

TYLER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT
SPECIAL MEETING
May 11, 2015 ---- 11:00 a.m.

THE STATE OF TEXAS ON THIS THE 11th day of May, 2015 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, Presiding
MARTIN NASH	COMMISSIONER, PCT. #1
RUSTY HUGHES	COMMISSIONER, PCT. #2
MIKE 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: members of the Tyler County Historical Commission

Huntley Kenneson stated the purpose of the meeting today was to determine a common
effort and develop a plan for achieving this goal for the restoration of the 1891
courthouse.

Mr. Kenneson recapped the grant funding provided by the State of Texas for the
restoration of courthouses which started in 2000. There have been eight funding rounds
of \$251,000,000.00. Tyler County has applied in seven of these rounds and received
some emergency funding after the 1998 fire. Round Nine will be considered in 2016.

Members of the committee met with John Volz and Sharon Fleming in Austin. Huntley
reported that the State will not do "piece mill" or "stages and phases" grants; the only
interest is in total restoration of the historical building. The State needs to see support
from county government and county residents. Also, they need to see evidence that the
county can fund the total project including the grant funding received which maximum
would be of a little more than five million dollars. Pledges from foundations and
government entities count toward this total, but would have to have proof that the money
would be available to the county for the restoration. The county needs to have plans and
specs accomplished prior to making application. Points are lost if plans and specs are not
included.

The intermediate goal of the committee was to raise \$100,000,000 by January 2016 to be
used for the plans and specs portion of the project and apply for the grant in 2017. Their
plan was to visit with individuals, businesses and corporations in the county to acquire
\$400,000; depending on the commissioners' court for \$375,000. In their meetings with
county groups, the question that kept coming up was "How does the commissioners'
court feel about this, do they totally support this project."

The committee met with Ms. Fleming at the Texas Historical Commission again to
inquire if the state would support restoration being done in phases if the projects were
self funded. She recommended starting with the most critical need and work closely with
the architect, John Volz. Discussion was had toward restoring the clock tower.

The committee requests some direction from the court:

1. What is the greatest need?
2. Do we want to consider a partial restoration which would be self funded by the
county
3. Do we want to continue to push toward a totally restoration assuming there would
be grant funding from the State

Commissioner Hughes:

- If we go for a total restoration the first thing is to have the plans and specs
- use money for the bell tower and later on would be less money needed for the
grant

Commissioner Nash:

- doesn't look good for getting funded because of the decrease in State funding
- have concentrated county money getting the 3rd floor vacated because of safety issues
- bell tower is a real issue for safety reasons
- of the opinion to deal with the safety issues and see if we have the money to tie it into as part of the restoration project
- commended Judge Blanchette for the work he has been doing inside the courthouse
- encouraged the commission to continue to raise money for "plans and specs"
- use the taxpayers' money for safety issues but felt the county would not be good stewards to use taxpayers' money for "plans and specs"
- mineral income needs to be used for capital improvements
- county will use its budget for safety issues and the money raised by the commission used for plans and specs

Commissioner Walston:

- also commended the Judge for doing an excellent job on the interiors and staying in line with restoration
- looking at the cost of displacing offices now housed in the courthouse
- we are working toward the same goal in different areas
- the master plan drawn into the old Brookshire building will provide space to move the offices
- looked at using oil and mineral money for building projects instead of taxpayer's money

Commissioner Marshall:

- under the impression that the contractor's plan was to restore the bell tower to its historical aesthetic

Judge Blanchette:

- everything that has been done has been done on a cash basis and done in small steps
- the window project is being done by local craftsmen, being done affordably
- continue to do what the court can toward the full restoration
- doesn't want to breach any type of barrier with the state commission with the projects being done, imposing sanctions. Paint and things that do not take away from the original walls is allowable
- trying to fix things with the thought of the ultimate restoration presentation in this mix of conversation; maybe fix in such a way, with the (architectural) plans in harmony with what the State Historical Commission says would be approved
- would like to start at the end of the year or first part of next year working on the bell tower, responding to Mrs. Holderman's question about the time line. The rotted windows have to be addressed before the bell tower.
- The windows are a maintenance issue. They are not being changed.
- In a couple months, probably need to get the plans for the bell tower specific activity; agreed that it should be a "John Volz" set of plans

John Gazzaway:

- To do the work in stages, you almost have to have the plans and specs in stages. Are you in favor of going in partnership with getting those plans for the tower?
- taking care of the safety issues and water issues but do it historically at the same time

Eleanor Holderman:

- What kind of time line would it take to address the safety issue of the bell tower?
- "We have a public that is ready to hear from us". The target/next steps need to be publicized and promoted in order to get financial contributors and keep the momentum.

Mr. Kennesson summarized his understanding of the discussion: Continue to work toward applying for the state grant by working toward the funding for plans and specs while the county moves forward with stabilization and the safety issue of restoring the bell tower. But the funds might not be available from the county to restore it to its aesthetic 1891 status. He suggested that John Volz prepare separate figures for stabilization/safety issues and restoration/cosmetic cost.

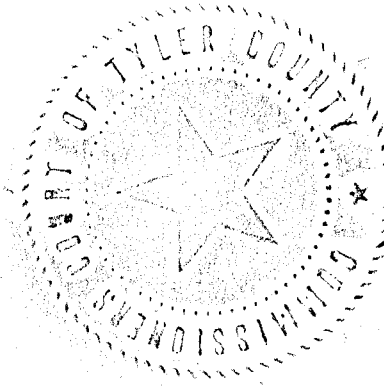
It was a consensus of the workshop to keep total restoration in mind as a long term goal, but work in phases that can be done such as restoring the clock tower being the most critical need.

A motion was made by Commissioner Nash and seconded by Commissioner Marshall to adjourn. All voted yes.

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 workshop session held on May 11, 2015.

Witness my hand and seal of office on this the 26th day of May, 2015.

Attest: 
Donece Gregory, County Clerk, Tyler County, Texas





TYLER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT
County Courthouse, Room 101 / Woodville, Texas

Monday, May 11, 2015 11:00 am

Martin Nash
Commissioner, Pct. 1

Rusty Hughes
Commissioner, Pct. 2

Jacques L. Blanchette
County Judge

Mike Marshall
Commissioner, Pct. 3

Jack Walston
Commissioner, Pct. 4

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

Representatives from County Government, which could constitute a quorum of the Commissioner's Court, as well as representatives from the Tyler County Historical Commission shall convene to conduct a:

COURTHOUSE RESTORATION WORKSHOP

Discussions with John Voltz, Restoration Architect, are likely.

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 at the Tyler County Courthouse in 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 Section 551.002 & 551.041.

Executed on May 7th 2015 Time 2:30pm

Donece Gregory, County Clerk/Ex Officio Member of Commissioners Court

By: Amanda DeJure (Deputy)