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Effort to tear down 1914 courthouse

Tax increment reinvestment zone revenue could provide funding

Kirsten Crow
Corpus Christi Caller Times
USA TODAY NETWORK – TEXAS

The costs to tear down the 1914 Nueces County Courthouse may be covered by a fund that has primarily backed private investment downtown, should county commissioners’ requests be fulfilled.

Nueces County officials indicated earlier this year that the vacant court-

house – located off North Mesquite Street and Interstate 37 – would eventually meet its end with demolition following a state decision to lift the easement and historical designation that had previously barred razing the structure.

Among questions that swiftly followed: Where would the county find the dollars in a tight budget to bring down the building?

A proposal recently unveiled by the Nueces County Commissioners Court

seeks to tap into revenue from a downtown tax increment reinvestment zone to tear down the structure following yearslong but unsuccessful attempts to redevelop it.

The tax increment reinvestment zone, also known as a TIRZ, works by collecting a portion of increased property taxes from a “zone” – an area identified through established boundaries – and using the pool of money for improvements within the same zone.

TIRZ revenue may not be used outside the zone. In the case of downtown, the zone encompasses a section of about 850 acres stretched across portions of downtown, uptown and the sports, entertainment and arts district, according to a project and financing plan.

The city of Corpus Christi, Nueces County and Del Mar College all participate in the TIRZ and contribute at various levels to the program.

The dollars collected have in recent

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‘I LIVE FOR TWO’

Corpus Christi heart recipient joins bike tour for organ donation awareness



Sarah Pipkin-Love, of Corpus Christi, left, and Rhonda Blanton, of Abilene, hold a poster of Blanton's late son Casey at McMurry University in Abilene on Nov. 5. Pipkin-Love was part of the Lone Star Circle of Life Bike Tour, which stopped at McMurry University as part of its 500-mile ride to raise organ donation awareness. RONALD W. ERDRICH/REPORTER-NEWS

ABILENE –


he says it all the time. • “I live for two,” Sarah Pipkin-Love said. “I don’t do this life; ‘we’ do this life together.” • Why the plural? Because within this 39-year-old woman beats the heart of a man who would’ve been 29 this year. • Dylan Roberts died when he was 14. But before he did, he told his parents he wanted to be an organ and tissue donor in case anything might happen to him. • And it did. • “He was in an accident,” Pipkin-Love, a resident of Corpus Christi, recalled. “He was able to save five people’s lives, and I got to be the lucky one to receive his heart.”

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Ronald W. Erdrich Abilene Reporter-News | USA TODAY NETWORK – TEXAS

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