

STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF COLLIN

COMMISSIONERS' COURT
MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 20, 2017

On Monday, February 20, 2017, the Commissioners' Court of Collin County, Texas, met in Regular Session in the Commissioners' Courtroom, Jack Hatchell Collin County Administration Building, 4th Floor, 2300 Bloomdale Road, City of McKinney, Texas, with the following members present, and participating, to wit:

Judge Keith Self
Commissioner Susan Fletcher, Precinct 1
Commissioner Cheryl Williams, Precinct 2
Commissioner Chris Hill, Precinct 3

Absent: Commissioner Duncan Webb, Precinct 4

Commissioner Hill led the Invocation.
Commissioner Fletcher led the Pledge of Allegiance.
Judge Self led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Texas Flag.

1. Judge Self called to order the meeting of the Collin County Commissioners' Court at 1:30 p.m. and adjourned the meeting at 3:26 p.m.

President Self called to order the meeting of the Collin County Health Care Foundation at 3:26 p.m. and adjourned the meeting at 3:26 p.m.

President Self called to order the meeting of the Collin County Toll Road Authority at 3:26 p.m. and adjourned the meeting at 3:26 p.m.

DECISIONS MANDATED BY LEGAL ENTITIES OUTSIDE OF COMMISSIONERS COURT AUTHORITY:

1. AI-42770 Grant application and resolution for the FY 2018 Specialty Court Program Grant through the Office of the Governor, Criminal Justice Division, Juvenile Probation.

FYI NOTIFICATION

1. AI-34688 Outstanding Agenda Items, Commissioners Court.

2. Public Comments.

Ben Brown, Fairview, came forward to address the Court on HB 1271 which addresses uniform election dates. Mr. Brown said all elections, except those where an elected official must be replaced, should be held on a uniform election date as stipulated by Texas law. This saves taxpayer dollars, reduces confusion among the electorate, and eliminates the stealth elections that seem to be in vogue in Texas. Mr. Brown referenced SB 173 which also addresses uniform election dates. (Time: 1:34 p.m.)

3. Presentation/Recognition.

4. Consent agenda to approve: Judge Self asked for comments on the consent agenda. Commissioner Williams pulled the group of indigent defense payments under item 4a. Commissioner Hill pulled items 4e3 and 4e5. With no further comments, a motion was made to approve the remainder of the consent agenda. (Time: 2:24 p.m.)

Motion by: Commissioner Susan Fletcher
Second by: Commissioner Cheryl Williams
Vote: 4 - 0 Passed

a. AI-42715 Disbursements for the period ending February 14, 2017, Auditor.

Commissioner Williams stated the Court indicated it would not pay any indigent defense costs that did not have back up available to allow each Commissioner to determine if those payments met the guidelines of the local rules and the Fair Defense Act. The Commissioner noted that the Auditor works for the Board of District Judges and not for Commissioners' Court. It is at the Board of District Judges' discretion whether or not the Auditor will be able to provide the Court with this information. It is the Commissioner's intent that, unless she can prove that each and every payment made to an indigent defense attorney meets the criteria in both the local rules and the Fair Defense Act, she does not intend to approve them. The item was held. (Time: 2:25 p.m.)

Disbursements with the exception of payments for Indigent Defense were approved with the consent agenda.

COURT ORDER NO. 2017-117-02-20

b. Award(s):

1. AI-42762 Construction, Health Care Services Pavement Replacement (IFB No. 2016-306) to Ironhorse Unlimited, Inc., budget amendment in the amount of \$114,000 and further authorize the Purchasing Agent to finalize and execute the Construction Agreement, Construction & Projects.

COURT ORDER NO. 2017-118-02-20

c. Budget adjustment(s)/amendment(s):

1. **AI-42757** \$700 to reallocate funds to cover the expenses for supplemental training pay, Sheriff.

COURT ORDER NO. 2017-119-02-20

d. Filing of the Minute(s), County Clerk:

COURT ORDER NO. 2017-120-02-20

1. **AI-42750** January 30, 2017.

e. Miscellaneous

1. **AI-42759** Acceptance of the Operation Dragoon Mural for display at the Courthouse, County Judge.

COURT ORDER NO. 2017-121-02-20

2. **AI-42795** Sale of property located in Neathery-Marble Addition, Farmersville, Texas (Lot 4C, Block 2, Volume 668, Page 928) as recorded in the Collin County Deed Records to Jaime Alberto Castillo upon the payment of \$500, Administrative Services.

