

GREENE COUNTY COMMISSION



HAROLD BENGSCHE
COMMISSIONER 1ST DISTRICT

BOB CIRTIN
PRESIDING COMMISSIONER

ROSEANN BENTLEY
COMMISSIONER 2ND DISTRICT

PLEASE CHECK & RETURN

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HB
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MINUTES

Commission Court Session August 15, 2016

Greene County Commission Office

9:30 a.m.

Presiding Commissioner Bob Cirtin called the meeting of August 15, 2016 to order.

Commissioner Harold Bengsch led in prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call – Upon roll call the following Commissioners were present:

Present: Bob Cirtin, Harold Bengsch, and Roseann Bentley

Absent: None

Commissioner Bengsch moved to approve the minutes of the previous Commission Court Session. Commissioner Bentley seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Recognition of Mr. Scott Reeves and Mr. Dave Dunn

The recipients of recognition were not present.

Public Comment: No one from the public made comment.

Other Business for the Commission

Commissioner Bengsch:

There was a discussion of a potential sales tax with regard to public and employee input of this issue. Greene County is in the process of creating a 2017 budget. New information and budget needs will have an important bearing on the decision to place a tax on the April ballot.

Commissioner Cirtin:

One document was submitted and is attached herein as Exhibit A.

Commissioner Cirtin read a statement regarding the discussion of a potential sales tax (Exhibit A).

Commissioner Cirtin adjourned.

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Greene County Court Session
August 15, 2016

Over the past several weeks, as we've discussed a potential sales tax proposal and invited more input and feedback from the public, we've heard one message loud and clear above all others: To be successful in our plans to solve the challenges we face, the leaders of Greene County and the City of Springfield must settle their pending lawsuits and unify to get on with the business of serving our community.

While we are encouraged by the fact that many of those we have talked to agree that there's a need for additional resources to address serious issues we face with public safety, the criminal justice system, and costly environmental mandates – we've also been confronted with the reality that our citizens will not agree to move forward on supporting any initiative until the County and City leaders overcome their differences and put our community's needs first. "A house divided against itself cannot stand," – nor can it encourage employers here to expand, or attract talented workers and prospective employers to locate here.

Over the past 16 months, both the County and the City have made proposals and counter-proposals, discussed possible solutions, even engaged in mediation – leaders in both organizations focused on the goal of resolving the lawsuits. In the hopes of removing some of the critical pressure on the process, the County offered a proposal for a temporary jail. We cannot give up hope nor give in to our differences. We resolve today that our first and primary focus must remain resolution of the lawsuits. In that spirit, the Commission will not move forward with putting a sales tax initiative on the ballot until the lawsuits are resolved or until such time as updated budget information and/or public input would convince us to do otherwise. Though the need is great, we do not want to put the cart before the horse.

We are confident we can continue to work together with City leaders to find the most viable, expedient path to resolution. We must maintain a sincere desire to get the job done and not worry about who gets the credit. Then, we can move forward transparently, in real partnership with the City of Springfield and our other municipalities, as well as the public, to craft the best solutions to our local challenges.