

Franklin County Commissioners' Court  
Commissioner Court Minutes  
Regular Session  
March 27, 2023

The Franklin County Commissioners' Court met in Regular Session March 27, 2023, at 9:00 A.M. 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  
Charlie Emerson, Commissioner, Precinct 3  
Scott Smith, Commissioner, Precinct 4  
Brook Bussell, County Clerk

**VISITORS:** Marla White, Katie Elliott, Brantin Carr, Tim Dial, Yesinia Castro, Chance Crane, Lisa Lawrence, Ricky Jones, Susan Olsen, Mike Millender, Kathy Boren, Gary Boren, David Truesdale, Lillie Bush-Reves, Mary McLennan, Pat Wright, Diana Duckworth, Mike Rambin, Gary Morrow, Johnny Wetzel, Ralph Robertson, Linda Owens, and John Fulton.

Judge Lee called the meeting to order at 9:01 A.M., and Commissioner Smith offered prayer. The Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag was recited.

**Public Comments:** None

**Agenda Item 1 - APPROVE MINUTES FROM THE MARCH 13, 2023 REGULAR SESSION – COUNTY CLERK** - Commissioner Emerson made a motion to approve the March 13, 2023 Regular Session Minutes. Commissioner Godfrey seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

**Agenda Item 2 - AUDIT CLAIMS AGAINST THE COUNTY AND AUTHORIZE THEIR PAYMENT – TREASURER** – Commissioner Godfrey made a motion to approve payment of the claims against the county as presented, and Commissioner Emerson seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

**See Exhibit 03/27/2023 – A**

**Agenda Item 3 – CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION ON APPROVING FEBRUARY 2023 MONTHLY REPORTS – COUNTY TREASURER** – Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the February 2023 monthly reports as presented. Commissioner Emerson seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

**See Exhibit 03/27/2023 – B**

**Agenda Item 4 - FIRST READING: REPLAT LOT WF1R-2 PHASE 2 TWIN COVE ESTATES – RALPH ROBERTSON FOR WKN TRUST CYPRESS, LLC** – Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the first reading of the replat for Lot WF1R-2 Phase 2 Twin Cove Estates with a second by Commissioner Godfrey. Motion carried 4-0.

**Agenda Item 5 - SECOND READING: REPLAT LOTS 8R-1 AND 9R-1 DEER COVE SUBDIVISION – CYNTHIA & JOHN FULTON AND COLBY CABIN, LLC –**

Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the second reading of the replat for Lots 8R-1 and 9R-1 Deer Cove Subdivision. Commissioner Godfrey seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

**See Plat Cabinet # 339A**

**Agenda Item 6 – RECORD MINUTES FROM THE FEBRUARY 13, 2023 SESSION OF THE FRANKLIN COUNTY CHILD WELFARE BOARD – LINDA HAMMOND –**

Minutes from the February 13, 2023, session of the Franklin County Child Welfare Board were presented to be put on record.

**See Exhibit 03/27/2023 – C**

**Agenda Item 7 – RECORD CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION FOR TAC CYBERSECURITY AWARENESS TRAINING FOR ROBERT ZINN – COUNTY JUDGE**

Judge Lee presented the Certificate of Completion for TAC Cybersecurity Awareness Training for Robert Zinn to be put on record within the Minutes.

**See Exhibit 03/27/2023– D**

**Agenda Item 8 – RECORD VG YOUNG INSTITUTE OF COUNTY GOVERNMENT CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION AWARDED TO JERRY COOPER AND CHARLIE EMERSON FOR COMPLETION OF 14 HOURS OF CONTINUING EDUCATION –**

**COUNTY JUDGE** - Judge Lee presented the VG Young Institute of County Government Certificate of Completion awarded to Jerry Cooper and Charlie Emerson for completion of 14 hours of continuing education to be put on record within the Minutes.

**See Exhibit 03/27/2023– E**

**Agenda Item 9 – RECORD COUNTY JUDGES AND COMMISSIONERS ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION AWARDED TO CHARLIE EMERSON FOR COMPLETION OF REQUIRED COMMISSIONERS EDUCATION – COUNTY**

**JUDGE** - Judge Lee presented the County Judges and Commissioners Association of Texas Certificate of Completion awarded to Charlie Emerson for completion of required commissioners education to be put on record within the Minutes.

**See Exhibit 03/27/2023– F**

**Agenda Item 10– CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION ON APPROVING ANTI-BRIBERY STATEMENT, OATH OF OFFICE, AND DEPUTATION APPOINTING JANET WHITE TO POSITION OF DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK – COUNTY CLERK –**

Commissioner Cooper made a motion to approve the Anti-bribery Statement, Oath of Office, and Deputation appointing Janet White to the position of Deputy County Clerk. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

**See Exhibit 03/27/2023 – G**

**Agenda Item 11 – CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION ON APPROVING MT. VERNON ROTARY’S REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE IN PREPARING ROADWAYS FOR TOUR**

**DE CYPRESS BIKE RACE – PAT WRIGHT –** Commissioner Emerson made a motion to approve the Mt. Vernon Rotary’s request for assistance in preparing roadways for the Tour De Cypress bike race, and Commissioner Godfrey seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

**Agenda Item 12 – CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION ON APPROVING OATH OF OFFICE AND BOND FOR FRANKLIN COUNTY ELECTIONS ADMINISTRATOR – YESINIA CASTRO** – Judge Lee swore Yesinia Valenzuela Castro into the office of Elections Administrator. Commissioner Godfrey made a motion to approve her Oath of Office and Bond. Second was made by Commissioner Emerson. Motion carried 4-0.  
**See Exhibit 03/27/2023 – H**

**Agenda Item 13 – CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION ON APPROVING SETTING GUIDELINES FOR UTILITY COMPANIES’ USAGE OF RIGHT-OF-WAYS WITHIN FRANKLIN COUNTY – PRECINCT 1** – No action taken. Will be put on a future agenda once guidelines have been drafted.