COURT ORDER NO. 2017-122-02-20

3. **AI-42793** Sale of property located at 2650 FM 546, McKinney, Texas (.242 acres of land out of Abstract 517, R.H. Locke Survey, Volume 3134, Page 569) as recorded in the Collin County Deed Records to Manuel Castaneda upon the payment of \$10,500, County Judge.

Commissioner Hill pulled this item which is property that has been struck off as delinquent in the tax records. The County received an offer to purchase the property at an amount less than the amount owed in taxes. The Commissioner recommends not approving the sale due to the improvements planned for FM 546. With no further discussion, a motion was made to not approve this item. (Time: 2:26 p.m.)

Motion by: Commissioner Chris Hill

Second by: Commissioner Susan Fletcher

Vote: 4 – 0 Passed

COURT ORDER NO. 2017-123-02-20

4. **AI-42756** Utilization of the Bloomdale Courthouse for the Collin County Bar Association's Mock Trial Competition on Friday, April 28 2017 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Saturday, April 29, 2017 from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The Collin County Bar Association has agreed to pay for security and housekeeping services on Saturday, April 29, 2017 and further requests a waiver of fees and insurance requirements, Facilities.

COURT ORDER NO. 2017-124-02-20

5. **AI-42754** Application to the 10-33 Military Surplus Program for participation to allow law enforcement agencies to obtain surplus Military items, Sheriff.

Commissioner Hill pulled this item to ask if this was limited to the purchase of rifles only for the Honor Guard. Sheriff Jim Skinner said it was. Judge Self asked if the barrels would be plugged. The Sheriff said, in the event of a funeral, he would prefer them to be operable. (Time: 2:28 p.m.)

Motion by: Commissioner Chris Hill
Second by: Commissioner Cheryl Williams
Vote: 4 – 0 Passed

COURT ORDER NO. 2017-125-02-20

6. **AI-42781** Personnel Appointments, Human Resources.

COURT ORDER NO. 2017-126-02-20

7. **AI-42782** Personnel Changes, Human Resources.

COURT ORDER NO. 2017-127-02-20

GENERAL DISCUSSION

5. **AI-42567** FY 2017 Reclassifications, Human Resources.

Cynthia Jacobson, Human Resources, came forward with the market data associated with a request by the Justice Courts for the reclassification of their court clerks. Ms. Jacobson does not recommend the reclassification. Judge Paul Raleeh, Justice of the Peace, Precinct 1, came forward as the Administrative Judge for the five Justice Courts. The request is for the Justice Court clerks to be re-classed one pay grade up since their duties are very similar to those of the clerks in the County and District Courts.

Ms. Jacobson explained the County's pay philosophy and guidelines which this request did not meet. Commissioner Fletcher asked if the job functions were the same as the other departments and were they having trouble filling the positions. Ms. Jacobson explained they have no trouble filling the positions which are entry-level requiring no particular skill set.

Judge Raleeh said the job description of the Justice Court clerks mirrors that of the County and District Court clerks. Commissioner Williams said Judge Raleeh is looking for a policy change so HR can compare an existing job in the County with another existing job as opposed to comparing the same position with other counties. There was a lengthy conversation regarding the job descriptions, job comparisons and County policy.

Commissioner Williams said she had indicated during the last budget session that she would not approve any more re-classes until the Court fixed or attempted to fix the ongoing issues with compensation and compression. With no further discussion, a motion was made to approve all reclassifications except those not recommended by Human Resources. (Time: 3:05 p.m.)

Motion by: Judge Keith Self
Second by: Commissioner Chris Hill
Vote: 4 – 0 Passed

COURT ORDER NO. 2017-128-02-20

6. AI-42580 85th Legislative Agenda for 2017, Commissioners Court.

A motion was made to pass a resolution supporting items 6b through 6k. (Time: 3:09 p.m.)

Motion by: Commissioner Cheryl Williams
Second by: Commissioner Susan Fletcher
Vote: 4 – 0 Passed

COURT ORDER NO. 2017-129-02-20

a. AI-42800 Resolution in support of Proposition 7 funding.

Judge Self said this is a very important resolution because if the legislature pulls some of this money away, they could continue to fund nondiscretionary funding with the highway fund. Commissioner Hill made two corrections to the resolution. In the second paragraph and the last paragraph, the word “badly” was changed to “critical.” With no further discussion, a motion was made to approve the resolution with the changes made. (Time: 3:08 p.m.)

