

GREENE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

JULY 29, 2024 CALLED MEETING

Call to Order: Chairman Usry called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. and led the invocation.

Roll Call: Commissioners Deering, Smith, Lindsey, Filice, and Chairman Usry were present. Also present was County Manager Byron Lombard.

Discussion on the Best Utilization of the Vacant Space in the Current Greene County Courthouse located at 113 North Main Street and Any Corresponding Adjustments to Space Allocation within the Current Courthouse Building:

Chairman Usry gave background that the Board discussed during its July 9th regular meeting that a separate meeting just to talk about the Courthouse was desired. He added the Board isn't discussing a judicial center or moving the Courthouse, and he gave some further context about the Board's actions to-date regarding proposals to deal with overcrowding and growth of the judicial services. He reiterated that the Board is taking up the matter as stated in the agenda item description, and he urged those signed up to speak to keep their comments specific to the agenda item.

The following citizens spoke or concurred with others that spoke: Michael White, Lohman Blue, Ray Deaton, Ray Brindley, Trey Daniels, Craig Beeler, Dan Jones, Terry Lawler, Cynthia Smith, Laverne Ogletree, David Kopp, Frances Strickland, Lynda Grant, Steve Broadbent, Annette Westcott, Mark Blanton, Kathy Harris, and Noreene Parker. Nearly every speaker urged the Board to adjust space allocation within the current Courthouse building and urged the Board to renovate and expand Courthouse offices within the current site. Various citizens asked the Board to be more transparent and open, strongly encouraging the Board to solicit community input throughout the upcoming decision-making process over how to allocate the office space within the current Courthouse building.

Chairman Usry thanked the speakers for their input and recessed the meeting for 10 minutes before moving to Board discussion.

Commissioner Deering agreed with the proposal to form a Committee of interested stakeholders to discuss allocating space within the current Courthouse building, and she agreed to serve on the Committee. Commissioners Smith agreed with having Commissioner Deering on the committee and putting some kind of timeframe for the Committee to bring recommendations back to the Board. Commissioner Lindsey thanked the speakers for their willingness to address the Board and concurred with Commissioner Smith regarding the Committee. Commissioner Filice said he wants to see a longer term solution to the judicial office needs, and he went through past efforts to solve those needs and what's been spent to-date with an architect to plan and design a Judicial Center at the Public Service Campus.

Chairman Usry said there seemed to be consensus to form a Committee, and he recommended the Commissioners be thinking about the criteria for serving on the Committee, the number of people to be on it, and setting parameters and direction for the Committee on what to bring back to the Board. There was general agreement to put the formation of the Committee on the regular August meeting agenda.

Adjournment: Chairman Usry adjourned the meeting at 9:43 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sylvia V. Hill, County Clerk

The above minutes were adopted and approved this day 13th day of August, 2024.

Gary Usry, Chairman

Jeffery L. Smith, Vice-Chairman

Angela Walker Deering, Commissioner

Dee Lindsey, Commissioner

Ernie Filice, Commissioner