

Pachyderm Meeting

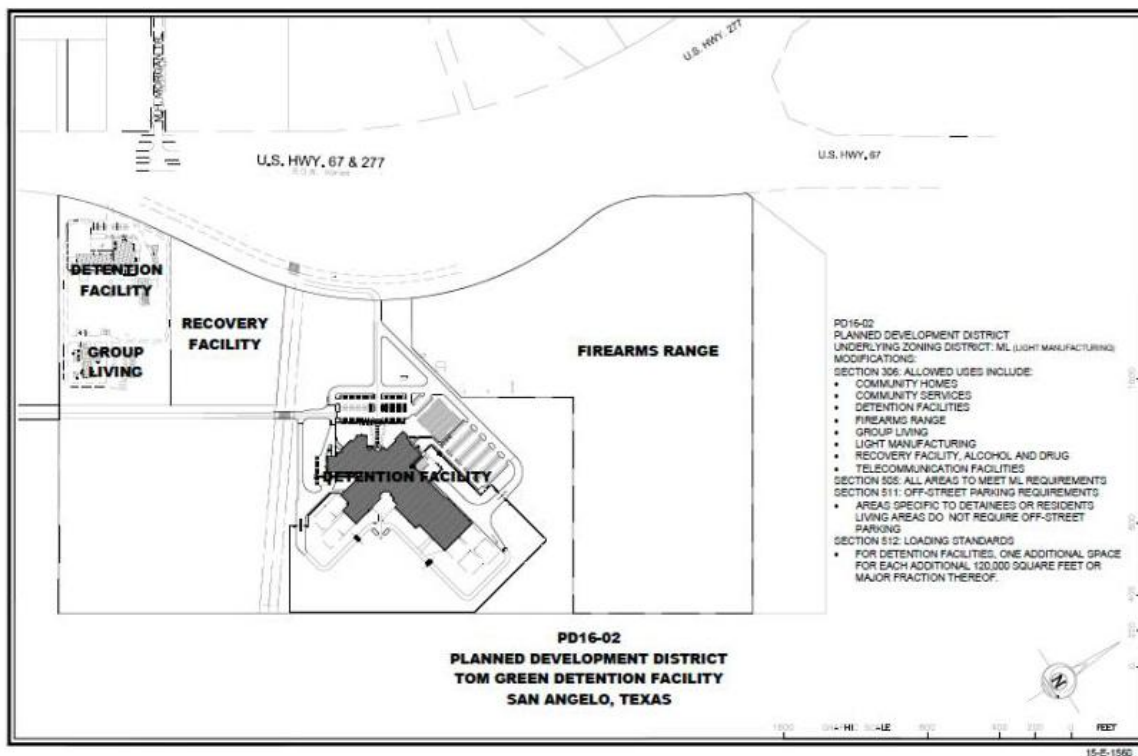
Judge Steve Floyd

By Brit Macias

At last month's Pachyderm Club luncheon, Judge Steve Floyd spoke about the new correctional facility being built off Highway 277 and the city's need for that facility.

The re-zoning for the property was approved by Council the morning before and Judge Floyd explained construction would begin in April 2017, taking 2-3 years to complete.

With 69 county arrests on August 16th alone, the need for a new facility is great. The current detention center has run at capacity of 449 inmates for several years, even with several compliance issues regarding jail standards.



Not all of the building will be utilized at one time, as there is a generational plan in place that will not bring the facility to capacity for another 50-75 years, give or take. This plan accounts for the future growth of San Angelo and growth inevitably means a need for more jail beds.

The facility will house 520-546 inmates upon opening its doors, with the prediction that a capacity of 744 inmates will be available within the next 30 years.

The current jail will continue to be used in addition to the new construction, at least the newer portions. Once prisoners are moved out of some areas of the current facility, the building will be renovated for office use where that is possible. Jails are built unlike any other structure, and some portions may only be good for storage at that point.

The new correctional facility is on over 179 acres of City owned land. Also on the land will be a firearm range for the Tom Green County 4-H; a Shooting Sports Complex.