Motion: Commissioner Chris Hill
Second by: Commissioner Cheryl Williams
Vote: 4 – 0 Passed

COURT ORDER NO. 2017-130-02-20

b. AI-42735 HB 624 Authority of a district clerk to post official and legal notices by electronic display.

c. AI-42736 HB 737 Board of trustees of the Texas County and District Retirement System.

d. AI-42737 HB 738 Certain information included with ballot propositions for elections to authorize state and local general obligation bonds.

e. AI-42738 HB 819 Authority of certain entities to enter into a comprehensive development agreement.

f. **AI-42739** HB 1058 Prohibition on the sale of court records filed through the statewide electronic filing system.

g. **AI-42740** HB 1071 Study by the Texas Department of Transportation of the alignment for the proposed Regional Outer Loop project in certain counties.

h. **AI-42713** HB 1271 Holding elections on uniform election dates.

i. **AI-42741** HB 1282 Cessation of tolls by toll project entities in certain circumstances.

j. **AI-42742** HB 1310 Requirements for providing information regarding the issuance of certain proposed bonds by certain political subdivisions.

k. **AI-42743** HB 1311 Prohibition on converting state highway lanes to tolled or other types of managed lanes.

l. **AI-42765** HB 1562 Zoning and building construction regulations in certain counties; providing a criminal penalty.

A motion was made to oppose this bill. (Time: 3:11 p.m.)

Motion by: Judge Keith Self

Second by: Commissioner Cheryl Williams

Vote: 4 – 0 Passed

COURT ORDER NO. 2017-131-02-20

m. **AI-42744** SB 198 Voting eligibility requirements for members of a metropolitan planning organization policy board.

Commissioner Williams said it was critical for the Court to support this bill stating it limits the voting strength at the MPO (Metropolitan Planning Organization) to only elected officials. With no further discussion, a motion was made for a resolution to support SB 198. (Time: 3:13 p.m.)

Motion by: Commissioner Cheryl Williams

Second by: Commissioner Chris Hill

Vote: 4 – 0 Passed

COURT ORDER NO. 2017-132-02-20

n. **AI-42760** Legislative administration of Special Districts.

This item was held until there is a bill.

HELD

7. AI-42773 Conference of Urban Counties update, Commissioner, Precinct 3.

Commissioner Hill updated the Court on the last CUC (Conference of Urban Counties) meeting. The CUC Policy Committee is reviewing bills and deciding which to support or oppose. The Commissioner voted “no” on six different items that were eventually passed.

The most discussed issue was SB 2 regarding property tax reform, and a majority of the members vehemently oppose any attempts to regulate property taxes or put reforms on the counties, cities or school districts. Don Lee, Executive Director, reported that he heard the House Ways and Means Committee was favorable towards passage of this bill. Commissioner Fletcher said it is critical that the bill include a normalization of the election date.

The next item discussed was SB 4 regarding Sanctuary Cities though there was no vote. Travis and Dallas Counties have taken positions directly against the Governor and against the focus of eliminating sanctuary cities. No vote was taken so this item may be on the agenda for the March 8 meeting.

There was unanimous support for both HB 1058 and HB 1258.

Next was a presentation on some ethics reform bills, specifically one presented by Senator Van Taylor from Collin County. Some members spoke against any ethics reform. Travis County said it was too punitive for elected officials who violate their ethics. The penalties against elected officials who violate the code of ethics included losing their pensions.

Commissioner Williams asked if there was a discussion on straight party voting. Commissioner Hill said there was but there were no passionate opinions on either side. There was a suggestion to end straight party voting for judicial elections and some members wanted to end it for all elections. There was no action taken and it was not mentioned whether or not it would be on the agenda for the next meeting. Commissioner Williams feels it is a huge mistake to not have straight party voting in Collin County, especially on down ballot races.(Time: 3:26 p.m.)

NO ACTION TAKEN

8. AI-42768 Texas Transportation Forum update, County Judge.

Judge Self briefed the Court on a presentation by the state demographer at the Texas Transportation Forum. The population in Texas grew by 10.8% from 2010 to 2016. Eighty-six percent of the people living in Texas live to the east of I-35. Collin County is ranked 14th in the country for numeric growth, and 75% of that growth is from migration. The population in Collin County is growing by 3.2 to 3.5% each year.

The north and east parts of Collin County have the largest percentage for people with commutes of 40 minutes or longer. Collin County is one of the counties projected to grow by 30% or more every decade from 2010 to 2050. By 2040, Collin County's population will be at or above 2.5 million. Today Collin County's population is at 950,000. The population estimates project Collin County will surpass both Dallas and Tarrant Counties between 2045 and 2050. These are staggering growth projections. (Time: 1:43 p.m.)

