

Franklin County Commissioners' Court  
Commissioner Court Minutes  
Regular Session  
April 10, 2023

The Franklin County Commissioners' Court met in Regular Session April 10, 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, Paris Tillery, Melissa McSwain Clawson, Katie Elliott, Tim Dial, Yesinia Castro, Lisa Lawrence, Ricky Jones, Russell McCurdy, Mike Millender, Kathy Boren, Gary Boren, David Truesdale, Lillie Bush-Reves, Mary McLennan, Mike Rambin, Gary Morrow, and Velvet Coberley.

Judge Lee called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M., and Commissioner Smith offered prayer. The Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag was recited.

**Public Comments:** Mike Rambin addressed trash discarded along county roads.

**Agenda Item 1 - APPROVE MINUTES FROM THE MARCH 27, 2023 REGULAR SESSION AND MARCH 27, 2023 WORKSHOP SESSION – COUNTY CLERK -** Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the March 27, 2023, Regular Session Minutes with corrections, and the March 27, 2023, Workshop Session Minutes. Commissioner Emerson seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

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

**See Exhibit 04/10/2023 – A**

**Agenda Item 3 – SECOND READING: REPLAT LOT WF1R-2 PHASE 2 TWIN COVE ESTATES – RALPH ROBERTSON FOR WKN TRUST CYPRESS, LLC –** No action taken because third ad has not been published yet.

**Agenda Item 4 – RECORD CERTIFICATES OF COMPLETION FOR TAC CYBERSECURITY AWARENESS TRAINING FOR THE FOLLOWING: JULIE BAXTER, CHRISTIAN GALLOWAY, JELTJE HOEKSTRA, AND LISA LAWRENCE – COUNTY JUDGE –** Judge Lee presented the Certificates of Completion for TAC Cybersecurity Awareness Training for Julie Baxter, Christian Galloway, Jeltje Hoekstra, and Lisa Lawrence to be put on record within the Minutes.

**See Exhibit 04/10/2023– B**

**Agenda Item 5 – RECORD VG YOUNG INSTITUTE OF COUNTY GOVERNMENT CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION AWARDED TO JERRY COOPER AND CHARLIE EMERSON FOR COMPLETION OF 4 HOURS OF EDUCATIONAL TRAINING – 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 4 hours of educational training to be put on record within the Minutes.  
**See Exhibit 04/10/2023 – C**

**Agenda Item 6 – CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION ON APPROVING FRANKLIN COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT'S 2023-2024 ADOPTED BUDGET – RUSSELL MCCURDY –** Commissioner Emerson made a motion to approve the Franklin County Appraisal District's 2023-2024 Adopted Budget as presented by Russell McCurdy. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Smith. Motion carried 4-0.  
**See Exhibit 04/10/2023 – D**

**Agenda Item 7– CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION ON APPROVING ANTI-BRIBERY STATEMENT, OATH OF OFFICE, AND DEPUTATION APPOINTING MARIE REDAR TO POSITION OF CHIEF DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK – COUNTY CLERK –** Commissioner Godfrey made a motion to approve the Anti-bribery Statement, Oath of Office, and Deputation appointing Marie Redar to the position of Chief Deputy County Clerk. Commissioner Emerson seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.  
**See Exhibit 04/10/2023 – E**

**Agenda Item 8 – CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION ON APPROVING OATH OF OFFICE AND BOND FOR FRANKLIN COUNTY TAX ASSESSOR/COLLECTOR – MELISSA MCSWAIN CLAWSON –** No action taken because all bonds have not been received.

**Agenda Item 9 – CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION ON APPROVING ANTI-BRIBERY STATEMENT, OATH OF OFFICE, AND DEPUTATION APPOINTING CRISTI GONZALEZ AND JESSICA ESPARZA TO POSITIONS OF DEPUTY TAX ASSESSOR/COLLECTOR – MELISSA MCSWAIN CLAWSON –** Commissioner Emerson made a motion to approve the Anti-bribery Statement, Oath of Office, and Deputation appointing Cristi Gonzalez and Jessica Esparza to the positions of Deputy Tax Assessor/Collector. Commissioner Cooper seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.  
**See Exhibit 04/10/2023 – F**

**Agenda Item 10 – CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION ON APPROVING REMOVING SUE ANN HARPER FROM ALL TAX A/C ACCOUNTS AS SIGNATORY AUTHORITY AND ADDING JESSICA ESPARZA AS SIGNATORY AUTHORITY TO TAX A/C ACCOUNTS – MELISSA MCSWAIN CLAWSON –** Commissioner Emerson made a motion to remove Sue Ann Harper from all Tax A/C accounts as signatory authority and add Jessica Esparza as signatory authority to Tax A/C accounts. Second was made by Commissioner Smith. Motion carried 4-0.

**Agenda Item 11 – CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION ON APPROVING REMOVING SUE ANN HARPER AS SIGNATORY AUTHORITY FROM VOTER REGISTRAR ACCOUNT AND ADDING YESINIA VALENZUELA CASTRO AND HAILY RODRIGUEZ AS SIGNATORY AUTHORITIES TO VOTER REGISTRAR ACCOUNT – ELECTIONS ADMINISTRATOR –** Commissioner Smith made a motion to remove Sue Ann Harper as signatory authority from the Voter Registrar account, and to add Yesinia Valenzuela Castro and Haily Rodriguez as signatory authorities to the Voter Registrar account. Second was made by Commissioner Emerson. Motion carried 4-0.

