

Franklin County Commissioners Court
Commissioner Court Minutes
Regular Session
February 26, 2024

The Franklin County Commissioners Court met in Regular Session February 26, 2024, 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
Charlie Emerson, Commissioner, Precinct 3
Scott Smith, Commissioner, Precinct 4
Brook Bussell, County Clerk

VISITORS: Marla White, Melissa Clawson, Paris Tillery, Yesi Castro, Bill Travis, Brantin Carr, Robert Zinn, Max Cannaday, Jim Emery, Susan Olsen, Sarah Brod, Allen D. Fisher, Mike Millender, Michael Smith, Scott Newsome, Gary Boren, Kathy Boren, Mary McLennan, Landon Ramsay, and Ricky Jones.

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:

- Mike Millender thanked Commissioners Smith and Emerson for their assistance at the PAWS location.
- Susan Olsen stated it has been a full year since the amended solar resolution was done and not a shovel full of dirt has been turned.

Agenda Item 1 – APPROVE MINUTES FROM THE FEBRUARY 12, 2024 REGULAR SESSION – COUNTY CLERK – Commissioner Cooper made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Commissioner Godfrey 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 02/26/2024 – A

Agenda Item 3 – CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION TO APPROVE LEASE AGREEMENT WITH THE FRANKLIN COUNTY YOUTH BASEBALL/SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION – COUNTY JUDGE – Michael Smith addressed the Court and asked for clarification of some items. After discussion, Commissioner Godfrey made a motion to approve the Lease Agreement with the Franklin County Youth Baseball/Softball Association with amendments. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Smith. Motion carried 4-0.

See Exhibit 02/26/2024 – B

Agenda Item 4 – RECORD AND PRESENT CERTIFICATES OF COMPLETION FOR AGRILIFE TRAINING TO COMMISSIONERS – SARAH BROD – Sarah Brod presented Certificates of Participation from the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service to Toby Godfrey, Charlie Emerson, and Scott Smith.
See Exhibit 02/26/2024 – C

Agenda Item 5 – APPROVE COUNTY-WIDE CLEAN-UP WEEK OF MARCH 9TH – 16TH, 2024 – COUNTY JUDGE – Commissioner Emerson made a motion to approve setting March 9th – 16th as the County-Wide Clean-Up Week. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Cooper. Motion carried 4-0. Transfer station hours will be 8:00 – 4:00, excluding Sunday March 10th.

Agenda Item 6 – CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION TO APPROVE RENEWAL OF AEROBIC SEPTIC SYSTEM SERVICE CONTRACT WITH HOPCO FOR EMS RESIDENCE AT 530 HWY 37 NORTH – COUNTY JUDGE – Commissioner Emerson made a motion to approve renewal of the Maintenance Agreement with HOPCO Clearwater Systems. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.
See Exhibit 02/26/2024 – D

Agenda Item 7 – CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION TO APPROVE LEASE AGREEMENTS FOR BOBBY BISHOP AND RUSSELL HAM AT THE FRANKLIN COUNTY AIRPORT – COUNTY JUDGE – Commissioner Godfrey made a motion to approve Airport Tenant Lease Agreements for Bobby Bishop and Russell Ham. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Cooper.
See Exhibits 02/26/2024 – E1 and E2

Agenda Item 8 – CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION TO ALLOW THE NORTH FRANKLIN FIRE DEPARTMENT TO SELL FIRE TRUCK(S) AND USE THE PROCEEDS TO BUY ANOTHER TRUCK – JIM EMERY – Commissioner Smith made a motion to allow the North Franklin Fire Department to sell a fire truck and use the proceeds to purchase another truck. Commissioner Emerson seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Agenda Item 9 – CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION TO APPROVE PROCLAMATION DESIGNATING APRIL 2024 AS CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH IN FRANKLIN COUNTY, TEXAS – LINDA HAMMOND – Commissioner Emerson made a motion to approve the Proclamation Designating April 2024 as Child Abuse Prevention Month. Commissioner Godfrey seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.
See Exhibit 02/26/2024 - F

