

Franklin County Commissioners Court
Commissioner Court Minutes
Special Session
July 29, 2024

The Franklin County Commissioners Court met in Special Session July 29, 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: Paris Tillery, Melissa Clawson, Max Cannaday, Julie Baxter, Brantin Carr, Ricky Jones, Susan Olsen, Mary McLennan, Gary Boren, Kathy Boren, Bob Stinson, Dustin Eubanks, Seth Bryan, and Marla White.

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: None.

Agenda Item 1 – APPROVE MINUTES FROM THE JULY 22, 2024 REGULAR SESSION AND JULY 22, 2024 WORKSHOP SESSION – COUNTY CLERK –
Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the minutes with corrections as noted. Commissioner Godfrey seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Agenda Item 2 – CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION TO APPROVE FINANCING AGREEMENT WITH ALLIANCE BANK FOR PRECINCT EQUIPMENT PURCHASES – COUNTY AUDITOR –
Commissioner Emerson made a motion to approve the Financing Agreement with Alliance Bank in the amount of \$582,644.89 for precinct equipment purchases. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Cooper. Votes are as follows:
County Judge Scott Lee – YES
Commissioner Precinct 1 Jerry Cooper – YES
Commissioner Precinct 2 Toby Godfrey – YES
Commissioner Precinct 3 Charlie Emerson – YES
Commissioner Precinct 4 Scott Smith – YES
Motion carried 5-0.

See Exhibit 07/29/2024 – A

Agenda Item 3 – CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION TO APPROVE QUOTE FROM MCSHANE BELL COMPANY TO INSTALL CENTRAL CLOCK MOVEMENT PARTS AND BELL STRIKER – COUNTY AUDITOR –
Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the quote in the amount of \$15,100.00 from McShane Bell Company to install central clock movement parts and bell striker. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Emerson. Motion carried 4-0.

See Exhibit 07/29/2024 – B

DISCUSSION:

- West Annex update from Bob Stinson – Putting up gutters and downspouts will be put on soon; basically finished with all rough-in for duct work and AC units; electrical is going well; meeting to talk about location of TVs, computers, data ports, etc.;
- Sheriff Ricky Jones was recognized for being sworn in as the President of the Sheriff's Association of Texas;
- Preservation of the historic county Bible – County Clerk will check with her contacts to see if anyone can do this and what the cost would be;
- HVAC at Sheriff's office;
- OSSF – Max is working on updating the rules and regulations. He is doing a lot of research to make sure everything matches up with all laws and codes as many contradict each other;

Recessed for short break 9:26 AM.

Reconvened into open session at 9:35 AM.

- Leasing county owned property to for-profit entities – County will lose the tax exemption on that property. Discussed various options; and
- Dustin Eubanks is going to look at what needs to be done to run required electrical for the clock.

Agenda Item 4 – DISCUSS 2025 BUDGET

- Tax rate – 0.35228 which is 3 cents less than last year;
- Valuation increased to \$1.982B;
- New M&O with debt is 0.25134;
- Preliminary budget includes increase for health insurance premiums, addition for PAWS animal shelter, increase to SAFE-T, increase to HUB, increase to Elections, increase to Treasurer for supplies, increase to County Attorney supplies due to new investigator, and increase to 8th Judicial District;
- It does not include moving part-time to full-time for library, a part-time employee for Extension Agent, full-time assistant for County Judge, 3 additional deputies for Sheriff, changes to retirement, or raises.
- Moved all utilities to General Fund instead of having to move money around;
- Workshop scheduled for Thursday, August 1st at 1:00 PM.

Agenda Item 5 – ADJOURN – Commissioner Emerson made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and Commissioner Cooper seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0. Meeting adjourned at 9:54 AM.

I, Brook Bussell, County Clerk, certify that this is an accurate accounting of the proceedings of the Commissioners' Court Special Session on July 29, 2024.

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

Brook Bussell, County Clerk