

## MINUTES

### ABILENE-TAYLOR COUNTY EVENTS VENUE DISTRICT

Public notice having been posted, a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Abilene-Taylor County Events Venue District was held on Friday, January 16, 2004, in the Basement Conference Room of City Hall, 555 Walnut, Abilene, Texas, at 2:00 p.m.

**Board Members Present:**    **Grady Barr**, Mayor, City of Abilene – President  
                                      **George Newman**, Taylor County Judge  
                                      **Kay Alexander**, Council Member, City of Abilene  
                                      **David Polnick**, AISD Superintendent  
                                      **Stan Egger**, Commissioner, Taylor County

1.     The meeting was called to order by Grady Barr, President.
2.     Mr. Egger made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 4, 2003 Board meeting. Ms. Alexander seconded the motion and the motion carried by a vote of five (5) in favor (Barr, Newman, Alexander, Polnick, and Egger) to none (0) opposed.
3.     Discussion and action:

- a.     Approving Election Contract with Taylor County Election's Office.

City Attorney Sharon Hicks stated that the Board Members have been provided with a copy of the Contract for Election Services prepared by the Taylor County Election's Office. Ms. Hicks further stated that this is the standard election contract considered each year by the City of Abilene.

Dr. Polnick made a motion to approve the Election Contract with the Taylor County Election's Office. Judge Newman seconded the motion and the motion carried by a vote of five (5) in favor (Barr, Newman, Alexander, Polnick, and Egger) to none (0) opposed.

- b.     Resolution approving Election Judges as set by Taylor County Election's Office.

Ms. Hicks stated that this information is prepared and recommended by the Taylor County Election's Office and the Board was asked to approve the resolution as submitted.

Judge Newman made a motion that the resolution be approved as submitted. Ms. Alexander seconded the motion and the motion carried by a vote of five (5) in favor (Barr, Newman, Alexander, Polnick, and Egger) to none (0) opposed.

- c.     Resolution setting initial percentages for distribution of district funds.

Ms. Hicks stated that under the law the Board receives the information and sets the amount of funding disbursement that each benefiting facility receives. The Board has previously discussed the funding and expressed the desire to set these percentages prior to the election. The Resolution before the Board today entails only the initial setting of the percentages. The Board does have the authority to make the decision as to how to reallocate the percentages as needed. The only amount that cannot be varied is the ultimate amount that is accrued for the payback of the capital improvement expenditures to the bonds or other obligations. The percentages being set at this meeting may be adjusted at a later date depending upon the final cost of capital improvement projects.

Mayor Barr asked for comments or questions from the Board members prior to a motion on the percentages.

Mr. Egger stated that he has spent a great deal of time during this process speaking with citizens, business owners, and hotel/motel owners. Mr. Egger further stated that even though many see this issue as being controversial he sees it as being a real benefit to Abilene. Mr. Egger also noted that he views the issue as having a mechanism in place to bring more people to Abilene, to utilize the facilities currently available, and that however the funds are distributed, in terms of percentages, Abilene and Taylor County would benefit.

Mr. Egger stated that the following percentages were discussed:

- ❖ Approximately 20% for parking improvement at Shotwell Stadium
- ❖ The 25% additional income to the Expo Center will generate approximately \$100,000 to be utilized for operational and marketing (and Capital Improvement) at the Expo Center.
- ❖ The possibilities for Frontier Texas! are limitless; however, this project has not yet begun and funds must be allocated for this project (55%).

Mayor Barr expressed his total agreement with Mr. Egger's comments. Dr. Polnick stated that Mr. Egger has eloquently summarized what he has heard repeatedly and that he is unaware of any other venue tax across the State that includes the school district. Dr. Polnick further stated that this is a positive effort between the City, the County, and the School District.

Ms. Alexander stated that this is an exciting opportunity and a wonderful partnership between the three (3) entities. Ms. Alexander further stated that not only does this speak well of Abilene and the manner in which business is conducted in Taylor County but also recognizes the potential for increasing the number of visitors and utilization of existing facilities.

Judge Newman questioned if a bond is approved though the Venue District if it is required that the bond then be voted on by the public? Ms. Hicks replied that a vote is not required for a bond. Judge Newman stated that, in light of Ms. Hicks answer to his question, the Venue District Board could issue either bonds or certificates of obligation within the District. Ms. Hicks reviewed the mechanism by which this is determined noting when voters approve a

Venue Tax with the Hotel/Motel component the District is then allowed under law to sell the bonds or certificates of obligation without an additional election.

Mayor Barr called for a motion from the Board on the resolution approving setting the initial percentages from the Venue Tax at: 20% for Shotwell Stadium, 25% for the Expo Center and, 55% for Frontier Texas!

Judge Newman made a motion to approve the resolution setting initial percentages for distribution of district funds as discussed with the stipulation that the Board reviews the percentages at the beginning of FY 2005. Ms. Alexander seconded the motion and the motion carried by a vote of five (5) in favor (Barr, Newman, Alexander, Polnick, and Egger) to none (0) opposed.

4. Discussion on future meeting dates.

Mayor Barr asked Ms. Hicks if she had recommendations regarding meeting times and dates or the time frame in which the Board should meet again. Ms. Hicks stated she believes the Board must meet within 72 hours following the election to canvass the results, but had not confirmed that with the City Secretary who oversees canvassing for the City of Abilene.

Ms. Pam Percival contacted City Secretary Jo Moore regarding the time frame for the Board's next meeting following the bond election. Ms. Percival reported that Ms. Moore stated the law has changed regarding the required time frame for canvassing election results. Ms. Moore had also stated the time frame will be confirmed but is expected to be between February 16 and 19, 2004.

The next Board meeting was tentatively set for Monday, February 16, 2004, at 3:00 p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:25 p.m.

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Kay Alexander, Secretary

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Grady Barr, President