Agenda Item 10 – CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION TO APPROVE KATHY LOVIER AS THE FRANKLIN COUNTY JUSTICE OF THE PEACE ALTERNATE DESIGNEE FOR PERFORMANCE OF FRANKLIN COUNTY INQUESTS, EFFECTIVE 2/27/2024 – JUDGE ROBERT ZINN – Commissioner Emerson made a motion to approve Kathy Lovier as the Franklin County Justice of the Peace Alternate Designee for performance of Franklin County inquests, effective February 27, 2024. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Agenda Item 11 – CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION TO APPROVE INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT FOR THE USE OF ELECTRONIC VOTING EQUIPMENT BETWEEN FRANKLIN COUNTY AND THE MT. VERNON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT – ELECTIONS ADMINISTRATOR

– MVIDS has requested to use 4 Electronic Pollbooks for the upcoming May election. Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the Interlocal Cooperation Agreement for the Use of Electronic Voting Equipment between Franklin County, Texas, and the Mount Vernon Independent School District. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Godfrey. Motion carried 4-0.

See Exhibit 02/26/2024 - G

Agenda Item 12 – CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION TO APPROVE THE CONTINUATION CERTIFICATE FOR BOND COVERAGE FOR THE FRANKLIN COUNTY ELECTIONS ADMINISTRATOR – ELECTIONS ADMINISTRATOR

– Commissioner Cooper made a motion to approve the Continuation Certificate for bond coverage for the Franklin County Elections Administrator Yesinia Valenzuela Castro. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

See Exhibit 02/26/2024 - H

Agenda Item 13 – RECORD CERTIFICATES OF COMPLETION OF CYBER SECURITY TRAINING – COUNTY JUDGE

– Texas Association of Counties Cybersecurity Awareness Training Certificates of Completion were presented and recorded for: Marla White, Chance Crane, Brook Bussell, Marie Redar, Janet White, Robert Zinn, Janet Middleton, Bobbie Mann, Brantin Carr, Max Cannaday, Jennifer Cooper, Anna Ankrum, Jessica Sanchez, Laura Rhoades, Melissa McSwain Clawson, Cristi Gonzales, Suzanne Stuhr, Deborah Mazey, Ellen Jagers, Haily Rodriguez, and Yesi Valenzuela.

See Exhibit 02/26/2024 - I

Agenda Item 14 – RECORD MINUTES OF THE FRANKLIN COUNTY CHILD WELFARE BOARD REGULAR MEETING – LINDA HAMMONDS

– The January 22, 2024 Minutes of the Franklin County Child Welfare Board Regular Meeting were recorded as presented.

See Exhibit 02/26/2024 - J

Agenda Item 15 – CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION ON MOVING THE NEWSPAPER OF RECORD FROM THE MOUNT VERNON NEWS TO THE MOUNT PLEASANT TRIBUNE – COUNTY CLERK

– The County Clerk addressed concerns with The Mount Vernon News and Allen D. Fisher responded. After much discussion, Commissioner Cooper made a motion to change the publication of record to The Mount Pleasant Tribune. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Discussion:

- Judge Lee reminded everyone about the Rotary Tour De Cypress bike race and the Heroes Banquet.
- Installation of the roadside Flock cameras and LPRs for patrol vehicles were discussed. Sheriff Jones requested it be noted that Inmate Housing Funds were used to pay for the Flock cameras.
- Sarah Brod stated that some of the 4-H members might be interested in volunteer opportunities such as roadside clean up, the animal shelter, etc.

- Mike Millender talked about work being done at the PAWS animal shelter.
- Possibility of moving Voting Pct. 101 from the HUB back to the Sheriff's office was mentioned. Sheriff said the only issue might be use of the bathrooms could interfere with voting.
- Sheriff Jones thanked the Court for their efforts in cleaning up the old Terry Haven Nursing Home and Curve Courts properties.

Agenda Item 14 – ADJOURN – Commissioner Emerson made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and Commissioner Cooper seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0. Meeting adjourned at 10:06 AM.

I, Brook Bussell, County Clerk, certify that this is an accurate accounting of the proceedings of the Commissioners' Court Regular Session on February 26, 2024.

Witnessed and recorded this 5th day of March, 2024.

Brook Bussell, County Clerk