire to continue the process of preservation of the 1891 historic Tyler County Courthouse and support the submission of a grant application for Tyler County's continued involvement in the Texas Historical Commission Courthouse Preservation Program

Martin Nash
Commissioner, Pct. 1

James (Rusty) Hughes
Commissioner, Pct. 3

Joe Marshall
Commissioner, Pct. 3

Jack Walston
Commissioner, Pct. 4

Jacques L. Blanchette
County Judge