

Franklin County Commissioners Court  
Commissioner Court Minutes  
Regular Session  
August 25, 2025

The Franklin County Commissioners Court met in a Regular Session on August 25, 2025, at 9:00 AM in the Commissioners' Courtroom at the Franklin County Courthouse located at 200 North Kaufman Street, Mount Vernon, Texas.

Members present: Scott Lee – County Judge  
Jerry Cooper – Commissioner Precinct 1  
Toby Godfrey – Commissioner Precinct 2  
Scott Newsome – Commissioner Precinct 3  
Scott Smith – Commissioner Precinct 4  
Brook Bussell – County Clerk

**VISITORS:** Ellen Jagers, Paris Tillery, Marla White, Beth Hedges, Brantin Carr, Max Cannaday, Lisa Lawrence, Melissa Clawson, Angie Jackson, Jac Mendez, Ricky Jones, Kathy Boren, Gary Boren, Jim Emery, Mike Millender, and Billy Rogers.

Judge Lee called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM. Commissioner Smith offered prayer. The Pledges of Allegiance to the American flag and the Texas flag were recited.

**Public Comments:** None

**Agenda Item 1 – CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION TO APPROVE MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 11, 2025 REGULAR SESSION – COUNTY CLERK –** Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the minutes as corrected. Commissioner Godfrey seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

**Agenda Item 2 – AUDIT CLAIMS AGAINST THE COUNTY AND AUTHORIZE THEIR PAYMENTS – COUNTY TREASURER –** The total amount submitted for approval is \$367,183.80. Commissioner Cooper made a motion to approve payment of the claims against the county as presented, and Commissioner Newsome seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

**See Exhibit 08/25/2025 – A**

**Agenda Item 3 – MONTHLY REPORTS – COUNTY TREASURER –** Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the monthly reports as presented. Commissioner Godfrey seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

**See Exhibit 08/25/2025 – B**

**Agenda Item 4 – DISCUSS AND CONDUCT PUBLIC HEARING ON THE ADOPTION OF THE 2026 COUNTY BUDGET AND 2025 TAX RATE – COUNTY JUDGE –** The public hearing on the adoption of the 2026 County Budget and 2025 Tax Rate convened at 9:03 AM. Auditor White gave a brief overview to recap what had been previously discussed. The public hearing ended at 9:08 AM.

**Agenda Item 5 – CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION TO APPROVE 2026 ELECTED OFFICIALS’ SALARIES, TRAVEL ALLOWANCES, AND LONGEVITY – COUNTY JUDGE** – Commissioner Cooper made a motion to approve the 2026 Elected Officials’ Salaries, Travel Allowances, and Longevity. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

**See Exhibit 08/25/2025 – C**

**Agenda Item 6 – CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION TO APPROVE 2026 STEP PLAN PAY RATES FOR COUNTY EMPLOYEES** – Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the 2026 Franklin County Employee Step Plan to be effective January 1, 2026. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Godfrey. Motion carried 4-0.

**See Exhibit 08/25/2025 – D**

**Agenda Item 7 – CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION TO APPROVE ADOPTION OF THE 2026 FRANKLIN COUNTY BUDGET – COUNTY JUDGE** – Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the adoption of the 2026 Franklin County Budget. Commissioner Godfrey seconded the motion. Individual votes are as follows:

County Judge Scott Lee – Yes

Commissioner Precinct 1 Jerry Cooper – Yes

Commissioner Precinct 2 Toby Godfrey – Yes

Commissioner Precinct 3 Scott Newsome – Yes

Commissioner Precinct 4 Scott Smith – Yes

Motion carried 5-0.

**See Exhibit 08/25/2025 – E**

**Agenda Item 8 – CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION TO APPROVE ADOPTION OF THE 2025 TAX RATE OF .36386, WHICH IS .03782 ABOVE THE NO NEW REVENUE RATE OF .32604, TO FUND THE 2026 COUNTY BUDGET – COUNTY JUDGE** –

Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve adoption of the 2025 Tax Rate of .36386 to fund the 2026 Franklin County Budget. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Newsome. Individual votes are as follows:

County Judge Scott Lee – Yes

Commissioner Precinct 1 Jerry Cooper – Yes

Commissioner Precinct 2 Toby Godfrey – Yes

Commissioner Precinct 3 Scott Newsome – Yes

Commissioner Precinct 4 Scott Smith – Yes

Motion carried 5-0.

