

Hamilton County Commissioner's Court

Special Session
Wednesday, March 6, 2013
2:00 P.M.



Hamilton County Commissioner's Court met in a Special Session on Wednesday, March 6, 2013 at 2:00 P.M. with the following members present: County Judge Randy Mills, Commissioners Johnny Wagner, Lloyd Huggins and Dickie Clary. Commissioner Mark Tafel arrived prior to the close of the meeting a few minutes before the vote was taken on the abatement.

Judge Mills called the meeting to order.

The court had a brief review about the tax abatement process and a partial recall of the historical facts in the county's abatement process. After a short discussion Judge Mills called for a recess to allow for Commissioner Mark Tafel, Hamilton Economic Director Jane Crouch and Circle T Arena Owner Marvin Herb to arrive. A motion was made by Huggins and seconded by Wagner to recess until 3:00 P.M. The motion carried unanimously.

The court reconvened at 3:00 P.M. County Attorney Mark Henkes summarized a part of the Tax Code 312.002 and 312.401 reminding the court that the court was still within the two (2) year time limitation from when they passed the Policy on Tax Abatement and other Economic Development Incentives for the County of Hamilton, Texas, which was approved January 9, 2012. Henkes then gave the court instructions for establishing the reinvestment zone stating that it was very similar to the budgetary process which required a notice to be published in the newspaper at least seven (7) days prior to the public hearing and other required elements. Henkes summarized the items that would need to be included in the resolution.

Hamilton Economic Director Jane Crouch addressed the court stating that this is new to us because we do not do this very often therefore it seems new although we have previously been through the process. Crouch continued stating that we began this process with Circle T in 2004 Phase I – Circle T Arena (abatement has expired) and 2007 Phase II – Circle T Hotel (abatement has 1-2 years remaining). Ms. Crouch added that since Circle T has evolved Hamilton has seen a definite sales tax increase. She reminded the court that the school and hospital taxing entities are not a part of the abatement process. A meeting was held on March 5, 2013 with the Hamilton EDC Board reporting that the board was very positive and supportive of the Circle T addition. (Recorded in Commissioner's Court Papers Book 45 Page 488)

Marvin Herb, Circle T Arena owner shared with the court his plans for the construction of a covered arena the same size as the existing arena including concession stands and restrooms. There will also be fans, misting sprays and pesticide sprayers installed. The plans are to hire four to five (4-5) full time employees and twenty (20) part-time employees working on weekends but they will still be able to work 8-10 hours per days. Mr. Herb continued saying that Tommy Morrison will be the contractor for this second arena as he built the first arena. They were also developing additional RV setups.

Mr. Herb stated that his real desire was to "make a destination".

A motion was made by Wagner and seconded by Tafel to approve the resolution to approve the tax abatement for Circle T Arena. The motion carried unanimously. (Recorded in Commissioner's Court Papers Book 45 Page 515) (Executed Resolution Recorded in Commissioner's Court Papers Book 45 Page 666)

A motion was made by Huggins and seconded by Clary to adjourn. The motion carried by a majority vote. Mills abstained. The meeting adjourned.

County Judge

Attest: _____

County Clerk