

Hunt County Commissioners Court

SPECIAL SESSION

PUBLIC HEARING

JULY 18, 2011

[Attachments](#)

The Hunt County Commissioners Court met in Special Session on July 18, 2011 at 1:30 P.M. at 2700 Johnson Street, Greenville, Texas, in the Auxiliary Courtroom with Commissioners Kenneth Thornton, Jay Atkins, Larry Middlebrooks, and Jim Latham present. Judge John Horn was presiding. Jan Lewis was sitting in for Jennifer Lindenzweig, County Clerk.

Due to an error in the operation of a new sound system, the minutes were prepared without the use of a recording.

**12,035** On the motion by Atkins, second by Thornton, the Court recessed to the Public Hearing for Redistricting of the County Commissioners precincts for public comment on three possible redistricting maps being Plan 2, Plan 2a, and Plan 2c. Changes in the existing boundaries of each Commissioners Court precincts will also have an impact on election precincts, polling places, Justice of the Peace, and Constable precincts for the county.

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

Mr. Slack Brown was the first to speak. Mr. Brown has looked at Plan 2, 2a, and 2c. He feels that Plan 2c would eliminate the strength of African American votes. Mr. Brown stated he is in favor of the redistricting map for Plan 2 and doesn't want to increase the workload to precincts. He feels that plan 2 would be more minority balanced for voting.

Ann Fitzpatrick Haynes was the second to speak. She too supports Plan 2 and feels that Plan 2c deletes a strong minority vote.

There were no other public speakers to voice their opinions.

**12,036** On the motion by Atkins, second by Thornton, the Court reconvened back

to Special Session.

**CITIZENS TO BE HEARD:**

There were no requests for citizens to be heard.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**ACTION ITEMS:**

\_\_\_\_\_ The Court moved to item #4 on the agenda. The redistricting of Hunt County political boundaries, including the acceptance of new boundaries for the Commissioners court precincts, and/or modification of any boundaries. Allison, Bass, & Associates.

After much discussion of the three (3) different plans, by considering the percentages of minorities to balance representation, population changes, and responsibility for road mileage in making changes to the precinct boundaries, the Court recessed at 2:25 P.M. for 10 minutes.

\_\_\_\_\_The Court reconvened at 2:35 P.M.

After further discussion Commissioner Thornton asked that Mr. Bass present a map to the Court for a fourth option, by changing boundaries, as a consideration for a redistricting plan.

**12,037** On the motion by Thornton, second by Latham, the Court approved the adoption of a fourth plan, called Plan 2c Revised, for redistricting. Plan 2c Revised involves moving some population from precinct 2 into precinct 1, as well as increased road mileage for precinct 2, yet meets the criteria for Ethnic percentages required for redistricting. Commissioner Atkins was against Plan 2c Revised. Because of this disagreement Judge Horn asked for a roll call vote from the Court. Results were as follows:

Commissioner Thornton - aye

Commissioner Atkins - nay

Commissioner Middlebrooks - aye

Commissioner Latham - aye

Based on roll call votes the motion passed to adopt Plan 2c Revised. [See Attachment](#) for Order Adopting Redistricting Plan, maps, data relating to population, and racial demographics.

\_\_\_\_\_The Court returned to item #1 on the agenda.

**12,038** On the motion by Atkins, second by Thornton, the Court approved a Resolution Prohibiting Outdoor Burning, presented by Richard Hill, Homeland Security Director. The Burn Ban was put in place due to a soar in the drought index measurement for Hunt County. Motion was amended by Atkins to give the authority to Richard Hill to lift the ban at his discretion, if statues allow, when conditions improve without the necessity to meet for Commissioners Court. [See Attachment.](#)

**12,039** On the motion by Thornton, second by Latham, the Court moved to Executive Session at 2:54 P.M.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

There was no action taken in Executive Session.

At 3:23 P.M. the Court reconvened back into Special Session.

**12,040** On the motion by Latham, second by Middlebrooks, the Court approved a contract with attorneys Scott, Money, Ray & Thomas, to file Texas Water Code civil penalty enforcement lawsuits against illegal waste producers and/or dumpers within unincorporated areas of the county. [See Attachment.](#)

**12,041** On the motion by Middlebrooks, second by Latham, the Court approved exercising the County's power to maintain a civil suit against any person or entity that may have violated Chapter 26 of the Texas Water Code and/or Chapter 382 of the

Texas Health and Safety Code, in compliance with Texas Water Code Section 7.32.

A Resolution supporting this decision was approved as well. [See Attachment.](#)

**12,042** On the motion by Latham, second by Middlebrooks, the Court adjourned at 3:25 P.M.

Minutes approved this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2011.

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Hunt County Judge

John Horn

Attest:

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County Clerk

Jennifer Lindenzweig