

Hamilton County Commissioner's Court
Regular Session
Monday, February 27, 2012
9:00 A.M.

Hamilton County Commissioner's Court met in Regular Session with the following members present: County Judge Randy Mills, Commissioners Jim Boatwright, Mark Tafel, Jon Bonner and Dickie Clary.

Judge Mills opened the meeting with prayer.

Damon Chumney spoke in public comments expressing that it was a bad ideal to purchase the bank building that the county needed to sale the bank building and get it back on the tax role.

Mr. Chumney asked if there was a real problem with Item 13 of the agenda or were we just trying to create one? Item 13.- Discuss laws relating to signs on public roads and right of ways. Appoint trained volunteer and/or Commissioner authorization to remove signs on county road right of way(s).

Continuing Mr. Chumney stated that he was in support of Item 15 Discuss/Approve use of Hamilton County Courthouse Parking Lot for political functions on weekends. Chumney stated that the parking lot belongs to the people.

Judge Mills began with Item 14.-Discuss/Approve Hamilton County Courthouse Land Scaping. Dig This Collin Melton presented a plan to the court for consideration. Hamilton Economic Development Manager Jane Crouch and Frances Seay were also present in support of the project. It was determined that a lot of people are very interested in helping with the lawn: Hamilton Leadership, Hamilton Master Gardner's and Hamilton Public School students. Commissioner Bonner would be purchasing the sod for the lawn. Mr. Melton stated that it was very important for the grade to be correct. The precincts will provide a dump truck and a front end loader to remove extra material. Melton stated that he was concern about the small pecan tree stating that it is possibly dead and if so it needs to be removed before the grade is done. Commissioner Tafel asked about using succulents. Melton replied that he had no problems using succulents but they would need to be thorn less and non poisonous. The Texas Historical Commissions requirements of the plantings are that they be evergreen, perennial and drought tolerant. The court will be using a Bermuda grass (419) which is used on golf courses. We will be sodding approximately one-half acre and need about thirty five (35) pallets.

A motion was made by Tafel and seconded by Bonner to approve the Hamilton County Courthouse Landscaping Plan. The sod will be purchased at thirteen cent (.13) per square foot. The motion carried unanimously. (Recorded in Commissioner's Court Papers Book 42 Page 432)

A motion was made by Clary and seconded by Jim to approve the budget amendment for the sheriff's department from electricity to schools and conferences. The motion carried unanimously. (Recorded in Commissioner's Court Papers Book 42 Page 415)

A motion was made by Clary and seconded by Bonner to approve the following consent agenda:

- a. Minutes of 2-13-2012 Commissioner's Court Meeting
- b. Minutes of 2-16-2012 Commissioner's Court Meeting
- c. Minutes of 2-22-2012 Commissioner's Court Meeting
- d. Approve Department Reports (Recorded in Commissioner's Court Papers Book 42 Page 519)
- e. Approve bills submitted for payment in the amount of \$38,266.94 (Recorded in Commissioner's Court Papers Book 42 Page 417)

The motion carried unanimously.

Judge Mills told the court about the change orders that were presented: concerning changing out the courtroom door bars as they are noisy and the baseboard wood/concrete stating that the concrete stays but the wood could be painted. The other issues were the lower window sashes in the courtroom, the window in the southwest corner of the second floor corridor, the dead bolt locks for privacy in the adult-juvenile probation area, the wainscoting and the hardware.

The court stated that they wanted to do the lower window sashes in the courtroom, fix the window in the southwest corner of the second floor corridor and dead bolt locks for the probation area.

The court did not want to do the wainscoting around the courtroom windows nor the hardware.

A motion was made by Clary and seconded by Boatwright to approve the following change order request: Numbers-3023, 3033 and 3034. The motion carried unanimously. (Recorded in Commissioner's Court Papers Book 42 Page 527)

A motion was made by Bonner and seconded by Clary to accept the bid of \$5,000.00 for the property located at 512 Starr Street, Hico, Texas. The motion carried unanimously. (Recorded in Commissioner's Court Papers Book 42 Page 534)

A motion was made by Bonner and seconded by Clary to reject the bid of \$300 for the property at 209 Anderson Street, Hico, Texas. The motion carried unanimously. (Recorded in Commissioner's Court Papers Book 42 Page 535)

County Treasurer Debbie Eoff presented to the court the personnel policy with the changes that were requested. A motion was made by Clary and seconded by Bonner to approve the Hamilton County Personnel Policies to include the changes made in the Commissioner's Court Meeting of February 22, 2012. The motion carried unanimously. (Recorded in Commissioner's Court Papers Book 42 Page 445)

Texas Association of Counties wants to close out the claim on the flood damages to the Hamilton County Courthouse Annex. There was no action taken on Item 12 – Discuss and/or approve plans for performing repairs to Hamilton County Courthouse Annex; approve initial payment if repairs are not made. The court suggested that we have a workshop on this item to discuss our alternatives.

There was no action taken on Item 15- Discuss / approve use of Hamilton County Courthouse Parking lot for political functions on weekends. The court took a brief recess for County Clerk Debbie Rudolph to look up the list previously approved by the court. Reconvening Rudolph presented the list to the court. The only caveat added was that until the courthouse lawn is established the parking lot is the only area that can be used for these functions. No further action required. (Recorded in Commissioner's Court Papers Book 42 Page 444)

Commissioner Bonner wanted to discuss the laws relating to signs on public roads and right of ways. Appoint trained volunteer and/or commissioner authorization to remove signs on county road right of way(s). County Attorney Mark Henkes read a statute from Texas Transportation Code 393.002 and determined that it was a Class C misdemeanor to violate this issue. No further action required as law is already established for this issue.

A motion was made by Bonner and seconded by Tafel to adjourn. The motion carried by a majority vote. The meeting adjourned.

County Judge

Attest: _____
County Clerk