**Agenda Item 14 – CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION ON APPROVING THE FORMATION OF A COMMISSION TO COORDINATE STUDIES AND ANALYSES, IMPLEMENT POLICY DEVELOPMENT, AND PROVIDE GUIDANCE IN SUPPORT OF FRANKLIN COUNTY’S AMENDED RESOLUTION IN REGARDS TO OPPOSITION OF INDUSTRIAL SOLAR DEVELOPMENT, AS OUTLINED IN ENGAGEMENT LETTER SUBMITTED BY SUSAN OLSEN – COUNTY JUDGE** – Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve a commission to coordinate studies and analyses, implement policy development, and provide guidance in support of Franklin County’s Amended Resolution in regards to opposition of industrial solar development as outlined in the Engagement Letter submitted by Susan Olsen. Commissioner Cooper seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.  
**See Exhibit 03/27/2023 – I**

**Agenda Item 15 – CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION ON APPROVING FUNDING AND DETERMINING FUNDING SOURCE FOR SOLAR COMMISSION AND AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF ESTIMATED ITEMIZED COSTS – COUNTY JUDGE** – Commissioner Godfrey made a motion to approve funding in the amount of \$4,501.00 to be paid from the General Fund, and Commissioner Emerson seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

**Agenda Item 16 – CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION ON APPROVING PURCHASE OF COPIERS FOR FRANKLIN COUNTY AND AUTHORIZE MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT WITH DATAMAX, INC. – JOHNNY WETZEL** – Commissioner Emerson made a motion to approve the purchase of copiers for Franklin County and authorize the Maintenance Agreement with Datamax, Inc. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.  
**See Exhibit 03/27/2023 – J**

**Agenda Item 17 – CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION ON APPROVING SERVICE PROPOSAL FROM VESTED NETWORKS FOR THREE ADDITIONAL PHONES FOR FRANKLIN COUNTY ANNEX EAST – COUNTY JUDGE** – Commissioner Emerson made a motion to approve the Service Proposal from Vested Networks for three additional phones for the Franklin County Annex East. Commissioner Godfrey seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.  
**See Exhibit 03/27/2023 – K**

**Agenda Item 18 – CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION ON APPROVING RESOLUTION DECLARING LOSS REVENUE DUE TO COVID-19 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021 – COUNTY AUDITOR** – Commissioner Emerson made a motion to approve resolutions as presented for agenda items 18, 19, and 20. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Smith. Motion carried 4-0.  
**See Exhibit 03/27/2023 - L**

**Agenda Item 19 – CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION ON APPROVING RESOLUTION FOR FEDERAL GRANT PROCUREMENT POLICY, PROVIDING FOR A REPEALING CLAUSE AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE – COUNTY AUDITOR** – Commissioner Emerson made a motion to approve resolutions as presented for agenda items 18, 19, and 20. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Smith. Motion carried 4-0.  
**See Exhibit 03/27/2023 - M**

**Agenda Item 20 – CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION ON APPROVING RESOLUTION FOR FINANCIAL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR FEDERAL GRANT CONTRACTS, PROVIDING FOR A REPEALING CLAUSE AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE – COUNTY AUDITOR** – Commissioner Emerson made a motion to approve resolutions as presented for agenda items 18, 19, and 20. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Smith. Motion carried 4-0.  
**See Exhibit 03/27/2023 - N**

#### **DISCUSSION –**

Nathan Carroll with the State Emergency Management Department addressed the court regarding Disaster Relief Funding and what documentation is needed. He said training can be provided to the commissioners and/or other designated personnel on proper documentation and reporting.

Sheriff Jones stated heat/AC unit in tax office is not working properly. The heating part is not functioning and cannot be fixed. The AC part is working at this time. He mentioned incident at the sports complex regarding 4 wheelers being ridden on fields and would like to use ARPA funds to place cameras on the premises. He talked about the demolition of some of the buildings located on county property near the Law Enforcement Center, and Commissioners Cooper and Emerson both stated they will assist with this. He also addressed issues with county email/server and would like a new server under the services of Kaybro Technologies. Plumbing updates for the 300 wing of the jail were discussed. Projected cost for plumbing updates/repairs is approximately \$43,000-\$45,000.

County cleanup for spring was discussed. Tentatively will be held April 22-29, 2023 (excluding Sunday) from 7:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. each day, and will only be offered at the county dump. Commissioner Smith discussed prior issues at the Precinct 4 location. He will consider possibly having that location available for the fall cleanup, but it will be monitored. This will be put on the agenda for April 10, 2023, for consideration.

Lisa Lawrence stated the library was blessed with funds from the estate of Tom Wilkinson. Will possibly use funds to replace the circulation desk and the door to the meeting room. She would like to have a plaque on the door in memory of Mr. Wilkinson.

Commissioner Emerson gave an update on the Mt. Vernon/Salttillo Young Farmers Project Show. He said money given by elected officials was not spent due to the amazing amount of support shown by the community this year.

Commissioner Emerson discussed a process of rejuvenating millings to make it more like a coal mix product. Cost quoted is \$49.00 per ton and the company comes here to do it. Needs at least 1,000 tons which he probably has, but wants to open it up to the other precincts as well to help offset cost of road materials.

**Agenda Item 21 – ADJOURN** – Commissioner Emerson made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 10:06 A.M.

I, Brook Bussell, County Clerk, certify that this is an accurate accounting of the proceedings of the Commissioners' Court Regular Session on March 27, 2023.

Witnessed and recorded this 6th day of April, 2023.

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Brook Bussell, County Clerk

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