

## SPECIAL COMMISSIONERS MEETING- JANUARY 27, 2009

Commissioner John Price called the January 27, 2009 Special Commissioners' meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. with Board members Troy DeHart and Tom Kite present.

**DISCUSSION OF REPLACEMENT OF OREN WRIGHT BUILDING:** John Price, Commissioner, stated the notice to bidders would be advertised this week in the paper. Mr. Price stated the Commissioners hope to award the bid sometime mid to late February.

Tom Kite, Commissioner, stated he is not in favor of putting a building back in the same area with having to elevate the building six to seven feet. Mr. Kite stated building a new building behind the North Annex in the parking lot would be the best option. Mr. Kite stated the building would be closer to the Courthouse. Troy DeHart, Commissioner, stated he thought that area would be a good place to build as well.

Mr. DeHart asked if there has been any research done on any other buildings the County could lease or buy around the downtown area. Mr. Kite stated they looked at the Hazelett Building. Mr. Kite stated the County would have to put money into the building to get it functional. Mr. Price stated that building is also 6,000-7,000 square feet smaller than the Oren Wright Building was.

Mr. Price also stated the County owns property across from the Artcraft Theater and next to Ann's Restaurant. Mr. DeHart stated the building could be put up to the edge of the parking lot that is along Jackson Street. Mr. Kite stated that could benefit the County. Mr. Kite also stated a covered walk way could be installed between the West Annex and the new building. Mr. Kite stated the County could not at this time support spending money to build a parking complex in the Downtown area.

Mr. Price stated if the County does decide to build behind the North Annex or another County owned site the alleys would have to be vacated and the utilities would have to be relocated. Brenda Jones-Matthews, County Coordinator, stated there will also be height restrictions on any building that would be built.

Mr. DeHart asked how many parking lots the County has in the Downtown area.

Mayor Fred Paris stated he is willing to work with the County. Mayor Paris also stated he wants to make sure County Government stays in the Downtown area. Mayor Paris stated he would like to see the City build a parking garage in the parking lot of the North Annex lot and trade for the land where the Oren Wright Building is at. Mayor Paris stated this could be done with redevelopment and TIF Funds.

After further discussion, Gary Young, resident, stated the best option for the County would be to build a two story parking garage where the Oren Wright building is now with a third story as office space. Mr. Young also stated the County should sell the North Annex building to the City of Franklin. Mr. Young stated employees do not need to be crossing Jefferson Street as busy as it is.

The Commissioners stated Mr. Young's ideas have some merit to them. Kathleen Hash, County Attorney, stated in order to receive the FEMA monies the County has to build back what existed before. Ms. Hash stated that would be office space not a parking garage.

Mayor Paris stated the West Annex Building was built to be added onto. Mr. Kite stated the Commissioners explored that idea. Mr. Kite also stated everyone in the building would have to be relocated while construction was going on. Mr. Kite stated that is not a feasible option for the County.

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Gary Moody, resident, stated the County should keep in mind of the Library wishes to relocated to the Downtown area. Mr. Moody also stated a better more secure parking area for the prisoners that are transported from the Jail to the Courthouse.

Jim Williams, resident, stated he would like to see the Commissioners explore the possibility of adding on to the West Annex Building. Mr. Williams stated he understands the problem with relocating the current employees in the building. Mr. Williams also stated there is forty feet in front of the building that could be used for more room. Ms. Hash stated she had contacted the company that built the West Annex about a month ago and asked about the options of adding onto the building. Ms. Hash stated a project manager reviewed the site and gave a preliminary report that the option of adding on would not work. Mr. Price asked if that was to build up or out? Ms. Hash stated that was the option to build up.

Mr. DeHart stated there is the option of building out from the West Annex into the street and closing the street off. Mayor Paris stated he would be against closing off the street.

Tom Kite made a motion to approve analyzing the utilities and to determine the cost to relocate the utilities on the sites the County currently owns. Mr. Kite to schedule another public meeting once that information is located. Troy DeHart seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

The next public meeting to discuss the replacement on the Oren Wright Building will be on February 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Tom Kite made a motion to adjourn. Troy DeHart seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

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John L. Price

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Thomas A. Kite

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Troy A. DeHart

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Jan Richhart, Auditor