NO ACTION TAKEN

9. Possible future agenda items by Commissioners Court without discussion.

Commissioner Williams said SB 292 is a bill for a jail diversion mental health grant which would make additional money available for jail diversion. Also, there is a bill from Senator Van Taylor requiring a tax assessor/collector to collect for NTTA (North Texas Tollway Authority.) The Court will discuss these next week. (Time: 3:15 p.m.)

10. AI-42811 NCTCOG Collin County Roadway Action Plan Briefing, Commissioner, Precinct 3.

Commissioner Hill introduced Jeff Neal with NCTCOG (North Central Texas Council of Governments). Mr. Neal is a Program Manager for Corridor Planning Project Development. The Ten Year Plan is an annual collaborative performance-based apparatus for local governments and MPOs (Metropolitan Planning Organizations) to assist TxDOT (Texas Department of Transportation) with selecting and prioritizing roadway projects for the statewide UTP (Unified Transportation Program.) The North Central Texas regional project list was approved by the RTC (Regional Transportation Council) in December 2016. Approximately \$700 million was made available for the Collin County Roadway Action Plan. Major projects on this plan include north/south corridors, the Outer Loop from the Dallas North Tollway to SH121, the Outer Loop from US380 to the Rockwall county line and US380 and a potential McKinney bypass.

Mr. Neal presented the north/south roadway model assumptions for the west corridor, the lake corridor, SH78/SH205/John King and the Outer Loop. A screenline analysis was used to model each of these corridors to determine the daily volume at certain points on the roadways. More refined analysis will be done over time. Commissioner Williams noted these models were run assuming these roadways were six-lane principal arterials instead of LARs (Limited Access Roadways.) The modeling indicates that traffic will decrease on SH78 if the other north/south roadways are built.

Additional roadway modeling assumptions were conducted for the eastern alignment of SH121 also known as Spur 399 extension. This modeling was based on a six-lane freeway at 70 miles per hour from US75/Sam Rayburn Tollway to US380 east of Princeton. While the modeling shows the daily volume on this roadway will vary between 36,000 and 61,000, the major benefit is the 33% to 44% decrease in daily volume on US380 as a result of this roadway.

The next steps are to meet with elected officials, analyze potential refined alternatives and proceed with strategic review to identify possible expedited projects. Commissioner Hill would like to get as much ROW (Right of Way) now as possible. With the estimated population growth by 2040, even if all four of the modeled corridors are built, it will not relieve the congestion on US75. The corridors are inadequately spaced for both north/south and east/west routes, and more options are needed on the grid. Commissioner Williams confirmed there would also be modeling of some or all of these roadways as LARs.

Commissioner Hill said NCTCOG has another \$150 million for Collin County to be used for engineering and acquisition in addition to the \$700 million. The COG is ready and wants to move quickly if the County can get consensus on one or more of these projects. Commissioner Williams said one of the next steps would be for COG to provide this presentation to city councils. Commissioner Fletcher said her constituents want to make sure there will be no tolling on these roads. Mr. Neal said they are not anticipating tolls, and current funding for these projects would prohibit tolling.

There was a brief discussion regarding a bond election and having funding ready when Prop 7 money comes online. Judge Self asked if the plan could be changed to the Collin County Highway Action Plan (CCHAP). Commissioner Hill wants to make sure the modeling is based on the population at build-out and not the 2040 population. The Court needs to know what to set aside for the long term. Based on the demographic study, the county's population in 2040 will be approximately 2.5 million. However, at build-out the population will be closer to 3.5 million or more. The Commissioner wants to make sure that everyone knows what the ultimate goal is. (Time: 2:22 p.m.)

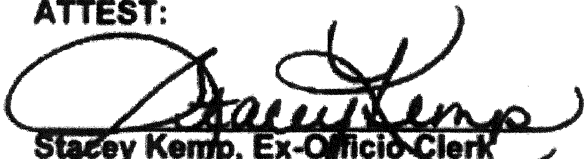
NO ACTION TAKEN

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Court did not recess into Executive Session. There being no further business of the Court, Judge Self adjourned the meeting at 3:26 p.m.




ATTEST:


Stacey Kemp, Ex-Officio Clerk
Commissioners Court
Collin County, T E X A S


Keith Self, County Judge


Susan Fletcher, Commissioner, Pct. 1


Cheryl Williams, Commissioner, Pct. 2


Chris Hill, Commissioner, Pct. 3


Duncan Webb, Commissioner, Pct. 4