

Franklin County Commissioners Court
Commissioner Court Minutes
Regular Session
November 13, 2023

The Franklin County Commissioners Court met in Regular Session November 13, 2023, 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 Smith, Commissioner, Precinct 4
Brook Bussell, County Clerk

Members absent: Charlie Emerson, Commissioner, Precinct 3

VISITORS: Marla White, Paris Tillery, Robert Zinn, Max Cannaday, Ellen Jagers, Suzanne Stuhr, Brantin Carr, Ricky Jones, Susan Olsen, Mary McLennan, Lillie Bush-Reves, Jenny Dennis, Joe Jancosek, Jan Switzer, Jody Jones, Dr. Mac Glaess, and Mike Rambin.

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

Public Comments:

- Mary McLennan presented info about solar and other types of industry in Franklin and surrounding counties.
- Susan Olsen questioned the release of her study regarding impact of solar industry.
- Jenny Dennis stated there are no industrial solar farms in Italy (in reference to Mary McLennan's info regarding foreign ownership of industrial solar companies).

***Agenda Item 11 – CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION TO APPROVE DEPUTATION OF SUZANNE STUHR AS CHIEF DEPUTY FOR DISTRICT CLERK – DISTRICT CLERK –**

Judge Lee moved this item to the beginning so Ms. Jagers and Suzanne could get back to their office. Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the deputation of Suzanne Stuhr as Chief Deputy for the District Clerk, and Commissioner Godfrey seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

See Exhibit 11/13/2023 - A

Agenda Item 1 – APPROVE MINUTES FROM THE OCTOBER 23, 2023 REGULAR SESSION AND THE OCTOBER 23, 2023 WORKSHOP – COUNTY CLERK –

Commissioner Cooper made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Commissioner Godfrey seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Agenda Item 2 - 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 Smith seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

See Exhibit 11/13/2023 – B

Agenda Item 3 – CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION ON APPROVING OCTOBER 2023 MONTHLY REPORTS – TREASURER – Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the October 2023 monthly reports as presented. Commissioner Godfrey seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.
See Exhibit 11/13/2023 – C

Agenda Item 4 – CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION ON VOTING FOR BOARD MEMBER TO THE FRANKLIN COUNTY APPRAISAL BOARD – COUNTY JUDGE – Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve designating each of the County's 1,409 votes to Mike Rambin for the Franklin County Appraisal Board. Commissioner Cooper seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.
See Exhibit 11/13/2023 – D

Agenda Item 5 – CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION ON ENTERING INTO AN INTER-LOCAL AGREEMENT WITH THE REGIONAL PUBLIC DEFENDER FOR CAPITAL CASES – COUNTY JUDGE – No action taken at this time. Judge Lee will confer with District Attorney Will Ramsay on this.

Agenda Item 6 – CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION ON APPROVING THE FRANKLIN COUNTY EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK – COUNTY TREASURER – Commissioner Cooper made a motion to approve the Franklin County Employee Handbook as presented. Commissioner Godfrey seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.
See Exhibit 11/13/2023 – E

Agenda Item 7 – CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION TO APPROVE RENEWAL OF HEALTH REIMBURSEMENT ADMINISTRATION/SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH HIGGINBOTHAM – COUNTY TREASURER – Commissioner Cooper made a motion to approve the renewal of the Health Reimbursement Account Administrative Services Agreement with Higginbotham, and the motion was seconded by Commissioner Smith. Motion carried 3-0.
See Exhibit 11/13/2023 – F

Agenda Item 8 – CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION TO APPROVE THE FRANKLIN COUNTY HAZARD COMMUNICATION PROGRAM – COUNTY TREASURER – Commissioner Godfrey made a motion to approve the Franklin County Hazard Communication Program. Commissioner Cooper seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.
See Exhibit 11/13/2023 – G

Agenda Item 9 – CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION TO SELECT A BID FOR GENERATORS/INSTALLATION FOR THE EAST ANNEX AND THE HUB – COUNTY JUDGE – Commissioner Godfrey made a motion to table this item. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Smith. Motion carried 3-0.

Agenda Item 10 – CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION AUTHORIZING LISA LAWRENCE TO SIGN AGREEMENT FOR THE ADULT EDUCATION AND LITERACY PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2023-2024 BETWEEN NORTHEAST TEXAS COMMUNITY COLLEGE AND THE FRANKLIN COUNTY LIBRARY – LISA LAWRENCE – Commissioner Smith made a motion to authorize Lisa Lawrence to sign the Adult Education and Literacy Partnership Agreement for Academic Year 2023-2024 between Northeast Texas Community College and the Franklin County

Library. Commissioner Godfrey seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

See Exhibit 11/13/2023 – H

Agenda Item 12 – CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION TO APPROVE PAWS TO ALLOCATE THEIR \$10,000.00 BUDGETED FUNDS FOR ELECTRICAL REPAIR AT THE NEW IH-30 LOCATION – JODY JONES, PAWS – Commissioner Godfrey made a motion to approve PAWS to allocate their 2023 budgeted funds in the amount of \$10,000.00 for electrical repairs at the new IH-30 location. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Godfrey. Motion carried 3-0.

DISCUSSION:

- Christmas Party – December 13th from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Have it catered at the cost of \$10 to each person.
- Mary McLennan addressed Susan Olsen's study.
- Susan Olsen offered more information and a rebuttal to Mary McLennan's statements.
- Scott Smith gave update on acquiring dump trucks. He has been told they most likely will not be available until the fourth quarter of 2024.
- Marla White said they need to collaborate/coordinate the purchase of the remaining equipment that is to be financed in 2024.

Agenda Item 13 – ADJOURN – Commissioner Cooper made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and Commissioner Godfrey seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. Meeting adjourned at 10:05 AM.

I, Brook Bussell, County Clerk, certify that this is an accurate accounting of the proceedings of the Commissioners' Court Regular Session on November 13 2023.

Witnessed and recorded this 13th day of November, 2023.

Brook Bussell, County Clerk