**See Exhibit 08/25/2025 – F**

**Agenda Item 9 – CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION TO APPROVE PURCHASE OF NEW HOLLAND TRACTOR/LOADER FROM CONROY – PCT 1** – Commissioner Cooper made a motion to approve the purchase of a New Holland tractor/loader from Conroy Tractor for the price of \$98,053.41. Commissioner Godfrey seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

**See Exhibit 08/25/2025 – G**

**Agenda Item 10 – CONDUCT PUBLIC HEARING ON RENEWAL OF THE COUNTY CLERK’S ARCHIVAL PRESERVATION AND RESTORATION PLAN, AS PER GOVERNMENT CODE 118.02 – COUNTY CLERK** – Judge Lee convened the public hearing at 9:21 AM. County Clerk Brook Bussell presented the 2026 Archival Preservation and Restoration Records Plan. There were no further comments. Judge Lee adjourned the public hearing at 9:24 AM.

**Agenda Item 11 – CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION TO APPROVE COUNTY CLERK’S ARCHIVAL PRESERVATION AND RESTORATION RECORDS PLAN – COUNTY CLERK** – Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the County Clerk’s 2026 Archival Preservation and Restoration Records Plan as presented. Commissioner Cooper seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.  
**See Exhibit 08/25/2025 – H**

**Agenda Item 12 – RECORD FY2026 TX CYBERSECURITY COURSE HB3834 CERTIFICATES OF TRAINING FOR BROOK BUSSELL, MARIE REDAR, AND JANET WHITE – COUNTY CLERK** – The FY2026 TX Cybersecurity Course HB3834 Certificates of Training for Brook Bussell, Marie Redar, and Janet White were recorded as presented.  
**See Exhibit 08/25/2025 – I**

**Agenda Item 13 – RECORD CRIMINAL JUSTICE INFORMATION SERVICES SECURITY AND PRIVACY TRAINING CERTIFICATE FOR ROBERT ZINN – JUSTICE OF THE PEACE** – The Criminal Justice Information Services Security and Privacy Training Certificate for Robert Zinn was recorded as presented.  
**See Exhibit 08/25/2025 – J**

**Agenda Item 14 – CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION TO APPROVE BILL ROGER’S CONSTRUCTION TO USE THE OLD JAIL FOR A HAUNTED HOUSE – BILLY ROGERS** – Billy Rogers addressed the Court and presented information regarding use of the old jail building for a haunted house. Due to the short time frame and concerns over liabilities, no action was taken.

**Agenda Item 15 – CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION TO APPROVE THE ELECTION SERVICES CONTRACT FOR MVID FOR THE MAY 2026 ELECTION AND THE CYPRESS SPRINGS SPECIAL UTILITY DISTRICT FOR THE FEBRUARY 2026 ELECTION – ELECTIONS ADMINISTRATOR** – Commissioner Newsome made a motion to approve the Contracts for Election Services for the Mount Vernon Independent School District (MVID) and the Cypress Springs Special Utility District as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Smith. Motion carried 4-0.  
**See Exhibits 08/25/2025 – K1 and 08/25/2025 – K2**

**Agenda Item 16 – RECORD TEXAS SECRETARY OF STATE TEAM SYSTEMS ANNUAL CYBERSECURITY AWARENESS TRAINING PROGRAM COMPLETION CERTIFICATE FOR ANGIE JACKSON AND YESI VALENZUELA – ELECTIONS ADMINISTRATOR** – The Texas Secretary of State TEAM Systems Annual Cybersecurity Awareness Training Certificates of Completion for Angie Jackson and Yesi Valenzuela were recorded as presented.  
**See Exhibit 08/25/2025 – L**

**Agenda Item 17 – CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION TO APPROVE FIRST ONSITE PROPERTY RESTORATION DOCUMENT RESTORATION SERVICES AGREEMENT – DISTRICT CLERK** – Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the First Onsite Property Restoration Document Restoration Services Agreement with the District Clerk’s office. Commissioner Godfrey seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.  
**See Exhibit 08/25/2025 - M**

**Discussion:**

- Parking lots at the West Annex, Winnsboro Building, and Sports Complex.
- Courthouse generator – still waiting on the switch.

- Remodel of old fire training center into the new Ag Extension office.
- Airport roof replacement is complete.
- Awning at the East Annex.
- Sheriff – new freezer for the jail.
- Max Cannaday informed the Court that he put a report regarding the condition of various dams in their boxes. He also stated TCEQ is still reviewing the amendments to the septic/OSSF rules.
- Equipment needs for the fire departments. Will need to meet with City Fire Chief Blake Sheffield on this.

**Agenda Item 9 - ADJOURN** - Commissioner Newsome made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Commissioner Cooper seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0. Meeting adjourned at 9:58 AM.

I, Brook Bussell, County Clerk, certify that this is an accurate accounting of the proceedings of the Commissioners Court Regular Session on August 25, 2025.

Witnessed and recorded this 4th day of September, 2025.

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Brook Bussell, County Clerk