

SPECIAL MEETING

JOINT MEETING OF THE MAYOR & CITY COUNCIL AND THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

to be held at the

MOODY STUDENT CENTER, PRESIDENT'S ROOM (210)

HARDIN-SIMMONS UNIVERSITY

2200 HICKORY

AT 10:00 A. M.

ON JANUARY 19, 1981

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1. Discussion of the Taylor County Jail.

CERTIFICATE

I, hereby certify that the above notice of meeting was posted on the bulletin board at the City Hall of the City of Abilene, Texas, on the 7th day of January, 1981, at 4:00 p.m.

*Ruth Hodgins*  
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City Secretary

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING  
JANUARY 19, 1981 - 10:00 A.M.

THE STUDENT CENTER, HARDIN SIMMONS UNIVERSITY  
THE CITY OF ABILENE, TEXAS.

The City Council of the City of Abilene, Texas, met in a Joint Meeting with the Taylor County Judge and Commissioners, Monday, January 19, 1981, at 10:00 a.m. with County Judge James McMillon, present & presiding. Mayor Oliver Howard, Councilmen Seaton Higginbotham, Dick Bowen, Leo F. Scott, L.D. Hilton, present. Councilwoman Kathy Webster absent. City Manager Ed Seegmiller, City Attorney Harvey Cargill & City Secretary Ruth Hodgins, present.

Those present with Taylor County were the following Commissioners, Downing Bolls, Sr., J.T. McMillon, John Hancock, Joe McDuff. County Judge James McMillon, District Attorney Pat Elliott, County Clerk Janice Lyons & their architect for the new jail, James Wheeler, Boone & Pope Architects, present.

Judge McMillon welcomed the group to the combined meeting of the Taylor County officials and the officials of the City of Abilene, to discuss the new Taylor County Jail and its location.

Judge McMillon said that they wished to discuss the site belonging to the City of Abilene that is just east of Abilene, just inside Loop 322 & east of the City Zoo. He also said that they wished to discuss any other location that the City might have that would be suitable for the construction of the County Jail.

Mayor Howard explained that the Council felt like if the City cooperated with Taylor County, in the location of the new jail, it might save the City of Abilene tax payers some money. If the City & County could cooperate in this one area & ultimately have one facility for holding prisoners, it would save money, also.

Mayor Howard brought up three things which he felt was important in the location & construction of the new county jail. He pointed out that it was important that they include a Juvenile Justice Area. He also brought up the need for a place for battered persons to go, such as a shelter. Some thought should be made in placing the jail on the lot & the construction, in case the City of Abilene should desire to construct their facilities close to it, in the future.

Judge McMillon explained that there were certain drawbacks for construction of the jail near the present facility. It could only grow to the south, east & west, but was also limited because of the structures built around it & the ultimate cost in acquiring property.

The Judge also explained that they were looking at some land which was owned by the State of Texas, near Abilene State School.

The City also presented a new location across from South 27th, close to the golf course, land currently earmarked for expansion of the municipal golf course, coupled with unused land at the city animal shelter, east of South Treadaway between South 25th & South 27th.

Another location which was presented was land east of Loop 322, separated from the 52 acre by the loop, which apparently would require the combination of about 11 acres of city owned land, about 11 acres of state owned land, and about 20 acres of privately owned land immediately to the east of the publicly owned land.

Mr. Seegmiller cautioned the Commissioners that the South 27th Street site would require concurrence of the City Parks Board.

Advantages and disadvantages were discussed for each of the three City owned properties. Accessibility & visibility were discussed about the three city owned sites. Whether the locations were or were not in the flood way & how much of the land could be built upon, were also discussed.

Judge McMillon voiced his opinion that a Juvenile Justice Center is a need that we have in our community right now. Also, the concept of a joint City-County Jail is a realistic goal in his opinion. He also agreed with the Mayor, for a need for a Shelter for battered people.

Mayor Howard said that it was not the City's intent for the County to pay them anything for the land (if one of the City sites is chosen).

Councilman Moore moved that we make land available to the County for the location of the new jail, for no consideration. He also stipulated in his motion that the County consider the future needs that we might have, or that the community might have. The motion was seconded by Councilman Bowen. The motion carried as follows:

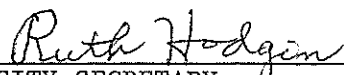
AYES: Councilmen Higginbotham, Bowen, Scott, Moore, Hilton & Mayor Howard.

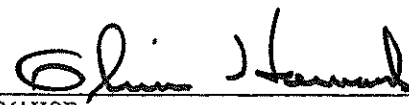
NAYS: None.

Since the location is not known, this would hold true with any parcel of property that the City has that they do not need for something else. The property which lies adjacent to the golf course still would have to be approved by the Parks & Recreation Board.

Since the vast majority of people who are arrested in Abilene, become county offenses and are prosecuted by the District Attorney's Office, the Tax payer needs to be made aware that the City & County needs to cooperate in the location and plan for a new County Jail.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

  
CITY SECRETARY

  
MAYOR