

Franklin County Commissioners Court  
Commissioner Court Minutes  
Regular Session  
June 26, 2023

The Franklin County Commissioners Court met in Regular Session June 26, 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:** Paris Tillery, Marla White, Melissa Clawson, Robert Zinn, Katie Elliott, Susan Olsen, Mary McLennan, Lillie Bush-Reves, Mike Rambin, Randy Ritter, Jacqueline Miller, Dan Hoke, Mary Lou Russell, Jerald Mowery, Chad Neal, Brad Neal, Lauren Lewis, Linda Hammond, 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:** Coletyn McBride addressed an issue with a culvert near his property in Precinct 3.

**Agenda Item 1 - AUDIT CLAIMS AGAINST THE COUNTY AND AUTHORIZE THEIR PAYMENT – TREASURER –** Commissioner Cooper 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 06/26/2023 – A**

**Agenda Item 2 – PRESENT TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION'S 2022 DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD TO THE FRANKLIN COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION – COUNTY JUDGE –** Judge Lee presented the Texas Historical Commissioner's 2022 Distinguished Service Award to the Franklin County Historical Association.

**Agenda Item 3 – CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION ON APPROVING OFFICIAL BOND & OATH OF CRISTI GONZALES TO HOLD POSITION OF CHIEF DEPUTY TAX ASSESSOR/COLLECTOR – TAX A/C –** Commissioner Emerson made a motion to approve the bond for Robin Cristi Gonzales to hold the position of Chief Deputy Tax Assessor/Collector. Second was made by Commissioner Smith. Motion carried 4-0.

**See Exhibit 06/26/2023 – B**

**Agenda Item 4 – CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION ON APPROVING RENEWAL OF TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES AUTO LIABILITY/PHYSICAL DAMAGE, GENERAL, LAW ENFORCEMENT AND PUBLIC OFFICIALS LIABILITY INSURANCE AND PROPERTY/EQUIPMENT INSURANCE COVERAGE – COUNTY AUDITOR –**

Commissioner Emerson made a motion to approve the renewal of the TAC insurance coverage as presented. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Godfrey, Motion carried 4-0.

**See Exhibit 06/26/2023 – C**

**Agenda Item 5 – CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION ON APPROVING LEASE AGREEMENT BETWEEN FRANKLIN COUNTY AND THE CITY OF MT. VERNON GRANTING THE CITY’S REQUEST TO UTILIZE COUNTY-OWNED REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 109 SCOTT STREET, MT. VERNON, TEXAS, FOR PERMITTED USES AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH 3 OF THE LEASE AGREEMENT – COUNTY ATTORNEY –**

Commissioner Emerson made a motion to approve the lease agreement between Franklin County and the City of Mt. Vernon as presented. Commissioner Godfrey seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

**See Exhibit 06/12/2023 – D**

**Agenda Item 6 – CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION ON APPROVING REAPPOINTMENT OF RICKY JONES TO SERVE AS FRANKLIN COUNTY’S REPRESENTATIVE OF THE LAKES REGIONAL MHMR BOARD OF DIRECTORS – COUNTY JUDGE –**

Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the approve the reappointment of Ricky Jones to serve as Franklin County’s representative on the Lakes Regional MHMR Board of Directors. Commissioner Emerson seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

**See Exhibit 06/26/2023 – E**

**Agenda Item 7 – CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION ON APPROVING ANNOUNCEMENT OF 2024 FRANKLIN COUNTY HOTEL OCCUPANCY TAX FUNDING REQUESTS RECIPIENTS AND DESIGNATING THE FUNDING AMOUNT FOR EACH ENTITY – COUNTY JUDGE –**

Commissioner Emerson made a motion to approve the announcement of the 2024 Franklin County Hotel Occupancy Tax funding recipients and the funding amount for each entity: Rotary Tour De Cypress - \$5,500; Sulphur River Saddlery Auction - \$5,000; Sheriff’s Posse - \$67,000; Franklin County Arts Alliance - \$8,000; Alamo Museum - \$6,900; Franklin County Genealogical Society - \$5,000; Franklin County Chamber of Commerce - \$4,000; Mount Vernon Key Club - \$5,000; Sports Complex parking - \$20,000. Total amount approved is \$126,400.00. Second was made by Commissioner Smith. Motion carried 4-0.

**See Exhibit 06/26/2023 – F**

**DISCUSSION –**

- Future budget workshop
- Jacqueline Miller expressed gratitude for the commissioners and various others for their efforts during the power outage.
- Issues getting dumpsters picked up/emptied at the dump

- Update on clock tower: everything appears to be stable at this time. Further discussion will be had to develop a plan going forward.
- Mary McLennan asked if anyone has heard any updates on the potential solar farms. No one knows anything new. Also discussed possible lithium mining location.

**Agenda Item 8 – ADJOURN** – Commissioner Smith made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Commissioner Emerson seconded the motion. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:39 A.M.

I, Brook Bussell, County Clerk, certify that this is an accurate accounting of the proceedings of the Commissioners' Court Regular Session on June 26, 2023.

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

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Brook Bussell, County Clerk

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