

Franklin County Commissioners Court  
Commissioner Court Minutes  
Workshop Session  
September 11, 2023

The Franklin County Commissioners Court met in a Workshop Session on September 11, 2023, at 2:00 PM 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  
Charlie Emerson, Commissioner, Precinct 3  
Scott Smith, Commissioner, Precinct 4

Members absent: Toby Godfrey, Commissioner, Precinct 2  
Brook Bussell, County Clerk

**VISITORS:** Marie Redar, Lisa Lawrence, Paris Tillery, Ellen Jagers, Marla White, Melissa Clawson, Robert Zinn, Brantin Carr, Yesi Castro, Landon Ramsay, and Bob Stinson.

Judge Lee called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM.

Items discussed:

1. Annex West – Bob Stinson said he has not received any calls or bids from the public notices in the newspapers and would like to extend the bid deadline. Bids may be re-advertised if there is not adequate competition. Will need to have a Special Session before 4:00 PM Friday to vote on extending the deadline and re-advertising for bids. Special Session to be at 9:00 AM on Friday, September 15, 2023;
2. Possible rescission of burn ban pending rainfall – put on agenda for Friday;
3. Policy manual updates –
  - Clarify use of administrative leave.
  - Change deadline to use vacation time over 80 hours by December 31
  - Verbiage of policy manual related to sexual orientation/pronouns.
  - No smoking/vaping in buildings/areas with public access. Must be at least 30 feet from entrances. May need to clean up language in policy manual;
4. Mental health policy for sheriff's office – New law grants three work days of mental health leave to police officers following a traumatic event. May request approval of additional three days from the Court up to two times, for a possible total of nine work days of leave per event;
5. Hazard communication from TAC HR regarding hazmat – Possibly need a hazmat coordinator. Person responsible is required to be trained and maintain documentation. Chemical list must be maintained for thirty years. All officials and employees will have to be trained;
6. Septic/Fire Marshal/Emergency Management – need assistance with keeping up with paperwork, answering phone, etc. Hire a part-time person as secretary to work 24-28 hours per week to assist both constable and septic/fire/emergency management;

7. Treasurer reported saving money on indigent health by switching doctor from Franklin County Rural Health to TRMC Family Care Center. They take only what Medicaid pays;
8. Overtime pay for essential employees/precinct crews. Possibly give the employee the option of overtime pay or comp time;
9. Buy back of vacation time in excess of 80 hours at the end of the year for Sheriff's office employees, not to exceed 40 hours;
10. Sale of 0.71 acres to the City of Mt. Vernon. Notify the Franklin County Historical Association and put on agenda for September 25, 2023;
11. Looking into an Amazon Prime corporate account. Can have up to 10 assigned users per account. Fee is \$499.99 annually.

**Adjourn** - Commissioner Emerson made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. Meeting adjourned at 3:40 PM.

I, Brook Bussell, County Clerk, certify that this is an accurate accounting of the proceedings of the Commissioners Court Workshop Session on September 11, 2023.

Witnessed and recorded this 20th day of September, 2023.

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Brook Bussell, County Clerk