**Agenda Item 12 – CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION ON APPROVING REQUEST FOR COUNTY EMPLOYEES TO RECEIVE OVER-TIME PAY INSTEAD OF COMP-TIME PAY FOR HOURS WORKED ON ELECTIONS AFTER NORMAL BUSINESS HOURS – ELECTIONS ADMINISTRATOR**

Commissioner Emerson made a motion to approve the request for county employees to receive over-time pay instead of comp-time for hours worked on elections outside of normal business hours. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

**See Exhibit 04/10/2023 – G**

**Agenda Item 13 – CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION ON APPROVING ADDENDUM TO FRANKLIN COUNTY EMPLOYEE PAY RATE STEP PLAN APPROVED AUGUST 23, 2021 – COUNTY AUDITOR**

Commissioner Emerson made a motion to approve the addendum to the Franklin County Employee Pay Rate Step Plan regarding part-time employees going to full-time employees. Second was made by Commissioner Smith. Motion carried 4-0.

**See Exhibit 04/10/2023 – H**

**Agenda Item 14 – CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION ON APPROVING 2023 BUDGET LINE-ITEM TRANSFERS – COUNTY AUDITOR**

Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the 2023 budget line-item transfers as presented. Commissioner Godfrey seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

**See Exhibit 04/10/2023 – I**

**Agenda Item 15 – CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION ON APPROVING SOURCEWELL QUOTE FOR PURCHASE OF JOHN DEERE 320 P BACKHOE – PRECINCT 1 –**

Commissioner Cooper made a motion to approve the Sourcewell quote in the amount of \$145,040.51 for purchase of a John Deere 320 P backhoe. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Godfrey. Motion carried 4-0.

**See Exhibit 04/10/2023 - J**

**Agenda Item 16 – CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION ON APPROVING SETTING GUIDELINES FOR UTILITY COMPANIES' USAGE OF RIGHT-OF-WAYS WITHIN FRANKLIN COUNTY – PRECINCT 1**

Commissioner Emerson made a motion to table this item because guidelines have not been prepared yet. Motion to table was seconded by Commissioner Smith. Motion carried 4-0.

**Agenda Item 17 – CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION ON APPROVING DESIGNATING APRIL 22-29, 2023, AS COUNTYWIDE SPRING CLEAN-UP WEEK, ALLOWING ALL COUNTY RESIDENTS FREE UTILIZATION OF TRANSFER STATION EACH DAY, EXCEPT SUNDAY, FROM 7:00 AM-3:00 PM – COUNTY JUDGE**

Commissioner Emerson made a motion to approve designating April 22-29, 2023, as Countywide Spring Clean-up Week, allowing all county residents free utilization of the Transfer Station each day, excluding Sunday, from 7:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Smith. Motion carried 4-0.

**Agenda Item 18 – CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION ON APPROVING DESIGNATING APRIL 28, 2023, AS COUNTYWIDE SHREDDING DAY FROM 9:00 AM-1:00 PM – COUNTY JUDGE**

Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve designating April 28, 2023, as County-Wide Shredding Day from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM, open to all Franklin County residents free of charge. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Godfrey. Motion carried 4-0.

**Agenda Item 19 – CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION ON APPROVING ROB STEPHENS’ REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL SALES DATES OF FIREWORKS IN FRANKLIN COUNTY BEFORE MEMORIAL DAY – COUNTY JUDGE** – Commissioner Emerson made a motion to approve Rob Stephens’ request for additional sales dates of fireworks in Franklin County before Memorial Day. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Cooper. Motion carried 4-0.

**Agenda Item 20 – CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION ON APPROVING ADVERTISING FOR BIDS TO DEMOLISH BUILDING FORMERLY OCCUPIED BY TERRY HAVEN NURSING HOME – COUNTY JUDGE** – Commissioner Emerson made a motion to approve advertising for bids to demolish the building formerly occupied by Terry Haven Nursing Home. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Smith. Motion carried 4-0.

**Agenda Item 21 – CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION ON APPROVING RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE PORTION OF US HIGHWAY 67 NORTH FROM THE 293 MILE MARKER AT THE CITY LIMITS SIGN OF MT. VERNON, TEXAS, TO THE 288 MILE MARKER AT THE FRANKLIN/TITUS COUNTY LINE DESIGNATING IT AS THE “CHIEF DEPUTY BOBBY MAX BIGGERSTAFF MEMORIAL HIGHWAY” – SHERIFF** – Commissioner Emerson made a motion to approve the Resolution recognizing the portion of US Highway 67 North from the 293 mile marker at the city limits sign of Mt. Vernon, Texas, to the 288 mile marker at the Franklin/Titus county line, designating it as the “Chief Deputy Bobby Max Biggerstaff Memorial Highway”. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

**See Exhibit 04/10/2023 – K**

#### **DISCUSSION –**

Judge Lee reminded everyone of the Rotary Heroes Banquet being held on Friday, April 14, 2023, and the Tour de Cypress bike ride on Saturday, April 15, 2023.

**Agenda Item 22 – ADJOURN** – Commissioner Smith made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Commissioner Emerson seconded the motion. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:42 A.M.

I, Brook Bussell, County Clerk, certify that this is an accurate accounting of the proceedings of the Commissioners’ Court Regular Session on April 10, 2023.

Witnessed and recorded this 10th day of April, 2023.

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Brook Bussell, County Clerk