



COUNCIL JUDICIAL COMMITTEE MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, APRIL 12, 2011

The City of Austin Council Judicial Committee convened on Tuesday, April 12, 2011, in the Boards and Commissions Room of City Hall, 301 West Second Street, Austin, Texas. Present were Mayor Lee Leffingwell, Mayor Pro Tem Mike Martinez and Council Member Bill Spelman.

1. The meeting was called to order by the Mayor at 11:03 a.m.
2. Minute consideration:
A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Martinez, seconded by Council Member Spelman, to approve the minutes of the December 14, 2010 meeting without objection. The motion carried unanimously with all members present voting AYE.
3. Citizen Comments: None.
4. Briefing concerning the new Municipal Court/NE Substation:
Public Works Director Howard Lazarus advised that the project is currently on hold while the city performs an assessment of city facilities/needs and looks at the best use of the Home Depot site. He described the history of the project and outlined the options that have been considered for this project on which bonds were passed in 2006. Proceeding with the current renovation project would require an estimated additional \$15-\$20 million and to tear down the Home Depot and rebuild would need an estimated additional \$31-43 million. Another option would be to start over but the option that is being considered at this time is to complete the facilities master plan. The city's Strategic Facilities Plan and Needs Assessment kicked off on March 29th and met with the Court on March 30th. When the vendor gets back to the city in a couple of weeks, we will have a better idea as to how to proceed. The city is looking for a 50 year solution.
5. Briefing on online court document access:
Court Clerk Rebecca Stark reported that documents will be online when the court's case management system is upgraded to JEMS 6.0 which should be in May or June. The defendant will need to know his/her citation number as the password for each document he/she wishes to see or print. In the meantime, temporary staff can be used to add pro se defendants that want access to their documents as "pro se attorneys" and they can use the attorney website to access documents. The clerk will proceed with obtaining a temporary employee.

6. Briefing on citizen complaint filing process:
Council Member Spelman's office had asked that the court's online information and procedures to file a complaint (charge someone with a code violation) be streamlined. This was accomplished but additional clarity was requested. This has also been completed and the English version placed online. The Spanish versions will be placed online as soon as it becomes available.
7. Briefing on major legislation affecting Austin Municipal Court:
Court Clerk Rebecca Stark provided a handout and briefly discussed the top 35 pieces of legislation out of the more than 250 filed that would directly or indirectly affect the municipal court if passed.
8. Discussion of any municipal court issues that the committee members have that they would like addressed during the budget process:
Court Clerk Rebecca Stark stated that her understanding is that salary parity of substitute judges to associate judges will be included in the budget. She also understands that her request for additional supervisors and quality performance staff member are being favorably considered. The Mayor Pro Tem asked to be advised during the budget process of any additional costs that are being incurred by the city because of the delay of the new courthouse project.
9. Adjournment:
There being no further business or objection, the meeting was adjourned by the Mayor at 11:45 a.m.

Prepared by:



Rebecca Stark
Clerk of the Municipal Court

Approved August 9, 2011.